

1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER

YKSD

# STAFF CONNECTIONS

October 2013



## School Principal Recognition

October is School Principal Recognition Month. Our YKSD principals have a very challenging yet rewarding job that extends well beyond the classroom. Showing your principal how much you appreciate he or she is an opportunity to provide recognition for all their hard work. Principals deal with students, parents, staff and other officials on a daily basis, handling and resolving conflicts and attending meetings, among other things. There are many things you can do to show your principal appreciation.

### Please help recognize our YKSD principals!

Andrea Cottrell-Raven Correspondence  
Anne Titus- Merrelaine A. Kangas  
Josie Dayton-Ella B. Verneti  
Kent Hoffman-Allakaket  
Merrill Feller- Andrew K. Demoski  
Nancy Mason-Kaltag  
Patty White-Johnny Oldman  
Teresa Cox- Jimmy Huntington  
Vicky Charlie-Minto and Gladys Dart



## Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) for YKSD Released

As we discussed at in-service, state regulations now require that DEED determine and notify each district of the AMOs for the “all student” group at the school, each district and state levels, as well for each subgroup with five or more students. The AMOs represent the percentage of students that are identified as enrolled for a full academic year (FAY) who are expected to score proficient or higher on the reading, writing and math standards-based assessments. The targets, in each assessed subject, increase in annual increments toward a goal of reducing by half the percentage of students who are not proficient within six years (based on the 2011-2012 assessment data for the baseline year). A school or district will meet the AMO targets if it meets either the state target or its individual school or district target, respectively.

DEED has released the targets for our schools and is expected to release reports listing the 2012-2013 assessment results in relation to the 2012-2013 AMO targets by Monday, October 14. These reports will show whether or not schools, districts and subgroups are meeting the AMO targets. You can visit the YKSD website for specific information.

Submitted by Kerry Boyd



## Introducing....

our new staff members for the 2013-2014 school year! Welcome to YKSD! We are so happy you have chosen to work for us.

### Azuma Bearden, Itinerant PE Teacher

Azuma was born in Juneau, AK, grew up in Ketchikan and Bellingham, WA. He went to Bellingham High School and graduated from Whatcom Community College, in Bellingham, WA. (Played basketball for 2 seasons). He then graduated from Central Washington University in Physical Education and School Health (Bachelor of Science teaching Degree) and played basketball for 1 season. Azuma also graduated from Bellingham Tech. College with a Personal Trainer Certification and worked as a Personal Fitness Trainer for 24-Hour Fitness health club for 1 1/2 years. Other jobs he performed were: para-professional for 2 years for K-5 physical education, Boys and Girls Club, refereed youth and men's league basketball games, a counselor and director of summer basketball camps, head boys varsity basketball coach, and head middle school track and field coach for Thorp Middle School. Azuma chose to come back to Alaska to see what it was like. He also wanted to help schools that need a quality physical education program to help boost student morale. His favorite experience so far, (keep in mind this is only the first portion of this school year), has been the community night in Kaltag. It was a great turnout and the students (myself included) had a fantastic time! Azuma has two wonderful kids (a son, Quinten who is 4 and a 6 month old daughter, Naomi).

Please check out his Blog created to document his visits to each school

site: [www.iplayeveryday.wordpress.com](http://www.iplayeveryday.wordpress.com)



### Brandon Chapman, Kaltag

Brandon was born and raised in Galesburg, IL, a small town in the middle of the mid-west. He attended nearby DePauw University on scholarship and since then he's lived out west, including time in Utah and Washington State. Before becoming a teacher, he worked as a cultural anthropologist for eleven years completing a doctorate in the subject, researching in remote corners of the world (Ecuador, Peru, Trinidad/Tobago), teaching undergraduate courses for seven years. Brandon moved to Alaska two years ago and has worked with the Northwest Arctic Borough and UAF, traveling around much of the Arctic region in the process. He came to YKSD for a new experience and career path. His favorite experience so far has been meeting the friendly people of Kaltag and going on hikes up Four Mile Hill!

## Kent Hoffman, Allakaket Principal

Mr. Hoffman always knew he was going to be in education, it just took him a while to get there. He studied many things in college, from Aerospace Engineering to Philosophy. He earned a Bachelors Degree from North Carolina State University in Speech Communication, a Masters Degree from Lehman College in Math and Mathematical Education, and a second Master from Mercy College in School Building Leadership. He served in the US Air Force, managed a 4-Star Hotel, and made movies, shows, and music videos in New York for over 15 years. After 9/11, Mr. Hoffman started as a math teacher in the Bronx. Since then, he has worked in education in Indiana, Montana, and Utah before coming to Alaska.



