



STAFF CONNECTIONS

YUKON-KOYUKUK SCHOOL DISTRICT

STAFF CONNECTIONS

December 2012

From the Superintendent

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

As we approach the winter holidays and the start of a new year, it is time to take a step back and reflect on our successes and challenges. Please take the next couple of weeks to enjoy your time with family and friends. You have done a lot of work the first half of the year. Be sure to rest and de-stress over the holidays. By being kind and reserving judgment; you can open yourself to the potential joy that the Holiday Season embodies to fully maximize your time. May you enjoy this holiday seasons to the fullest.

Happy Holiday!.

Last Week's Strategic Planning Session and Next Steps in 2013

Last week's meeting of the Board of Education addressed many important issues and will help set our direction heading into 2013. The Board, along with several principals, directors, coordinators and support staff, took the first steps of



Strategic Planning. The group spent two days considering the big picture of where we are as a District and the best ways to continue to move us forward in coming years. Our goal is to have the input from all staff, community and

students to help articulate our goals and action steps. We will be posting information on our website as the planning process develops.

Professional Development Opportunity for Teachers

YKSD seeks approximately 20 educators to participate in Year 1 of a three-year grant, ACHIEVE. The grant will provide professional development in cultural enrichment and understanding to more effectively teach native students in the core content areas of reading, writing, math and science. Teachers will receive graduate credit and travel expenses will be all or largely covered by the ACHIEVE grant. Participants will be expected to participate in all three phases of the project including a Cultural Immersion Camp the 2nd week of August at Old Minto. Please contact Jen Lutey at jeno@wwidea.org if you are interested in participating.

*Submitted by
Kerry Boyd*



Student Board Representative, Sidaadza Williams from Allakaket with Kerry Boyd



Native Language Classes

Offered every

Tuesday and Thursday

Tuesday - 4:30 to 6:00 PM

**Denaakk'e (Koyukon
Athabaskan)**

Thursday—4:00 to 5:30 PM

Menhti Kenaga'

Contact Susan Paskvan at
spaskvan@yksd.com for
more information

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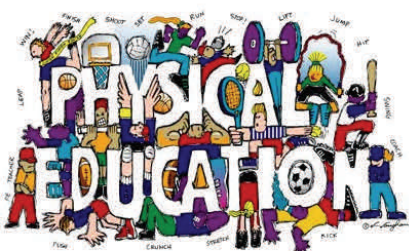


PEP Grant Update

Our students (3rd grade – 12th grade) participated in a PE Survey in early November. Also in November, all students were given the opportunity to participate in an activity involving pedometers. Through the PEP grant, we purchased enough pedometers for all students and faculty at each school site. The goal for our students was to wear their pedometer for three days to see how many steps they took. We had many positive comments from teachers and principals. They told us how students were competing against one another, against grade levels, and other classes. The faculty at some of our schools even

got involved and wore their pedometers too! Everyone who participated all three days of this activity (students and faculty) will receive a \$10 iTunes Gift Card.

Submitted by Laurie Beam



State & Federal Programs

Grant Highlights

The department continues to be busy looking for and writing new grants, as well as completing all reporting that is required of each grant.

Indian Education – If you haven't spent the funds allocated to your site, please make sure you do this soon. These funds are not allowed to be carried over.

Our Pre-K grant is off to a great start! Kim Barnes and Rachel Reilly have visited each Pre-k site and have provided ongoing professional development for Pre-k teachers and aides. A second round of visits will occur starting in February.

More PEP grant activities headed your way...stay tuned!



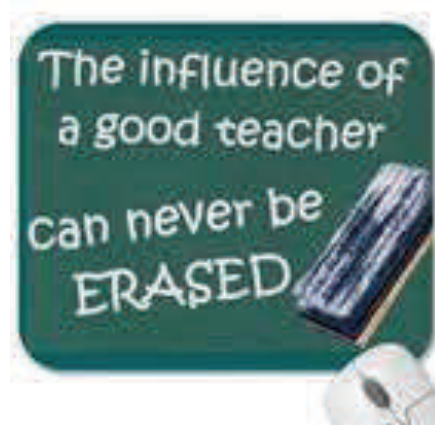
Professional Development

A successful Life Skills Training was provided on November 26 and 27th at the district office. Those who participated have new prevention resources that can be used while working with our students.

Highly Qualified Designations

Designations for highly qualified are completed. The department is working closely with teachers not highly qualified to provide support for upcoming Praxis II exam opportunities.

Submitted by Gina Hrinko





Assessment Update

The first half of the school year is coming to a close. Completed assessments include the Kindergarten Developmental Profile, the Fall HSGQE, and the District Writing Assessment. Thank you to all teachers, students, and staff who help the assessments go smoothly.

What's coming up?

- English proficiency testing for LEP students (Feb 1 – March 29 window)
- NAEP Testing for the Nation's Report Card, grades 4 and 8 at Minto, Huslia, Manley, Allakaket, Nulato, Hughes (March 5-7)
- SBAs and HSGQEs – Week of April 1-5
- Practice tests for the SBAs and HSGQEs can be found at http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/SBA_PracticeTests.html

Submitted by Barbara Sundberg



Maintenance Department

From December 21st through January 7th, all sites must have a caretaker identified and hired to perform routine daily inspections and serve as the point of contact for any emergencies.

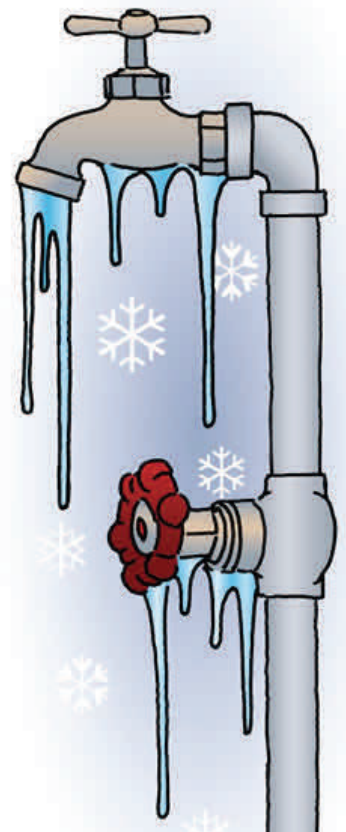
Caretaker Responsibilities:

- Work 1-2 hours each day (7 days a week)
- Have keys for all buildings (including all housing units)
- SET ALL HOUSING THERMOSTATS ON 70 DEGREES. While units are vacant.
- Flush all toilets, and run all sinks (kitchen and bathroom) and tubs 2 times each day. Run water for 2-3 minutes each time. Do this in both the schools and housing units.
- Monitor and report any unauthorized entry into the facilities
- Monitor and heating equipment issues
- Report any issues immediately to the district office maintenance department by contacting Bill Monroe at 378-4056 or Gale Bourne at 750-8698 / Phyllis Brush at 750-1394.

