



Staff Connections

Words from our SUPERintendent

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HAVE A
GREAT
SUMMER
EVERYONE!

I would like to thank everyone for their hard work this past year and hope everyone will spend quality time with family and friends over the next few months. You are well deserving of a summer break with plenty of rest, relaxation and fun! As we celebrate the successes of our students and especially of our graduates, please take a moment to reflect on how your dedication to education has touched so many children. As I mentioned before, the District would like to recognize you for your dedication, hard work and longevity. Although it is a small gesture in comparison to what you do every day in your classrooms and schools, we are mailing Years of Service Recognition Pins to every employee, both certified and classified with at least five years of employment with YKSD. And for those of you who haven't worked

five years, your hard work does not go unnoticed. We just want you to stay around even longer!

Employee of the Year

For two very special YKSD employees, congratulations are in order. **Thelma Saunders** was named the 2010 Yukon Koyukuk School District Certified Employee of the Year and **Alice Titus** was named the 2010 Yukon Koyukuk Classified Employee of the Year at our regional school board meeting this past month.



About Thelma Saunders...Thelma Saunders has served as a teacher in Kaltag for 27 years with three of those years as a Principal/Teacher. Before working with YKSD, Thelma served as a

Teacher-Director for Headstart for seven years. Thelma has been recognized by Tanana Chiefs and the Alaska Federation of Natives for her service as a teacher. She was also a founding member and officer in the Association of Interior Native Educators and helped develop regional-based curriculum after attending five summer AINE sponsored camps. Along with her work in education, Thelma has served on the City of Kaltag Council for twelve years and is a member of the First Response Group for the Community of Kaltag.

Not only has Thelma dedicated her life to the children of Kaltag but she has dedicated herself to the community members of Kaltag and to her family. Thelma Saunders is an employee with poise and dignity and works

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hard with everything she encounters. After many years of working with Kaltag students, staff, and community, Thelma is retiring from the district, but not from education... She is a lifelong learner and teacher.



About Alice Titus...Alice Titus began her journey with YKSD in 1980 as a Special Education Aide and over the years worked as a

Teacher Aide and now a Principal Assistant. Alice is a dedicated employee, the kind of person that you never hear about even though it was her that successfully helped the completion of a project. The expertise and years of wisdom Alice brings to Minto has allowed teachers to spend quality time teaching and allowed parents to feel comfortable and welcome

in Minto. Alice is highly motivated and committed to the students of Minto School and is respected by students, parents, community members and her colleagues. After many years of working, Alice is retiring and will be spending quality time with family. Alice will be remembered fondly by all.

Congratulations Thelma and Alice on retirement and Employee of the Year selection!

I would also like to recognize two other employees who are retiring. Christina Semaken and Carol Doyle are retiring at the end of this year. Christina has worked for YKSD for over 23 years. She will be remembered for integrating her native culture and traditions into the YKSD curriculum. Christina has served on numerous curriculum committees within Yukon-Koyukuk School District, served on the Kaltag Tribal Council and City Council, served on the



first University of Alaska Rural Education board of directors, and was a recipient of the Doyon Educator of the Year. Christina is a role model within her community by living a traditional, subsistent lifestyle and instilling the values of her culture to the youth of her community.

She has dedicated her life to the students of Kaltag. We wish her good fortune for the wonderful years of service she has given. Christina will be remembered for her commitment to student success.



Carol Doyle has decided to retire after 42 years of working as an educator. She has dedicated her life to making a difference for children. Carol has worked as a teacher, principal, superintendent, and most recently as a curriculum and instruction director for YKSD. Carol aligned curriculum and best practice instruction across all grade levels and helped the district pro-

duce structures and guidelines for school improvement. She advocated for teachers through her years of work with developing and implementing quality professional development opportunities for staff. Carol's positive impact upon the Yukon-Koyukuk School District will be felt for years to come and she will always be remembered as the Queen of Dance! Although Carol is retiring from the district, she is committed to the lord and answering a call to missions.

