

YKSD Connections



From the Office of the Superintendent:

We hope you enjoy this edition of YKSD Connections newsletter! This publication is intended to inform families about what is going on across the district and it allows for students to see and learn from one another. Your family will receive a copy in the mail each quarter and it will also be available online at the district website at www.yksd.com. We hope you enjoy the newsletter! All of the schools worked hard to share highlights happening in their schools.

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From the Office of the Superintendent

As I have visited the schools this fall, I have been pleased to see the high levels of engagement by our faculty, staff and students. It is exciting to see students having good attendance and focusing on learning. Many of the students are also taking the advantage of after school activities with teachers are leading a variety of activities, from skiing to archery to beading after school. Our high school students are participating in leadership activities including serving as members of the Area Wide Student Council. These fine young men and women meet monthly to bring forth ideas, concerns and recommendations to the YKSD regional school board. Younger students are also encouraging character development and career exploration to help them be best prepared future opportunities.

Schools are implementing their family involvement plans and continue to host monthly and annual events. We were pleased to see so many families visit the schools during parent student conferences. We are also looking forward to upcoming out their annual events to include Halloween parties, Thanksgiving luncheons, Christmas and Holiday programs, Basketball tournaments, January Jamboree, Archery events, Battle of the Books and much, much more. To learn more about what is going on at your local school, be sure to ask your teacher or for many of you, check out Facebook for school happenings. Many of our schools now have a Facebook page and have found this to be an effective venue to communicate with our families.

Community School Committee Update

Your voice is important to be heard. Please be sure to participate in your local CSC meetings that are hosted each month. Congratulations to the newly elected and returning CSC members! The commitment from the CSC is essential for the success of the district. The information from the CSCs is provided to the YKSD Regional School Board on a monthly basis.

YKSD Regional School Board

The Election for YKSD Regional School Board Seats is official. Congratulations to new member Wilmer Beetus, Section I. Mr. Beetus will be the new representative for Hughes, Allakaket, Huslia, Bettles, Coldfoot and Wiseman. Also, Congratulations to Shirley Kruger, Section II, for being reelected! A big thank you goes out to Eileen Jackson. Eileen has served the district for three years, has served as the Treasure for the YKSD school board, and has been a committed advocate for all children.

For the 2015/2016 School Year, we appreciate the efforts of our YKSD regional school board and their continued work to advocate for our students.

Maurice McGinty	Kaltag, Koyukuk, Nulato and Ruby
Shirley Kruger	Kaltag, Koyukuk, Nulato and Ruby
Dian Gurtler	Highway Area, Manley Hot Springs, Minto
Gloria Patsy	Kaltag, Koyukuk, Nulato and Ruby
Wilma David	Highway Area, Manley Hot Springs, Minto
Fred Bifelt	Allakaket, Bettles, Coldfoot, Evansville, Hughes, Huslia, Wiseman
Wilmer Beetus	Allakaket, Bettles, Coldfoot, Evansville, Hughes, Huslia, Wiseman

Help Support Our Small Schools!

On behalf of the YKSD School Board, we are seeking your support for our resolution regarding the minimum student number for a school enrollment. YKSD has 10 schools, four of which have an enrollment under 25.

As many of you have heard, there is some talk by some of the policy makers in Juneau of increasing the base enrollment number from 10 to 25 students or higher.

We are requesting city and tribal counsels to join us in opposing this concept by banding together and presenting the Legislature with our resolution. The included resolution will be sent to each community for their support.

Submitted by Kerry Boyd, Superintendent

A RESOLUTION OF THE YUKON KOYUKUK SCHOOL BOARD SUPPORTING THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN EACH SCHOOL REMAIN TEN.