## Athaliah Kaikala-Gilbreath, Itinerant Counselor

Athaliah is originally from Hawaii. She graduated with her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and with an Associate's degree in Performing Arts from Brigham Young University-Hawaii. After graduating she held various jobs and taught 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade. She then went on to earn her Master's in School Counseling in December 2012. This Athaliah's first school counseling position and will be serving Allakaket, Hughes, Huslia, Manley and Minto.



## Brad Kennon, Tech Coordinator

Brad joined YKSD this past summer after working for GCI since 2003. He believes technology is integral to modern life. Embracing current and forthcoming technologies is key to unlocking professional success. For these reasons, he considers it an unavoidable and crucial component in education. A component that can be used to expand the borders of a classroom, enhance learning and provide opportunities that would not otherwise be available. Brad brings a positive "can do" attitude to our Technology department.





## Luke Meinert, Tech Director

After spending eight years in the Aleutians East Borough School District (AEBS), Luke Meinert is honored to join the Yukon Koyukuk School District as the Director of Technology. Luke attended The University of Montana, and graduated with a degree in History/Political Science. During his college years he developed a passion for incorporating emerging technologies in his work with students. This led Luke to pursue a Master's degree in Educational Technology and a Graduate Certificate in School Technology Coordination. Upon graduating from Boise State University Luke assumed the role of Director of Technology for AEBS. Mr. Meinert is excited to join YKSD as he loves the challenge of providing high quality technological services over vast geographical distances. He was in awe of the Yukon River while flying into Kaltag for the first time. Luke has loved getting to know staff and community members while travelling throughout the district. Outside of work he spends his time with his wife Gina, and they enjoy hiking, biking, fishing, skiing, snowshoeing, and cooking. He thanks everyone for the warm welcome to YKSD!



## Dawn Pomrening, Hughes

Dawn is a returning teacher to Johnny Oldman School in Hughes. Her previous position was a Secondary Generalist but she is now in the position of Elementary Teacher. During the year that she took off from YKSD, she and her family missed the students and people of Hughes and YKSD. They were quite excited to return. Dawn's family, includes her husband Todd, her three sons, Greg, Chris, and Zac. They make their summer home in north-central Wisconsin and enjoy boating, fishing, biking, and snowshoeing. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire with a Bachelors Degree in Broad Field Social Studies/History Secondary Education. "Thank you everyone for the warm welcomes I have received since coming 'home'!"

## Jenna Williams, Itinerant Counselor

Jenna is from Rocky Ford, Colorado. She earned her Masters in School Counseling from the University of Montana in Missoula and her Bachelors in Psych in Pueblo, Colorado. She chose YKSD

because she really didn't know what to expect but knew

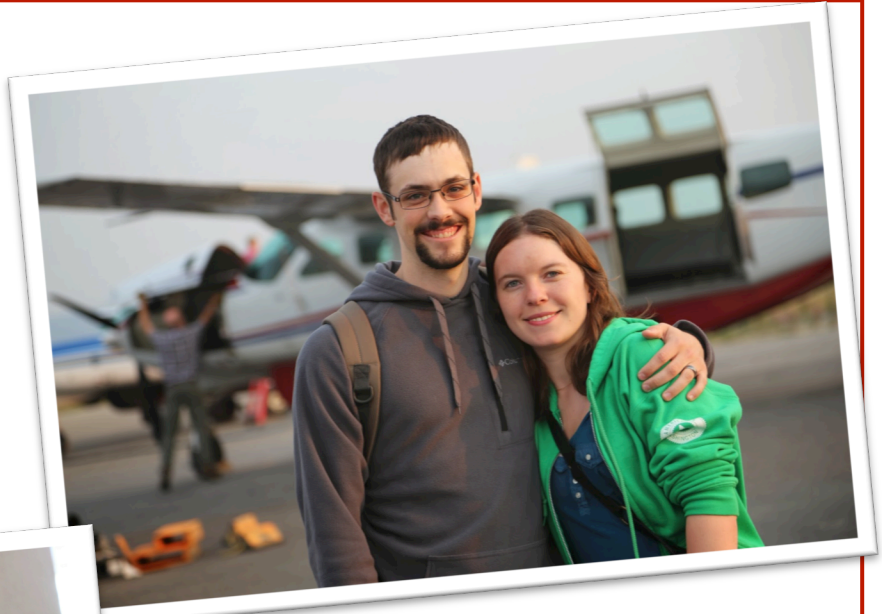
it would be a growing experience. Jenna was excited to live in a village and be able to travel from school to school. I was also excited to be immersed in the culture and learn more about it. She already has a long list of awesome experiences. She loves picking berries, going for walks and going fishing. The whole experience of coming into a new community and making friends and building relationships with the kids has been incredible and she feels blessed to be here.