Submitted by Kerry Boyd



Carol's Parting Words....

Summer is almost here. I'm sure we are all feeling that great sunshine in our faces and loving that warmer weather. I know I am.

Just a note to give you a testing update from the Office of Instruction: SBA test scores and any adult test results from the retests will be on DRC's website by May 14th. I will be downloading them and emailing them to the Principals that morning. Please note that as soon as you get those, they will need to be printed off at your site and given to parents. Parents must have them in their hands no later than 20 days from when you receive them according to state regulation.

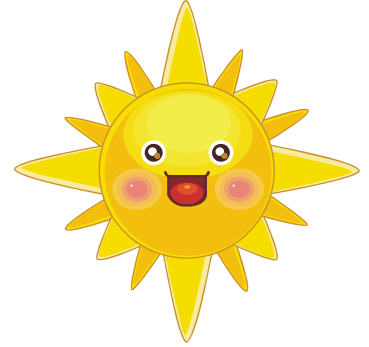
Next year there will be NAEP testing at some of the school sites, but not all. See below:

<u>School</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Allakaket School	4
Gladys Dart School	4
Kaltag School	4
Kaltag School	8
MAK School	8
Minto School	8

As most of you know, I am retiring at the end of my contract. Since I have a lot of annual leave left, I will not be working after June 2nd. Aside from the above information, I just wanted to say that I thoroughly enjoyed working with all of you over the past 5 years. You and the district activities will be greatly missed!

Thank you, all, for your support of the Office of Instruction and Curriculum and of me and the administrative assistant staff that has worked alongside me. I wish you the best for the future and I will probably be checking on the district from time to time to see how things are going. You will specifically be in my prayers for grace and wisdom from God for all you do for students and their families and the happenings in your own personal lives. God bless you all. I hope I will be able to say a "goodbye" to a lot of you as you pass through Fairbanks on your vacation. Have a great summer!

Submitted by Carol Doyle



New Security System at District Office

A new security system is in the final stages of being installed at the District Office. There are cameras placed in strategic areas outside and an alarm system within the building. Only district office employees with an personal access code will be able to gain entry to the building before and after hours beginning next week.

If anyone tries to enter the building without entering their personal access code, the police department will be automatically called.

This change came about after a break-in last year resulting in theft and damages throughout the building.



SBA Thank You

From Superintendent Kerry Boyd

I would like to thank all of the teachers and parents for their hard work and high expectations of our students. The tests are lengthy and require a lot of concentration and stamina by students.

Many parents and community members came to school every day and cooked breakfast to ensure students had the best possible learning environment for testing. I only wish we could have homemade breakfast at school every day!

Most of all, a big thank you to all students, and I hope you enjoyed our cyber pep rally! You are what it is all about! Good Job!

Hughes:

In Hughes this week students arrived early every morning to enjoy breakfasts prepared by parents. Each test day a different parent came in early to fix breakfast. MMMM the school smelled like home.

Janet Bifelt, Roberta Cleve-

land, Tina Ambrose, Thelma Nicholia, Dolly Solomon, on Friday morning I fixed pancakes for the students.

Nulato:

We called parents of students and told them super job each day when they tried hard. Teachers did the same it was a positive attitude.

Kaltag:

We are truly proud of the students for trying their best, judging by the amount of time, effort and seriousness they showed during the test. Some of them stayed for 4 hours per test. We are also very appreciative for the volunteers, comprised of parents, staff and community members for coming to the school at 7 in the morning to cook breakfast, food that was donated by the community, too many to name. After the last day of testing, that evening we held a celebration, comprised of food and games that taught partnership, reliability and math. We stayed until 11

PM. Susan, you may add that part about the district's rewards. Thanks.

Minto:

The staff cooked breakfast every day of testing. The parents, staff, and community donated breakfast items.