Submitted by Gale Bourne



Preventive Maintenance is better than the cure!



A Tribute to Educators

This last week was a tough one for the Yukon-Koyukuk School District family. We lost two staunch supporters of education. Al Shirrell, a paraprofessional and all around jack of all trades, passed away suddenly last Saturday. Mr. Shirrell and his wife, elementary teacher, Dianne Shirrell have been at the Johnny Oldman School in Hughes for the last four years.

Mr. Shirrell was instrumental in working with students who needed extra support in reading, writing and math. He was always encouraging and positive to the students and staff. I've had the pleasure of going to culture camps with Al & Dianne. When I was looking at pictures of him, he helped butcher a moose, tan caribou leggings, made jam, helped cut babiche (rawhide), and was support in the classroom. In a small school, each person has multiple hats. Al made sure the school was clean, well maintained and ready for instruction every day. He will surely be missed.

Another educator that passed away this week was Joyce Charlie of Minto. The principal, Vicky Charlie, said that Joyce was a steady volunteer, helping whenever there were school activities. She was always willing to substitute, which is sometimes a difficult job to fill in rural villages.

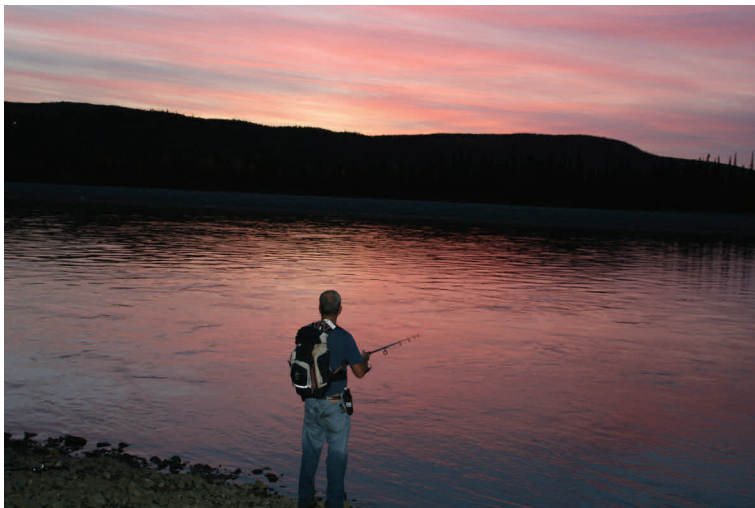
For both of these families, our prayers and thoughts are with them. We ask that you do something positive for education this week in their memory. This is a difficult time of year for those who are grieving, so let us be mindful of the needs of others. Let's be thankful for the health care providers in the village who provide a difficult service.

Students in the Denaakk'e classes came up with the following phrases about what they were thankful for.

Seyelneyoo ghu baasee' eslaanh. I am thankful for my family.
Fruit salad ghu baasee' eslaanh. I am thankful for fruit salad.

(The above sentence was by a kindergarten student. He jumped up and down to make sure I saw him as he repeated the phrase twice.)

Submitted by Susan Paskvan (from her "Word of the Week" series in the Fairbanks Daily Newsminer)



The late Al Shirrell fishing along the Koyukuk River at Hughes.
Dianne Shirrell photo.



The chimpanzee's and Alaskan scenes were from my Friday Art classes.



Native Language

Three of us from the YKSD district office spent this week at the Andrew K. Demoski School in Nulato. There are 40 students in grades K through 12 in five multi-grade classrooms, plus an additional 17 students in pre-school.

The teachers and students are busy preparing for holiday programs. In school students practiced Indian Christmas Hymn and K'ed-nelt'ees (Jingle Bells) in Denaakk'e. In addition to singing, I taught the high school students how to use arcGIS online to create maps. My co-worker, Andrea Durny, worked on goal setting and team building in the five classrooms. She held intensive basketball practices in the evenings. Bob Hawkins discussed Career & Technical Education options with the junior high and high school students. Kudos to all the teachers at remote schools who work tirelessly every day. We were itinerant visitors, and we appreciate the hard work of all educators all year long.

Twice a week the Nulato Tribal Council hosts Native singing nights at the Adult Recreation Center, at the new townsite. These practice sessions are in their fourth year. The students who have been attending for a couple of years are able to sing at least seven traditional songs by heart. An elder, Dorothy Sommers, leads the singing while the students sing and dance. The adults have song sheets, but the students learn by hearing the songs. In addition to teaching about the history of the songs students learn about dancing properly, following (not overpowering) the main song leader, and behavior.

Anyone interested in classes can contact Susan Paskvan spaskvan@yksd.com about classes on Tuesday's (Denaakk'e) and Thursday's (Menhti Kenaga'), from 4:30 to 6:00 PM. Classes schedules may vary due to travel, so it is best to be on the email list for updated notices.

This week a reader requested phonetic transcriptions. Here is one transcription using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). Writing in phonetics is like writing in another language. It took me about 30 minutes to transcribe one sentence in IPA. This column started out as Athabaskan Word of the Week by the newsminer staff. I was asked to submit one word a week, but to me, that didn't seem to be enough, so I included news happenings in the Interior since I travel frequently. The articles evolved into articles about language and culture.

Denaakk'e	IPA	definition
k'ednelt'ees	k'ɛtnelli:z	bells are ringing
yoo'oone ju - un3	all over	
go	gɔ	this
teek	ti:k	dog
hɔtl	hɔ	sled
letonh	lɛton	it is there (long object)

Baasee' ggenaa'. 'Thank you friend'
That is the phrase that a couple, Gregory and Jessica Jones, heard this summer as they toured Alaska. That prompted them to learn more about our language, Denaakk'e, and to subsequently donate \$150.00 to our school district. The funds were used to send snacks and school supplies to nine of our river schools.

That donation spurred Al and Linda Fleury to donate \$500.00 to our schools. Linda stated she wanted to give back to the community. She recently won \$1,000,000 in Las Vegas. She is originally from Koyukuk. The funds were used for writing and art supplies.

Students from the schools wrote thank you letters to both couples. Baasee' seggenaa'.

