

1st quarter  
October 2011



YUKON KOYUKUK SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Staff Connections

## From Kerry's Desk

Thank you again for a wonderful in-service! Over the last month, we have had quite a few happenings.

Senator Hollis French, as well as representatives from the offices of Senators Gary Stevens, Johnny Ellis, Joe Thomas, Lyman Hoffman, Donny Olson and Albert Kookesh visited the Yukon-Koyukuk School District to see first-hand the progress students are making in the Alaska Pilot Pre-Kindergarten Project. The group met with school leaders and observed activities in the Pre-K pilot program in Allakaket, where teachers have incorporated the Athabascan language into the curriculum. The group

traveled to Minto, and observed the pre-k classroom and met with elders who advocated for continuation of pre-k. The group was very impressed with the students and teachers.

We have hired Stan Osbourne to take Cindy's place as CFO. He begins working with us on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Cindy's last day is October 28<sup>th</sup>. Stan has many years of experience as a CFO, currently is CFO of a school district in New Mexico and has worked several years in Alaska in prior years. I expect he will be a great CFO. He is on his way here with his wife and two children.

As we mentioned earlier,

YKSD is the recipient of the ANE CTE grant award which provides courses and academies in the health and fire fighting careers. Most recently, thanks to Gina Hrinko and the state and federal grant department, we are now the recipient of another CTE grant that will provide training for students desiring to learn more about careers as electricians. Patty Woody as you have learned is heading up the CTE department and Bob Hawkins was recently hired as the CTE specialist. Bob will be working closely with Patty and you to be sure the students have access to the district CTE opportunities. Bob will be based out of (continued on page 2)



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Fairbanks. Ava Vent is transferring into Bob's teaching position in Minto this week. Andrea Durny is now supporting MAPS and AIMsweb Implementation and Barbara Sunberg will be leading the writing assessment.

More good news...Gina and the federal programs department headed up another grant for Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Grants and we just learned we were awarded the grant. This

grant will fund a school social worker, a part time person to manage the grant activities, Phlight Academies and other resources for our counselors and students. This grant does not fund another counseling position. The social worker position will be posted in-house and soon on ATP.

Yet more good news...Jimmy Huntington School is invited to apply for Title I Distinguished Schools Recognition program. Jimmy Huntington is being rec-

ognized for closing the achievement gap in Alaska Native Students and Economically Disadvantaged Students. Go Huslia! We hope that they are selected for this honor.

The unofficial School Board Results indicate that our current board members will be returning again for another term. Please be sure to congratulate them when you see them.

*Submitted by Kerry Boyd*

## Senator French visits Allakaket and Minto Pre-K Programs



Senator French, Kerry Boyd, and Gina Hrisko right before they left Allakaket

Photos provided by Lila Hobbs  
(Office of Senator Hollis French)



Allakaket with our reading partners from the pre-k class. Here is a list of people in the photo: Pre-k teacher Lisa Wicke, Lila Hobbs Rachel Reilly, Patricia Walker, Murray Richmond, Tim Lamkin, Paul Sugar, Senator Hollis French, Gina Hrisko, and Sydney Seay



Senator French reading to a pre-k student in Allakaket.



Outside Allakaket School: Kerry Boyd, Sydney Seay, Paul Sugar, Senator Hollis French, Gina Hrisko, Tariq Malik, Patricia Walker, Tim Lamkin, Murray Richmond and Jeff Rogers



Senator French handing Principal Vicky Charlie from Minto a stack of books he got for their library



## A Warm Welcome to Our New Staff....



**April Ambard** is our new elementary teacher at Kaltag School. April is from Honolulu, Hawaii. She graduated from Punahou School, received her B.A. from the University of Hawaii, Manoa and did her teaching certification as a graduate student at the University of Oregon, Eugene. April has been teaching since 1981. She has taught in both private and public schools in Hawaii, as well as for the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry. She has also taught SCUBA diving and shito-ryu style karate to children and adults. April has been teaching in Alaska for two years, in the YK Delta. She describes the area as “way out on the tundra—beautiful in its own way, but very stark”. She loves to teach, to walk in the woods, and to fish, so Kaltag (what a beautiful community!) is a great fit for her. April has really enjoyed the PEAK training, particularly their on site visit. Their insight has been of great help in meeting her students’ needs. So far, her favorite experience was when, her students, all total non-readers when they started in August, read their very first book---all by themselves. She is so proud of their achievement!



