

Staff Connections

Yukon-Koyukuk School District

Happy New Year and Welcome Back!

I hope everyone was able to spend fun, quality time with family over the last couple of weeks. You all deserve it after a busy first semester. I also hope you are well rested because we've got a very busy year in front of us.

PEAK In-service

The PEAK In-service is February 9th -11th. The in-service will be held at the Wedgewood Resort. Principals will have an extended day in-service on the 12th. I look forward to meeting with all of you next month!

Teacher Negotiations

Teacher contract negotiations will be held January 18th-January 20 in Fairbanks to discuss salary schedules. As you remember from last year, MYEA and the District settled all language in the agreement with the exception of salary.

Teacher Contracts and Feedback for Evaluations

Over the next two months, evaluations will take place for the final submittal in February. Teacher contracts will be sent out the third week of February. My hope is that we have a 90% plus teacher retention this year.

In the meantime, one of the many good practices that are in place is that our



principals spend time in classrooms observing teaching and learning.

By looking at the interaction of teachers, students and content in classrooms, one can learn about practices that should be replicated and practices that should be abandoned. Additionally, while the teacher is busy teaching, the principal is better able to notice how students react to different parts of the lesson, whether or not they appear challenged, and how the classroom environment contributes (or detracts) from their work.

The principal's challenge is to compose feedback that acknowledges the good work teachers do (and being specific so that they will continue to do these very good things!) while also giving something to improve upon where necessary.

Budget Development

While the hopes of an economic recovery are more of

a reality than at this time last year, we have begun the development of the 2011-12 budget with continued care. The Chief Financial Officer and I will review building requests and staffing needs from principals and will submit a recommended budget to the Regional School Board. Some of the considerations are: staffing, retirement, student enrollment, resource requests, and budget projections.

Welcome New Staff!

Ava Vent is the district-wide educational specialist. She has been hired as teacher support to assist with PEAK implementation and general overall support to students and staff.

Gary Kleven and Felecia Kleven are the new teaching team in Kaltag. Gary is the principal/teacher and Felecia is the elementary teacher.

Rhonda Lohrke has been hired as the administrative assistant in our business department.

Please help welcome all of them to the YKSD family!

Submitted by Kerry Boyd

Special points of interest:

- Jan. 17-21:
Battle of the Books
- Jan. 18-20:
Teacher Negotiations
- Jan. 28:
Board Meeting in Kaltag
- February 9-11:
PEAK In-service
- February 28-March 4:
State Battle of the Books Competition

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Library Notes

Seven of the nine library aides have been hired this quarter, and are working hard to organize their spaces for service to students and staff. Please welcome:

Larissa Hornsby, Andrew K. Demoski
School

Holly Hildebrand, Ella B. Vernetti
School

Bill Bruno, Jimmy Huntington School
Lina Edwin, Kaltag School

Corinna Dart, MHS Gladys Dart School
Karen Gurtler, Merrelina A. Kangas
School

Elecia Frank, Minto School

New shipments of books have begun arriving at the sites, and should entice even reluctant readers to turn some pages. A Nook or Kindle will be available at each site for student use also, plus we will be adding some interactive books and books on CDs.

The district Battle of the Books competition will be held during the week of January 17th, at 10 a.m. each day. On Monday, K/2 will compete; Tuesday, 3/4; Wednesday, 5/6, Thursday, 7/8, and Friday, 9/12. The week of February 28th - March 4th is reserved for the

state battles, with high school competing Monday; 7/8 on Tuesday; 5/6 on Wednesday; and 3/4 on Thursday (K/2 does not compete at the state level). Please encourage your students to complete their reading, and allow plenty of time for practice.

Best wishes to all for the holidays. Enjoy some good books during the break.

Submitted Rosalie White



Greetings from the Facilities Department

We would like to share sincere thanks to Carl Eddy and his assistant Stanley for completing the first ice sculpture here at Yukon-Koyukuk School District and hope everyone enjoys it to the fullest.