*Submitted by Susan Paskvan
(from her "Word of the Week" series in the Fairbanks Daily Newsminer)*



Student Josephine Mountain poses while photographer, Andrea Durny, and assistant Bennett Madros set up the shot. We made an improvised studio using denim backdrop and projectors so students can have an official school photo. As our elders taught us, you make do with what you have.



Student Assets & Resiliency

Future Educators of Alaska

On Friday November 30th, the FEA Advisors met to collect data of weekly activities, and to discuss use of FEA Funding after the New Year. The plan is to host a regional gathering with approximately 8 to 10 students in Fairbanks, April 2012. The outcomes will be to tour the UAF School of Education, meet with advisors, learn the benefits of teaching, and potential scholarship opportunities. We also discussed featuring previous and past Native educators over video conference with the students to share their life as a teacher. In order for students to apply for the regional gathering they must be enrolled to a FEA Club. Our current FEA Advisors are: Minto (Monica Garza), Huslia (Casey Weter), Kaltag (Danielle Esmaika), Koyukuk (Josie Dayton), and Allakaket (Camille Varin). Advisors meet with students once a week throughout the school year for an hour to do activities. Weekly reports must be submitted online for grant reporting purposes. Club activities range creating bulletin boards, grading papers, planning activities, elder visits, native singing and dancing, writing, book club, reading to elementary students, or even teaching a lesson. If you have any questions on the reporting or would like to share ideas please contact Andrea Durny at adurny@yksd.com.

Area Wide Student Council

On Friday, October 12th the Area Wide Student Council election of officers was held and here are the results below. Congratulations to the officers for FY 13.

Your Student Board Representative is Sidaadza Williams from Allakaket; she attends all school board meetings and presents the Student Board

Report produced at the monthly AWSC meetings. For a full list of the meeting agendas and monthly board reports please visit the "Area Wide Student Council" page under the "Student Activities" at www.yksd.com.

This past Thanksgiving student members approved funding for Turkey Boxes to any schools wanting to participate. The boxes were purchased with AWSC funding and all proceeds went to each local schools activity fund. For a full detail of money raised, please visit our web page and click on the "December 2012 Student Board Report". <http://www.yksd.com/domain/55>

President (Student Board Representative)- Sidaadza Williams, Allakaket

Vice President- Shaylisa Moses, Allakaket

Secretary- Tyler Saunders, Kaltag

Treasurer- Alexis Rowlett-Woellert, Manley

Members

Hughes- Olin Cleveland, Wendy Cleveland

Nulato- Morgan Turner

Allakaket- Logan, Oscar Penn, Levi Williams, Salone Saunders

Kaltag- Deshaun McGinty

Minto- Macayla Alexander, Kerry Frank, Kia Ho Chee

Manley- Kaityn Hoffman

Koyukuk- Cameron Hildebrand

Ruby- Kiya Honea, Jackie Morgan

Huslia- Kelly Sam

The AWSC is a student advisory board made up of at least one student representative from each site and the group meets once a month over video conference to generate the Student Board Report. Here is the schedule of remaining meeting dates.

Thursday, January 24 @ 2:00pm

Thursday, February 28 @ 2:00pm

Thursday, March 21 @ 2:00pm

Thursday, April 25 @ 2:00pm



Tyler Saunders and Macayla Alexander representing Region 2



Student Assets & Resiliency



Tyler Sanders addressing the State EBoard to share his opinion on a resolution



Sidaadza Williams and Salone Saunders with Rachel's Challenge



Representatives with Judson Laipply, Evolution of Dance



Macayla Alexander speaking with students during a break out session



TCC Education Summit

Congratulation to Morgan Turner of Nulato, and Kaylen Riley of Minto on being selected as a youth delegate for the TCC Education summit. The applications were open to any youth from the 42 villages ages 14-18. A total of six students were selected from each TCC sub region. Other students who attended were:

Sabrina Anselment – Takotna
Anthony Wiehl – Beaver
Delilah Glazier – Northway
Isaac Ticknor – Anvik

The TCC Youth Program Manager is: Katina Charles, Ph: 907-451-8251 Ext. 3353. This opportunity is fully funded by TCC.

Submitted by Andrea Durny



Student and Staff Awards for 1st and 2nd Quarter

The Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee is happy to announce the nominees and winners of the **Student of the Quarter** and **Staff of the Quarter** Awards. The purpose of the awards is to give recognition to students and staff who strive to do their best in the school and in the community. Students who were nominated for the award are:

Rhea Linus, Grade 5 - Allakaket
Lorraine Solomon, Grade 8 - Allakaket
Logan Dugay, Grade 9 - Allakaket
Sidaadza Williams, Grade 11 - Allakaket
Levi Williams, Grade 12 - Allakaket
DeWayne Dayton, Grade 12 - Huslia

Colby Esmailka, Grade 7 - Kaltag
Dazlyn Dayton, Grade K - Koyukuk
Morgan Malemute, Grade 1 - Koyukuk
George Albert, Grade 5 - Koyukuk
Lily Lolnitz, Grade 7 - Koyukuk
Jimmy Silas, Grade 1 - Nulato

All nominees received a certificate congratulating them on their nomination. Many of our students are working hard and contributing positively to their schools. It is important to let them know their efforts are noticed and appreciated. THANK YOU students and CONGRATULATIONS.

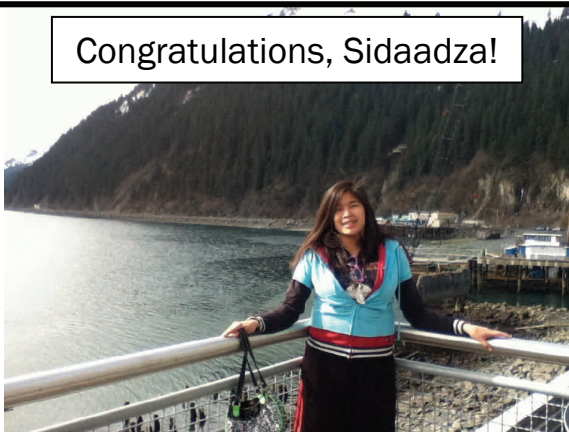
Our two winners for 1st and 2nd quarter are Colby Esmailka from Kaltag and Sidaadza Williams from Allakaket. Each received a certificate and a gift card, and were celebrated in their school communities.

Congratulations, Colby!



"Colby volunteers to help with extracurricular activities around the school from set-up to clean-up and everything in between. Colby assists teachers as a classroom helper for younger students. She is a very positive young woman and active in traditional activities in the home and community."
We appreciate you, Colby! Thank you and Congratulations on being selected Student of the Quarter.

Congratulations, Sidaadza!



