

May 2009

▶ 4th Quarter

Staff Connections

Words From Our Superintendent

It is hard to believe that we have come to the end of yet another school year. It has been a year of personal and academic growth for our students and staff alike. We have accomplished a lot and the YKSD graduates are great examples of our ultimate goal. I would like to thank the students, staff, and Community School Committee Members for a successful 2008-09 school year. I especially want to thank the teachers for their dedication and hard work they have put into their students every day. Please enjoy your summer by spending quality time with your family and friends and I look forward to seeing you again in August for the start of a new school year.

Submitted by Kerry Boyd

Thanks For All Your Years of Service Helen

Jimmy Huntington School and the village of Huslia are losing a great teacher this year. After 20 years of teaching, Ms. Helen Huffman has decided to retire. Helen is an excellent teacher and will be greatly missed by students and staff alike. Mrs. Gertie Esmailka who has worked with Helen for these past 20 years says; "I will really miss Helen. She has been my confidante and sounding board all these years. I always bounce my ideas off of her and she has always given me good advice. I wish her the best in all her future endeavors." Annette Penn, a first year colleague of Helen's says, "Helen is an excellent resource person and she is always willing to help and answer my questions."

Helen was born and raised here in Huslia. She also raised her three children here. Helen attended college in Colo-

rado, where she obtained her Bachelors in Elementary Education. She worked in Kaltag for two years before she began working here in Huslia.

A quote from one of her former students, Elizabeth Peters, who also has or had her children in Helen's class says, "Helen is always involved and using new techniques that fit the learning style of the student."

Helen's plans for the future are to move to Fairbanks and travel to various locations around the world. We here at Jimmy Huntington School wish Helen the best of luck and she will be greatly missed.

Submitted Doug Woods



Inside this issue:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Instruction & Curriculum | 2 |
| Technology & Maintenance | 3 |
| Student Opportunities | 4 |
| Transition Camp | 5 |
| Allakaket Health & Career Fair | 6 |
| Hughes | 7 |
| Huslia | 8 |
| Close Up Trip | 9 |
| Manley | 10 |
| Nulato | 11-12 |
| Raven | 13 |
| Just for Fun | 14 |

Happy Retirement Hollie



I remember when Hollie arrived 22 years ago as Hollie Ann Moore. She was fresh out of Hughes and ready to work on the Yukon River. I was excited because she was taking over my primary grades and I

was ready for the switch to upper elementary.

It has been an adventure traveling this parallel road with Hollie. Among the many activities we have experienced together, she brought pet birds, fish, Girl Scouts, recycling, Native Language song collections, and a conscious effort for NEA awareness over the years she has been with us here at Merrelaine A. Kangas School, and the Yukon Koyukuk School District.

The kids will remember her for the birds she brought into her class, checking the temperature outside, playing in the loft,

making chains into dog harnesses, fighting over chair colors, eating snacks and playing Putt-Putt on the computer.

We wish her the best of the best and smooth travels as she retires at the end of the school year. If you are interested, during our spring tea we are having a retirement celebration of her time with us. Contact the school for date and time.

Thanks Hollie Ann Koyukuk-for your dedication to our students.

Submitted by Anne Titus

We will miss you!

Instruction & Curriculum

Yea! Summer weather is here!

The HSGOE scores for 12th graders only are online as of 4/29/09. They will be emailed to Principals and Raven staff. They are to be printed and given to students and parents right away. As soon as the other SBA scores come later in the month, they will be downloaded and sent to village principals. Parents and students are supposed to receive the scores within 20 days according to regulation. Paper copies will not be here until after May 15th, but printed copies may be given to your parents.

Those of you who have been doing the Alaska Developmental Profile for kindergarteners will be using a different process next fall. You will be putting your information about students online at an EED website. There will be a student checklist you can use that is found in the implementation manual Appendix B until you are ready to input the scores online. The observation tools and the Power Point training and Implementation Manual can be found at <http://www.eed.state.ak.us>. Click on the "Assessment" link and then click on the "Developmental Profile" link. That will take you to the power point and the implementation guide. We will have a video conference training at the beginning of the new school year for kindergarten teachers.