Koyukuk:

We served breakfast every morning starting at 8 o'clock. Thanks to April, Michele and Marie for coming in early to help with breakfast and to Laurie for donating pancake mix and bacon. My staff donated the rest of the breakfast stuff and healthy snacks

Ruby:

Here is a photo of the K-12 graders sporting their tie dye shirts in time for the testing this past week. We all wore our shirts every day from the time we sat down to enjoy the breakfasts prepared by parents and staff until the time the last student went home at the end of the day.

Submitted by Susan Paskvan

Denaakk'e Phrases:

Setl'ee hoolaanh

He/she is smart. Literally, "he/she has a head".



Extended Learning Activities

Students at the Yukon-Koyukuk School District have had the opportunity to participate in several extended learning activities the last month.



In April seven students participated in the Close-Up program in Washington, DC. Students met with Senators Murkowski, Begich and staff from Representative Young's office. Jimmy Huntington High School student, Barbie S. asked both senators about their stand on oil development in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge and non-Alaskan

hunters. Andrew K. Demoski High School student, Gabriel P., asked Senator Begich about what he is doing about off-shore bycatch of salmon. He then raised his hand and presented Sen. Begich with some king salmon strips. Mr. Begich, said "That is not a question, that is a statement." This was the first

Phrases:

oonaaane

Outside of Alaska

Yoonaan

Denaak'edoyone'

President of the United States

time out of state for four of the students, so they learned how to take the Metro in DC during rush hour and greeted everyone with a smile and hello.

In May six high school students participated in a Welding Academy in Nulato and eight in a Construction Academy in Minto. Students learned the safety skills, ten hours of Occupational Safety and Health Administration training, employability skills, and received hands-on instruction in welding, carpentry, and electrical skills.

Submitted by Susan Paskvan

Phrases:

The verb root den means to be skilled.

k'eeldenenh (noun) carpenter

Welder UhUdeldeeh. He is learning to use a welder.

Tl'eegho hUdaalden ent'aa nUghUnenh. This man was remarkably skillful.



“Close Up” - In Washington D.C.

Susan and Steve Paskvan took a group of YKSD students to Washington D.C. in March to attend “Close Up”. During their visit they explored the historical sites in an around our nation’s capital.



Counselor's Corner

KICK BUTTS DAY 2010!

On March 24th 2010 students across the United States celebrated KICK BUTTS DAY. In an effort towards tobacco prevention & awareness, the guidance offices in Huslia, Nulato & Ruby recognize this as a day for youth to stand up against tobacco, and be aware that they (our youth) are targeted by tobacco companies. In Nulato, Martha Demoski's 4th & 5th grade students learned just how much money these companies spend, the false image often presented, and how difficult it can be to resist yielding to peer pressure. Each of Martha's students received (with many giggles) a free "Kick Butts Day" t-shirt as a reminder and message to stay tobacco free. (Sponsored by YKSD's Tobacco Grant)

HUSLIA'S HEALTHY LIFESTYLES & CAREER FAIR 2010

On April 14th-16th the school and community of Huslia celebrated an exciting combined health and career fair that gathered both employment and healthcare professionals together offering services and education to students & families. Presenters from U.A.F., Tanana Chiefs Conference & other community employment sectors offered informative presentations to all Huslia's students (K-12). Each classroom teacher rotated his/her students through approximately eight unique presentations which included topics in youth employment, diabetes prevention, smoking cessation, AK Unions, fire safety, health/fitness & Alaska trades



Huslia students celebrate "Kick Butts Day" in their new t-shirts.



Gary Ferguson speaking to Casie W. & Gertie E. students (grades 4-5) about health and health careers.

among others. Throughout the day elders and community members joined in on presentations of their choice for a memorable time of learning. The staff at Jimmy Huntington School offers many thanks to the community of Huslia, TCC & all those who helped make the fair a success!