**Sheila Beardsley** is a new counselor for Raven Correspondence School in Anchorage. She comes from Craig on Prince of Wales Island, many call remote. Craig is conducive to a unique lifestyle, which she embraces for all its beauty in nature and in its people. This school is small, a place easy to know students and their families by name and by relationships I have with them. Sheila’s education took place at Oregon State University. She student taught in the Corvallis area. Her school counseling internship was at South Albany High School & a community agency in Monmouth, Oregon. After completing her education, she moved to Alaska and worked in Craig as the K–12 school counselor for 10 years, and most recently, three years in one location, as the high school counselor. Sheila was looking for a new challenge in her professional life. She and her husband moved to Anchorage, where not only work has brought me the challenge she was seeking; but the city life is a change, which they are enjoying! So far, she has enjoyed working with the Raven staff and getting to know the Raven families. Sheila is a board member for the Alaska School Counselor Association (AkSCA). The challenging work is enjoyable with fantastic people. She enjoys collaborating with the AkSCA members and resources in order to meet the needs of professional school counselors in Alaska.



**Jessie David** is our new elementary teacher at Allakaket School. She was born and raised in Allakaket. Jessie began working as a teacher’s aide in 1976, and was substitute teacher after she graduated from high school in 1975. She took a paraprofessional class in 2004 to comply with NCLB requirements and applied to the Bachelor of Arts in Education program at UAF. The program was both challenging and a very enjoyable experience for her. After Jessie graduated, she planned on submitting her application to every district in the state in hopes to see new places. But after living in Fairbanks for a while, it was great to get a job back at home. Jessie would like to see more “homegrown staff” in our district believing that this would give our kids something to strive towards and make them think, “Yes, I can do this, too!” Jessie’s favorite experience so far is having eager happy faces looking at me ready to know more each day in her classroom. She is very happy to be where she is. She toughed it out as an intern in a city school district and knows that she is ready to take on this job. Another great thing is all of the support that she gets from other teachers in the district, particularly Brandy Henderson (Huslia), Randi (Minto), and Tami (Ruby). Jessie believes our district has great staff!

**Crystal Dennis** is our new Raven Correspondence School teacher in Fairbanks. After being born and raised in Fairbanks, it has been a for her to be back here working! Crystal has taught in both rural and suburban areas. She also taught in both Special Education and Regular Education working with students from birth to 26. The little kids inspire her to have fun and the bigger

## A Warm Welcome to Our New Staff....

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kids inspire her to stay focused and get the job done. Her favorite part about being back is the snow and the Holiday season. Hunkering down in the winter, reading a book, and having some hot cider is a favorite pastime. She also enjoys spending time with her hubby fishing, hiking, and cooking. He is making us ice fishing poles and has informed me I will be off to enjoy a new adventure this winter with him!

**Robert Elder** is our new high school teacher in Kaltag. Robert has taught in 3 other district in Alaska, most recently from Aleutians East in Sand Point.

**Norelle Horton** is our new Raven Correspondence School teacher in Juneau. She was born in Wahroongah, Australia, but was raised in California and Oregon. She complete her bachelor's degree at Avondale College in Cooranbong, Australia before moving back to the States in 1992. She has a Master's in School Counseling and EdS. in School Psychology, however teaching is her first love! Norelle has had the privilege of working with students in grades Pre-K through high school as well as with students in an International Student Program. She has spent eight years in special education in Alaska and Texas. She is enjoying her new position with Raven Correspondence School in Juneau because of the diversity of her role. Her favorite experience so far is working on Parent Designed Courses and aligning standards with outcomes (really!).

**Elizabeth Kim** is Nulato's new Math/Science teacher. She is from Los Angeles, California. Elizabeth minored in education at University of California, Los Angeles. She taught for the Cultural Center at UCLA and was a program assistant with the California Writing/Literature Project. She obtained her Master's in Teaching (Math & Science Education) from Emory University and student taught in Atlanta during her graduate program. She taught in urban Atlanta and Los Angeles as a math/science teacher prior to YKSD. When asked why she chose to work for YKSD, Elizabeth was advised by her graduate degree coordinator to consider teaching

in rural Alaska. She is thankful for the opportunity to teach in the village of Nulato.



**Tariq Malik** is our new Principal/Teacher in Allakaket. He came to Alaska from Houston, Texas. He and his wife have 3 sons, one daughter, and one granddaughter. They are proud to have their eldest serve our nation a US Marine. Tariq went to school on three different continents, multi-lingual, gained degrees in M.A, English Literature and M.Ed Education. Sports played a great part in his life and he remained an athlete until his university days and competed in track & field events. He also enjoys playing racket ball, soccer, cricket and indulging in the occasional game of chess. Tariq has been involved with national and international education for almost 19 years and this is his 4<sup>th</sup> year in rural Alaska. He immensely enjoys being in Alaska and is looking forward to having his family join him in this great and beautiful state. Tariq says that being an educator is a calling and he wakes up every day thinking how he can make a difference in someone's life. It takes going beyond the call of duty to truly educate a student. He has found great support at YKSD and is looking forward to a great year in Allakaket.