Social studies curriculum commit-

tee teachers have been working hard to identify a set of new social studies text and materials. There will also be a template aligned with Alaska content standards and a syllabus for the high school classes. Textbooks will be ordered soon. The committee has chosen Pearson publishers (6-12) and Harcourt publishers for K-5. There will be accompanied template aligned with the standards and also a syllabus for each of the classes for 9-12.

Some of you may have items checked out from the library. The library is closed, but you must send your books and kits to the office at 4762 Old Airport Way before you can checkout of your school for the summer. Also, Principals and teachers, I will need the literature novels you used this year sent back to me along with any literature plan books that went with them. They are also part of your checkout. Next year we will be studying the classics again. These books were purchased when we started the program. The Writer's Choice book that you received is also part of your upper level curriculum for next year. Great Source materials continue to be a part of the upper level materials for Language Arts (includes vocabulary, grammar and writing). There will also be a template that is specifically aligned with reading and writing available next year with the current resources that will need to

be used with their accompanied page numbers. I will be sending out a sheet to each teacher to list the number of books you have and how many you will need next fall. The books that you are short will be ordered out of your school budgets and hopefully will all be at your site when you arrive in the fall. We will try to mark the boxes so that maintenance personnel picking up the boxes will know which classroom to put them in.

Have a relaxing summer! I have enjoyed knowing those of you who are leaving us, and look forward to seeing those who are returning next fall. I can assure you it will be a busy year as always.

Respectfully, Carol Doyle



Technology Top Ten

1. Good schools need to be scheduling Principals, Admin Assists and Techs to work out final configurations, reports, and updates for FY2010.
2. PowerGrade - We need to verify that all teachers are taking daily attendance and inputting their daily assignments, so their information can be checked for accuracy before the report card posts. I will contact each principal teacher and discuss their schools status.
3. PowerSchool - 4th Quarter Progress Reports are now open for entry. Contact Branden and he will run current report cards to determine who still has grades to enter.
4. Video Conferencing equipment is expensive and slow to replace, please ensure it is in a safe place and all equipment is secure. Please make sure that your sites' video conferencing equipment is plugged in and ready for video conferencing. It takes a lot of valuable conference time to troubleshoot a faulty connection at the start of a conference!
5. PowerSchool - We have been working with sites publishing the 4th quarter progress reports and will be looking to start "End of Year and New Year Functions"
6. Erate - Subsidies are dependent on the return of each schools Erate Family Questionnaire, as they provide extra funding we need to keep our internet and video programs strong.
7. Computers - No laptops remaining for the student laptop program and none for the teacher laptop program. We are working on a new purchase program for new equipment.
8. Please send me a brief description of **any** bugs/ problems with the video conferencing equipment. We need to send these to Tandberg in order to



have replacement cameras sent for sites with broken camera rotators, remotes, etc.

9. Success Maker, (SME), has been upgraded to the carbonized version which allows greater access. Please contact us with any issues or comments regarding SME.
10. Please be sure all of your grades have been submitted for fourth-quarter report cards before the last school day is over. Get them in ASAP if you haven't already.

Maintenance, Maintenance, Maintenance

We, in the Facilities Department, would like to wish you all a wonderful and relaxing summer.

For all that you do and deal with all year, you deserve it. And as a reminder from our office, please as always leave the schools and your housing units as you found them. And make sure your principals have any lists of changes and/or repairs you need to have completed before your return in August.

Thanks again for all your help throughout the year and have fun over the summer!