By Travis Sutton

Gary Ferguson, ND is the Director of Wellness and Prevention Department Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium



Gary Ferguson speaking to Annette Penn & Brandy H. students (K-3) about health and health careers.

Alaska Girls Basketball Team Selected as Section 8 Recipient of NFHS National

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (March 18, 2010) — **The Huslia Huslers girls basketball team** of Huslia (Alaska) Jimmy Huntington School has been selected as the 2010 Section 8 winner of the “National High School Spirit of Sport Award” by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

The “National High School Spirit of Sport Award” was created by the NFHS to recognize those individuals who exemplify the ideals of the spirit of sport that represent the core mission of education-based athletics.

The team was one of eight section winners selected by the National High School Spirit of Sport Selection Committee. Tori Clark, a volleyball player at Lake Park High School in Roselle, Illinois, was subsequently selected as the national recipient of the award.

As the Huslers entered the consolation game of the 2009 Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA) Class 1A state basketball tournament — the winner of which

would play for fourth place in the state — they found themselves at an unusual advantage. Their opponent, the Port Lions Kings, had entered the tournament with only five players, one of whom sprained her ankle in the first game of the tournament and was out for the remainder of that game.

When the player could not physically compete for the consolation game, the Huslers could have taken advantage of having an extra player on the court — the normal five players to the Kings’ four. But head coach Phillip Roberts decided — and his players agreed — to sit an extra player and compete with just four in order to make the game fair. Even when the Kings pulled within two points in the fourth quarter, the Huslers never used a fifth player. They held on to win, 35-33, and advanced to play and defeat Napaskiak High School in the following game to claim fourth place in the tournament.

Nominations for this award were generated through NFHS member state associations and re-

viewed by the NFHS Spirit of Sport Award Selection Committee composed of state association staff members.

While the national winner will be recognized July 9 at the NFHS Summer Meeting in San Diego, the section winners will be recognized within their respective states and will receive awards before the end of the current school year.

This press release was written by Dan Schumerth, a spring semester intern in the NFHS Publications/Communications Department and a senior at Franklin (Indiana) College.

“Teamwork is the fuel that allows common people to produce uncommon results.” - ~Unknown



Huslia's River Erosion Project



JHS 6th grade science class studying river erosion with the use of infrared aerial photos.



Madison and Kelly use an infrared aerial photo of the area around Huslia to accurately place vegetation along a small-scale model of the Koyukuk River.



Beatus and Emily use a black and white aerial photo of the village of Huslia to reconstruct the main landmarks of the village.



Flora and Corrinna build the Koyukuk River using a topographic map while Dustina photo documents the whole project. Derrell and Jakob were our engineers and oversaw the construction of Roundabout Mt. and surrounding hills.



Project complete. JHS 6th grade students built a small-scale model of the Koyukuk River near Huslia then ran water through it as a way to study the effects of river erosion along banks.

The Scholarship Process

Since the recession began, more students have gone to universities and colleges trying to get a leg up on the competition in the job-market, and many businesses have been trying to cut costs and lower their taxes. This has resulted in a large increase in the number of scholarships awarded to students. Because scholarships are tax write-offs for businesses, large companies have been awarding scholarships for years. However, the recent recession has given smaller businesses incentive to provide them as well.

With all of the new scholarships out there, the competition for them is fiercer than ever. This being my senior year, I have been filling out many forms and writing many essays in hopes to relieve some of the financial pressure that will be put upon me by the costs of housing and tuition at the University of Alaska. The selection process for financial aid has become somewhat more rigorous in the past few years, and the propensity of a form to obfus-

cate the goal of the student has increased as well.

Some common pitfalls that seniors hit in filling out scholarships are missing deadlines, incompletely filling out forms, and, surprisingly, simply not applying. Meeting the deadlines of scholarships is crucial for potential awardees. I learned this the hard way in by missing an application for a \$10,000 scholarship in October. There is no guarantee that I would have won the scholarship had I sent in an application, but there is always the chance that I lost myself a years worth of tuition by not being punctual. However, missing this scholarship opportunity made me very aware of deadlines in all of my future applications.