The Facilities Department would also like to say a huge thank you for all the helping hands in Huslia on getting the Derendoff Cabin up and running for renovation.

Naming the helping hands: Chris Simon, Liz Peters, Eddie Vent, Francis Nollner, Travis Henderson Phillip Peter and everybody from the city and the community.

Submitted by Tami Rump



District Office Christmas Party



Joyce Billups demonstrating how to play the "Face the Gingerbread Man" contest.



Shawn Coyle and Cheryl Brady playing "Jingle in the Trunk"



Mike Williams and Johnathan Sommer enjoying the party.



Andrea Durny with her dad Andy



Santa came to pass out Secret Santa Gifts!

The District Office staff contribute \$5 per month to an Employee Morale fund that is used to fund office birthday cakes and cards. The money left in the fund at the end of the year pays for our office Christmas party. This year the party was held at Big Daddy's BBQ restaurant. We played holiday themed games from the game show "Minute to Win It" with gift cards awarded to the winners. Thanks to all who contributed to the fund and for coming to the party. We hope you had a great time!

Cindy Reilly, YKSD CFO Earns North American School Finance and Operations Credential



Cindy, our Chief Financial Officer for YKSD, was recently awarded the Certified Administrator of School Finance and Operations (SFO) certification by the As-

sociation for School Business Officials International (ASBO International).

The SFO Certification, a new certification by ASBO International, is granted to highly qualified individuals who fulfill multiple requirements, including demonstrating eligibility (through work experience and education), passing a comprehensive two-part exam that tests competency in accounting and school business management topics, and adhering to the ASBO International Certification Code of Conduct.

By earning the SFO certification, pro-

fessionals validate their specialized knowledge and demonstrate a commitment to high standards and ethical practice in school business management.

There are currently only about 100 individuals across the nation that have achieved this accomplishment. Congratulations to Cindy! We are proud to have her serving Yukon Koyukuk School District.

We are proud to have you working for YKSD—Keep up the great work!

Ryan Tilbury Appointed to Alaska Veterans' Advisory Council



Governor Parnell appointed Ryan Tilbury, and reappointed Mayfield Evans, Joseph Fields, Ron Huffman and John Guinn

to the Alaska Veterans' Advisory Council. The council advises the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs on matters concerning state veterans, their dependents and their survivors. Tilbury, of Fairbanks, is a transportation operations officer in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. He is currently assigned to J-4 Transportation as Deputy Chief,

Air Branch, Yongson Army Garrison, U.S. Forces Korea. In 2008, he deployed to Manas AB, Republic of Kyrgyzstan as the deployment and distribution flight commander. Since 2004, he has worked as a school counselor in the Yukon-Koyukuk School District. Tilbury is also actively involved with the University of Alaska Fairbanks

Congratulations!

Yukon Koyukuk Rifle Program

Toward the end of last year, Superintendent Boyd shared a goal for having a Rifle program in YKSD. She wanted something culturally relevant and something our students could take with them after the formal school is completed and stay with the students forever.

Work began immediately to obtain the certificates and tools needed to accomplish a successful Rifle program. With the assistance of the NRA, the proper training was provided for an instructor, thus in turn providing instruction for coaches at each site. The Civilian Marksmanship Program was able to offer air rifles of .177 caliber for a fraction of the cost of new ones. Twenty rifles were ordered, targets, pellets and kits for coaches.

Coaches were required to attend 8 hours of training, scoring a 90% on an exam prior to receiving their certification to coach this sport. The rewards are extensive, with successful shooters in Alaska receiving full ride scholarships at UAF, and many in the lower 48. The Olympic sport of biathlon is one this program could potentially expand into in future years, which includes cross country skiing with a rifle on your back, and shooting at targets combined.

Students learned Gun Safety and the three Main rules (#1 Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction, #2 Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot and #3 Always

keep the gun unloaded until ready to use), proper handling of firearms, proper breathing techniques, best methods for accurate shot placement and many more skills which they will never forget.