David, Bill, Vernon, and Roslyn



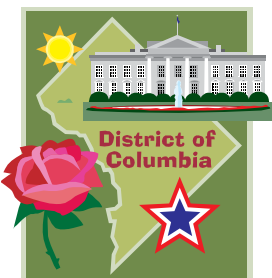
Student Opportunity News

Student Advisory Committee

On Thursday, April 16th, a Student Advisory Committee meeting was held via video conference. This committee was formed by our very own YKSD student board rep, Barbie Sam. Flyers were emailed out and students from Manley, Minto, Nulato, and Huslia participated in the committee meeting. Students from each site shared the classes they were taking, and classes they would like to see next year, along with some other great ideas and a couple of their concerns which will be presented to Board of Education. Great job to all the students and thanks for sharing your input!

Washington DC/New York

April 19th-26th, five students and one chaperone had the opportunity to join students from Arizona, Hawaii, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, Oregon, and Wyoming attending Close Up in Washington DC. This year we had 10 applications and priority was given to current 11th and 12th grade students. Applications were scored by a team of 2 teachers and 2 district office staff based on the information submitted. The 5 students with the highest scores were chosen to attend:



M e g a n Smith, 11th grade from M i n t o ;

Samantha Sam, 12th grade from Huslia; **Skye Sampsel,** 11th grade, **Franc Wright,** 11th grade and **Alfred Wright,** 11th grade from Manley. The teacher/chaperone for the trip was **Heidi Wright** of Manley.

Students endured a 19 hour flight from Fairbanks to Washington, DC. While in DC the students attended workshops, visited the White House, debated hot topics with policy experts, met members of congress and their staff, held student led Mock Congress and role played. They visited the Supreme Court, Library of Congress, and toured our Nation's Capitol. They also visited some of our nation's memorials: Iwo Jima, Jefferson, FDR, Lincoln, WWII, Korean & Vietnam War.

Students wrapped up the trip by attending the New York City portion of Close Up where they rode a bus with the group from DC to New York. While in New York, students visited South Street Manhattan, Wall Street, the United Nations, September 11th Ground Zero, Little Italy, attended a Broadway Play, Ellis Island, Liberty Island, Hayden Planetarium, the Museum, Central Park, Dinner @ Mars 2112, went to the top of Rockefeller Center @ night, and visit Times Square. Students contributed their own funds for this portion of Close Up.

Thanks to all who made this trip possible, the students for apply-

ing, the teachers/staff for helping the students apply, the parents for contributing the extra funds, and Heidi Wright for chaperoning. The majority of the funds for this opportunity were provided by a grant from the Federal Programs Coordinator.



Future Teachers of Alaska

April 22nd – 25th, two students and two chaperones attended the Future Teachers of Alaska conference here in Fairbanks. Our district recently became an affiliate of FTA. This organization provides the funding sources for great opportunities such as this. **Joseph Bifelt,** 8th grade and **Barbie Sam,** 10th grade from Huslia attended the conference, along with 90 other students throughout the state of Alaska.

Submitted by Andrea Durny

"FTA is a statewide collaborative effort to inspire Alaska Native K-12 students to become teachers. The fostering of prospective Alaska Native teachers involves a partnership among parents, teachers, University of Alaska Campuses, Communities and more. FTA benefits students by providing the opportunity to investigate what a teaching career might be like and to meet others interested in education, and help communities "grow their own teachers".

<http://www.futureteachersalaska.org/>

Transition Camp A Huge Success!

The 2009 Transition Camp was awesome! As you can see by the pictures, the students and staff had a lot of fun while learning and growing. A total of 21 students attended from YKSD and FNSBSD. Throughout the week, students explored many different career options through job shadowing, panel discussions, visiting the Jobs Center and Fairbanks Job Fair, and UAF tours. Students also learned about making healthy choices regarding recreational/

leisure activities. YKSD and FNSBSD students were very well behaved and our "Leadership Team" of students went above

and beyond showing all the ways to be respectful to each other and in the community. HUGE thanks to all the students and staff who made this year's camp such a wonderful learning experience for everyone! I owe Jen McLean, Marge Wilson, Andrea Durny, Shawn Coyle, Gail Greenhalgh, and Terry Manning a very big THANK YOU! Couldn't have done it without you!