I was made aware of the importance of filling out an application completely by the example of others. It may seem trivial, but one missed box that only needs a simple "N/A" could cause you to lose a chance at a scholarship. The final common pitfall of seniors is the lack of confidence regarding

a large reward, or the thought that they are not qualified for a certain scholarship. There are many scholarship committees that receive no applications simply because there are no students who think that they meet the qualifications. Under the advice of Mark Hamilton, President of the University of Alaska, I created a letter that was a simple review of my accomplishments and goals for the future that could apply to any scholarship. A simple phrase such as "I do not believe I meet all of the requirements, but I believe I could put your money to good use" followed by a summary of why it is true could be enough to impress a committee to the point that they award you with some financial aid.

If there is anyone you know who wants to go to college and plans on applying for financial aid, give them some of this advice. It could help them succeed in their post-secondary education.

By Alfred Wright



Scientists visit Manley

SCIENTISTS came to our school. They talked about snow and animal tracks. We measured snow and we also looked at it through the microscope at snow particles. That was pretty neat. We matched animal foot casts to its picture. There was

four of the scientists. Their names were: Mathew, Jonathan, Henry, and John. They also did a demonstration of an avalanche. It was very cool. Everybody kept putting their hands in the flour and sugar, which was the fake snow. We all went out-

side and dug in the snow. We saw all the layers of snow. They also said that they took a 5000 mile trip two years ago. Well anyway I'm very glad they came.

By Kaithyn H.



Busy in Minto

Minto School has been very busy this quarter.

We had Dancing with the Spirit with Pete Peter and Virgil Titus come to our school. Students learned a number of songs and they experienced playing with guitars, mandolins, and violins. A concert performance was had and the entire village had an opportunity to enjoy listening to Minto's young musicians.

The Regalia Project headed by Madeline Riley and Monica

Garza has been great. Elders, family and community members helped work to construct many dresses. Students learned sewing, beading, and pattern making. Students that did not

have traditional regalia now have a dress or a vest to wear.

Submitted by Monica Garza



Minto Oil Spill Clean-up

Students researched on the internet first on how to clean up oil-soaked animals. They put a muzzle (tape) on the animal before dipping it in cooking-oil water, and washed it with dawn dish soap in a pan of warm water. It was cute. Here is a student's report:

1) Begin catching animals affected by an oil spill. 2) Put a

muzzle on the animal because it will nip or bite. 3) Put on a pair of dish washing gloves to protect your skin from the oil. 4) Use a paper towel to wipe off its feathers or fur. 5) Fill a plastic cup with warm water and place the animal inside the

water. 6) Use a mild soap and wash the animal's fur or feathers in sections starting with the tail, legs, rear portion of the animal's back, chest, neck and the head. 7) If there is some oil remaining repeat all over again.

Written by Patrick Smith, Jr.

*Submitted by
Madeline Riley*



Working with our Grandmas

Today in Nulato School Megan, James and Jocelyn Patsy, Courtney Semaken and Shane Peters all learned how to make bread with their Grandmas Paulina Stickman and Pauline Peter. We made the dough by mixing flour, yeast, warm water and dry milk. We all had a turn at kneading the dough. When the dough was ready we made cinnamon rolls, fried bread, sweat bread and regular bread. When the bread was all done we got to take some home.

"It was fun and we learned

something," commented Megan.

By Megan and Jocelyn Patsy



This is an article written by Jocelyn Patsy and Megan Patsy about a new class for Nulato students being funded by the Nulato Tribes. The Nulato tribes is funding for elders to show students how to cook for themselves and to do bead work. The students that prepared food today were Megan and James Patsy and Jocelyn Patsy, other students were Courtney Semaken and Shane Peters.