## Kevin Schwoch, Allakaket

This is Kevin's first year teaching in the Yukon-Koyukuk School District. He moved to Alaska for an adventure! He is originally from Washington state in the city of Auburn. He earned a Bachelor's degree in History and is currently teaching grades 2-12 in Allakaket. He enjoys camping, hiking, photography and playing guitar.



## Shayla Hilby-Schwoch, Allakaket

This is her first year teaching in the Yukon-Koyukuk School District. She followed her husband here and had ambitions of becoming a Secondary teacher. Little did she know, that she would fall in love with elementary education and began shifting her ambitions in that direction, as well.



## Ben Stathis, Kaltag

Ben was born in Anchorage, and then three days later was riding on his first single-engine airplane to the bush village of Kwethluk, where his dad was working as an elementary teacher. Most of Ben's grade-school years were spent with mom in rural southwestern Montana, but a summer-time connection to Alaska was always maintained. A five-day boat trip down the Yukon from Fairbanks to Ruby, a month net fishing in Shageluk, and many summers at the cabin in Delta Junction, wherever Dad happened to be.

Ben completed his college years in Juneau graduating in 2010. He spent some time traveling the wide world and deliberating his future, and then in 2012 came back to Alaska's Aleutians to pursue a Masters in teaching. Ben began working at Kaltag with YKSD mid-year in January 2013 with 7-12th grade, and is now immersed in his first full year here with the "little kids." Ben enjoys the small community atmosphere here at Kaltag, with its opportunities for interacting directly and creatively with kids, in an out of the classroom.



## Patty White, Assessment Coordinator & Hughes Principal

Patty is currently the Assessment Coordinator for the Yukon Koyukuk School District and principal of Johnny Oldman School in Hughes. She earned her Bachelor's Degree at the University of Texas with a major in Psychology and a Master's Degree in Education Administration at Eastern New Mexico University.

Patty has been in education for 23 years and has served as an elementary teacher, Director of Instructional Support, Special Education Director, Principal of an elementary school and an alternative school, Associate Superintendent, and Interim Superintendent.

Patty recently moved to Alaska from New Mexico and is looking forward to getting to know more about the district and Alaska living. She enjoys spending time with her family, reading, hiking, and swimming.



## Tips from Human Resources

The most updated Staff Directory can be found on our district website under "About Us".

### Who handles my Personnel File?

All Classified (hourly) staff personnel files are handled by the Payroll department.

All Certified (contract) staff personnel files are handled by Human Resources.

Payroll handles everything to do with pay, leave and deductions for both Certified & Classified staff.

### Who do I contact when I have employee benefits questions?

Human Resources can answer basic benefit questions by emailing [hr@yksd.com](mailto:hr@yksd.com), but Cindy Reilly will be able to handle more complex problems regarding health insurance and retirement issues by emailing [creilly@yksd.com](mailto:creilly@yksd.com).

### Which Mandated Training courses to I need to take and when?

ALL CERTIFIED STAFF:	FREQUENCY
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	ONE TIME ONLY WITHIN 45 DAYS OF 1 <sup>ST</sup> DAY OF WORK
Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault	ANNUALLY
Child Abuse Prevention	EVERY 5 YEARS
Blood Borne Pathogens	ANNUALLY
Suicide Prevention	ANNUALLY (for staff who serve grades 7-12)
State of Alaska Gender & Race Equity	EVERY 2 YEARS
GUIDANCE COUNSELORS ONLY:	
State of Alaska Gender & Race Equity Supplement	EVERY 2 YEARS



## 2013 September In-service





# Curriculum Cures



## New Alaska State Standards

Thanks to all of you that are working hard gaining more knowledge about the new Standards. Last year, we explored eight *New Standards Newsletters*, engaged in several team activities during Wednesday Collaboration meetings and participated in a webinar put on by the EED. Each of the *New Standards Newsletters* can be view on our YKSD website. So far this year, we have had one team activity during our Wednesday Collaboration meetings and a session on the new Math Standards during the September in-service. We will have a few more webinars put on by the EED and will spend several more Collaboration meetings learning more about the new Standards and how to implement them. Don't forget that the new test will be given in the spring of 2015. The state of Alaska is planning on using Smarter Balance as our state test. More detailed information on the new Standards can be found at <http://education.alaska.gov/standards/toolkit.html>