**Devon Strain** is our new counselor based in Allakaket but she also serves Hughes and Huslia. Devon came to us from Northglenn, Colorado.



**Barbara Sundberg** is our new Assessment, State & Federal Programs Coordinator. She was born in territorial Alaska, one year before statehood. Fairbanks has been her home where she and her husband have raised four children. They now have two grandsons living in the area as well. Barb received her undergraduate degree in Education from UAF, and a graduate degree from UAA. She has worked in public education for more than 25 years, including employment at UAF and nearly 20 years at the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. She has been a private contractor for numerous organizations in the community, conducting research studies and program evaluations. Barb is honored to join the team at YKSD. She has met several YKSD employees over the past couple of years while completing an evaluation of the pilot pre-K program and the library grant project. Barb believes that there is no question about the high level of commitment of YKSD staff to improving the educational experiences of students. The opportunity to visit the rural schools through the grants helped her see and begin to understand the challenges and opportunities at YKSD. Barb's favorite experience so far has been the September inservice, with all the positive energy and opportunity to reconnect with familiar staff and to meet new people. She is looking forward to a great year at YKSD and encourage staff to contact her anytime with questions about student assessment or our State and Federal programs!

# WELCOME

## A Warm Welcome to Our New Staff....



**Amber Taylor** is our new Business Office Administrative Assistant. She was born and raised in Dodge City, Kansas. From there, she moved to Manhattan, KS to attend Kansas State University. She graduated in May from KSU with a bachelor in finance and a minor in economics. Shortly after graduating, she found out that her husband was being re-stationed to Fort Wainwright, Alaska. They moved here in July, and started her job hunt! Prior to moving, she was an accounting assistant for the physics department at KSU; she worked there for

about 3 years. And before that, she was a daycare teacher at a child development center, where she was employed for 4 ½ years. Given her experience, she thought the business office at YKSD would be a good fit. She has really enjoyed it so far, and hopes to gain more valuable experience while meeting new people in the process!



**Patty Woody** is our new Career & Technical Education (CTE) Coordinator. She was born in Boulder, Colorado. She earned her undergraduate degree from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado with a

Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. Patty moved to Alaska after graduating from Fort Lewis College and earned her Master's Degree in Education in Counseling from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Prior to working for the YKSD, Patty worked for the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District in variety of positions. She was a Counselor, After School Program Instructor, Career Guidance Specialist, and Graduation Success Coach. Patty has also worked as an Accreditation Team Member evaluating the YKSD schools for accreditation. She has aligned curriculum and spent almost ten years working with at-risk youth. She is happy to join the YKSD team and is excited to work with the students and staff. She has a sincere desire to help youth succeed and believes Career and Technical Education is a key to student success. CTE allows students to learn and get training in different areas, making it possible for students to participate in career exploration and job training. Patty lives in Fairbanks with her family and enjoys the outdoors, especially in the winter. She loves to cook, spend time with her family, read, crochet, garden, ski, run, and hike.





## September In-service Recap

The annual fall in-service held at River's Edge Resort September 14, 15, & 16. YKSD was honored to have the Alaska Commissioner of Education, Mike Hanley address the crowd and congratulate us on a job well done be-

ing released from corrective action by the Alaska Department of Education. We were also honored to have Governor Sean Parnell stop in to say a few words about the Alaska Performance Scholarship. The teachers, classroom

aides, district office staff and administration participated in the largest in-service YKSD has ever had with over 100 employees and guests in attendance. Thank you to all who played a part in it's huge success!





# September In-service Photos





## Counselor's Corner

During the month of September the counseling department at Gladys Dart School focused on the "WEB OF FIVE!" This phrase refers to five adult anchors/friends each student needs in order to maintain a health support system. In the photo, each student shared the name of one of his/her adult anchors and then tossed the ball of yarn to another student in the circle while continuing to hold the yarn thereby creating a group web! This activity demonstrated how even having five adult anchors can still leave holes in our support systems. Students learned how losing an anchor can impact their lives.

Congratulations to the following

Minto students for earning National Career Ready Certificates: Claudia Thompson (Gold), Kerry Frank & Kaylyn Riley (Silver), Elsie Wade & Gabrielle Titus (Bronze)! This certificate is awarded by ACT for performance based on the WorkKeys Assessment taken this spring. The National Career Ready Certificate is increasingly being recognized by employers across the state of Alaska and nationwide. Students who have this certificate and apply for a job with an employer who recognizes it, immediately tell the employer he/she is proficient in the areas awarded. In short, employers know whether or not the applicant possesses many of the skills needed to succeed on the

job!

