



# Staff Connections

2ND QUARTER

DECEMBER 2011

## News for the New Year....

### Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

I would like to wish everyone a very peaceful, happy and healthy holiday season and new year. Hopefully you are able to enjoy some quality time with family and friends.

Each of you plays a vital role in the lives of our fantastic students. Please know how thankful I am for your continued dedication and support. Your willingness to give selflessly of your time and talents always benefits our students.

### Vision Statement for YKSD

At the December regional board retreat, we began the process of developing a vision statement for the district. We will be sending out what was developed thus far for your suggestions and recommendations.

### Redistricting Update

The proposed redistricting lines put Minto and Manley in district 38 S; incumbents are Rep Dick of Lime Village, Rep Guttenberg of Goldstream and Senator Hoffman of Bethel. The rest of the villages are in district 39 T; incumbent

Rep Foster of Nome and Senator Olsen of Golovin.

A lawsuit was filed regarding the district 38 S, the trial is set for January 9, 2012. If they win the lines will change and put all of the villages in the SD district into 39 T.

Senator Kookesh will no longer represent the interior. There are only enough people in SE for 4 house seats and therefore 2 senate seats. In 2000 there were enough people for 5 house seats in SE and they connected that seat with the interior, senate district C. The new lines put Angoon in the same district as Sitka, so he's going to run against Senator Stedman of Sitka.

### RUS Grant Award

Yukon-Koyukuk School District – \$454,938 is partnering with Yukon Flats SD and will extend current distance learning services to seven schools in Yukon Flats, including a vocational education center bringing access to a wider range of teachers for the two school districts and presents access to career-oriented, continuing education, dual credit and traditional courses along with

teacher development and support.

### PEAK In-service

The PEAK professional development in-service will be January 24-26 at the Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks. An additional training for participants with the i-pad project will also take place.

### Whatever it Takes Recognition

All YKSD staff members are invited to recommend a Teacher, Administrator, Support Staff, Student, Community Member or Parent for special recognition. We are looking for your recommendation of someone who has given and/or continues to give "WHATEVER IT TAKES" of his/her self for the good of the school, students, staff or district in general. We know that many of our staff members spend extra time helping with special projects as well as investing extra time with students. Please nominate someone as a small way of recognizing their efforts and thanking them for all they do.

*Submitted by  
Kerry Boyd*

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## Business Office....



The Business Office staff continues to do whatever it takes to get the job done for our students and schools. Through our established routines and procedures for daily activities we strive to always do our best to provide exceptional, professional service. As well to react to short notice needs and requests. As the new CFO, I wish to thank the Business Office for all the dedication and support for my learning curve in regard to the unique features of our operation. They are a great team.

Additionally, I wish to express my sincere thanks to all in the school district that have welcomed me to YKSD. I am looking forward to getting to know everyone and many years of professional satisfaction in this great school system. Continued from our last quarter; We are scheduling and presenting user information for the Employee Portal program. This program allows employees to access all of their individual payroll record from the staff link of the school district web-site. The access is secured and

requires a password for entry. The feedback has been positive and we will continue to provide user training sessions.

The section 125 plan sign-ups have been completed for this enrollment period. There will be required sign off or review/selection of this service on an annual basis.

As we due to renew our healthcare program; watch for program enhancements and new Identification cards soon after the new-year.

*Submitted by  
Stan Osborne*

## Human Resources....

### Managing your time

You can gain extra minutes and even hours everyday using proper time management. Some of the advantages are that you can gain extra time, reduce putting things off, eliminate cramming and disorganization, and reduce anxiety. Here are some effective aids you can use:

- ✓ "To Do" List: Write down things you have to do. ( A checklist works)
- ✓ Daily/Weekly Planner: Write down appointments, classes, and meetings in a chronological log book or chart
- ✓ Long Term Planner: Use a monthly chart so that you can plan ahead (Make a follow-up list of items arising from meetings)
- ✓ Identify your time stealers and eliminate them



# Library Notes....

Happy Holidays to all as our first semester comes to a close (already!). Teachers, as you prepare for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter lessons, please enlist the help of your library staff in collecting materials, or helping students do research. By now, I hope all of you are taking advantage of scheduled library time. Skills your students are taught in how to effectively use a library will be valuable to them for the rest of their lives.