WHEREAS, there have been discussions that the Legislature may consider increasing the minimum student count to 25 students; and

WHEREAS, the Yukon Koyukuk School Board requests that the state maintain the minimum student count at 10; and

WHEREAS, such action could potentially close more than 60 schools and have an adverse effect on over 25 districts; and

WHEREAS, such action would have a substantially disproportionate impact on Alaska Native/Minority students; and

WHEREAS, the Yukon Koyukuk School District values its small school sites and the distinct cultures within these predominantly Alaska Native communities; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that small schools are the heart of this region; when a school closes, a village will likely cease to exist. Unique, individual village cultures will be lost; and

WHEREAS, a substantial number of the affected students would be elementary and middle school aged youth; and

WHEREAS, by allowing children to remain within their family and cultural environment, we provide key elements for a well-educated and healthy individual; and

WHEREAS, loss of a community school often forces families to relocate to a larger village or urban area. This often results in a cultural and social environment that does not support their overall wellbeing, at the same time further damaging the villages chances of survival; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has a constitutional obligation to provide an equitable and adequate education to all Alaskan students regardless of where they live and this constitutional obligation must be honored with regard to the students who would be negatively affected by the school closures; and

WHEREAS, there are other ways of reducing the cost of government that does not require denial of an adequate or equitable education to Alaska students especially where the impact of the cost reduction has a disparate impact on rural and Native Alaska students; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, for the continued well-being of our culture, communities, and children, the Yukon Koyukuk School Board is resolved to petition the State Legislature to maintain the minimum school size at 10 students.

Passed and adopted by a duly constituted quorum of the Yukon Koyukuk School Board - October 27, 2015.

Happenings from the Office of the Assistant Superintendent and Federal Programs

Greetings from the Federal Programs department! Our department continues to be busy looking for and writing new grants, as well as completing reports that are required of the grants that we currently have.

Grant Highlights

Indian Education: Each site was provided with an allotment of funding to use for increasing academic achievements. Activities can include after-school tutoring, cultural activities, purchasing of supplies or student incentives.

New Grant Alert – ANE Virtual Careers:

We were recently award a new CTE grant that will continue to focus on careers in health and also on careers in education. Please be on the lookout for more information that will be sent out from our CTE department.

Submitted by Gina Hrinko, Assistant Superintendent



PEP fitness packs were sent to all grade K-6 students in the district

PEP Grant

The school district was granted an extension of funds for one final year of the PEP Grant to meet the following goals:

1. Offer high-quality physical education for students enrolled at the five sites that were not visited by the Itinerant PE Teacher during the 2014-2015 school year (Koyukuk, Hughes, Kaltag, Manley and Minto). The Wellness Team is working together to determine how best to meet this goal with our existing resources.
2. Ensure sustainability of the project through board policy revision. Revising our board policy will allow us to make some of the programs, opportunities and healthy environments created through the PEP grant permanent features of our school culture. This year, our wellness team will work together with our school board to evaluate the Alaska Gold Standard School Wellness policy and adopt as much of it as possible. This will assure that our learning environments promote healthy living in the years ahead.

Watch for surveys from the wellness committee this year asking about our how well our existing policies are currently being implemented in your school as well as your ideas for adjusting these policies so that they better meet the students' needs. And as always, if you are interested in hosting an afterschool fitness/health-related activity at your site, if you need support using the SPARK PE curriculum or if you would like to participate in an up-coming Wellness Team meeting, please contact Rachel Reilly.

Submitted by Rachel Reilly, State and Federal Programs

Happenings from the Office of the Assistant Superintendent and Federal Programs

Migrant Education Program: Migrant Recruiting for the current school year has been taking place over the past two months, and our recruiters are now finishing up the last families on their contact lists. Once the state determines if each family qualifies, notifications will be sent out. To support our migrant students, each site will be holding an upcoming Literacy Night, paid for with the district's Migrant Educations funds. At the literacy night, each student (migrant and non-migrant) will have an opportunity to choose a book to keep and read. Flyers with additional information will be sent out as your site's literacy night approaches!

Submitted by Steve Barnes, State and Federal Programs

Pre-Kindergarten Program:

We are all so excited to welcome our district's newest learners to school in Koyukuk, Ruby, Minto and Allakaket this year! Our ten pre-school students are loving their new learning environments; numerous teachers have reported that the students' only disappointment thus far is that they don't get to be at school all day every day!

Our teachers are working harder than ever to engage their Pre-Kindergarten students' families in their children's learning during family literacy and math nights, community meals and through monthly newsletters. Thank you to those families who have made sure their children are at school every day on time and to those who have volunteered to stay in the classroom to ease their children into their new routines. The transition to school can be scary, but it helps to have family members who are so supportive!