Submitted by Cristina Poage



Allakaket Health / Career Fair

Sponsored by Allakaket School; Coordinated by Evelyn Esmailka, School Counselor and Nancy Mason, Principal Teacher

On April 22 & 23, Allakaket School sponsored our Annual Health/ Career Fair and it was a huge success. We had 10 presenters from out of town and 2 from the village. Each of the presenters went into the elementary classrooms and presented to Jr. High & High School students in the gym. They held elder care presentations on Wednesday night along with a dinner and talked about elder health issues. Thursday night, they presented to the community members on

health issues, along with a covered dish and door prizes.

The presenters were: Sarah Post, Interior for Non-Violent Living; Laurie Calderhead, PHS; Gladys Bergman, Allakaket Health Aide; Sarah Malamute, Diabetes (TCC); Karlene Borja, TCC Tobacco Cessation; Karen Eddy, TCC-Health Educator; Ginger Jenkins, TCC-WIC; Tim Johnson & Stephanie, TCC-PA & Laverne Alexander-TCC Behavioral Health.

Everyone had fun and they enjoyed the entertainment and good food, but the best thing that came out of the fair is that the community members were able to get their blood drawn for

diabetes and sugar level check. The students had fun learning ways to eat healthy and stay fit. Also, we learned how to avoid cancer from Karen Eddy. We learned how to read water bottles that are healthy for us and the environment from Harriet David, Environmental Aide. We learned about the numbers inside the triangle on the bottom of plastic bottles. The numbers that should not to be reused are: 1,3,6 & 7 and numbers 2,4, & 5 are reusable. Bottles without numbers are questionable. Recycle all plastic bottles!

Submitted by Evelyn Esmailka



News from Hughes

It's hard to believe this school year is almost over. It has flown by.

On Easter Sunday we had a village picnic. There were two Easter egg hunts. One for our present students and one for our future students. We had a very pleasant visit from Robin Davis. She did a speedy lesson on ra-

vens, that the kids enjoyed.

On Friday the 24th of April, we had a get together at school. We had pizza, music and basketball. We also had a hop-a-thon where the students hopped to earn money for Jerry's Kids and multiple dystrophy.

Our school is going on an exciting field trip to Fairbanks for 3

days. We will be visiting the University UAF Museum, the large animal exhibit, the super computer lab, Creamer's Field, and Chena Hot Springs.

That's about it from Hughes. Hope you all have great summers. Be careful and God Bless.

Submitted by Dianne Shirrell



News from Huslia

Annette Penn's K-1 Class—This has been an exciting first year for me, one that I will never forget.

My aide and I have been using many PEAK strategies in our classroom. A few particular strategies that works for us is the "When I say go," cue and I raise my hand when I want the students' attention. These two strategies are a great way to get the students' attention without raising my voice.

This year Valerie (classroom aide) and I challenged my students to see if they can read 1,200 books by the end of the year. The students picked what prizes they would to have if they reached the 1,200 books. The prizes they picked are: a classroom party day with ice cream, pizza, popcorn, and a movie (this movie is a real treat, so far this year they have only watched one movie). To this day, they have only 102 books left to read. I am so excited for them; we put up a book-o-meter countdown number chart and a book-o-meter thermometer to let the students see how many books they have left to read. They are almost to the top so I am in the process of getting ready for the big classroom party.

Well, I hope everyone enjoys his or her summer vacation. I know I will be in summer camp and resting for next year. See you all at the fall in-service.

Helen Huffman's 2-3 Class

Helen has been using foldables in science. She is also having great success with breaks every 10 minutes. She is having the kids periodically exercising. She says the second grade has greatly improved its reading.