## A Look at the ELA Standards

The first shift in ELA/Literacy is to build knowledge through content-rich nonfiction. Think of the two parts of this statement– first, we are building knowledge from text. Students use the text as a source of knowledge. This of course means that in addition to reading stories, students are reading nonfiction. The Alaska Standards require that in elementary school about half of what students read should be fiction and about half of what they read should be nonfiction. In order for these texts to support the building of knowledge, students should read a coherent set of texts that actually support the building of knowledge through text. This is different from what is typically happening in classrooms now. Currently as much as 80% of what students read is fiction and when they do read nonfiction, it is often as an isolated “experience in reading nonfiction” such as in a weekly news magazine. In middle and high schools the standards **require** attention to literacy across the content areas. This means that teachers of science, social studies, and CTE support student literacy *as a way to enhance knowledge and skills in the content area*. These literacy standards are an important component - not a suggestion for implementation, but an essential part. In looking at a student's reading requirements across the school year, middle and high school students should be reading about 70% nonfiction and 30% fiction. When the content areas are on board, this means that the English class still focuses on literature with some addition of nonfiction. The reading structures that we explored at the in-service would be an effective start to supporting the ELA Standards in other content areas.

## Reading Structures

The five reading structures are:

- Cause and Effect
- Problem/Solution
- Compare and Contrast
- Sequence/Chronology
- Description



## Math Curriculum Committee

We are in the process of forming the 2013-14 Math Curriculum Committee. This group will review several instructional math programs during the year, then make their recommendation to the school board. They will ensure that the new Math instructional materials will align with the new Alaska Math Standards and will meet the needs of our students in YKSD. *(continued on next page)*

**Collaboration Meetings**

The collaboration meetings have changed for the 2013-14 school year. We are still meeting every Wednesday and this early release time remains set aside for specific purposes rather than for a typical staff meeting.

However, beginning this year, there will be four different types of meetings.

- Site based, same as previous years
- Grade level based video conference – we will arrange for teachers from different sites that teach common grade levels to meet via video and discuss data, curriculum, instructional materials and best practices. Be on the lookout for details on this process.
- ½ Site based - ½ New Standards – 30 minutes of site based data and 30 minutes of New Standards. Either the principals or Chane Beam will facilitate the 30 minutes of New Standards.
- School Improvement Plan – Each site will be meeting once a month in order to assess and implement their school improvement plans.

**FAQ's of the new Math Standards**

**What are some of the ways Alaskan students will benefit from the Alaska Mathematics Standards?**

Alaska Mathematics Standards will:

- Help prepare students with the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in college and careers.
- Provide a deeper understanding of the content presented.
- Develop, apply, and assess their mathematical knowledge.

**How are the Alaska Mathematics Standards different from the Grade Level Expectations?**

The Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) were the previous set of standards used by Alaskan educators.

The major differences include:

- The Alaska Mathematics Standards extend to graduation. The GLEs went through grade 10.
- The Alaska Mathematics Standards delve deeper into topics, providing an opportunity for complete mastery before moving to new information; they are more rigorous than the GLEs.
- The GLEs were a blueprint for assessment. The Alaska Mathematics Standards prepare students for higher education and successful careers.
- The Alaska Mathematical Standards blend key mathematical practices with rigorous content to promote a solid mathematical background based on reasoning.

**How are the Alaska Mathematics Strategies organized?**

There are two sets of standards, which work in unison to provide a deep understanding of the topics covered in each grade level or course.

- Standards of Mathematical Practice
  - These standards stress procedural skills and conceptual understanding. They seek to define experiences that build understanding of mathematics and ways of thinking in which students develop, apply, and assess their knowledge.
- Standards of Mathematical Content
  - The content is grouped into domains, which are large groups of related standards.
  - In grades K-8 there are grade-level expectations within each domain. Mastering the material in each grade-level domain sets the foundation for new material each year.
  - In high school, content material moves to conceptual categories taught in the form of courses (Algebra, Functions, Geometry, Statistics & Probability) that build on concepts learned in grades K-8.

Submitted by Chane Beam

## Career & Technical Education Update

This school year is progressing quickly. We have many exciting Career & Technical Education (CTE) courses being offered this year. Courses are being taught through a variety of methods: on-site, via distance delivery, and through camps/academies. Students are learning many skills applicable to the workplace and earning high school credit, college credit, and or industry recognized certifications.

The distance courses being offered are Tribal Management I, Exploring Education Careers, Introduction to Health Careers, and Medical Terminology. Andrea Durny is teaching the Tribal Management course to ten students in Allakaket. Two students are taking the Introduction to Health Careers course, and will receive high school and college credit. One student is taking the yearlong Medical Terminology course for high school and college credit. In Kaltag, five students are taking the Exploring Education Careers course and will also receive high school and college credit.