The person(s) who nominated Sidaadza wrote this about her: "She is the AWSC President, wrote a letter to the Superintendent to get ice cream for our school, traveled to AASG and YKSD board meeting, is active in Student Advisory Committee, wrote an assembly and presented it to her peers on Anger Management, never comes late or misses something she has volunteered to work on, uses many, many, after school hours to better herself, her school, and her community, and she truly believes she can do great things and that her peers can, too."
Thank you, Sidaadza!

*Submitted by Barbara Sundberg
(on behalf of the Indian Education Committee)*

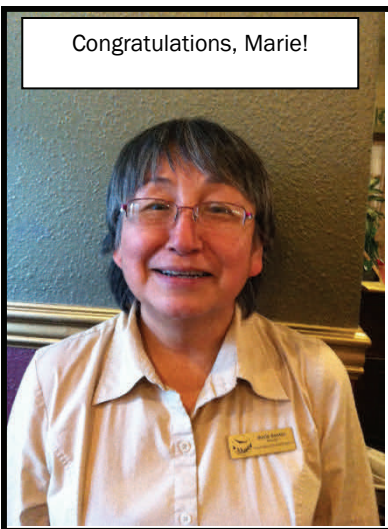


Nominations were also solicited for **Staff Person of the Quarter**. Staff members were nominated based on their contributions to the school and for continually striving to do their best to further the mission of YKSD: *in active partnership with its families and communities, to provide our students with the skills and knowledge necessary to become contributing members of their families, communities, and society*. The following staff were nominated by their peers:

Amy Ambagis, Manley HS
 Josie Dayton, Koyukuk
 Marie Dayton, Koyukuk
 Irene Henry, Allakaket
 Michele Sturdevant, Allakaket
 Wendy Moyryla, Ruby

Randi Shrider, Allakaket
 Peggy Bruno, Huslia
 Eleanor McCrary, Nulato
 Sophie Alexie, Kaltag
 Al Shirrell, Hughes
 Yuko Heinrich, Ruby

Congratulations, Marie!



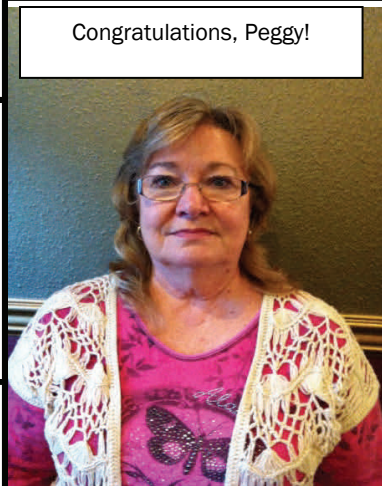
The person(s) who nominated Marie Dayton wrote the following on her nomination forms: *"Marie is a hard worker. She always comes to work on time and often leaves late. She willingly takes on extra duties and does whatever it takes for students to be successful and safe in school."*

"She is here every day ready for work. She helps me be better at my job. She is respectful to everyone both in and out of school."

Thank you, Marie!



Congratulations, Peggy!



"Peggy goes above and beyond the call of duty both inside and outside of school. If a student mentions they are interested in a subject, she jumps in and learns it so she can teach the student without hesitation."

"Peggy is always available to mentor others if they need help."

"The community calls on Peggy whenever they need anything. She does whatever it takes to make sure the task is not only completed, but goes above expectations. She is a great asset to the community and to YKSD."

Thank you, Peggy!



Congratulations, Randi!



"She always is consistent in her positive approach to staff, students, parents, and community members. She communicates with people to assist students; she builds honest relationships, works hard to better the school environment and staff relations; supports students, works at game nights."

"She gives of herself to everyone, at any time, so that their lives are better. We are fortunate to have a principal/teacher who wants the best for students."

"She is a hard worker, always working, does whatever it takes. The discipline and consequences are paying off."

Thank you, Randi!

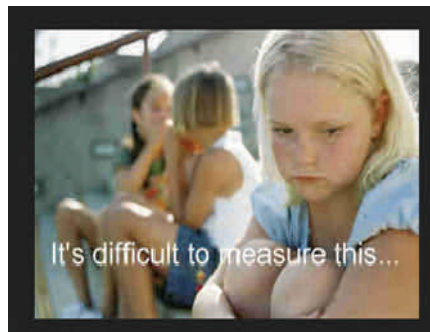


Educators & Bullying: What Can YOU Do?

Bullying is another instance of how violence affects our children and their access to Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). Harassment and bullying has been a phenomenon for many years. When an older boy behind me on the bus clonked my head with his class ring I would slither lower in my seat or crawled underneath it to avoid the act. After the first couple of times I'd slunk around to avoid that person's attention and stayed out of their reach. I don't remember anyone in my peer group reporting this type of harassment. The Department of Justice's data tells us that children are still bullied. The numbers from the Department of Justice say that 13.2% of the children have reported physical bullying in the past year and up to 28% of children were bullied at sometime in their lives (Rapp 2012).

In the landmark court case, *T.K. v New York City Department of Education*, judge Weinstein determined that schools have to address bullying because it does affect a person's ability to receive FAPE (Weinstein 2011). In 2010, the Department of Civil Rights, published a document called "Dear Colleague" directing educational institutions to be proactive regarding harassment and bullying in schools. Assistant Secretary Ali (2010) declared that a response to harassment is required and must be immediate. There should be an investigation or the school must otherwise determine what occurred in the event so that children will be protected from emotional and physical harm. There are many examples of hearings and court cases to bear out the fact that one of the most important things we can do is be persistent and maintain proactive communication with colleagues

and parents. We must be proactive and create an atmosphere in our schools that does not tolerate harass-



ment and bullying.

But what can students do to deal with bullying? Educators can provide resources and activities that have been proven to build self-esteem and build a network of support among peers and adults like Phlight Club or Bullyfight. These programs teach students to work out issues and build self-confidence. The facilities give kids a place to work out frustration in a gym. Learning to strengthen the body and eat healthy can help strengthen the mind. We can provide models for students today to be self activating when they find themselves in a bullying situation. They can report the incident to a trusted adult, but studies show that only half of the bullying incidents are reported. So instead, visit a gym, go running, join a martial arts class, take up bodybuilding, do kickboxing, or just punch a bag (bullyfight.com 2012).