Brandy Henderson's 3-5 Math and Reading Classes

Brandy's class is shifting gears from

heavy duty SBA preparing. Her students are fascinated by the weather changes and are writing about that. Susan Paskvan also visited and helped them with their family trees. They also sang traditional songs and listened to stories about elders. Robin Davis also visited and played reading and math games with the students.

Helen Huffman is just completing her teaching career. Enjoy life! Thanks for helping the kids!

Gertie Esmailka's 4-5 Class—Quarter 4 has been extremely busy. Most time was spent preparing for the SBAs. Also, my students finished working on a Contract Activity Package (CAP) for a social studies unit on the thirteen colonies. They enjoyed working on the activities or projects. This was a project that matched their learning styles (from my Learning Styles class I took).

Peggy Bruno's 6-12 Classes—Our English and Language Arts classes are revisiting writing mechanics to practice skills sometimes forgotten. Our high school classes are finishing their current novel, *A Lesson Before Dying* while our seventh and eighth graders are concluding one of my favorite reads, *The Giver*. The sixth grade students are reading *Langston Hughes, Poetry for*

Young Readers. This is an excellent book to teach poetry analysis. In addition, we viewed the DVD, *Darius Goes West*. This is the story about how Darius Weems and eleven of his best friends set off across America with the goal of getting his wheelchair customized. This film is a rarely seen testament to the explosive idealism of today's youth. There are great teaching activities online to follow up the DVD.

Our cooking class is baking-up a storm to raise money for our senior trip and graduation. Cookies, cupcakes, muffins, and pizzas are on the menu.

The art class is finishing a unit on collage creations using old discarded magazines. We have surprising talent in this small fine arts group.

Hurt Hadley's 6-12 Classes—Kurt's high school world history class is busily working to catch up after a busy basketball and SBA season. The Athabaskan culture class has written elder biographies and is currently working on Sun catchers. The 6-8 is finishing rock "n" roll in music appreciation class. The 6-8 also is individualized in social studies.

Mr. Swatling's 6-12 Classes

The Biology class has started observations of seasonal changes. We hope that over the next few years we will have enough data on temperature, snow depth, and bird populations to see a trend in climate changes for Huslia. In Life Science, we have begun a project to build a web-page to share about our class.

Special thanks to Susan Paskvan for her school and community presentations!

Submitted by Doug Woods

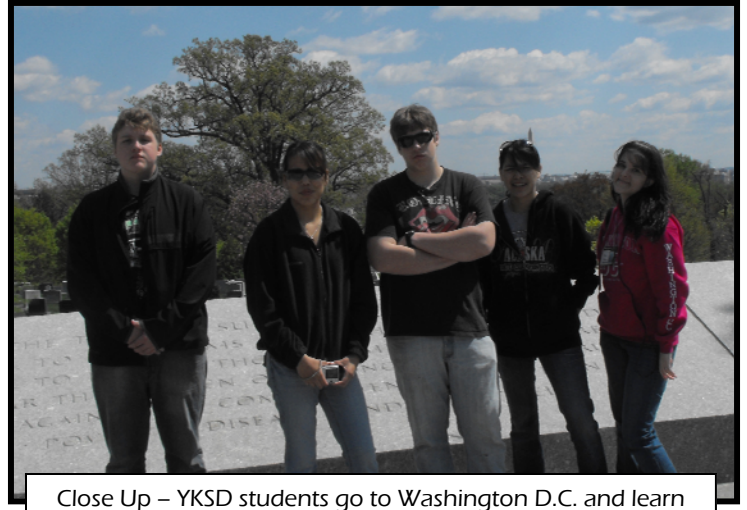


Huslia State Team Sportsmanship Award Winner!

YKSD Students Attend Close Up in Washington D.C.



180° from the capital you see the Washington Monument. These students were dipped daily in tons of history. They spent a day on capital hill meeting with their representatives.