### Important Dates:



December 10<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>  
-- ACT Project  
Testing for river  
schools. Please con-  
tact your school counselor for inter-  
ested 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.



The WorkKeys internet testing window is open now thru December 31. Counselors will be testing all 11<sup>th</sup> grade student as well as any 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who are first time testers OR wish to re-take for a higher score.

*Submitted by*

*Travis Sutton & Cristina Poage*



## Promotion Ceremony



Raven Correspondence School Counselor, Ryan Tilbury, was promoted to Major on Sept 1, 2011. Ryan is in the Air Force Reserve,

assigned to the Pacific Command, J-7, Camp Smith, Honolulu, Hawaii. He had the honor of being pinned with his rank promotion by Senator Lisa Murkowski at the District Office on September 30.





## It's Your Business

The Business Office is rolling out two new employee related benefits that will be available to all regular staff members.

**EMPLOYEE PORTAL** – Ever wonder how much your next paycheck will be? Want to get another copy of your W-2? With Employee Portal, you will have the ability to do both these things and so much more. EP is a web based system that gives you the ability to look at your payroll records right from your computer, whether at home, work or away from home. In the next month, Johnathan Sommer will be holding video conferences with each site to walk you through the easy process of setting up your account. Once you're signed up, you will be able to view your paycheck stub for an upcoming

payroll or ones you've already received. You'll be able to look at what employee benefits and deductions are effecting your paycheck. And once your W-2 is completed, you can pull it up and print it off yourself for loan applications, housing leases, or for your personal records. Our ultimate goal is to develop a nearly paperless payroll system.

**SECTION 125 PLAN** – Darcy Carter of American Fidelity will be getting in touch with all regular employees...full time, part time and board members...to give you information about the new Section 125 Plan YKSD now has available to you. A Section 125 plan is a means for an employee to set aside a few dollars each pay period and avoid paying income tax on them. These

dollars can be used to purchase specialized insurance plans, unreimbursed medical costs or costs for dependent daycare. This money is multiplied because it allows you to pay for things you are already paying for but since you won't have to pay taxes on it, there is more of it to go into your pocket at the end of the month. Darcy will be holding video conferences for the River Schools and visiting the Raven sites to make sure every employee has a chance to be informed of this benefit. The open enrollment period for the Section 125 plan is September 14-December 2, 2011. Don't miss your chance to enroll!

*Submitted by Cindy Reilly*



## Career & Technical Update

The Yukon Koyukuk School District has several new career and technical education opportunities for students this year. Students can participate in different camps throughout the year to develop skills in a specific career area.

**Camp Kick Ash** is a three-week camp, where students will obtain their first aid, CPR, and Emergency Trauma Technician (ETT) certification. Additionally students will learn about health careers, participate in a variety of emergency rescue situations, and develop basic firefighting skills. Students spend two weeks in Aniak working with the Aniak Dragon Slayers and then spend a week in Fairbanks. In Fairbanks, the students will visit UAF Rural Student Services, do activities with UAF Fire Department, and learn from various emergency services around Fairbanks. Currently four students from the YKSD are participating in this camp. The camp runs October 7 -28, 2011.

High school students will also have the opportunity to participate in a Health Academy in Galena from April 16 – 27, 2012. Students will receive train-

ing to obtain their ETT, first aid, and CPR certifications. Students will also spend time exploring different health careers and learn about math in health related occupations.

**Advanced Camp Kick Ash** will be an intensive three and one-half week camp. The camp will take place in Aniak with the Dragon Slayers and students will have the opportunity to obtain their EMT I certification if they are 18 years old or older. Students will already need to be ETT certified to participate in this camp. This camp will take place April 2 – 27, 2012.

The YKSD has partnered with the Yukon Flats School District to offer classes to enhance our students' educational opportunities. High school students may have the opportunity to take part in a two-week intensive session on digital video, where they can learn about using a variety of digital video equipment and designing and creating their own project. A week and one-half long session on welding will take part at the end of January. Students who need to build their skills to pass the HSGQE can take part in a week-long

intensive session in March, to assist them in passing the exam. Junior high students will have the chance to spend a week exploring careers by using digital media. This is still in the planning stages, so as applications and dates are determined information will be provided.

An electrical curriculum is also being developed to allow students to have the opportunity to learn basic electrical skills. A sequence of four classes will be developed: Electrical I, Electrical II, Residential Wiring, and Commercial & Industrial Wiring. These classes should be ready to be offered in the spring of 2012. Kits will be developed to provide supplies to be shipped out to participating schools.

Please look for these opportunities and others as the year passes and share them with your students. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about the CTE program.

