

Staff Connections

4th Quarter

May 2012

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Superintendent's End of the School Year Remarks

Congratulations on another successful year! I am especially proud of the Yukon Koyukuk School District graduating class of 2012. Our entire YKSD community can take pride in these young adults. Thank you for supporting them throughout the years. The success of our students is dependent upon the support from teachers, administrators, local CSC members, and regional school board members. I would like to give special recognition for all the dedication and focused efforts to build strong schools and well rounded students..

Employees of the Year! Congratulations! When we think about what makes a great school district, it comes back to the people who work with our students every day. At YKSD, every position impacts a student's success. Yukon Koyukuk's annual program honors one outstanding classified school employee and one outstanding certified employee. Nominees are selected by their peers, based upon contributions they have made to their school or work site, which promote student learning, safe schools, and positive relationships with parents, students, co-workers, and community members.

**EMPLOYEE
OF THE
YEAR**

Congratulations to Irene Henry, Language Specialist, for earning the honor of Classified Employee of the Year! And, Congratulations to our Certified Employee of the Year, Travis Sutton, Itinerant School Counselor and Registrar!

Irene Henry has worked for YKSD as a Language Specialist for the last 22 years. Under her direction, the students have gained valuable knowledge of Native Language and tradition. When the students introduce themselves and their parents to guests, we can thank Irene for teaching them. Irene is a calm presence and her quiet voice gets students to listen. Irene works diligently to preserve native language and customary practices. She has worked extensively to record names, place names, and to construct a family tree. Because of this, many students know who they are

named after. The Athabascan language is complex and many words are tongue-twisters. She tries hard to ensure that the individual sounds are pronounced correctly, thus perpetuating the authenticity of the language. Most recently, Irene received her Highly Qualified Paraprofessional Certificate after passing the test this year.

Travis Sutton has worked for YKSD as the School Counselor and Registrar for the last three years. Travis is greatly responsible for the success of the counseling department in maintaining records, scheduling classes, troubleshooting issues with Power School and Power Teacher, and always has time to help his fellow colleagues. Travis will stop what he is working on to assist anyone when necessary. If he has something pressing to do, he always gets back in a timely manner to work on whatever matter is occurring at the time. He is the consummate professional, kind, gentle, and literally willing to do "Whatever it Takes" to get things done for his schools and students, as well as the schools and the students we all work with as well.

(continued on page 2)



Continued....

Honoring Retirements

Please help recognize three staff members who are retiring after many dedicated years of commitment to students; **Gertie Esmailka**, Jimmy Huntington Teacher, **Vic Lewin**, Principal of Nulato and **Harry White**, Director of Curriculum & School Improvement. They have all touched so many lives over the years

and should be honored for their accomplishments. They will be missed by students, community and staff.

Enjoy your summer! If you need anything, the District Office will remain open throughout the summer with Monday- Thursday hours.

Submitted by Kerry Boyd



Harry practicing to be re'tired" :)

*"A milestone
passed, new
things begun,
dreams are
shining as the
sun, a goal
achieved, a
victory won!
That's
Graduation!"*

Congratulations to our 2012 River School Graduates!

Mariah Matilda Bifelt	Hughes	Lloyd Esmailka	Kaltag
Michaela Graham	Huslia	Travis Storm Charlie	Minto
Anna Baazee Huntington	Huslia	Gerald Franklin Patsy	Nulato
Killien D. Lolnitz	Huslia	Darrick P. Ambrose	Ruby
Anthony Sam	Huslia	Lisa Ann Cleaver	Ruby
Lacey Dionne Sam	Huslia	Nicole Pauline Cleaver	Ruby
Dolly Esther Simon	Huslia	Billy M. Savage	Ruby
Darrell M. Vent, Jr.	Huslia	Joshua D. Thompson	Ruby

State & Federal Programs

Grants

This is a busy time of year for the Federal programs department. We are in the process of writing new grants while collecting all of the data needed for our final grant reporting.