A variety of on-site courses are being provided. At Andrew K. Demoski School, eleven students are in Environmental Survival. Animal Husbandry for Veterinary Science I for one student and Animal Husbandry for Veterinary Science III for eight students, Culinary Arts I for nine students, and River Fisheries for eight students are being provided at Jimmy Huntington High School. In Hughes at Johnny Oldman School, seven students are taking Digital Photography. At Manley Hot Springs Gladys Dart School, five students are in Environmental Survival and four are taking Keyboarding/Typing I. At Merrelaine A. Kangas School, fourteen students are taking Keyboarding/Typing I. In Minto, eleven students are taking Tools for Success and five students are taking Fashion Design I.

YKSD has partnered with the Chugach School District's Voyage to Excellence Program to provide career and academic development opportunities for our students. Five students have participated in the HSGQE Phase in Anchorage on September 25<sup>th</sup> to October 4<sup>th</sup>. The students were provided intensive instruction on the areas of the HSGQE, which they had not previously passed. Voyage to Excellence will be offering other career related Phases throughout the school year, as well as another HSGQE Phase at the end of March and beginning of April.

First Aid and CPR instruction will be provided at all the sites. The students may have the option of obtaining both high school and college credit for this course. Instruction will be provided in groups of 12 or fewer students in two-four hour sessions.

In the spring semester, the following courses will be offered through distance education: Introduction to Mining Occupations and Operations, Medical Terminology, Professionalism in the Healthcare Workplace, and First Aid/CPR. The development of a Certified Nursing Assistant program is being considered.

The distance English and Math classes through UAF are being offered this semester. Math students will be enrolled in Special Topics Geometry and will get 0.5 high school geometry credits and 1-5 college credits depending upon the amount of work completed. For English, students will be placed in Reading Enhancement. The Reading Enhancement class provides instruction in reading comprehension and vocabulary skills with an emphasis on American Literature and provide students with 0.5 high school English credits and 3 college credits.

A total of twenty-five students are enrolled in the UAF math course, with ten students in Allakaket, one student from Hughes, four students from Kaltag, five students from Manley Hot Springs, and five students from Minto. For the UAF English course there are five students from Manley Hot Springs and eleven students from Minto for a total of sixteen YKSD students.



Submitted by Patty Woody



## Business Office

The business department has been through some flux ... we should be getting used to this right? Payroll is now in the very capable hands of Kathy Steckel. Kathy brings really strong skill for organization to the department. Charity Watt is our accountant and has been a steady member of the team. Charity's knowledge of the school district's history and her lack of fear to push buttons and look for better ways to make things happen make her a valuable asset. Rosa Peter continues to learn the ropes of paying the bills in a timely fashion. She is striving to get to the point of turning virtually all payment of invoices around within a 7-day period. Tami Rump is our administrative assistant. Her major work is with printing and processing all purchase orders. If you order something, she is a good one to be in touch with to discern where in the process your order is.



Our department is working in 2 fiscal years right now...finishing up the FY13 audit and financial statements and actively working in FY14 to keep YKSD going day to day. If you have something we can help you with, please feel free to contact us. The best way to get in touch with me is through email... [creilly@yksd.com](mailto:creilly@yksd.com) . I am working from my hometown in Wisconsin and do my best to answer all emails within 24 hours.

Submitted by Cindy Reilly

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## State & Federal Programs

The year is off to a great start! We have been busy working on highly qualified determinations. Teachers, teaching content in which they are not highly qualified for, will be put on a HQ plan. Our department will provide support for teachers as they study and prepare for a Praxis II exam. Paraprofessionals, too, will have an opportunity each quarter to take the Para Assessment to become highly qualified. A binder with the materials needed to prepare for this test can be found in each school office.

Department staff have been busy making visits to school sites. We look forward to visiting your school and students soon!

Submitted by Gina Hrinko



We had a successful in-service this year! The State & Federal Programs department was very excited to be able to offer continuing education credit through the University of Alaska Southeast. This year we offered a variety of courses: Language Arts K - 12, Saxon Math, LifeSkills, or Paraprofessional Training. This enabled us to give teachers more options to better suit their individual needs.

Our first Indian Education Parent Advisory Meeting is scheduled for October 17 @ 4:00pm. Laurie Beam will be conducting the meeting.

Migrant Education family recruiters will be contacting families throughout the month of October to recruit families into the program. This program assists with free/reduced lunches, helps to fund some of our para-professionals, and provides activity backpacks at the end of the school year.

Submitted by Laurie Beam

## Student Activities

The FY14 is off to a great start!

The Area Wide Student Council is made up of two representatives from each school, Minto and Huslia have 3 due to their student numbers in grades 8-12. Students can be nominated, and some sites opted to vote in their representatives. It is great to see Minto, Huslia, and Nulato running Student Government at their local sites, what a great benefit to the students, school, and community when planning events and engagements. The AWSC will meet on a monthly basis over video-conference, during the meetings we announce upcoming student offerings, site gives updates, and shares ideas/concerns. From this meeting, the Student Board Report is produced and presented at the next general school board meeting by our Student Board Representative. All of the AWSC meetings are open to the public, however only members are able to vote on motions. Here are the members who make up the AWSC for FY14, as well as the meeting schedule for the school year.