Cited Sources:

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Submitted by Heidi Wright

**28% of children were
bullied at sometime
in their lives**





Introducing Our Newest Fairbanks Staff Members

Laurie Beam is joining the Federal and State programs department. She was born in East Moline, Illinois and moved to St. Petersburg, Florida when she was 21 years old. Ms. Beam graduated from the College of Education at the University of South Florida with two masters degrees, one in Special Education and one in Educational Leadership. Laurie worked in the Pinellas County School district as a teacher, a Special Education school coordinator and an assistant principal of curriculum at two large, urban high schools. She is married and has two sons (Josh, who recently graduated from college and Jared who was married in September), a daughter, Maria and a one year old grandson, Flynn, who is the light of her life. In her spare time, Laurie likes to crochet and Skype with her grandson.



Department of Curriculum, Instruction & Professional Development. I have been in Fairbanks off and on since 1984 (most recently for the last 12 years). I am married to Carl Hall ("The NAPA Guy" as he's known around town) and have a 10-year old daughter, Marisa. You'll see a lot of her come January, selling Girl Scout Cookies! I am very excited to be here and am ready to get down to work!



My name is Ursula Peterson and I have recently made my home in Fairbanks, Alaska by way of Texas. I moved here with my husband, Eric, in July of this year. We love the outdoors and the wildlife and couldn't think of a more beautiful place to live than Alaska.

I graduated college from the University of Texas at Arlington, located in Dallas/Fort Worth, with a degree in Kinesiology (the study of movement) with emphasis on teaching physical education. I have been fortunate to work at the Education Service Center in Texas with federal programs including Migrant, Bilingual, ESL, Title III, and Homeschool/Correspondence. I furthered my knowledge of correspondence programs through many education courses at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Between my education and prior work experience, I am confident I'll be able to support and aid you and your family during your Raven experience.

I absolutely love what I do and couldn't have found a better place to work than the Yukon-Koyukuk District with the Raven Correspondence School. I am certified to teach K-12, so please contact me if there is any way I can assist you!



Phyllis Brush is the new Administrative Assistant in the Facilities & Maintenance Department. She getting up to speed on YKSD maintenance issues and has caught on to our work order process. She is your "go-to" person for all things maintenance!



My name is Corinna Dart. I am the Administrative Clerk for the Raven Fairbanks Office. I was raised in Manley Hot Springs. Growing up in Interior Alaska gave me a love of exploring and learning about the experiences of people of all ages. I have also lived in Arizona, where I attended High-school. After graduating I spent several months traveling in South America, volunteering and learning as much Spanish as I could. When I returned to Alaska, I was lucky enough to be able to work in my hometown as a Library and Teacher's Aide for the Gladys Dart School. I love to work with kids, especially through activities such as theatre, collaborative art projects and Battle of the Books. I am happy to be back with the Yukon-Koyukuk School District here in Fairbanks and excited to learn about some of the administrative aspects of the educational system. I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know all of you better.



My name is Darla J. Hall. I joined YKSD from USKH on November 26th. I am Chane Beam's Administrative Assistant for the



MapTeach 2012

MapTeach is a program through the University of Alaska Fairbanks that has developed a curriculum for teachers that focuses on using a computer program for making maps of local landscapes with features from multiple perspectives.

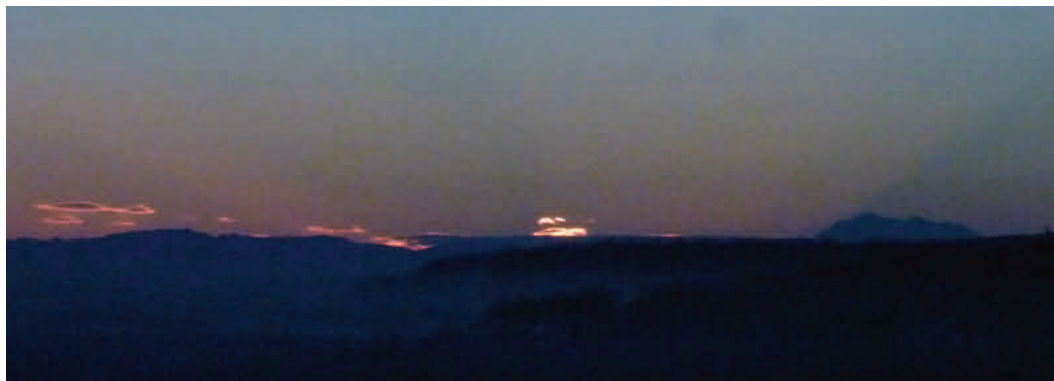
It is a project-based curriculum that integrates GPS skills with GIS, Google Earth and remotely sensed imagery. This program will bridge information between modern culture and technology with traditional ways of viewing life, environments and provides a way to share that knowledge on the World Wide Web as well as in our local communities. YKSD has been involved with this program for the last several years. Susan Paskvan and I attended the last workshop where we were taught how to expand our previous knowledge around these lessons and work directly with Internet based GIS software and Google Earth. It was a very interesting workshop and we are planning activities to do with our students in the spring semester.



Deanne led us on a very cold field trip to collect geologic samples and waypoints that we later uploaded to Google and GIS online. Peter and Zack were the other teachers and Sidney is retired but still joined us to help get materials to all the students.

Thanks to this UAF based project and the support of the following organizations and YKSD.

Submitted by Heidi Wright



This is a shot of Denali from the room we studied in at UAF. This shows Denali's shadow at sunset.



Big Announcements



Congratulations to Cristina Poage!
James Holland, was born Friday, October 26, at 2:33pm,
7lbs. 8oz, 19.5 inches.



Congratulations to Sam & Chelsea Barney.!
Daniel Thomas, was born November 9,
6lbs 11oz, 20 inches.



Andrea Berg married David Cottrell on November 2nd....Congratulations to you both!



Allakaket

Submitted by Randi Shrider



Sarah H. Sidaadza W., Salone S. Stephan N., Chris V., Levi W., Grace M., Logan D. and Oscar P.



Allakaket's "top chefs".

Students prepare Thanksgiving dinner for the community. Master Chefs for the evening were Sidaadza Williams and Levi Williams for being the night's best servers!!



"Canned Funk" Performance in Allakaket. Allakaket students attend a breakdancing workshop sponsored through 4-H.