Professional Development

The Alaska Staff Development Network is again hosting the Summer Institute for Principals and District Leaders. We look forward to attending this conference to learn more strategies on how to be more effective in our current positions.

In addition to the Summer Institute, there are many other training opportunities available throughout the summer. As we receive information about these PD offerings, they will continue to be emailed out to everyone. Please review these closely as you wouldn't want to let a great opportunity pass you by...

Final Thoughts

Thanks to everyone for all your hard work this year. We anticipate another great year in

FY13. It's been a pleasure serving you and we look forward to seeing you all in the fall. Have a great summer!

Submitted by
Gina Hrinko



Counselor's Corner

During the final quarter of the 2011-12 academic year, the counseling office at Gladys Dart School & Minto School accomplished a great deal! Students in both schools participated in the annual Healthy Lifestyles & Career Fair hosted in Minto. Students engaged in a number of activities and listened to a number of guest presenters who talked about topics in: diabetes education, youth employment opportunities, tobacco awareness, health education & careers, fitness training, and the many opportunities that Doyon offers! Thank you to all our guest presenters, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Banner Health & the YKSD grants department for providing funding for our student giveaways! In addition, the entire YKSD counseling department once again organized the annual Senior Fly-In exclusively for seniors across the district! This year we had a total of thirteen eligible seniors participate in a number of activities all aimed at helping finalize and expand upon their post-secondary plans including: mock-interviews, general

budgeting/banking skills, practiced effective communication, and prepped for the DMV learner's permits. In addition, seniors also learned about the transition & obstacles they may face when entering the workforce, military, vocational or higher education in general. Students also participated in our annual virtual grocery shopping competition where students are divided into teams and given a specific grocery list of items to buy while trying to spend the least amount of money which requires teamwork & bargain hunting! Two of the four teams had grocery receipts less than \$1.00 apart---very competitive this year! The counseling department would also like to congratulate Rochelle Albert of Raven Correspondence School & Anna Huntington of Huslia for passing their temporary driver's permit exams during the Fly-In!

Submitted by
Travis Sutton



Seniors visiting Laborers Union



Seniors with Regional School Board

*It's been a full
and exciting
year for the
CTE Program.
Thank you to
all who
participated.
We are looking
forward to
building the
program next
year!*

Career & Technical Education Year in Review

This year has passed quickly and the students have had many opportunities to participate in a variety of career related activities. Students participated in academies, semester long classes, workshops, camps, presentations, university distance courses, and career fairs.

Career Exploration

Career exploration and planning activities, for the middle school and high school students, were provided by the Counselors and the CTE Specialist. Students developed and continued to build their Personal Learning Career Portfolios (PLCP). Activities were provided to help students build career awareness, identify their own skills and abilities, identify their work abilities, write resumes, fill out applications, practice interviewing, and identify a career pathway.

Health Care Career Development

Four students participated in the University of Alaska Fairbanks distance course, Professional Skills for the Healthcare Workplace. These students spent two days in Fairbanks meeting the instructor, learning how to access the course on-line, receiving a tour of the university, and starting their course. The students learned about different careers in health care, skills relating to working in healthcare, health care laws and ethics. The students received two (2) university

credits and one-half (0.5) high school credit in CTE or as an elective.

First Aid and CPR was provided for four students through the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The students spent two days in Fairbanks practicing the hands-on skills necessary for CPR and First Aid and then finished the course by distance education. The students received their First Aid and CPR certification, as well as one (1) university credit and one-quarter (0.25) high school credits in CTE or as an elective.

Eight students completed the first annual 'Crossing Our Bridges' Health Academy. The health academy took place at the Galena Interior Learning Academy from April 16 to 27. Students participated in two courses:

Emergency Trauma Technician Training: First Responder and Professional Skills for the Healthcare Workplace. The students are receiving five (5) University of Alaska credits and one (1) CTE or elective high school credit for the academy. Ten students have passed the CPR test and have received their CPR certification as part of the Emergency Trauma Technician Training course. Students learned about different health care careers from five different health care professionals; toured the Edgar Nollner Health Clinic; toured the Yukon Koyukuk Assisted Living Home; and learned about fire fighting equipment at the Galena



CTE continued....