### FY14 AWSC

Minto- Kaylena Charlie, Kerry Frank, and Jenny Joseph  
 Manley- Kaitlyn Hoffman & Alexis Woellert  
 Hughes- Wendy Cleveland  
 Allakaket- Sidaadza Williams & Salone Saunders  
 Huslia- Ophelia Moses, Deanne Moses, & Kelly Sam  
 Ruby- Jackie Morgan & Kasey Captain  
 Koyukuk- Lily Lolnitz  
 Nulato- Tristan Madros  
 Kaltag- Deshaun McGinty

### FY14 Meeting Dates

October 22, 2013  
 November 19, 2013  
 January 10, 2014  
 February 7, 2014  
 March 7, 2014  
 April 17, 2014

Once this body is formed they vote on the reorganization of the officers. The votes were very close therefore every vote counted.

Congratulations to the officers!

President- Kaylena Charlie, Minto (School Board Representative)

Vice President- Tristan Madros, Nulato

Secretary- Kelly Sam, Huslia

Treasurer- Wendy Cleveland, Hughes

### DW Fun Run

We are very pleased that we were able to have the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual District Wide Fun Run. This event was originally created with the idea of promoting healthy lifestyles and also to revive the running season after school. For the past few years we have been using the same activity log for the Healthy Futures of Alaska program where students have 4 weeks to log of 30 minutes of increased activity at least 4 days a week after school. Students who registered and submitted their running logs received a free t-shirt as an incentive for their efforts. Below is an image of our 2013 design by Jolly Roger Designs. The Fun Run took place this past week and times are coming in, I will be sending out the results once I receive all submissions. Thank you for your dedication to student activities and healthy lifestyles.



*"Friday off and I cannot go back to bed! Maybe it's the excitement of watching the kiddos do the fun run and family fun night tonight. Such a good feeling to see the kids all lit up!" ~ Quote from a parent in Kaltag*



Calvin McGinty during the Fun Run in Kaltag



Kaltag students getting ready for the Fun Run

### **Phlight Club- Kaltag**

**Grades: 8-12**

**Date: November 1-4, 2013**

### **Future Educators of Alaska**

For the FY14 school year we have FEA Advisors in Kaltag (Danielle Esmailka), Minto (Monica Garza), and Allakaket (Evelyn Esmailka). All opportunities, supplies, stipends, travel for FEA is paid for by the FEA grant. Students enrolled are eligible to attend the spring statewide conference in Anchorage this coming April during the Alaska Teacher Placement Job Fair where they also tour UAA Campus. If you know of any students who are interested in the teaching profession please send me an email.

The students in Kaltag are taking part in an Exploring Education Careers course through University of Alaska Southeast for dual credit. Students enrolled to this course are eligible to attend the CTSO (Career & Technical Student Organization) conference in Anchorage, AK this coming April paid for by FEA.

Submitted by Andrea Durny



New teachers Athaliah Kaikala-Gilbreath and Azuma Bearden check out a caravan plane at Wrights Air Service.



## Native Language

Over the summer there were some excellent professional development workshops that have made an impact on the amount of learning by the students. The Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage received a one year planning grant from the U.S. Administration for Native Americans. They funded a Native Language Conference in April. Those participants requested hands-on training for teaching Native languages. As a result ANHC held a Total Physical Response and Where Are Your Keys (WAYK) workshop this summer. Irene Peters, Sophie Alexie, Madeline Riley and I all attended the WAYK workshop. Immediately following the WAYK workshop Doyon Limited provided funding for ANHC to host a Denaakk'e Immersion Camp. My mother Eliza Jones and I taught about 25 students using the WAYK method. This really helped in setting up my fall classes.

The WAYK method is a game that uses American Sign Language to teach small bite-size pieces of language. The focus is on small bits of language that utilizes a lot of repetition. Teaching over video-conference has always been more challenging than being face to face with the students. Using the WAYK method has definitely provided a more interactive way to teach. Students are able to tell me to slow down in ASL.

A sample lesson calls for students to work with partners. They practice a conversation that uses first person, second person, and third person. For example, in learning positional verbs (to sit, lie down, and stand) students actually did the action while learning: Lesdo. (I am sitting.); Leedo. (You are sitting.) and Ledo. (He/she/it is sitting.) I've discovered that pre-school and Kindergarten haven't developed question/answer skills yet, so their lessons are slightly different.