Spirit Week, Blue and White

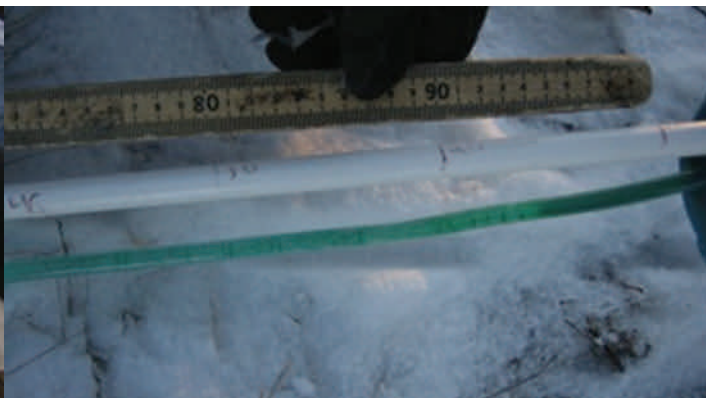


Allakaket's Christmas Program, students recite Elder's favorite Christmas pasts. Irene Henry performs with student in Denaakk'a.

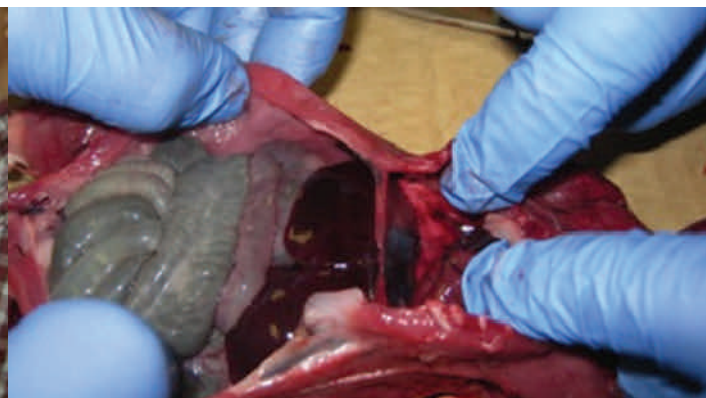


Jimmy Huntington Middle School

Submitted by Sam Barney



Here is a middle school science class checking one of three frost tubes they installed this fall to measure the frost depth throughout the year.



Middle school science preparing to skin and dissect a muskrat they caught in a fish trap



"George Attla – Making of a Champion" 4H club. Middle school girls cleaning up the puppy pen at Georges dog yard.



NYO (Native Youth Olympics) is in full "swing." Travis Heard preparing for NYO in Anchorage this April.



Huslia's First Youth and Sled Dog Program

The **Frank Attla Youth and Sled Dog Program** is currently in place in Huslia, Alaska and is managed entirely by volunteers. The program was envisioned by legendary champion sprint sled dog racer and Huslia Elder, George Attla. The program is named after his late son Frank. It has taken root in the curriculum of the Jimmy Huntington School with some support from 4-H of Alaska. At this time, the program involves high school and middle school students. High school student participants in the program are enrolled in a veterinary science class, and the middle school student participants are enrolled in a math and science class. High school students are receiving dual high school and college credit for completing the class. In early 2013, there are plans to incorporate elementary students

so that all youth will have a chance to participate in the program.

The foundation of the program is the youth's hands-on work with sled dogs. A yard of sled dogs offer a positive and enriching emotional experience to any individual without human judgment. The immediate 'acceptance' that happy and healthy sled dogs offer by their behavior, helps youth feel 'up' and to naturally feel good about themselves. George Attla believes that dogs are the key to helping youth become and remain stable and healthy-minded.

The program design encourages the development of *pride* by learning-by-doing. Additionally, literacy and numeracy skills are incorporated to sup-

port young people's academic success and future careers. Field classes, taught by senior mushers of four kennels in Huslia, are held twice a week for each participating age group. High school students are paired with middle school students to mutually assist each other learn about dog care including feeding, cleaning a dog yard, and monitoring overall dog health. Students develop dog handling and mushing skills; handle dogs on a chain; harness and hook up dogs to the gang-line; and mush and eventually race a team of dogs.

The teaching of dog care and mushing focuses on skills, which are associated with specific life skills ("Mushing Spirit"):

Student Benefits :

- Altruism by helping dogs and people
- Perseverance
- Confidence
- Partnership and community spirit

Dog Mushing Skill	Mushing Spirit
Regular care of dogs and equipment	Be responsible - be someone who is known for honoring commitments
Read the strengths and weakness of dogs	Become more adept at knowing people - know who you can draw upon for strength and who you can help to be stronger
Caring for dogs and yourself	Care for yourself - eat healthy food, practice good hygiene and be physically fit
Communicate to achieve high performance	Self-confidence to express yourself honestly
Train dogs	Set goals and develop strategies to achieve them
Know how to regulate your body temperature	Know how to maintain a positive attitude (not too hot, not too cold)
Acquire and maintain your equipment	Access and know to use the resources you need to succeed. e.g. computers, libraries, machine tools, sleds
Know the trail and factors that will affect it e.g. weather and flooding	Anticipate challenges and how they can be overcome. Appreciate that many obstacles cannot be controlled and learn to adapt accordingly
Learn how to ride the runners	Maintain physical balance which assists with mental balance
Be able to recognize and solve problems	All problems have solutions
Enjoy the ride	Have fun and appreciate and enjoy the beauty and wonder of nature
Other possible lessons or qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know you are a winner. • Trust your instincts. • Cultivate a strong will. • Learn to handle yourself. • Trust your instincts 	





Huslia's First Youth and Sled Dog Program (cont'd)

A curriculum for each grade range is being developed to support hands-on learning. These materials will draw upon existing materials and research of Native communities, with the added benefit of local youth serving organizations. The overall program approach creates a new opportunity for leadership within the community, facilitates inter-generational learning, and allows the teaching of program lessons in creative ways suitable to village life (i.e. taking classes to a dog yard, youth participation in race events, etc.).

The program has plans to expand to more community members since 4-H volunteers will also work with youth in 4 local kennels and to share their 4-H skills related to sled dogs. At this time, high school students taking a school shop class are learning to build doghouses with the guidance of experienced dog mushers and carpenters. The community is currently thinking of more ways to expand their involvement including teaching youth to build sleds; to make dog training and racing gear; to sew dog collars and harnesses; and more. These kinds of activity will support more individualized learning and engage broader community participation. Elders, parents, and young adults are invited to support youth education since their involvement is critical for the success of the program and is a leadership opportunity.

A significant part of the program is to monitor youth mental and emotional health as a measure of its effectiveness and success. Assessing impact in this way will support the refinement of the program and its expansion. Mental and emotional health records will be kept by teachers during the entire school year. Parents will all also provide information about their child's behavior and attitude. All record-keeping methods will be reviewed by mental health professionals so the most useful data are collected.



Frank Attla Youth and Sled Dog Program Progress Report and Timeline:

•**August & September 2012:** Youth were invited to work in sled dog kennels before school and the program started. Approximately 12 youth, a mix of high school and middle school age, participated. The principal and teachers created the plan for incorporating the program into the school curriculum and class schedule.