Many students are now participating in Accelerated Reader. In fact, about 470 points have been collectively earned this year. Good job, students! Thank you, teachers and library staff, for facilitating this. Library

staff is more than willing to allow time for monitoring student quizzing during their library hours; please take advantage of this service.

Battle of the Books reading and practice sessions are taking place across the district. If you have students who would still like to participate, let me know who they are and who is coaching them, and have them do some intensive reading. Any of you who would like to have some practice sessions or mini-competitions between sites before the district competition (week of January 30), make contacts and set this up according to the current schedule of river school participants:

Allakaket:

Camille Varin 5/6, 7/8, HS

Huslia:

Gertie Esmailka 3/4

Casey Weter 5/6

Minto:

Randi Shrider K, I

Madeline Riley 6/8

Manley:

Heidi Wright 2, 6/8

Nulato:

Nate Lambert K/2

Lisa Kleynenberg 7/8

Kaltag:

Evelyn Esmailka K



**Newsletter Blast from the Past:** (excerpts from Han Zaa-dlit'ee, the YKSD newsletter from December 1987)

Christmas thoughts that are as meaningful today as they were in 1987....

Christmas is sharing and caring. Old Saint Nick said he had trouble hearing.

Santa said to speak loud.

There was only one cloud.

Santa said he can't remember the time he thought of marrying.....by Clifford Simon, Grade 5, Huslia

The Christmas spirit always makes me feel happy. Some little kids think Christmas is just getting presents and candy. I think it's for reminding families how much fun they can have together. My favorite part of Christmas is decorating the tree, because we all gather around and watch the tree glow with happiness and love.....by Hilary Evans, Grade 6, Hughes

Cookies

You get raisins.

You put the raisins in the dough.

Three cups of raisins.

Nine cups of flour.

Two cups of sugar.

You have to roll it and pat it

You have to put it in the oven.

I don't know how long you keep it in there, though.

Let your mom take it out.....by

Alfred Dayton, Koyukuk

**Christmas thoughts that are as meaningful today as they were in 1987....**

## Spotlight on SLED (Statewide Library Electronic Doorway):

Last quarter, the web address for SLED was given; <http://sled.alaska.edu/>. This quarter, let's explore:

Go to the main page by clicking on the link above. Click on "Native & Indigenous Peoples", and then "Dena'ina Qenaga" to access the web-based resource for the Dena'ina Athabascan language. Explore!

Submitted by Rosalie White



## Career Exploration



The CTE Specialist will be providing career exploration and planning opportunities for middle school and high school students starting in January 2012.

Middle School students will participate in:

- Defining a goal
- Setting a goal
- Career exploration
- Making a Personal Learning & Career Plan
- Creating a visual display of their future plans
- Work Values Assessment
- Career Interest Survey
- Skills/Abilities Assessment
- Personality Inventory

High School students will have the opportunity to:

- Update their Personal Learning & Career Plans
- Obtain career training & certifications.
- Create and update their resume
- Review their progress towards career goals.
- Continue to develop employability skills.
- Participate in career exploration opportunities.

Bimonthly & Monthly Career Activities include:

- Guest speakers from various career fields
- Career exploration games & activities
- Employability skills building activities

## Implementation Grant

### Electrical Courses

A series of four courses, each a semester long, are being designed to allow students to learn basic electrical skills. These courses will give students a hands-on approach to learning how to wire a house and use electrical equipment, with emphasis on electrical safety. Students will also learn about the electrical trade and opportunities as well as math and employability skills.

1. Electrical I - Covers basic safety, construction math, electrical trades, electrical safety, introduction to electrical circuits, electrical theory, National Electric Code and device boxes.
2. Electrical II - Addresses hand tool usage, construction drawings, hand bending, raceways & fittings, conductors & cables and electrical construction drawings.
3. Electrical III - Focuses on communication skills, employability skills, residential electrical, electrical test equipment, alternating current and motors.
4. Electrical IV - Includes materials handling, electric lighting, conduit bending, pull & junction boxes, conductor installations, cable tray and conductor terminations & splices.