Fire Department. Students presented health related projects to health care professionals and to public at a Health Fair open to the community on the last day of the academy, Friday, April 27.

Two students participated in the advanced Camp Kick Ash in Aniak and Fairbanks. These students spend three and one half weeks training to become an Emergency Medical Technician. These two students are now EMT's and receive three (3) university credits and one-half (0.5) high school credit for the camp.

Construction Related Opportunities

The pilot course, Electrical One, was offered to high school students in Ruby and Huslia. These students had the opportunity to participate in OSHA 10 Safety and Health Training in Construction Safety and Health in the first part of March. Five people in Huslia received their 10-Hours OSHA Safety Card and six people in Ruby. The OSHA 10-Hour training is designed for entry-level construction workers. The training focused on providing information on workplace hazards, worker rights, employer responsibilities, filing a compliant and construction site skills.

Yukon Flats School District Partnership

On January 23 to February 1, three students participated in Welding I at the Fort Yukon Vocational Education Center. The stu-

dents were introduced to basic welding procedures, learned about safety, oxy-acetylene cutting, shield metal ARC welding, mig welding, and flux core arc welding. The students demonstrated their skills by creating a basic project involving welding and cutting.

Two students participated in the Introduction to Alternative Energy Session on February 6 – 15. The students learned about different ways to get energy including: wind, solar, hydro, and petro based energy. The students each created their own solar panel as well as learned about different careers in the alternative energy field.

Six middle school students attended the Intensive Session – Using Digital Media to Explore Careers in Fort Yukon on March 5 – 9. The students expanded their video production vocabularies, practiced organized thought and sequencing within their video productions, further explored their career opportunities after high school, learned about their chosen career and the field of digital video in Alaska. Students learned editing skills using iMovie and using a flip video camera. Students produced an individual career exploration interview and worked in teams to create how-to videos, and fun videos.

Three of our seniors attend the Yukon Flats Skills Academy on March 19-24 in Fort Yukon. The Skills Academy provided individualized in-

tensive tutoring for the students to build their skills in math, reading and writing in order to help them pass the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE).

Submitted by
Patty Woody



Library Notes

As the year comes to a close, I want to share a few photos of library progress in the past two years. Thank you to everyone for supporting our efforts along the way. A special thank you to all of the district's students: your enthusiasm and appreciation made our work worthwhile and fun!



Allakaket



Hughes

*“Progress is
the activity of
today for
assurance
tomorrow”
Ralph Waldo
Emerson*



Huslia Library



Koyukuk



Manley



District Office Media Center

Submitted by Rosalie White

Native Language

"Congratulations authors!," I wrote to students in the Denaakk'e classes upon publication of their new book "Saakkaay Nohulnek" the children telling stories". Each student wrote and illustrated a story about Alaskan animals, a trip they took, or everyday life. Here is a sample story:



Bedzeyh

**Keith "Ts'aadok'edo'Peel" Bifelt, 7th grade,
Johnny Oldman School,**

Bedzeyh ees lek'aayh ts'uh ten huk'ode bugh kk'onuhdeneeyh,

Caribou spirits gets offended easily so work at it away from the trail.

Lekkon tene hooghulaa' yu.

Don't leave any blood on the trail.

Nedaakoon soo' hughukkel bedzeyh lon e'oohlaaghe yu.

Don't kill too many caribou unnecessarily.

Eeydaa' toiget ts'e kk'et tolyaa.

Then it will just rot be thrown away.

Bedzeyh leyaanh. K'ek'uh nezoonh.

The caribou are in good shape. Fat is good.

Doogh ees tey bedzeyh hooldlaa'aa.

Caribou are kind of rare around here.