Close Up – YKSD students go to Washington D.C. and learn about government first hand. They visited many memorials and the Arlington Cemetery was one of them. This is in front of JFK's eternal flame.



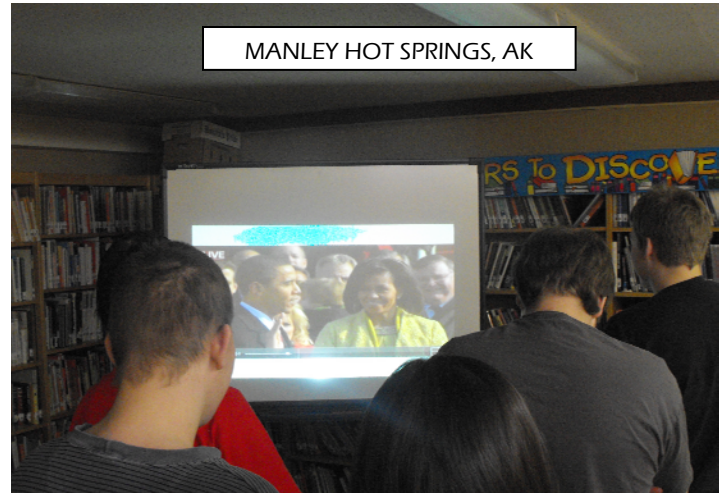
Alfred, Samantha, Franc, Megan and Skye in front of the capital.

An Evening with the School Counselor

Ryan Tilbury visited Manley Hot Springs in April. He spent the evening with the students playing in the gym and watching movies. He showed the student photos he took while in Turkey and Afghanistan during his military duty.

The students in Manley took the same photo of President and Mrs. Obama while Ryan was taking the same photo during the inauguration while watching in Afghanistan on the other side of the world.

Submitted by Kenny Sampsel



MANLEY HOT SPRINGS, AK



Below, Cindy Furtado gives Ryan a beaver tail wallet for his work in Afghanistan.



AFGHANASTAN - ASIA

Arctic Warrior Band Visits Manley in April



News from Nulato



Karina Painter, tutor, watches as William solves a math problem in 4/5 classroom



Brother Bob volunteered to cook one of his wonderful breakfasts for AKD students before they challenge their SBA Tests



Chastity transplanting a pumpkin plant with Ladean Ambrose demonstrating



4th & 5th grade students learned about the value of fur from Shirley Kruger



Senior Jay Evans held a free basketball camp in Nulato for grades 3-5, teaching the kids the fundamental skills; dribbling, passing, shooting, rebounding, teamwork, offense, communication, and defense.

The following award winners were chosen by camp leader, Jay Evans.

Most Polite Player—Shane Peters

Best Listener—Brianna Stickman and Courtney Evans

Most Hustle—Matt Kriska and Brianna Stickman

Best passer—William Agnes and Courtney Evans

Outstanding Camper—Brianna Stickman

Nulato Pen Pals Meet 'Face to Face'

Derek French's K-3 class at Andrew K. Demoski School in Nulato finally met their pen pals face to face. On Friday, April 17, Derek's class and Mrs. Sandra Creamer's 2nd grade class at Elgin West Elementary in LaRue, Ohio meet online through the internet program Skype. Students introduced themselves to each other and finally got to put a face with the name on

all of the letters they have received this year. The Nulato students introduced themselves in Denaakke. The classes asked questions to each other about their schools, towns, and things they liked to do for fun.

The Nulato students brought in things to share with their pen pals such as wolf skins, beaver skins, lynx skins, native jewelry, and native clothing.

The Ohio students shared information about their town and their most famous former resident, Jim Thorpe, an Olympic athlete and NFL football player. The Nulato students also taught the Ohio students how to count in Denaakke. Lots of learning and teaching by the students took place this year with their pen pals.

Submitted by Derek French



Aide Winnie Demoski shares native jewelry and attire with the Ohio students.



2nd grader Charles Pitka shares his beaver skin with the Ohio students.