## Yukon Flats School District Partnership

YKSD has partnered with Yukon Flats School District to provide a variety of classes to our students. The following courses can be applied for:

- Welding I
- Junior High Session – Using Digital Media to Explore Careers
- High School Skills Academy

The course last anywhere from 5 – 10 days at the Fort Yukon Vocational Center.

*Submitted by Patty Woody*

## Counselor's Corner....



***Congratulations  
to Claudia  
Thompson for  
graduating  
early from  
Minto School  
and qualifying  
for the Alaska  
Performance  
Scholarship!***

The counseling office at Minto School & Gladys Dart School worked with students on two unique topics during the month of November: Preventing Bullying in School & Red Ribbon Awareness! At Minto School, students in grades K-12 learned what it actually means to be a "bully" and what we need to do to stop it. The role of others who witness the bullying such as bystanders (other people watching the bullying) and the victim were also introduced. Students learned that bullying doesn't ONLY involve physical aggression (hitting, pushing, kicking, etc.), but it also involves something called relational aggression which is just as harmful. Examples of relational aggression include: ignoring others, excluding someone, making inappropriate gestures, being passive-aggressive,

etc. The staff and students at Minto School are working hard as a team to prevent bullying & have a sound consequence in place for those who convey bullying behaviors.

Meanwhile, at Gladys Dart School, K-12 students learned all about Red Ribbon Week! Red Ribbon is recognized across the entire nation as a time to bring drug & alcohol awareness to light & educate students about the risks/harm that using drugs has on oneself, our family and the community as a whole. Particular focus was placed on identifying a number of drugs and how they specifically harm our bodies. Students learned how drugs manipulate our brain and often cause premature aging not only to the visible portions of our bodies, but also our internal organs. Students were shown a

variety of before & after pictures of people who used drugs--the visible damage was shocking in many of them! In addition, students also watched the Natural Highs movie and then created their own "natural high" video clip outlining their own alternative to using drugs & alcohol. A link to this

The counseling office at Minto School would like to CONGRATULATE senior student, Claudia Thompson, who graduated early in December. In addition, Claudia has also qualified for the Alaska Performance Scholarship CTE track! We are very proud of her hard work and will do "whatever it takes" to support her during her 1<sup>st</sup> semester at UAF beginning in January!

*Submitted by  
Travis Sutton*



Manley MS/HS students giving cheers to Red Ribbon Week!

## A Few Days Before Christmas (Break)

A few days before Christmas, I wish things we're just "cool,"  
 I've been busier now than the first weeks of school.  
 I'm still giving tests... I'm an "assessment machine,"  
 Then I'm dealing with Kindergarteners after painting to clean.  
 It's beautiful outside after our most recent blizzard,  
 But the temperatures waver, making me sick to my gizzard.  
 I come to my work, without missing a beat,  
 I'm glad that most kids respect me... That's so NEAT!  
 When out at the airport, I heard the plane roar,  
 Here comes the school counselor, and state officials galore!  
 Away to the storage room, I ran with my soul,  
 To set up cots, blankets, and an extra bed roll.  
 Once they get settled, then I need a break,  
 But some high schoolers in the halls make the whole building  
 shake!

I write up a couple so they can stop running.  
 Then an 8<sup>th</sup> grader runs. He thinks he's so cunning.  
 At lunch, I then capture some time to myself,  
 Then right back to work, and I wonder, "What else?"  
 Then the phone rings, and "Who could it be?"  
 It's Kerry Boyd! Our boss! And she's talking to me.  
 "I know you've been working so hard this school year."  
 "Make sure to take time for yourself with good cheer."  
 I smiled, and I thanked her. She cares for my sake.  
 Then she ended with, "Goodbye, and enjoy Christmas  
 Break."

