

Staff Connections



Mold Moves Tournament

March 2010

Jimmy Huntington School (JHS) in Huslia was chosen last fall to host the 2010 Region II Golden Heart Basketball Tournament March 4-6. Principal, Doug Woods, has been busy making all of the preparations for this big event over the past couple of months. From ordering food, trophies, awards, sweatshirts, arranging for referees and everything else that is required to hold a successful tournament.

And then on a routine inspection of the school, preparing for summer

maintenance projects, a problem was found under the gymnasium and locker rooms that caused a turn of events for the tournament. A substantial mold problem was discovered that led to the decision of moving the tournament to a different location for the health of the students. The decision was made to move the tournament to Monroe Catholic High School in Fairbanks. Moving the tournament with such short notice was a huge task, but with the help of JHS, district office staff and others we were

able to pull it all together. Additional costs were incurred by all of the teams for flights, hotel rooms, food, and ground transportation. There was also a considerable fee for the use of the gym at Monroe.

Since the decision was made to move the tournament, air sampling and testing have been done at the Jimmy Huntington School and have been determined to be at safe levels. The affected areas of the school will be remediated and replaced this summer.

3rd Quarter

Inside this issue:

Basketball	2
Battles & Tests	4
In-service Pics	5
Coming Events	7
Senior Fly-in	8
Allakaket Knits	9
Huslia	10
Dropout?	11
Raven News	12

Taco Feed at District Office

All of the YKSD basketball teams travelling to Fairbanks for the 2010 Region II Golden Heart Tournament as well as participants in Festival of

Native Arts were invited to lunch at the district office last Thursday. Susan Paskvan organized the event with the help of other district office

staff. There were over 50 students, staff and coaches visiting from Allakaket, Huslia, Kaltag, Minto, and Nulato.