Also new this year is Denaakk'e Art on Mondays. In the past, I've taught Art as a separate subject and participation was hit or miss depending on the topic. Including Art with Denaakk'e is a natural integration of two subjects. Thus far students have made a family portrait or family tree; three people sitting, standing, and lying down; leaf art with an animal standing; and a self-portrait for parts of the head. Although I'm not a singer, I do sing every day to help students memorize the phrases.

One goal of the classes is to get students to bring their language home to practice. I tell them they are going to be the teachers of their language. It will help them learn it better. Parents have reported their children are coming home using ASL and speaking Denaakk'e. For next quarter, I hope to provide each student with a folder that they can bring home to share their language.

### **Travels**

Many schools had culture days this fall. This year all the cultural activities were conducted in the afternoon. The morning classes maintained the core academic classes of reading, writing and math. Minto's culture week was right after Labor Day. I worked with five elders in the Benhti Kenaga' class: Sarah and Berkman Silas; Geraldine Charlie; Susie Charlie; and Vernell Titus. We used the WAYK method to learn "Deya jonee?" (What is this?); the family tree for introductions; and in a class to compare Benhti Kenaga' with the Denaakk'e. Guest instructor Alan Dick and teacher Scott Brucker taught drum making. The on-site teachers, Madeline Riley, Monica Garza, and Jessie David taught students how to bead regalia for their dancing outfits. While in Minto, I took school photos against a green background. On the way home, I stopped at Ptarmigan Pass to take a picture. Using Photoshop, I am editing the photos with that as a backdrop.

In mid-September I visited my home-town of Koyukuk for culture week. Josie Dayton and Marie Dayton were busy teaching academics all morning then guided the students in their cultural activities. I say guided because the EBV students are efficient in processing meat for their winter luncheons. After the second day, it was apparent that the cultural activities had to be changed due to the age gap between the two elementary classrooms. In Marie's grade 4-8 class, guest instructor, Nita Rearden, taught students to make bets'eedaakkoge (sewing bag) and the girls bets'egh hoolaane (kuspuk). In Josie's grade pre-K to 3 class the students studied insects and they made a butterfly mobile, a beaded necklace using patterns, learned an alphabet chant and an alphabet book. They used their leaf art project as the book cover. At the end of the week the students baked bread from scratch for the luncheon.

Submitted by Susan Paskvan





1. Minto student Adriana Charlie beads a headband for her dance regalia.
2. Lily Lolnitz gathers the flounce as her mother Laurie Lolnitz tacks on the trim for Lily's bet's'egh hoolaane.
3. Sophie Alexie, Irene Peters, Madeline Riley and Susan Paskvan taking a break from their Where Are Your Keys training in Anchorage.
4. Evan Jones and Christian Williams make a moose standing out of leaves as part of their Denaakk'e Art project. They are learning the phrase "Deneegelehaanh". The moose is standing.
5. Minto students practice a conversation "Deya jonee?" (What is this?) and "Jo ees tthaguna" (This is a rock.)
6. Madeline Riley teaching her students math.
7. Instructor, former Rep. Alan Dick, teaches students how to cut out the frame for a drum at the Minto shop.
8. Vicky Charlie plays a PE game freeze dance with pre-K students to help them learn colors.
9. Teacher Scott Brucker teaches students how to make a cut out the drum top.



## Counseling & Special Education

- The counselors will be administering the WorkKeys assessment to every 11<sup>th</sup> grader and any 12<sup>th</sup> grader who would like to try again for a higher score
- Keep an eye out for Healthy lifestyles/Career Fairs in the upcoming months!
- It's not too early to watch for scholarships for our students. We have many already listed on our counseling website, and feel free to pass on any that you find to Youyu Zhao so that she can post them as well!



Submitted by Cristina Poage

## From the Tech Guys....

**Wireless Infrastructure:** I'm very excited to announce that all of our schools will be outfitted with new Ubiquiti wireless gear to ensure all stakeholders have access to our school's Internet. No other technological improvement in our schools will have as great of impact as this project. This will improve wireless coverage, speeds at which users connect, provide additional bandwidth utilization data, and the ability to troubleshoot the wireless network from anywhere in the world.

**Computers:** All of our schools will be receiving additional MacBook Air laptops to improve day to day educational opportunities, conduct MAPS testing, and to be prepared for standardized tests that will be computerized in

2015. In addition to the MacBooks, we are piloting a new device called a Chromebook. Huslia will be receiving 45 of these laptops, and five have already been deployed in Allakaket. If you would like to learn more about these laptops please visit this website:

<http://www.google.com/intl/en/chrome/devices/landing.html>

**Trainings:** YKSD Educators have been busy learning about new ways to integrate Smart Boards & iPads in their classrooms. During the recent inservice over 40 teachers and principals participated in hands-on workshops exploring these exciting devices.