•**October 2012:** Twice a week high school students enrolled in a Veterinary Science class participate in a "field class." On Tuesdays from 10:30 – 12:00, thirteen students are split to work in two local sled dog kennels. On Thursdays during the same time period, the same students are split to work in two other local sled dog kennels. Students learn basic dog care and handling from actually working in a total of four kennels. On every other Friday, students learn in a classroom setting.

November 2012: High school students continue field classes. Middle school students are added to the program including attending field classes to the local sled dog kennels. The middle school students will learn the same things about dog care as the high school students.

December 2012: Field classes for high school and middle school students continue and advanced information is taught about dog handling and mushing. A Fairbanks area veterinarian is scheduled to travel to Huslia to teach youth. The com-

munity plans one youth race day event before school is adjourned for the Christmas break. Between Christmas and the New Year, the community hosts youth sled dog events for all ages. Kennel owners provide the sled dogs to make the events possible.

January 2013: Field classes for both high school and middle school students start again and all ages are taught more dog mushing and racing skills. Skijoring will be added to the program so youth can learn skills using only one dog so they can safely practice and have fun with dogs (even their own house dogs) on weekends.

February – May 2013: Field classes for students of all ages continue. More skills relating to dog mushing and racing as well as skijoring will be taught by community members outside of class time as students express interest. At least one student will prepare for junior sled dog races in Fairbanks in March. Getting to the races is dependent on funding available for transport of a Huslia young musher and dog team. As daylight and warmer air temperatures increase in March and April, the community will host sled dog races for youth.

June-August 2013:

Casual summer dog care classes will be available for all interested youth in Huslia. Though school is out of session, all the dogs in the four Huslia kennels still need care. There are also countless dog yard chores to do all summer, including fixing and building dog houses and pens, caring and handling of new pups, fishing to feed dogs, and more.

September – December 2013: The youth and sled dog program starts again as part of the school curriculum. More ages are incorporated as the school schedule allows and community involvement increases (i.e. adult volunteers).

Submitted by Cathy Turco



Kaltag News

Submitted by Monica Acosta



Practicing for the Christmas Program



Jayden trying to figure out fractions



Hazel working with the students during the Math Meeting



Christmas is for kids big and small



Yes, Virginia, he does exist!



Barbara donated a tree to the class



Nancy's crew have the holiday spirit



Austin and Leon checking on the salmon





Manley Hot Springs Activities

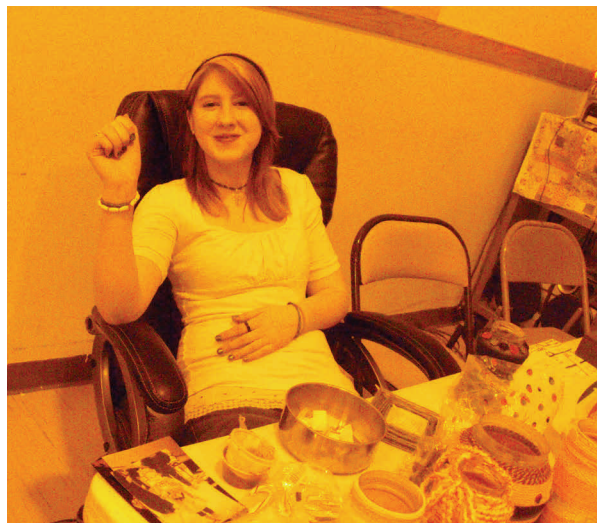
Submitted by Cathy Walker



Manley student perform "The Headless Horseman of Mosquito Acres".



Manley Students enjoy cross-country skiing.

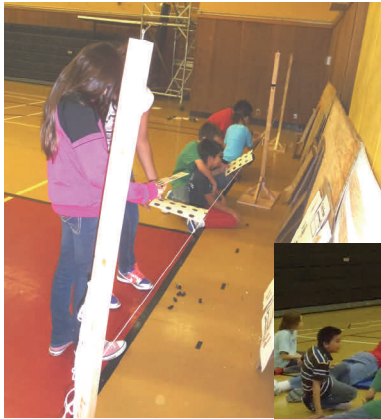


Bekah Olson sells student-made crafts during The Holiday Craft Bazaar.





Minto's Rifle Club



Minto students participating in Rifle Club.
Submitted by Scott Brucker.



Girl Scouts in Nulato

We are starting a troop of girl scouts here in Nulato. Judy Madros and I are leading the troop. Seven girls in grades K-6 have signed up to participate. We will be earning badges with various activities including Native arts and crafts. We will be learning more about respecting our elders, being a sister to each other, sharing, and working together as a team. We will sell Girl Scout cookies starting in the new year. If anyone from the villages wants to order, they can contact me or Judy at AKD.

Submitted by Ellie McCrary



Girl Scouts®



“Toys For Tots” Marches On to YKSD Villages

Hoorah!

When Marines shout that, it's normally after a victory in battle.

Well, you can say that the United States Marine Corps helped win a battle of a different kind within the river villages of Ruby, Koyukuk, Nulato and Kaltag from December 10-13, as they drove “snowmachines” and pulled sleds full of toys to deliver to children in these villages. While on their journey, the current and retired members of the US Marine Corps faced rugged terrain; irregular snow and ice patterns along paths and the Yukon River; were accidentally led down a trapping trail where a few machines flipped over; and had to be pulled out of deep snow, and had to face riding in darkness with their precious cargo during much of their trip.

One Marine reported, “It was like a roller-coaster ride! We got off trail near Koyukuk, got bogged down in some newly fallen deep snow, and were not sure if we could one of our sleds out. But as you

know, when in doubt, we improvise.”

There were “casualties” in this struggle, as the Marines did lose a couple of toys along the way, one of them broken from an impact with a tree along the trail they were on outside of Koyukuk. There were no reports of unhappy children, as all seemed to get their gifts from Santa Claus, who came early to join the Marines in this campaign.

Gunnery Sergeant (“Gunny”) Miller, a long-time veteran in the Alaska “Toys For Tots” efforts, said, “It does my heart well to come out here most every year. My men and I know that for many of these kids, this might be the only Christmas they may ever get. It is enough to tear the heart out of you, but you give the gifts to help change lives, and make a positive impact on the community. It gives them reason to see the Marines in a different light.”

There were several Native riders where on-hand as guides along the way, assisting the Marines on their trek to the various

villages on their delivery route. Principals, principal aides, and members of local CSC boards and the Regional School Board also assisted the Marines in coordinating their efforts, and providing lists of children for the gift-giving. Without their efforts, the Marines would more than likely not be there at all. Their efforts, along with the USMC, make it all possible.