The Nulato 500

The Nulato 500 "Last Best Race" on the Yukon River took place in Nulato on Friday March 12. The students in grades K-5 were all excited and very happy as they revved their engines as they raced their cars down the track. The students competed against one another and the winner in a bracketed race-off was Ashlyn Sommer a kindergarten student. She beamed with excitement as did

all the students. All the students had to do reading, writing and math to make their cars. This is one of the activities that Nulato has used to increase student interest in reading, which hopefully leads to Nulato students making AYP this year.

Submitted by Dan Reum



Kaltag-Nulato Game Day

Fun times were had by all at the first annual Kaltag-Nulato Game Day. Students from Kaltag traveled up to Nulato by snow machine to participate in an afternoon filled with fun and healthy competition. Activities were eclectic, ranging from a spelling bee to miniature tricycle races, and culminated in a series of short basketball games. The afternoon provided the two schools an opportunity for a fun release after testing. It also helped to develop a tighter bond of friendship between the two schools and their students.

Not only did the students enjoy the races and games, they thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to participate in a spelling bee. The students did a f-a-n-t-a-s-t-i-c job with the bee. The competi-

tion was split into three groups: grades 2-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Each bout was filled with excitement and many precarious spelling words. The students of Nulato and Kaltag did a stellar job and honestly enjoyed the experience.

One of the more entertaining of competitions of the day was the tricycle race. Students raced from one side of the gym to other and back. Again the students were split into groups based on their age. The tricycles that were used were designed for toddlers. Needless to say, watching the teenagers compete in the event was not only entertaining but downright hilarious and a tad bit ludicrous.

Hopefully this day of games, academics, and friendly rivalry will continue

long into the future. Inter-school activities like this one are great. With all of the food, fun, and festivities, there is no reason why this shouldn't last for many years.

Submitted by Nate Lambert



Ruby Gems

Our year here at MAK in Ruby has gone by way to fast. We spent the week after testing having spirit week with all the staff teaching an activity. Pete Moyryla's club built snowmen in the yard. Great cross grade activity to be sure! Our two graduates this year are Nathaniel Titus, who's leadership, work ethic,

and gung- ho spirit will be sorely missed in the coming years. Our other graduate is Kirk Mayfield who despite his obvious disabilities, has been able to live in two villages throughout his school career and still manage to have a positive attitude and keep us laughing with his wild dancing and crazy ball skills. Fi-

nally we say good bye to our SPED teacher Max Larson who brought gymnastics to the Yukon and Pete Moyryla who showed us all that there is still a lot out there in the world to conquer. We wish both gentlemen all the best....thanks Anne Titus and MAK staff.

Submitted by Anne Titus



Good-bye & Good Luck!

Learning About Trees

Family Representative at the Delta Raven Office

A number of Raven parents and their children enjoyed participating in the attention-grabbing Project Learning Tree Workshop on March 17th. Matt Weaver taught students and their parents how to classify and identify six Alaska trees. There were several engaging activities aimed at learning these skills including a relay game to see which team knew

its leaves! Students had a chance to learn about and make their own textured and unique paper. Each family took home an activity book and a papermaking screen. Everyone seemed to have a great time while learning something useful.

Congratulations to Delta Raven Student!

Congratulations to Raven student Aurora Trulove who was selected to participate in a

week-long Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama! Aurora will report back to us in a fall newsletter.

*Submitted by
Violeta Vorobyov*



Raven Students Explore PETCO

Raven Fairbanks took a field trip to PETCO where they were able to pet snakes, frogs, turtles, birds and a few other furry friends. They were given a lot of information on the animals that are adopted and

sold at the local pet store and how to care for these pets. We were also able to visit the groomers located within the store and learned about how to better care for our dogs. It was an afternoon filled with lots of

interesting information and fun.