*Submitted by Eddie Hornsby*

## 1st Quarter Honor Roll

Student	Grade	Site
Mariah Bifelt	12	Hughes
William Savage	12	Ruby
Claudia Thompson	12	Minto
Lacey Sam	12	Huslia
Nicholas Cleveland	11	Hughes
Joshua Thompson	11	Ruby
Tyler Douglas	10	Huslia
Wendy Cleveland	10	Hughes
Ophelia Moses	10	Huslia
Shirley Ekada	9	Nulato
Ethan Nicholia	9	Hughes
Sara Henderson	9	Huslia
Adrian Cleveland	9	Hughes
Brandon Williams	9	Huslia
Wayne Captain	8	Ruby
Madison Attla	8	Huslia
Richard Demoski	8	Nulato
Flora Huntington	8	Huslia
Kelly Sam	8	Huslia
Corrinna Sam	8	Huslia
Kaitlyn Hoffman	8	Manley
Charlie Jones	8	Hughes
Sarah Henzie	8	Allakaket
Zacary Pomrening	7	Hughes
Keith Bifelt	7	Hughes
Lorraine Solomon	7	Allakaket
Kiana Sam	7	Huslia
Edward Bifelt	7	Huslia
Tessa Sam	7	Huslia

*Submitted by Travis Sutton*



**Honor Roll**  
**Criteria per**  
**Board Policy:**  
**Students**  
**earning a GPA**  
**greater than or**  
**equal to 3.5,**  
**AND with no**  
**letter grade**  
**lower than a**  
**"C."**  
**Computed for**  
**students grades**  
**7-12.**

# Allakaket....



Here are photos from when "Dancing with the Spirits" was here- Belle and Micheal Michaelson. The students learned to play guitar and fiddle, and we had a lovely recital their last day where all of our students performed for the community.

They also brought some of our elders out to play (Grandpa Johnson Moses and Grandpa Moses Henzie).

It was a lot of fun for the students and the community!

Submitted by Camille Varin

They've been testing in my little classroom this week, so I'm having my classes in some classrooms, in the gym, or where ever....

We're waiting for our granddaughters to come home for Christmas/New Year's. They'll be home on the 22nd.

Four of them. Precious (HakootL/Gulhabuk), Gorgeous (GheeghiLhadodolno/ Bunayak), JewJewBuggy (K'inoon'), and baby Flora(Hadokidlno). Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to ALL!!!

Submitted by  
Irene Henry



# Hughes....

Down in Dawn's classroom the snow goes about three-quarters of the way to the tops of the windows. More snow than any other year since I've been teaching in Hughes. It seems to snow every day.

Our Junior, Nicholas Cleveland, was the winner of our district Marksman Shooting competitors. Mariah Bifelt has joined the Huslia Basketball Team. We are looking forward to watching the games on video conference. We are also hop-

ing to break out the skis and hit the trails.

On Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup>, we had a bazaar and bake sell. It was a great opportunity to visit, eat cookies, and drink a cup of coffee with our community.

We were certainly glad to get our MAPS testing underway and completed. Did anyone else have technology troubles during that time?

Our students and community are going to have a Christmas Sing Along, and Christmas dinner on Thursday this week. Belle Michelson and Matt Johnson from Dancing WithThe Spirit were here for a week and taught violin and guitar. Natasha Ambrose, Nicholas Cleveland and Charlie Jones will be playing Silent Night on violins for the Christmas get-together.

*Submitted by  
Dianne Shirrell*



Seneca playing with counting bears



Lewis our Kindergartener, and our 4 year olds, Seneca and Crystalee



Dancing with the Spirit



Nicholas, Lynn Williams, Belle Michelson and Zac square dancing

## Kaltag....



Exciting things are happening here in my classroom, Jr./Kindergarten classroom. I have 7 students and we are winding down for the Christmas break. I have 3 students that are reading the Pre-decodable and decodable books, so exciting and is a great feeling. They all love Math, and I have to work hard keeping up with them.

My students will be singing four songs for the Christmas Program, and is working hard to learn all four. They are making Christmas decorations for the gym and are making presents for their parents.