*Submitted by  
Patty Woody*

## Curriculum & Instruction



A new opportunity this year for students, parents and staff is the YKSD Aviation program. Envisioned by Superintendent Boyd, this program is providing our students and adults with an opportunity to complete their Aviation Ground School, finalizing with taking the FAA written exam. The class is offered over e-live and blackboard, through UAF at a minimal fee. Addi-

tional to completing the Ground School, successful participants will receive 4 College credits from UAF for only \$94. We presently have 5 students and 2 adults enrolled and participating. Lt. Col. Frisbie – the instructor – has shared that all are doing very well and learning a tremendous amount. If you or someone you know, has a desire to learn to fly, this class will be offered

again in the spring semester, beginning in January. Make your plans now to enroll. Our goal is to provide learning opportunities for students along with career opportunities for future employment here in Alaska.

*Submitted by  
Harry White*

## Building Youth Resiliency through “Phlight”

This year students from Minto, Manley, Allakaket, Hughes, Kaltag, Nulato, Ruby, and Koyukuk gathered in Huslia for Phlight Club September 22nd through the 25th. We are happy to report another successful weekend with our students. I would like to say thank you to the Chaperones: Eddie & Larissa Hornsby, Shannon Madros, Scotty Shears, Danielle Esmailka, Emily Worel, Devon Strain, Travis Sutton, Michael Ambrose and of course our cook Jen McLean for making it such a wonderful weekend. I would also like to thank the staff and community in Huslia for making us all feel welcome, Superintendent Kerry Boyd for spending an evening with us, and all the teachers and staff for supporting our efforts. Thank you to Derek Peterson for sharing his talents and abilities. We are very fortunate to have him working with our district and the stu-

dents respect him greatly, below are a few words from Derek.

“Phlight Club... Building dream catchers for every student - (ROY G BIV). They lifted their Superintendent UP! and they caught her when she trusted them. They rolled on the floor, crossed high ropes,



fell into each other's arms. They played the Huslia Golf Course. They turned their worlds around. They lifted others high above their heads, and pulled others across the floor. They carried others on their backs, and let everyone walk all over them! And they wrote their cards, learned their colors (ROY G BIV) and were kind, respectful, and energetic the whole time. I am so proud of EACH and EVERY ONE of the Phlight Club student leaders. They worked it!! They learned!! They laughed!! They lifted each other up!! They got out of their comfort zones!! They raised their voices!! They ALL DANCED the whole night! They cleaned the school! And at the end of it all, they hugged each other and were grateful to the adults!” ~ Derek Peterson

*Submitted by Andrea Durny*

## Grant Funded Projects

**Title II A Grant**—The grant department received additional Title II A Professional Development funds to conduct a MapTEACH workshop that included both YKSD teachers and teachers from around the state. This workshop was held in conjunction with the Math/Science Conference in Fairbanks. There were approximately 40 teachers who participated in the MapTEACH workshop.

**Literacy in School Libraries Grant Program**—As you are already aware, our Librarian has been working hard to get our school site libraries up and functioning efficiently. Each site has a library aide who works 8 hours each week. These library aides have received training on how to implement the Accelerated Reader program and will be working closely with teachers to ensure students are given the opportunities to take AR quizzes. Please schedule a weekly time for your class to visit the library. The library aide can conduct activities with your class to help them become more familiar on how to use the library to locate information.

**Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Grant**—We were recently awarded the Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Grant. This project will increase students’ access to services to address significant needs related to mental health, substance abuse, and violence. Two strategies will be implemented to provide consistent, positive youth development for K-12 students: 1) LifeSkills Training, a research-based classroom curricula designed to specifically address substance abuse and violence-related behavior; and 2) Integrative Youth Development (Phlight Club). This grant provides funds for the district to hire an Itinerant Social Worker.

**Alaska Native Education CTE Grant**—We are pleased that our district has been awarded the ANE grant so that we can more fully develop our current CTE program and add a Health component to our current offerings. This grant project will provide classroom-based, distance learning, and hands-on technical education in health careers. The overall goal of the project is to prepare students for a career in the health field or for entry into post-secondary education.

*Submitted by Gina Hrinko*



# Library Notes

Welcome back to a new year of learning, supported by your friendly site libraries! Recent training for library staff in the use of the library system, Alexandria, and in how to monitor Accelerated Reader quizzes will help them encourage student reading and learning.

In addition, the new selections for Bat-

tle of the Books should keep students on their toes as they read for comprehension and details, and enjoy these carefully selected books. Practice questions will be out this month (kids should write their own!), with the district competition in January, and the state competition in late February.

Teachers: Classes are being scheduled for weekly library time. If you would like to participate in this opportunity, see your local library aide to set it up. Please plan on accompanying your students to the library during your scheduled time.