3rd grader Josephine Mountain shares her wolf skin with the Ohio students.



Art Workshops in Delta

Chris Bentele, owner of Cathedral Creeks Center for the Arts in Tok, drives 100 miles to conduct monthly art workshops for Raven students in Delta. Chris started coming three years ago when only 4 – 6 students enrolled. This year we have two classes with nine students each. During her two –hour sessions so far this year, Chris has taught weaving, candle making, book binding, perspective, 3-D Canvas, Egg decorating and silhouette portraits.

Submitted by Kathy Vander Zwaag



How to Smell, Look, Feel and Be Your Cleanest

Kenneth Hohenthanner, a 5th grade student in Grace Powers' weekly writing class, has some good advice for anyone who might be out there looking for a job this summer.

If you want people to be around you, you should present yourself by smelling and looking your best and this is how. First of all, take a shower every day or every other day. Before turning off the water, make sure you have all the soap rinsed out of your hair and off your body. Rinse with the coldest water you can stand. Next, dry yourself as good as possible to get rid of dry skin, dirt and especially your hair to get rid of grease and dandruff. In addition, brush your teeth three times per day or two times for three to five minutes. Wash your clothes every day or after you wear them twice. Don't wear them twice in a row. If you are going to something important like a job interview, wear a suit. Do not wear baggy pants with holes in them. Wash your sheets every week or every other week so you do not get bed bugs. They will eat you alive and make you dirty and stinky. Do not pop your pimples. They will come back two times more and faster and bigger and that's just plain disgusting. Use skin ID or facial cleaner. Use deodorant as directed or when you stink. These are some tips on how to smell, look, feel, and be your cleanest.

By Kenneth Hohenthanner

5th grade Juneau Raven



Something to make you giggle....

Yukon-Koyukuk School District



4762 Old Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Phone: 907-374-9400
Fax: 907-374-9443

The teacher is droning away in the classroom when he notices a student sleeping way up in the back row. The teacher shouts to the sleeping student's neighbor, "Hey wake that student up!"

The neighbor yells back, "You put him to sleep, you wake him up!"



A little kid's in school, taking a true-false test and he's flipping a coin. At the end of the test he's flipping the coin again. The teacher says, "What are you doing?" He says, "Checking my answers."

You Might Be a Schoolteacher if...

- ☼ you have no time for a life from August to June.
- ☼ you want to slap the next person who says, "Must be nice to work from 8 to 3 and have your summers free!"
- ☼ when out in public you feel the urge to talk to strange children and correct their behavior.
- ☼ you refer to adults as "boys and girls."
- ☼ you encourage your spouse by telling them they are a "good helper."
- ☼ you've ever had your profession slammed by someone who would never dream of doing your job.
- ☼ meeting a child's parents instantly answers the question, "Why is this kid like this?"
- ☼ you believe "extremely annoying" should have its own box on the report card.
- ☼ you know hundred good reasons for being late.
- ☼ you don't want children of your own because there isn't a name you can hear that wouldn't elevate your blood pressure.

Congratulations to our 4th Quarter "Whatever It Takes" Award Winners!

The following YKSD employees were nominated and awarded our 4th Quarter "Whatever It Takes" Award for going above and beyond the call of duty for our students and fellow employees. Congratulations!

Helen Huffman— Jimmy Huntington School, Huslia

Marilyn Janke— Gladys Dart School, Manley Hot Springs

Vicky Charlie— Minto School, Minto

Jennifer Purinton—Andrew K. Demoski School., Nulato

Jim Bob Webb—Andrew K. Demoski School., Nulato

Judy Madros—Andrew K. Demoski School., Nulato

Bill Monroe—District Office, Fairbanks

Cheryl Brady—District Office, Fairbanks

Gina Hrinko—District Office, Fairbanks

Jen McLean—District Office, Fairbanks

Vernon Albert—District Office, Fairbanks