We have been busy reading, reading and reading Pre and decodable books, library books, and Battle of

Books, and Christmas Books.

Math, we have been learning to count by 10's, learning to add, and memorize the power of fives and tens and finally counting to 100's. Whew, we are keeping them very busy.

My teacher aide, in the morning, is Barbara Arkell. She has been in the school setting for 12 years. She is a big help and I am asking her to do a lot more in the classroom. She took the Open Court training and has learned tremendously. Thank you Barbara. Also, in the afternoon, Hazel Olson is my teacher aide and has helped a lot in iPad Literacy class.

I teach grades third through fifth in the afternoons, iPad

Literacy, PE, and Social Studies. We are learning about the Northeast and it is very interesting. The students have learned a lot in my class and continue to do so throughout this past two quarters.

I have 7 students in the afternoon class, and love this group of kids too.

I am submitting pictures that I have taken during our Jr. High Basketball trip to Galena and Huslia. Andy Esmailka and Lyle McGinty were their coaches.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a promising New Year.

Submitted by  
Evelyn Esmailka



Kaltag tournament, Coaches: Andy Esmailka and Lyle McGinty. Kaltag lost two games and won one game against Nulato.



Austin Esmailka III won his first all tourney medal of the season.

# Nulato....



## Nulato's Christmas Program on December 14th



Wisemen, Shane Peters and Charles Pitka, talk to King Herod, Kyle Madros.



Nativity- Angel, Kaylon Madros, appears to Mary (Josephine Mountain) and Joseph (Brendan Patsy).



Briana Stickman plays the role of a "disgruntled" Mrs. Santa Claus, as a skinny and lazy Santa, played by Gerald Patsy, informs her that he wants to watch TV, and skip Christmas this year.



Angels, Kaylon Madros and Megan Patsy, appear to Mary (Josephine Mountain) and Joseph (Brendan Patsy).



Middle school students from AKD, playing the role as "elves" voice their grievances to "lazy Santa" (Gerald Patsy) during their spoof on Santa wanting to take Christmas off this year.



Mrs. Santa (Briana Stickman), the elves and reindeer (played by the combined middle and high school classes at AKD in Nulato), FINALLY persuade Santa (Gerald Patsy) to gain weight, treat them all better and with more fairness, and deliver presents to the world's children this year for Christmas.



Counselor, Eddie Hornsby, plays Santa Claus for the Nulato Head Start class.



Gerald Patsy (Santa in back) tag-teams with Santa from the Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" campaign to distribute toys to the children of Nulato.

# Ruby....

Hello from Ruby. We have been especially busy with preparations for well, you name it and we probably attended to it. Our main goal for each quarter was to see how many days our school could go with a full day of power. The children have begun coming to school with flashlights attached to various parts of their clothing and whip them out as needed as readily as their writing tools. Its been fun to say the least.

**Primary News from Tami Thompson-**The school year has flown by and I cannot believe it is already December! The kids are doing great. Good news...We recently got a new student to our class. Mia is a Kindergartner that has moved here from Fairbanks. We all are enjoying getting to know her. It is nice to have a little girl in the class :) The kids have been working hard the last month. In Social Studies we have studied types of transportation and maps. All of the students are making steady progress in reading and math. What a smart group of kids they are. They have also been as busy as Santa's Elves by preparing gifts for the special people in their lives, and practicing for the Christmas Play.

## Elementary Twitter

**From Anne Titus:** Students are enjoying the use of IPADS in grades 3-5. The Language enrichment, writing, reading fluency APPS are adding much needed enrichment to their Language Arts program. We have a class in Spring Texas, will continue to work on our Island studies as we build a community and learn about imports, exports, jobs and economics. During the

vacation students in grades 4& 5 will continue to read their way through Huckleberry Finn. Enjoy the break!