Scoring in Air Rifle is determined by the placing on the target, with the highest point value of 10 requiring the placement of a shot in the area $\frac{1}{2}$ the size of an average adults little finger nail. Competitions and scoring is based on shooting 20 shots in each position of Prone (lying down on your belly) Kneeling, and Standing. That is a total of 60 shots, one shot at a time from a fairly heavy rifle for some of our smaller students. By the end of the competition, student's arms became hard to keep stable for shooting. Of course anyone can shoot a rifle, but to shoot it accurately every single time takes a lot of skill and patience.

Programs were offered to all sites, with Allakaket, Johnny Oldman, Jimmy Huntington, Gladys Dart, Merrelaine A. Kangas, Andrew K. Demoski, and Kaltag staff moving forward to receive training for this new program. We are very proud of all of these schools, with Johnny Oldman, Jimmy Huntington and Merrelaine A. Kangas competing in the finals at the District competition in December, having completed the entire season. Four in district competitions occurred, with differing winners surfacing from the sites almost every competition.

EVENT WINNERS:

October 8th, Matthew McCarty of Ruby with a 376
October 22nd, Lacey Sam of Huslia with a 381
November 5th, Dolly Simon of Huslia with 413 (first person to break 400)
December 3rd, Darrick Ambrose of Ruby with a 403

REGIONAL WINNERS: *(winners of Regionals all received gift certificates to Sportsmans Warehouse)*

First Place—Nick Cleveland of Hughes with 410 (highest score of anyone all season)
Second place—Matthew McCarty of Ruby with a 402
Third place—Darrick Ambrose with a 401

Congratulations to all participants in the first season of the YKSD Rifle Program. A rivalry has been established between some of the schools for top placings this year, therefore we are gearing up for more participants next year and are purchasing more rifles and supplies this spring.

A HUGE thank you from all of us to Kerry Boyd for her desire to establish this program, and total support along the way. These students and athletes have greater gun safety skills, and will be better handlers of rifles as a result of her goal.

Submitted by Harry White



Ruby students participating in the Rifle Team: Destinee Rhodes, Darrick Ambrose, Matthew McCarty, Wayne Captain



12 Months of 2010 - Manley's Vocals and Year At a Glance

Students researched headline news events from the 2010 year and wrote them up. The main events Were adapted to the song - "The Twelve Days Of Christmas". Students sang the headline news version. The final chorus had each student name themselves.

12 - unique children

11 - life saving CT scan

10 - 33 rescued miners

9 - hiker released from prison

8 -death of Ted Stevens

7 - 10 Russian spies

6- Flashflood in a camp ground

5 - record breaking painting

4 - Tough take on Immigration

3 - reworked health care bill

2 - IRS plane crash

1 - and an earthquake in Haiti

They also wrote and illustrated the town poem, which archives the years events in Manley Hot Springs. The 5-8 grade students recited Robert Service poems from "The Spell of the Yukon" book we used for Jr. High reading curriculum. They finished the program off with hand bells. We had a very special guest visit our gym also - Wishing All A very MERRY CHRISTMAS

Submitted by Heidi Wright

A little holiday cheer welcomes families to the Raven-Delta Office



Julie and Joan decorated for their office building door decorating contest and won second place (although we were really close to first place; in fact, so close, that they made a prize for second place also!). We got a \$25 gift card to our local IGA store.

Music and Dance in Kaltag



Submitted by Bernice Moore



Tyler Saunders, Tristan Madros, Corbin McGinty, Mikey Stickman, Mariah Neglaska & Julie Semaken taking guitar lessons with Pete Peter.



Julie Semaken & Clayton Neglaska dosey-doeing:) Ladies on left are Courtney S., Colby E. Jaylynn E., Tia E. & Jayden M.. Bill Stevens playing the fiddle in the background. Gentlemen on the right are Tristan M., Darrell S. JR., Ethan S., Corbin M., Lloyd E. & Mikey S.