Region II Golden Heart Tournament



Region II Golden Heart Tournament Results

**B
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Thursday, March 4

Friday, March 5

Saturday, March 6

Ft. Yukon- vs Allakaket-24

Huslia-50 vs Nulato-20

Kaltag-48 vs Minto-45

Kaltag-72 vs Nulato-33

Minto-57 vs Allakaket-35

Ft. Yukon-48 vs Kaltag-45

Ft. Yukon-44 vs Huslia-34

Ft. Yukon-56 vs Kaltag-39

Ft. Yukon-61 vs Kaltag-54

Kaltag-47 vs Minto-43

Minto-55 vs Huslia-43

Tanana-50 vs Huslia-28

Ft. Yukon-36 vs Huslia-27

Ft. Yukon-64 vs Minto-52

Minto-42 vs Ft. Yukon-34

Tanana-63 vs Minto-44

Ft. Yukon-49 vs Tanana-44

Ft. Yukon-47 vs Tanana-36

All Academic Boys

Levi Williams-Allakaket

Oscar Penn-Allakaket

Michael Ambrose-Kaltag

Willie Vent-Huslia

Lloyd Esmailka-Kaltag

Shawn Benjamin-Kaltag

Joseph Alexander-Minto

Dwight Titus-Minto

Dallas Charlie-Minto

Dylan Sherry-Minto

All Tourney Boys

Jared Peter- Ft. Yukon

Cody Cadzow-Ft. Yukon

Eddie Sam-Huslia

Chris Moses-Huslia

Albert Nickoli-Kaltag

Shawn Benjamin-Kaltag

Dallas Charlie-Minto

Joseph Alexander-Minto

Will Sims-Nulato

Gabe Pitka-Nulato

Sportsmanship

Nulato Boys

Ft. Yukon Girls

MVP

Roland James-Ft. Yukon

Candace Carroll-Ft. Yukon

Free-Throw Contest Winners

Cody Cadzow-Ft. Yukon

Candace Carroll-Ft. Yukon

All Academic Girls

Emily Frank-Minto

Georjean Jimmie-Minto

Laprenza Frank-Minto

Lacey Sam-Huslia

Barbie Sam-Huslia

Erica Ambrose-Huslia

Anna Huntington-Huslia

Brittane Erhart-Tanana

Linda Folger-Tanana

Salina Sam-Tanana

All Tourney Girls

Angie Herbert-Ft. Yukon

Chasity Herbert-Ft. Yukon

Barbie Sam-Huslia

Darlene Sam-Huslia

Erica Ambrose-Huslia

Beth Alexander-Minto

Laprenza Frank-Minto

Megan Smith-Minto

Brittane Erhart-Tanana

Teneisha Roberts-Tanana

3-Point Contest Winners

Cody Cadzow-Ft. Yukon

Elizabeth Stanley-Nulato



GREAT JOB TO ALL THE PLAYERS, COACHES AND SUPPORTERS.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE TOURNAMENT A COMPLETE SUCCESS!

Tough Battles and Big Tests

Happy Spring—Winter is almost over!

We had an excellent Battle of the Book Season this year. The Raven Correspondence School 7-8th graders won the District championship and participated in the state battles. Kyle Morrison and Kyler Battle went to the second round and took 11th place at state. The 5th-6th graders at Minto School won the district championship for their level. Tehya Titus, Patrick Smith, and Deven Titus also participated in the state battle but did not place. Delta Junction Raven Correspondence School took the 3-4th grade district championship. Isaac Ruse and Jason Merrymon participated at the state level as well. They also did not place. Our district champion, Alfred Wright, from Gladys Dart School at the high school level went to the second round and took 5th place at State. Kaltag School, Minto School, Alakaket School, Andrew K. Demoski School, Jimmy Huntington School, Merrelaine A. Kangas, Gladys Dart School, Ella B. Vernetti School and the other Raven

offices had at least one team that participated. Congratulations to all. Their hard work paid off.

The Alaska State tests have now arrived in the coordinator's office. Eighty boxes were received for all schools. We will be doing an inventory of each box and then we will be mailing them out to the schools toward the end of your spring break. Associate test coordinators at each site should look for them the following week.

These boxes will be sent certified mail, return receipt requested so please be watching for them and inventory right away in case you are missing any of the materials you need. **Training will be on March 24th at 3:00 p.m. over video conference.** It is mandatory that all staff, including aides and any other proctors be in attendance. There are some new changes and accommodations for Special Education, and LEP students are going to have to be documented during testing by the proctors. A power point will be sent to each staff member via email. For this training, it is not enough to just view the power

point. There are documents which will need to be examined during training.

Since I am retiring at the beginning of June, I am offering to any staff member any books and files in my personal library here in my office. Whatever is left over may go to a professional part of the district library when it gets set up again. I am hoping you will avail yourself to some of the excellent books in education that are in print today. Many of them are geared to administration, but some would be excellent for teachers too. I do not have an inventory of those at the present time, but maybe I can get that together after state testing is over with. If you are working on your administrative certificate, there are many titles that would be a help to you.

Have a great Spring Break!

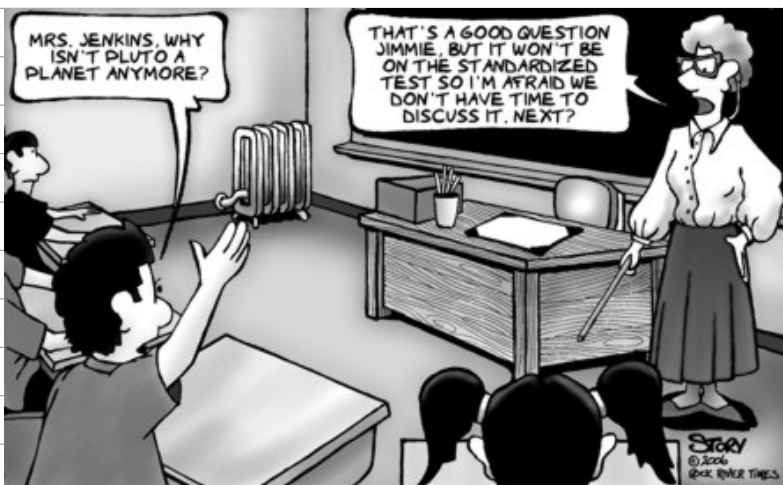
Submitted by Carol Doyle

Mark your Calendars!