## Library Resources

The following is a “quick start” guide to using our library system:

### Alexandria library catalog intro:

1. Open district website page at [www.yksd.com](http://www.yksd.com).
2. Click on *Departments – Library – Library Resources*.
3. Click on the Alexandria icon or the word *Alexandria* to get to the *Researcher* page.
4. To see district information, click on *Bulletin Board* on the left side.
5. To search for a book, enter (in the search box) title, author, series or subject, and click on the appropriate icon below the search box.
6. When the books appear, you can click on the item you want more information about. Click on *Show copy information* or *Details* to find out where the item is housed, whether it is available or not, and general descriptive details of the book, including AR information. While the item is on the screen, you can also click on *View on Shelf* to see books that are actually on your library shelves in the same area. You can click on one of the cover pictures to see its details.
7. Remember, only new additions to the library are in the system at this point. There are many things to explore within Alexandria Researcher, so please take some time to enjoy what it has to offer.
8. For items you might need that are not in our system, please let your library aides know, and we will do our best to borrow the item from another Alaska library.

### Check this out too....

SLED: Statewide Library Electronic Doorway (<http://sled.alaska.edu/>)

SLED is a reliable website containing links to many areas of interest to Alaskans, plus databases for use in research. SLED was developed by the Alaska State Library and the University of Alaska libraries. Funding has been provided by the federal government, the Institute of Museums and Library Services, the State of Alaska, and the Rasmuson Foundation.

And now, a new addition to Library Notes:

Superintendent Fred Lau wrote a message entitled, ‘*Positive attitude crucial in delivering quality education*’:

In light of his announcement that district finances were still “tight”, he went on to say, “The key to our success as a district has never been in how much money we have had but rather in the attitude of the people in our district. As a district, we have always believed in a winning attitude..... Winning in our case is making sure that each of us contributes all we have to seeing that each child receives a quality education. It’s the belief we have that every child has potential. It’s the positive attitude we relay to children by act, word, and deed....”

After 24 years, even though our district continues to deal with financial challenges, it’s nice to know that we still have that winning attitude toward our students’ potential and ability to succeed.

*Submitted by*  
*Rosalie White*  
*Library Media Coordinator*

## Newsletter Blast from the Past:

(excerpts from Han Zaadlitl’ee, the YKSD newsletter from September 1987)

Y-KSD Enrollment by School – August, 1987

Allakaket:	45
Bettles:	22
Hughes:	19
Huslia:	61
Kaltag:	80
Koyukuk:	26
Manley:	15
Minto:	61
Nulato:	98
Ruby:	54
Northwind:	68

**Total: 549**

## Our Native Language

September 6-9, 2011 Huslia and Koyukuk Native Place Names

The week after Labor Day I traveled to Huslia and Koyukuk with representatives from the U.S. Geological Service, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association and my mother, Eliza Jones. The purpose of the trip was to review work Eliza did in the 1970s with local elders on Native place names.

There are over 900 place names along the Koyukuk River. Before families settled down in villages, they traveled

great distances following the fish and game that the land provided. This was a matter of survival for the family. In the summer, every waking moment was spent putting food away for the long winter. As fall time approached families moved inland to harvest birds, berries, and large game. Over the winter they traveled along trapping routes for small game. Then in the spring they moved to lakes for muskrat hunting. Then the cycle would begin again.

Each camp and trapline was recognized as someone's use area. This was re-

spected and honored. What impressed me when the elder's told the stories of their use area was the familiarity with the landscape. What a testimony of strength and endurance: the struggle in moving a family over a high bluff by snowshoes and dog team in sub-zero temperatures.

*Submitted by  
Susan Paskvan*

*(Article submitted to the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner in September for the Athabaskan Word of the Week Series.)*



George Yaska, Sr. of Huslia tells the story of places he trapped along the Koyukuk River.

Dolbaatno' 'gosling river'

Dolbaakkaakk'et 'mouth of Dolbaatno'



In Koyukuk, I set up a green screen video unit to interview my father, Benedict Jones, Sr. With a green screen I can later put images behind him of the places that he talked about. This green screen set up is available for check out to YKSD teachers. It weighs about 50 pounds. Contact Susan Paskvan for more information.

## Special Education

### New iPads Activated!

The Special Education department has started its transition to the new iPad accounts discussed at the September inservice. New iPad 2 tablets have been purchased, loaded with paid and free apps, and sent to the sites. Teachers are encouraged to use them and to recommend additional apps for district purchases. Purchases will be made through the centralized Volume Purchase Plan just send

Johnie your requests. If you have gift cards they may be used with the district accounts to purchase other media, including books, movies, and some podcasts. We will be getting together soon to cover the process of duplicating the contents of the new iPads onto your old ones and keeping them synced.