This book will be available for purchase by parents for \$25.00 for a 8 1/2 by 11" book or \$20.00 for soft cover. Denaakk'e Sound

Files Available

Learning a second language is most effective when the learning takes place in person. Ideally, the language teacher and student(s) are able to engage in classes that are engaging in a manner that students can use clues (body language, pictures, real items etc.) to help them understand.

This type of teaching is not always possible, so back up resources to reinforce classroom learning is necessary. To aid that, 1,800 sound files of Denaakk'e phrases are available for individual language learning. These files are in MP3 format. They can be added to iTunes library and subsequently synched to other devices such as iPods or iPads. These files are available free to YKSD families (students and staff). They are available by CD (\$10.00) or jump drive (\$20.00).

Native Language Survey

In March, a Native language survey was administered at several meetings in Fairbanks to gauge the status of the languages in Interior Alaska. 145 participants responded who attended three different meetings: Tanana Chiefs Conference After-school Program; Tanana Chiefs Convention; and Doyon, Limited Annual meeting. In addition, one tribal council, Huslia Tribal Council, conducted the survey in their village.

From the respondents, there was overwhelming support for Native language education. When asked who speaks Native language in their village, most of the respondents said the grandparents, parents, and aunts/and uncles versus the younger generation of brother/sisters/self.

This survey will be analyzed and published on the Native Language page this summer.

Submitted by
Susan Paskvan

"It is with great sadness that we will be saying goodbye to Dawn Pomrening. She is going back to Wisconsin to be with her family. She has built a strong bond with our students and their families, it will be hard to replace her."

Dianne



Marvin Yatlin, who is an amazing artist, was given this sketch pad by his friend Zac. Zac ordered it from the Learning Labs After School tutoring gram.

Springtime in the Good Old Days

"Holookot'a don" (Spring time long, long ago)

When snow is almost gone, by every house people are digging ditches to the bank. The houses are lined up along the river bank. Everybody is cutting grass, raking, and picking up trash that accumulated all winter (not nearly as much as nowadays.), hauling bones away, and getting ready to go to Spring camp. Every house puts their stove outside their house because they can't stand it when it gets too warm inside. We started cooking when we were around 5 years old, so

when we get up 6am, we go out and make fire so we could make breakfast. We say "good morning" to our friends all lined up. We visit, we talk. No electricity, no phones. The air smells like coffee, bacon, and sourdough hotcakes. Here and there grass heaps are burning. The whole town used to look like this. Imagine it. Down the bank all the boats are lined up. Right up the bank the smoke-houses are lined up. Everybody has gardens for lettuce, carrots, and turnips. There are the log houses, then the caches, then the outhouses. Finally there are the dogs. Dogs used to be so

trained, when people lose them they just tell them "go to boat" in dinaga.

Every family goes to spring camp. After all winter without fresh meat, muskrat, little white fish (tsabagha), sucker toondzoda), pike (k'oolkogha), ducks and geese are a treat! We pick last years' dinaaLgaza. (cranberries). Later on there is rhubarb, our first fresh fruit. Talk about the good ole' days. Good is gwida. (that's all) Have a nice safe summer everyone!

Submitted by
Irene Henry, Allakaket

News from Hughes

We had a very mild break-up of the Koyukuk River here in Hughes. Ice is still finding its way down here from regions further north.

Our school year has been very successful. We have one graduate, Mariah Bifelt. She has shown that she is a very capable adult. While finishing up a couple of requirements for high school, she also completed a few credits from UAF. Mariah is the recipient of a National Scholar Athletes Award. She will be attending UAF in the fall.

I'm not sure how we will measure up according to SBA's standards, but Dawn and I have seen growth in all of our students. One of the nicest compliments I can give our students is that we spend the day with them and enjoy seeing them and spending time with them in the evenings too. Curtis recently showed us that he has truly become a reader. As he finished his last novel, Beautiful Creatures, he said, "I hate when a book ends".

Submitted by
Dianne Shirrell



I would not usually send a picture with me looking as I do in this one, but there is a funny story with it....I asked Lewis my kindergarten student to make up 3 sentences about this picture. Sentence 1- Andrew is acting cool. 2 - Peyton is playing with a puzzle. 3 Dianne is stuck on the floor.