Submitted by Keri McGinty



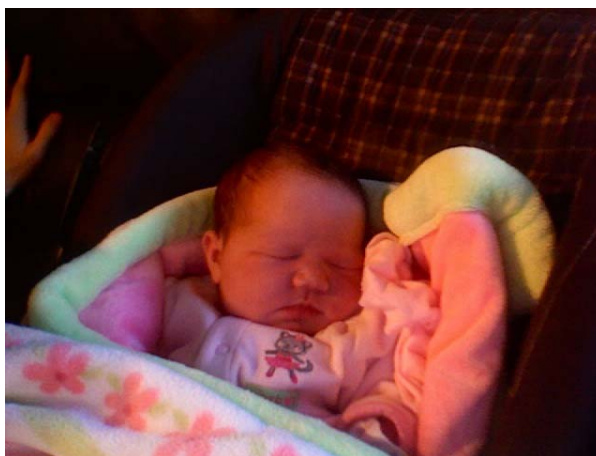
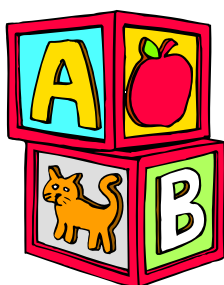
"We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals."

~ Immanuel Kant

Allakaket Students Perform at FNA

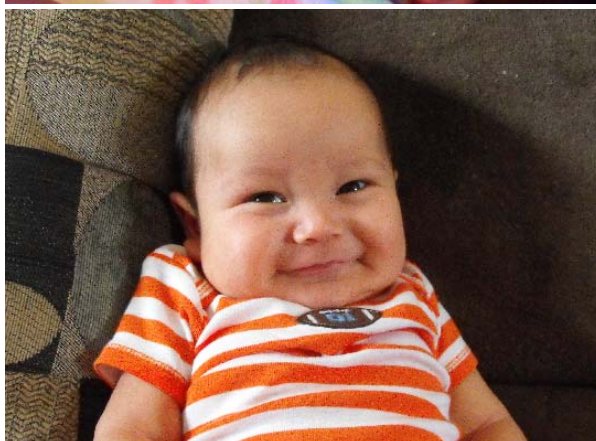


Welcome to the World!



Annalise Okiku Barney
was born on April 20th,
2010 at 3:03 am. She
was 9lbs 3oz and 20
inches long.

Congratulations
Sam & Chelsea Barney!



Dereck John Albert
Starr Jr. (Junior) was
born on Feb. 7th, 2010.
He was 7lbs 8oz and 18
3/4 inches long.

Congratulations
Leona & DJ!

MDA Most Wanted!

A warrant was issued for our arrest! As one of the area's "Most Wanted" we were "locked-up" to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Our bail money will be used to send Alaskan children to the MDA Camp! Donations will be accepted through May 31st. Making a donation commitment is easy, just send us a quick email to mda@yksd.com with your donation amount. Thank you for your support!



The cost of sending one child to MDA summer camp is \$800.

Please help!



April~May~June Birthdays



4/1	April	Williams
4/4	Douglas	Woods
4/12	Yuko	Heinrich
4/15	Peggy	Bruno
4/19	Patty	Hill
4/20	Rolland	Linus
4/22	Steve	Swatling
4/22	Michele	Patterson
4/22	Marilyn	Janke
4/23	Joseph	Marley
4/26	Barbara	Arkell
4/30	Danae	Davis
5/5	Josephine	McGinty
5/5	Geoff	Johnson
5/6	Shirley	Kruger
5/7	Keri	McGinty
5/9	Annette	Penn
5/12	Nicholas	Graves
5/17	Lisa	Kleynenberg
5/19	Neil	Sommer
5/20	Sophie	Sam
5/21	Chris	Williams
5/25	Vina	Bilow
5/27	Virginia	Ned
6/1	Oscar	Dayton
6/4	Leona	Bifelt
6/5	Kathy	VanderZwaag
6/9	Marilyn	Marshall
6/18	Anne	Titus
6/22	Brooke	Williams
6/26	Wayne	Smoke
6/30	Madeline	Williams