*Submitted by  
Cristina Poage*





## YKSD Students “Take PHLIGHT” in Huslia

If you’ve never experienced attending a Phlight Club, be encouraged to do so.

Students and chaperones from all over YKSD joined with Andrea Durny and Derek Peterson, founder of ICAR-US and the Phlight Club program in Huslia for a weekend of fun, encouragement, life lessons, character-building, and growing resiliency in the lives of those students fortunate to attend.

Thursday night focused on team-building, as well as the importance of each student building a strong network, or “web” of support. “The Rule of 5” stands for students having at least 5, if not more, positive adult influences in their lives (i.e. parent(s), teacher(s), counselor(s), relatives, elders, religious and/or community leaders, etc.). The “web” is woven with measurable “Tangible Strands” (food, clothing, shelter, etc.), and hard to measure “Intangible Strands” (Values, love, encouragement, faith, etc.). Students and chaperones, even Superintendent, Kerry Boyd, participated in some rather demanding activities, including trying to stand up from a sitting position in teams. Many of the other activities can be both a mental and physical challenge. But teach life lessons in the process.

The entire day on Friday focused on “Growing the Balloon,” that is, supporting and growing within one’s self. Like a balloon on a web of string, supported by “Anchors,” so too should students be supported by “Anchors” of support in their own lives. The “Rule of 5” was modified that day to include “The Power of More,” or the addition of more

“Anchors” in life to build an even stronger “web of support” in life. There were even lessons and activities cautioning about “not over-inflating or under-inflating the balloon” or one’s self, to avoid “falling through holes in one’s web” or personal network, or being blown around by “winds of change” that can be harmful to one’s life.

Friday also included the YKSD Run for Life fun-run, where the Phlight Club students from other parts of the district, as well as the chaperones, joined students and staff from the Jimmy Huntington School in a walking or running circuit around the village of Huslia.

Friday night ended with a pretty lengthy discussion on dating and relationships, which surprisingly lasted over 1 ½ hours, and where students created their own questions, some of them very tough, and answered them in a group-discussion “fishbowl” format. Derek, Andrea, and the chaperone’s were quite impressed with the discussions, challenges, and the respect students had during this time.

On Saturday, there was some deep discussions on both positive and negative “Scissor Cuts” to the strands of one’s web, and discussions about what might happen if even one of the “Anchors” in a person’s life were to “drop off.” How do you “rebuild your web?” How do you replace or even add to the “Anchors” that support your “web of support?” There were tough questions to ask, but very important. Later, the group discussed how to “Care for the Carers.” How do you help take care of those in your “web”

that help take care of you? If you move to another village or city, go to work elsewhere, or go to college, how do you build a new “web of support,” and care for them? Discussions culminated with discussions of “social norms” and “winds of change.” How do students cope with societal changes, cultural norms, stereotypes, and the like in today’s world. How do tribal and Native cultural values fit in to this equation? Lots of questions and discussion about this area as well. Saturday night was “Homecoming Night” where all of the Phlight Club students from around the district were “Kings and Queens.” YKSD and Kaltag alumnus, Michael Ambrose, was the DJ for the evening, and the crowd was awed by Nulato native, Gerald Patsy’s, dance interpretation of Michael Jackson’s “Thriller.” The night and weekend ended with each member of Phlight Club sharing thoughts and thanking those that helped them grow during the weekend; the most touching part of all Phlight Clubs.

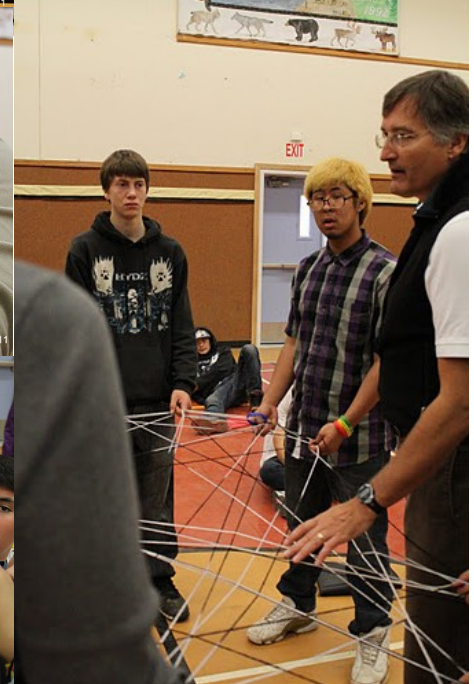
Thanks to Kerry Boyd for attending and supporting the program, Chris Simon for having the event there, and accommodating us, Jen McLean for her wonderful cooking, the counseling staff and others for chaperoning the event, and especially Derek Peterson and Andrea Durny for making the weekend and the program possible here at YKSD.