Test administration training

March 24 at 3:00 pm via

Video Conference



Another Successful PEAK In-service



Carol Doyle, YKSD's very own "Dancing Queen" announced that she will be retiring in June during the PEAK In-service. Carol has been an educator for over 40 years. She is moving on to pursue her other passion in life, the ministry. You will be greatly missed Carol!



Two long-time YKSD teachers in Kaltag, Thelma Saunders with 27 years and Christina Semaken with 20 years, also announced their retirement at the PEAK in-service.

Phlight Club Soars

The Phlight Club took place in Allakaket February 7-10, 2010. Thirty students flew in from Minto, Huslia, Hughes, Ruby, Koyukuk, Nulato, Kaltag, and the Allakaket. Students in grades 7-12 were invited to participate. We had an intense and fun filled three days of non-stop activities, building lasting friendships, and problem solving through hands on activities. Attached are a few pictures of the group activities that took place.

This Phlight Club was a huge

success and is never done alone. On behalf of the students of YKSD, I would like to say a special "thank you" to the village of Allakaket for hosting the spring 2010 Phlight Club. Thank you for the warm welcome, the cooks for the excellent food, and the community for the hospitality. Also, thank you to Derek Peterson; chaperones, Travis Sutton, Evelyn Esmailka, Jen McLean, Patrick Brady, Laura Kaiser, Timothy Ned, Christopher Moses, Junior Ned,

Frontier Flying Service, YKSD, and the many volunteers for making everything possible. We couldn't have done it without you!

We had a lot of applicants this year and students were selected on the essays written and recommendations given by the teacher. The fall 2010 Phlight Club will take place at Minto School. We look forward to seeing you all!

Submitted by Andrea Durny



Coming Events for Students

Washington DC Close Up

On April 11-17 seven students will have the opportunity to attend Washington DC Close Up. The students who applied and were chosen to attend are: **Amy Washington**, Raven Correspondence, **Georgean Jimmie** and **Emily Frank**, 12th grade from Minto; **Barbie Sam**, 11th grade from Huslia; **Gabriel Pitka** and **Nichole Silas**, 11th grade from Nulato; and **Nate Titus**, 12th grade from Ruby. The teacher/chaperone for the trip will be **Nicholas Graves** of Allakaket.

Thanks to all who made this trip possible, the students for applying, the teachers/staff for helping the students apply, and Nick for chaperoning. The funding for this opportunity is provided by a grant from the Federal Programs Coordinator, Gina Hrinko.

Future Educators of Alaska

This year YKSD has become a

partner district of Future Educators of Alaska, making funding available to send students and an advisor to the FEA and BMEEC conference in Anchorage next month (see details below). Both trips will be paid for through a grant provided by Future Educators, if the money is not used it will be returned to FEA. If your site would like to send a student or two, please contact Andrea Durny for more information on how to utilize this funding source.

April 14-16, 2010

The Future Educators of Alaska 7th Annual Student Gathering will be held in Anchorage this year with events at the Captain Cook hotel and the UAA campus. High school students, along with their Advisors and District Coordinators will come together with Alaska Native educators, community members, UAA staff and other education leaders to learn about

exciting college opportunities and the education profession. Other highlights of the Student Gathering will include guest speakers, student-led workshops, an ice-cream social, and much more!

Registration and workshop proposals are open now!

www.futureteachersalaska.org

Alaska Bilingual Multicultural Education/Equity Conference

The Alaska Bilingual Multicultural Education/Equity Conference (BMEEC) is an annual event hosted by the Alaska Association for Bilingual Education, Alaska Native Education Association and other partners. The BMEEC provides an opportunity for educators and students to share perspectives on educational objectives, projects, programs and more. The conference will take place in Anchorage, AK at the Captain Cook Hotel April 22-24, 2010.



GET INVOLVED!

First Senior Fly-in

(AP) FAIRBANKS – Nineteen senior students from across YKSD attended the 1st ever Senior Fly-In, Feb. 21-25th in Fairbanks. Reports indicate students embarked on a rigorous agenda of life-skills activities and post-secondary career exploration including: budgeting, grocery shopping, mock-interviewing, visits to the AK Job Center, UAF, Alaska Job Works, and the Laborers. When asked about his experience, Kal-

tag senior Michael Ambrose reported, “It was awesome!”