Is it a perfect effort?

“We don’t always get things right every time,” said Gunny Miller. “But we do our best, and have a few things extra at hand just in case. The hardest ones to give gifts to are the older kids. We often have to find something we can give to them that they can use and enjoy.” From the smiles on most of the children’s faces, one would think that Gunny Miller doesn’t have much to worry about.

Mission accomplished... HOORAH!

Submitted by Eddie Hornsby





Nulato Kids Share Decorations with Elders



Artwork by Ellie McCrary's class. The Christmas decorations will be sent to the Elder's Center in Galena.

Submitted by Susan Paskvan



Boxing Club in Ruby



Blake Williams (Grade 7) landing a left hand.

The club is focusing on physical fitness, discipline, and proper technique. Students have learned how to properly wrap their hands to prevent injuries to their wrists and hands, proper footwork, and the three basic punches. We work on punching the heavy bag and doing mitt work. So far Blake is the only student to make every practice, so kudos to him!



Submitted by Pete Moyryla



Landon Paul working the mitts.



Landon Paul (Grade 5) landing a left hand on the heavy bag while Blake looks on.



Ruby Career Fair

On November 1 our school had a career fair. It was called, [What Color Is Your Parachute](#). There were eight guests at the fair. I would like to thank Marie Cleaver from the Ruby Tribe and Eddie Hornsby who helped with some of the organizing as well as members of our Ruby community for assisting the school staff in conducting this out of the ordinary Career Fair. A big thank you hug does of course to our presenters and staff who made the day a successful one.

Presenters included: Troopers Darryl Hildebrand and Robert Numley, Megan Gooding, Public Health Nurse Rachelle Hill, Ed Sarten, Eddie Hornsby, Scott Gilbert and Sandy from the Juvenile Probation office. MAK staff including teachers, cooks and students helped to round out the fun. Students were given interview sheets and after a delay in the arrival of the planes, a delicious buffet and restructuring of the day provided the children with an ideal setting to practice their interviewing skills. Here are excerpts from their interactions.



We interviewed two Probation Officers. Their names were Scott and Sandy. They work for the state of Alaska. They work in a building. They went to college to learn how to help kids. Even though they do not have to wear special clothes they both had the same blue jacket on and the jackets had a little badge sewn on them. Sandy said you need people skills to do this job. -Daveon, Cheyanne, Stewart, Ethan.

Sandy and Scott are both probation officers for the state of Alaska. They focus on troubled minors who have broken the law. Basically they help kids and their

communities. They both went to college and training for six months. They work inside with mostly computers. They love helping families. Kiya



I interviewed Megan. She works at the hospital and is the educational coordinator. She works out at the hospital. She uses papers and pens and computers for her job. She doesn't have special clothes she just wears regular clothes. She works by herself but her work takes her places. He likes his job because he can work alone. And she gets to meet and talk with other people. It took her a year to learn her job. Megan talks to kids. She is a social worker. She works for the hospital. She likes to talk to kids about her job. The best thing she likes about her job is meeting people and talking to them. Stephanie, Sadie, Jackie

We interviewed many people at the Job Fair. The one that stood out the most for me was the Alaska State Trooper Job. Trooper Nunley and Trooper Hildebrand were the two troopers I interviewed. Their job is to protect people. The training they took only took twenty-two weeks in Sitka. Darryl said his favorite part of the job is flying to the villages and helping communities. Furthermore they use firearms, tasers, and handcuffs when they need



them. This was a fun way of interviewing the troopers and all of the others. Darryl and Rob are state troopers. They fly around the place and help people. They had to go to school for four years. Sometimes they work alone and sometimes they work together. They have tools that they use like a Taser and pepper spray. They really like their jobs. Kasey, Stephanie



I interviewed Ed Sarten. He is a farmer. He brought a food dehydrator. He works for himself and most of his work is outside work. He grows food and then he cuts it up dries it to eat later. He read a book and learned how to dry the vegetables. He uses a knife and a cutting board to work with said the best part of his job is working when he wants to. Ed Sarten works for himself. He processes food. It took him fifteen minutes to learn how to process food. He uses a food dehydrator and a knife and cutting board. He said he likes working alone and setting his own hours. He raises ducks and goats. The school donates their leftovers to his ducks and we have duck buckets next to the recycling parcel for collecting the scraps. Ronnie, Sheldon

The person I interviewed was Rachelle Hill. Her occupation is a public health nurse. Rachelle works for the state of Alaska and she spends. Most of her time indoors. She helps people stay healthy and loves doing it. She doesn't wear special clothing for her job but she uses a lot of tools. Finally she works with others and loves her job. Balin

Submitted by Anne Titus



Chess Club: At Raven's District Office. Bring a chess set and any other homeschool friends!

Star Lab: At Raven's District Office. Come learn about our solar system with our mobile planetarium, led by knowledgeable staff!

Observatory Field Trip: A good follow from the Star Lab. Time and place TBA.

FEET: Family Encouragement and Evaluation Team at Raven District Office. Let's meet for dessert and plan the February Cookie Bake Off!

Raven families only.





YKSD Birthdays

January

- 1 DIANNE SHIRRELL
- 2 ZACHARY McCAFFERTY
- 5 WILLIAM BRUNO
- 6 EVELYN SARTEN
- 10 CHANE BEAM
- 13 BARBARA GREENE
- 20 ELEANOR YATLIN
- 24 MARY SUE LINUS
- 27 EILEEN JACKSON, URSULA PETERSON
- 30 CASSANDRA WETER
- 31 IRENE PETERS

February

- 1 SHEILA BEARDSLEY
- 2 PHYLLIS BRUSH
- 4 PRISCILLA WILLIAMS
- 8 KATIE RIEMER
- 12 IRENE HENRY
- 13 ALAN SWENSON
- 16 ELECIA FRANK
- 18 JOSIE DAYTON
- 20 MARION ACKER
- 21 MONICA GARZA
- 22 JOY SHIER
- 23 ROBERT HAWKINS
- 26 VICKY CHARLIE
- 28 SARAH DAYTON

March

- 2 ANN NEGLASKA
- 4 DARLA HALL
- 5 TANYA YATLIN
- 15 SUSAN PASKVAN
- 17 PATRICIA WOODY
- 19 JOSEPHINE SEMAKEN, PETE MOYRYLA
- 26 KATHALEEN STECKEL
- 30 MELISSA CAPTAIN, FRANCINE WIEHL
- 31 JOAN JONES