*Submitted by  
Eddie Hornsby*





# Phlight Club Photos





## Kaltag Cuts, Cooks, Knots & Learns

*Submitted by Bernice Moore*



Kaltag students and teachers went to the Kaltag Tribal office to watch and learn how to cut fish and later on they jarred it for the Kaltag Elders lunch



April Ambard is watching the students as they prepare fry bread for the Culture Week Potlach. They also made fish ice cream with white fish.



Susan Paskvan used this game to teach the students Koyukon Athabascan words! They all had the most fun jumping up out of their chair and exchanging chairs with whomever had the same word that was said!



Kaltag staff & students were learning how to tan fish skin for boots and how to make knots.



## Koyukuk Culture Week

Every year in Koyukuk, the Ella B. Vermetti school is transformed from a place of learning the “Three R’s” to a place where the past meets the present. The K-8 students in Koyukuk, while still learning everything from their “A.B.C.’s” to Science, took time to learn from elder, Eliza Jones, and others about Denaake, Koyukon Athabascan stories, Native crafts, processing fish, and processing moose meat... LOTS OF IT!

Teachers, Josie Dayton, Marie Dayton, Michelle Patterson, library aide, Holly Hildebrand, and even school counselor, Eddie Hornsby, joined the students in processing about 300- 400 pounds of moose meat throughout the week. Much of the meat was ground, while others of it was chunked or made into seasoned dry meat (jerky as some call it).

Teacher, Marie Dayton, saved back some silver salmon for the students to process

during the week as well, teaching the students how to filet it, and even prepare some for smoking and hang drying.

The students also learned how to make necklaces and bead sewing on skins to create beautiful works of Native articles.

What an enjoyable week that was had in Koyukuk!

*Submitted by  
Eddie Hornsby*

## Nulato Cultural Day

The students in Nulato did on August 24<sup>th</sup>... over 200 pounds of it, pulled in by Principal Vic Lewin, and students Gerald Patsy and Conrad Turner.

Martha Demoski, fresh from her retirement from last year, and a friend, Maryanne, came from the upper village to assist students in learning how to cut and filet Yukon whitefish, sheefish, silver

(Coho), and red (Chinook) salmon during the Nulato Cultural Day. Even teachers, like Lisa Kleynenberg, Judy Madros, and new staff member, Elizabeth Kim, joined in to work with the entire K-12 student body in learning about Native culture, and how to process fish for freezing and hanging dry.

Later that week, the entire staff at the Andrew K. Demoski School processed their own fish, and split over 200 pounds themselves to freeze for the rest of the school year; thanks in large part to what was learned from the elders and students during the AKD Culture Day.

*Submitted by  
Eddie Hornsby*



# Got fish?

Photos Courtesy of Eddie Hornsby





## Fall YKSD Birthdays

<b>October 2</b>	Scotty Starr, Mary McCarty
<b>3</b>	Michelle Sam
<b>4</b>	Barb Sundberg
<b>6</b>	Cindy Reilly, Lina Edwin
<b>8</b>	Holly Hildebrand
<b>9</b>	Kerry Boyd, Camille Varin
<b>14</b>	Maurice McGinty
<b>17</b>	Narelle Horton
<b>18</b>	Heidi Wright
<b>20</b>	Marie Dayton, Vic Lewin
<b>21</b>	Sophie Alexie
<b>22</b>	Randi Shrider
<b>28</b>	Jen McLean
<b>29</b>	Andrea Berg
<b>November 7</b>	Tami Rump
<b>8</b>	Judy Madros, Rosalie White
<b>10</b>	Pat Baser
<b>12</b>	Sam Barney, Hazel Olson
<b>13</b>	Olga Semaken, Karen Gurtler
<b>23</b>	Katrina Frank
<b>24</b>	Evelyn Esmailka
<b>December 1</b>	Rachel Reilly
<b>4</b>	Robert Elder
<b>9</b>	Virginia Wood
<b>10</b>	Dian Gurtler
<b>11</b>	Joyce Billups
<b>19</b>	Nancy Mason, Rebecca Linus, Emily Frank
<b>20</b>	Emilie Campbell
<b>26</b>	Brandy Henderson
<b>27</b>	Christina Semaken
<b>29</b>	Doug Dysart

### Did you know....?

An up-to-date YKSD Staff Directory can be found on our website under 'About YKSD' as a searchable directory or a printable PDF

**Check It Out!**



Every thought is a seed. If you plant crab apples, don't count on harvesting Golden

Delicious. ~ Bill Meyer