**Scotty Starr's 3rd - 5th grade U.S. History** class has just completed a unit over WWII. Our students covered such topics as the causes and consequences of WWII, the roll of women and African Americans in the war, and what lessons can be learned from and applied to our world conflicts today. We will be wrapping up our studies with a mini-unit over how different European countries celebrate Christmas and the roll of Santa Clause in these countries. We also continue to practice our math activities with nightly homework assignments.

**First Semester in Pete Moyryla's class** In science, we've covered the scientific method, interpreting & reporting data, cell structure & function and how we fuel them, systems of the body, the five kingdoms, reproduction, adaptations, ecosystems, and personal food webs. Along with that, we've also covered general technology usage and how to find information on the Internet.

As for math, topics include the four basic operations, absolute value, negative numbers, multiples, factors, exponents and square roots, prime and composite numbers, prime factorization, scientific notation, number properties, order of operations, and fractions, decimals, and percents.

In addition, we have covered the language and logic of geometry, proofs, parallelism, and congruent triangles, and we also worked on all aspects of

construction math, including fractions, measuring, conversions, ratios & proportions, percents, angles & triangles, area/perimeter, volume/surface area, the Metric system, board measure, lumber pricing, foundations, footings, floor joists, sill plates, girders, and wall framing.

## From the Secondary English and Social Studies classes of Mark Heinrich:

In addition to the adventures they have and hard work they do in their English classes secondary students at Merrelene A. Kangas School in Ruby have visited the ancient cultures of Egypt and Mesopotamia, India and China, Greece and Rome, North and South America. As they've traveled - - via their social studies classes - - they've worked along the way, including jobs as "realtors" trying to sell riverfront property on the Nile River as well as "campaign managers" boasting about the achievements of Nebuchadnezzar and Hammurabi.

They've considered the yin and the yang of things as they've mentally explored the ancient world from Ashurbanipal to ziggurats. And, after safely returning to Ruby, they've taken time to report on their travels in a number of ways as well as to educate other students, via their health class, on the dangers of various public health hazards including, of course, travelers' illnesses.

That's the way it floats here in Ruby. On behalf of my staff and students we wish all a Happy Holiday Season.

*Submitted by Anne Titus*



Tami and Yuko with students: JJ, Vernon, Alex, Charlie, Mia, Esai and Art.



Ruby's Seniors: Billy, Nicole, Lisa, Shonti and Josh

## Up-coming Birthdays....

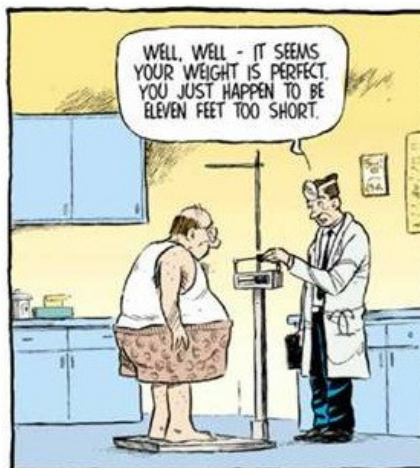
January	1	Dianne Shirrell, Gertie Esmailka, Kristen Bauer
	2	Dawn Pomrening
	5	Bill Bruno
	6	Carrol LeFevour
	28	Casey Weter
February	31	Irene Peters
	4	Ava Vent
	12	Irene Henry
	13	Alan Swenson
	16	Elecia Frank
	18	Josie Dayton
	19	Nate Lambert
	20	Eleanor Yatlin, Marion Acker
	21	Monica Garza
	22	Joy Shier
	23	Bob Hawkins
	24	Gloria Patsy
	26	Vicky Charlie
	5	Tanya Yatlin
	6	Johnathan Sommer
	15	Susan Paskvan, Phillip Roberts
	16	Kimberly Turnbow
	19	Pete Moyryla, Josephine Semaken
	26	Kathleen Steckel
	30	Francine Greenan
	31	Lisa Wicke, Joan Jones



"Cheers to a New Year and another chance for us to get it right."

*Oprah Winfrey*

**Happy  
New  
Year**



"Now there are more overweight people in America than average-weight people. So overweight people are now average... which means, you have met your New Year's resolution."

*Jay Leno*