The Press sincerely thanks Michael and many others for their illuminating closing comments.

Additionally, students received motivational speeches and presentations from UAF President Hamilton, Heather Heinen, Staff Sergeant Ives of the U.S. Marine Corps, Trisha Madros, Andrea Durny, former & current YKSD superintendents

Chris Simon and Kerry Boyd. Upon exiting the Fly-In, seniors left with binders containing completed sample applications, interviewing strategies guide, FAI bus route map, accrued materials throughout the week & memories they'll forever retain.

*Submitted by
Travis Sutton*

Special thanks to our dedicated chaperones, volunteer interviewers, UAF graduate students Nivia Martin & Cassey Page, and all those who worked behind the scenes for our students.



Knitting Nights in Allakaket

I work at Allakaket School as a Special Education teacher's aide and we have been having "Knitting Night" every Tuesday from 6-8pm since October. It is funded through the Tobacco Grant. The gathering has been a great success! We've made about 30 hats, neck warmers, and scarves for Elders Day. Here is a picture with Gina Hrinko, the Grant Coordinator. I work in wear-

ing the pieces we knitted! We also have "Movie Night" every Friday for 4th through 12th grade from 6-9pm. I just wanted to show my appreciation for the Tobacco Grant and Gina by showing how the grant has helped our small community, giving us a chance to gather with the students and teach them to make something for our elders. By having the kids come and do these activities, it

gives them a tobacco free environment and something fun to do. I also want to give Nancy Mason a big thanks for providing this idea and the good job she has been doing as a principal! She is a pleasure to work with and it is awesome having her as a boss.

Submitted by Monique Beetus



A cop was patrolling the highway and saw a minivan driving somewhat erratically so he flashed his lights. The van didn't pull over so he drove up beside it and motioned to the driver for her to pull over. He saw what the problem was, she was knitting. He motioned again so she rolled down the window. He rolled down his window and yelled "pull over." She yelled back, "no, cardigan!"

What's been happening in Huslia?

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community of Huslia, the participating teams, and Monroe High School for making the recent Regional Tourney a great success.

Also, I would like to recognize Coach Phillip Roberts and the 2009 Girls team for being one of 8 national recipients of the Spirit of Sport Awards. Last year at state they agreed to participate against Port Lyons who had only 4 players they could have on the floor due to an injury. Huslia also played only 4 players. This is a great honor to be one of the recipients of this national award.

Here are some of the things that have been going on in our classrooms:

Mrs. Henderson's 2nd/3rd Grade Class

We are loving the Accelerated Reader program. Kids are reading books like crazy and taking quiz-

zes. This program has really increased the number of books we read in and out of class. Thanks for renewing it YKSD! Hope to see it next year as well.

Ms. Weter's Fifth Grade Class

Our fifth grade class would like to wish everyone a great month and year. We are working on fractions, percents and decimals in math. For social studies we are learning how to spell and locate the fifty states. Also we are learning about the three branches of the United States government. Two weeks ago our class walked across the river and set rabbit snares. Our teacher also shot one ptarmigan and the students gave it to a local elderly woman. Giving the ptarmigan to an elder is tradition, it gives the hunter good luck for the rest of the season. Wishing everyone

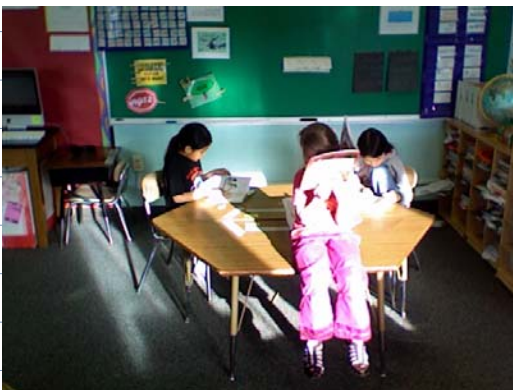
safe travels on snowmachines and airplanes this spring.