Jayden Madros practicing 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star' with Bill Stevens.



Lloyd E. & Colby E. and Corbin M. & Courtney S. doing the Virginia Reel!



High school boys taking a lesson from Pete Peter. Wesley Alexie, Chuck Stickman, Deshaun McGinty & Lloyd Esmailka.



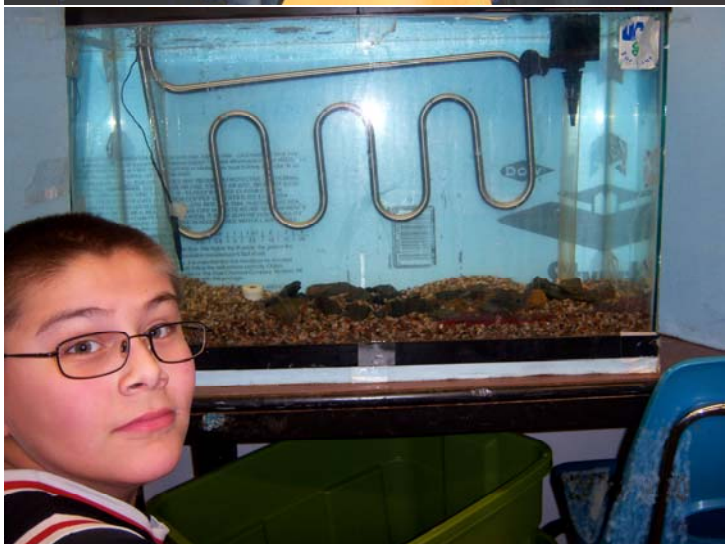
Tristan Madros & Colby Esmailka practicing violin with Bill Stevens.

Ruby's Salmon Project

Submitted by Pete Moyryla



MAK junior high school students (Left to right) Katrina Albert, Mr. Moyryla, Destanee Rhodes, Ronnie Brown, Kady deLima, Jackie Morgan, and Alta Brown display the salmon tank where they are in the process of raising salmon eggs into young salmon for science class. (Missing from photo: Wayne Captain & Matthew McCarty)



Ronnie Brown shows off the aquarium where the salmon are being raised.



The salmon are currently in the alevin stage of their life cycle.



Look Who's Birthdays are Coming Up....



January

Jan 01	Dianne Shirrell, Gertie Esmailka, Kristin Bauer
Jan 02	Dawn Pomrening
Jan 05	William Bruno
Jan 06	Carrol Lefevour
Jan 07	Mark Snell
Jan 08	Ruth Folger
Jan 11	Cindy Furtado
Jan 16	Jake Kramer
Jan 17	Martha Demoski
Jan 24	Mary Sue Linus
Jan 25	Harold David
Jan 26	Shane Sites
Jan 28	Cassandra Weter
Jan 31	Irene Peters



February

Feb 04	Ava Vent
Feb 06	Shawn Coyle
Feb 09	Heidi Swenson
Feb 12	Irene Henry
Feb 13	Alan Swenson
Feb 16	Elecia Frank
Feb 18	Josie Dayton
Feb 19	Nate Lambert
Feb 20	Eleanor Yatlin
Feb 20	Marion Acker
Feb 21	Monica Garza
Feb 22	Joy Shier
Feb 23	Bob Hawkins
Feb 24	Gloria Patsy
Feb 26	Vicky Charlie
Feb 28	Sarah Dayton, Tanis Joiner



March

Mar 05	Tanya Yatlin
Mar 06	Johnathan Sommer
Mar 15	Phillip Roberts
Mar 15	Susan Paskvan
Mar 16	Kim Turnbow
Mar 19	Josephine Semaken
Mar 19	Pete Moyryla
Mar 23	David Pratt
Mar 26	Kathaleen Steckel
Mar 30	Francine Greenan, Melissa Captain
Mar 31	Lisa Wicke, Joan Jones, Cathy Koss