Submitted by Luke Meinert



Ben Stathis practices the hands-on SmartBoard training as fellow teachers, Josie Dayton, Marie Dayton (both of Koyukuk), Cathy Walker (Manley), and Michele Sturdevant (Allakaket) watch.



Huslia teachers Katie Riemer and Casey Weter edit their iMovies at the iPad training workshop during inservice.

## Allakaket School

Allakaket teachers started off the year by visiting students and parents at their homes prior to the beginning of the school year.



Mrs. Schwoch's Elementary students made "Blazer Dollars" for all the students to earn and spend at the Principal's Store.



Physically Fit! Guess what Allakaket Blazers do after school? Run, Run, Run is what they do. 18 students participated in the Physical Activity Log with a total of 141.5 hours of activity. Staff was there to make it happen. Way to go runners!!!



Speaking of awesome behavior and attendance, students can earn an ice cream treat on Fridays from Allakaket's new Soft Serve Ice Cream Machine! Sidaadza Williams was instrumental in



attaining this machine for the students.

Students exhibiting awesome behavior and attendance for the week earned a Saturday Show and popcorn! Way to go Blazer Students!!!



Cultural Week was developed and organized by Mrs. Esmailka. Students picked berries to make Indian ice cream and jam. They learned how to carve a paddle out of spruce tree wood, beaded to make glove tops and sun catchers, checked fish nets by boat, cut up fish, helped stretch a beaver skin and developed a Seasonal Cultural Calendar for Allakaket.



Creeping...Crawling...  
Escaping... OH MY!!!

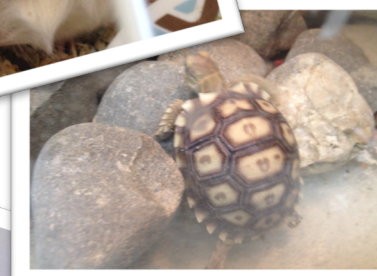
Yes, we have new permanent residents in our school... Milo the Ginny Pig, Squirt the Tortoise and Rango the Green Iguana. Which one molts and which one bolts?



My Speech/Language students have taken to the road, so to speak, and are learning the /r/ sound while pick Rose Hips, performing interviews and filming. Stay tuned for their next event.

\*My students have been using some of the Peak Strategies for student learning and engagement!!! Very exciting.

\*We have had visitors here that are filming two of our own, PJ and Doug. The film and crew attended our Morning Circle time to share their careers with students. The film is coming out this January called, "River Rats."



Submitted by Michele Sturdevant



## Manley Students Run for Fun

Manley students and staff participate in the Ester Fun Run in Fairbanks complete with costumes and magnetic poetry contest.

Cathy Walker (this is Fargo speaking, by the way) won the grand prize with her poem, completed between laps in the race.

Submitted by Fargo Kesey & Cathy Walker



## Nulato

Principal, Merrill Feller talking to some parents/students during Open House.

Submitted by Girlie McGinty





# YKSD Birthdays

## OCTOBER

2	SCOTTY STARR
4	ELIZABETH STRASSBURG
6	CINDY REILLY, LINA EDWIN
9	KERRY BOYD
14	MAURICE MCGINTY
15	ANDY ESMAILKA
18	HEIDI WRIGHT
20	MARIE DAYTON
21	SOPHIE ALEXIE
22	RANDI SHRIDER, SHAUNA PITTS
27	JUNE STROTHENKE
29	ANDREA COTTRELL
30	ELISA KOLER, EMILY WOREL



**Joan Jones's  
great-grand  
daughter  
Sophia...  
"Getting older  
does have its  
rewards!"**

## NOVEMBER

1	STEVE DUBY
2	SIGWIEN CLEVELAND
7	TAMI RUMP
8	JUDY MADROS, JOHN COLE
9	ALEXA MORALES
10	PAT BASER
12	SAM BARNEY, HAZEL OLSON
13	OLGA SEMAKEN, KAREN GURTLE
18	LAURA RASMUSSEN
24	EVELYN ESMAILKA, CATHY WALKER
26	BIJAN WELCH
29	PJ SIMON



**Kerry Boyd's  
brand new grand-  
daughter  
Audrianna Marie,  
born October 4 at  
7lbs 10oz.**

## DECEMBER

1	RACHEL REILLY
7	WHITNEY SAM, ATHALIAH KAIKALA-GILBREATH
9	HOLLY SHIER
10	DIAN GURTLE, ELEANOR MCCRARY
14	TAMMI STOCKS
19	NANCY MASON, EMILY FRANK, REBECCA LINUS
21	HEATHER DOZETTE
26	BRANDY HENDERSON, MAUREEN MCCARTY
27	CHRISTINA SEMAKEN
30	FARGO KESEY