Mr. Swatling's Classes

From Rube Goldberg machines of science that drop eggs on their teachers' heads to hydrogen explosions, students have been exploring our endless world of science wonders. The infinite power of polynomials and rational expressions to ratios have been scribed across desks, papers, and binders as if they were signatures indicating something great had happened here before.

Mr. Rosebrook's Class

The Alaska History class has completed the Autobiography of Edwin Simon and is currently studying Madeline Solomon's book. Both books are from the biography series that was recorded, transcribed and edited by the Yukon-Koyukuk School District between 1980 and 1986.



JesCynthia David, Verla Weter, and Talia Henry reading.



Layla Heard, Libby Henderson, Leroy Vent, and Chase

Egg Drop in Huslia



Here is an egg being dropped on Mr. Barney's head by a Rube Golberg machine created by his 7th grade science students during a unit on energy and simple machines. The end result was that the students had to make the machine so that it effectively dropped an egg on our heads. They liked that part best I think!

Man! I'm a sucker!



EEEEWW!



Jimmy Huntington Middle School choir composed of volunteers from the 6th and 7th grades with one 5th grader. Mr. Barney led the choir with Andrew Wolff on guitar and Gertie Esmailka supporting the singers. They sang Amazing Grace in Denaakke' before the District School Board and Huslia community members.

Why do kids drop out of school?

Written by Gabe Pitka & Bennett Madros, Andrew K. Demoski School.

One reason might be drugs and alcohol. Another reason I think would be is that some kids' families need help making money so they have to dropout to help. Maybe they just don't like going to school or their grades were bad so they decided to just quit. They probably have a problem listening to the teacher or getting told what

to do or maybe some kids run away from home. Another possibility is kids are just too lazy to go to school. Some kids might have been bullied so much they just start hating school. Some



kids might not like their teacher. Other kids might get pregnant and don't want to go to school because of the way they look. Some kids might turn to bootlegging or selling drugs. Some kids might dropout because they don't have enough support from their families and friends. We think dropping out isn't a good idea because school is just getting you ready for your life. We also think dropping out is wrong because you can't get a high paying job. So think twice before dropping out.

Raven-Delta Activities

English Tea Party in Mid-Winter



On January 20 we held our first Raven English Tea Party. The 37 mothers and daughters who attended couldn't have had more fun. Many wore lovely outfits for the occasion. Raven mom, Stephanie Anderson, narrated for us, complete with her English look and accent! Everyone learned the proper way to drink tea and eat scones. In addition, all learned about the health benefits of drinking tea as well as useful information regarding the history of afternoon tea.

A special thank you to Kathi Jurva and Andrea Richard, Parent Advisory Committee Members; Stephanie Anderson, narrator; and Violeta Vorobyov, Family Representative; for planning and setting up our tea party. Thanks to Violeta for recruiting and



training eight high school girls, who did a great job serving tea and refreshments. We are also thankful to other Raven moms who donated items and their time to make the party work. A heart-felt thank you to Kathi Trim who not only advised us on all things Tea Party but also loaned us teapots and 30 teacups and saucers along with other items to use at our tea party. With such a successful turnout, we are already thinking that we might be having this as an annual Mother-Daughter Tea event to honor mothers in May, 2011.

State Battle of the Books



Congratulations to Jason and Isaac, our 3/4 grade team, who competed in the State battle on Feb. 18. Although they didn't win first place, Jason and Isaac did a great job with their knowledge of both the titles and authors. Since they can't be partners because of their grade levels next year, each has recruited another student to form 2 new teams for next year's battles!

Spring Fling



Now might be a good time to start thinking about getting ready for our Spring Fling on April 26th. This event, originating from our PAC member Kathi Jurva, will be a chance for Raven students to display exhibits, projects, reports, and anything else they worked on during the school year, including music, singing, and baking. This will give students (and parents) a great opportunity to display work for the school year with a grand finale. For more details, please call or email our office.

Construction Night

Raven boys and their dads gathered to construct bridges with materials provided by Associated General Contractors. Raven dad, Eric Ruse, gave a short history of bridge building before the construction began. The boys tested their bridges for weight bearing after they were constructed. Thanks to our PAC members and family for organizing this event.



Submitted by
Kathy Vander Zwaag