Seneca and Lewis learning about boat safety

Kaltag



Manley/Minto Health & Career Fair



K-2 Minto students attending Claire Banks Diabetes Awareness session



PreK Minto students working with Karlene Huhn Tobacco Awareness

Healthy
Living



Manley's students attending Claire Banks Diabetes Awareness session



Cody Titus & Monica Garza playing Megan Gooding's Careers in Health Education challenge

Ice Jam in Manley Hot Springs

This year the Tanana River jammed with ice. The water had nowhere to go so it started to flood Manley. Water was on the road, in people's houses and the slough. The water that was underneath the bridge was only 3 feet away from washing it out!!

When the water got to high we had to pack fast and go up to my Auntie Vee's house. We stayed there for 2 days. After 2 days had

passed we went down to our house to check the water damage. If you can believe it, NO WATER DAMAMGE INSIDE! The only problem was all the hard work on cutting wood was washed away.

I will take that over my house being flooded any day...wouldn't you? Only 5 houses had water damage in all of Manley!!!

Written by
Chase



Phlight Club

Phlight Club is an opportunity where kids get together and learn to respect people and to get along. The YKSD had a grant to fund this event. We are all hoping we can have another Phlight Club. Phlight Club is effective in positive actions and working together. The main thing about Phlight Club is to work together and help each other. When we have Phlight Club we have a lot of activities and we are so worn out by 10:00 p.m. We can barely walk home or to go to where we are sleeping. But we get enough sleep so we can get up go to school so we can have a very fun and tiring day at Phlight Club. One activity is to make a human pyramid. We do this by stacking people on top of each other. We do this to learn to work together and communicate with each other. Some other activities were like the marble run you had tubes that were in half's and you would make a half tunnel and try to get the marble in the bucket. Then there was the name

game where everyone lined up in two lines and one of the chaperones would point to some one while we all told each other's names and when we didn't know who it was or if we forgot we would have to do five-push-ups. After every game we would have to explain what kind of bracelets we would have used and if we worked together and when we finished talking we would get a bracelet in the order of the rainbow colors.

The chaperones were a big help. They are one of the main things in Phlight Club and so was our cook Jen. She is an awesome cook and she can cook anything from scratch. The chaperones help keep us in order and keep everyone out of trouble. They are the ones dealing with us and everyone knows how us kids can get a little annoying. SO A BIG THANKS TO THE PEOPLE WHO VOLUNTEERED FOR BEING A CHAPERONE!!!

Written by Alexis W.



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Our kids are worth whatever it takes!

The Merrelaine A. Kangas Staff wishes to express their appreciation to the District Office personnel who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that our schools run smoothly. In particular, Patty Hill, Cheryl Brady, Chris Paul, Tami Rump, and Travis Sutton come to mind who have come to our rescue many times during this school year. Have a great summer-see you in the fall.

MAK Staff



**Congratulations to
Randi Shrider and her
husband Jim!
Kathryn Elizabeth
Shrider was born on
May 8th at 12:15am.
She weighed 8 lbs 10
ounces and is 21
inches long.**

Raven Correspondence School-Juneau

**Article in the
Juneau Empire**

Help Us Help the Earth

Raven Correspondence School would like to thank Litter Free Inc. for sponsoring their 2012 Earth Day Celebration. Raven families collected 440 pounds of trash and recyclables from the Sandy Beach area and behind Twin Lakes. Environmental stewardship, community service, cooperative teambuilding, fundraising and s'more celebration all in one day!

Thanks,
Pam Roemeling



**Courtesy of Pam
Roemeling**
Students of Raven Correspondence School pose at Sandy Beach after a successful Earth Day of cleanup at both Twin Lakes and Sandy Beach.



**Courtesy of Pam
Roemeling**
Students of Raven Correspondence School cleaned up at Sandy Beach on Earth Day. After their hard work, they celebrated with s'mores.