The ECE Specialist has traveled to Allakaket, Koyukuk and Ruby to provide support to the teachers and aides at each site and to help the teachers complete their required assessments including the PPVT, PALS and TSG Checkpoints. She will travel with Kimberly Barnes to Minto during the second quarter.

Submitted by Rachel Reilly, State and Federal Programs

Highly Qualified Paraprofessional Updates:

Per federal regulations, every instructional aide employed in our schools is required to become Highly Qualified either by passing the ETS Parapro Assessment or by submitting transcripts showing s/he has earned at least 48 credits through an accredited university. Although only classroom instructional aides are required to become Highly Qualified, every aide is welcome to take the assessment to increase his/her credentials and earn a raise. So far this year, 17 of the 28 paraprofessionals employed in our district are Highly Qualified and there are only 3 aides who are still required pass the assessment!

In the first quarter, two paraprofessionals earned their HQ statuses by passing the ETS Parapro Assessment: Allyson McCarty and Audrey Madros from Ruby! Congratulations to you both!

If you are an aide interested in taking the ETS Parapro Assessment, contact Rachel Reilly by email (rreilly@yksd.com) or phone (374-9418) to set an assessment date, request a study guide and practice test, and/or set up tutoring services.



Professional Development

We have had several exciting opportunities for professional development so far this year. This month, all of our principals and several directors participated in the annual principal conference in Anchorage. This was a great time for ongoing collaboration amongst peers, as well as, a great way to connect and network with other principals from around the state. Other professional training opportunities have been offered through grant funding including on-site coaching/mentoring support for teaching language arts, and RTI coaching.

Submitted by Gina Hrisko, State and Federal Programs

Technology Department

1:1 Chromebook Laptops

Every 7th – 12th grade student in our district was issued a laptop this school year. Most will be using new Dell Chromebook 11's with touch screens. Students will get to keep the laptops upon successful 12th grade graduation. Staff members were trained at our August inservice on how to best integrate this new tool in their classroom. The deployment is off to a great start with many students and teachers commenting on how much they like having the Chromebooks and how easy they are to operate.



Pexip Video

In an effort to improve our video collaboration offerings we implemented a new video bridge manufactured by Pexip. The bridge is virtualized on a new server dedicated for video traffic. Pexip provides a much improved video/audio experience for all users. It also integrates with Google Calendar through a service called Vyopta. We've tied this in to let our teachers and staff schedule their own conferences.

AllWorx Voice Over IP Telephone Network (VoIP)

The district office and Kaltag School had new phone systems installed this Fall. This is very exciting as it replaced aging phone systems that had basic & dated functionality with a robust modern phone system. Some of the exciting features it provides:

- Free long distance to other sites that have the AllWorx VoIP system installed. Currently this is Ruby, Anchorage, and Wasilla.
- Ability to call by extension to offices or leave a message if no one is available as an operator.
- Ability to forward phones to cell phone or other numbers
- Voicemail to email
- Set phone status so people can see when you are available in your office to take a call

RUS Grant

This summer I was busy working on a \$500,000 RUS grant application in conjunction with Polycom. The RUS grant would refresh our video conferencing endpoints throughout the district. It would also provide us with additional infrastructure to support distance-learning courses. This is an exciting opportunity as having a VTC endpoint in every classroom extends the possibility of learning opportunities from around the world.

*Submitted by Luke Meinert,
Technology Director*

Online Registration

Our school district registered all of our students online for the first time this school year! We are used a new online program called SchoolMint. This new process of registering students provides the following benefits:

- Parents will no longer have to fill out the same forms every year. They will just verify information on a yearly basis.
- Registration can take place in the spring so educational time isn't used enrolling students.
- Data entering PowerSchool will be correct and complete.
- Makes job easier for secretaries and registrar as it cuts down on data entry.
- Securely stores important forms in electronic database for years to come.

Business Office and Human Resources Update



Please join us in welcoming **Kim Bergey** to our Raven Wasilla staff. Kim is a highly qualified teacher bringing years of public school and homeschool experience to the Raven program. She has been a homeschool parent, homeschool teacher, and program administrator. She is a life long Alaskan and has worked in communities all across the state. Kim lives on a small farm in Palmer with her husband and six children. We are happy to have her positive energy and friendly face greeting and supporting our Wasilla families.

We would also like to welcome **Susan Rohde** to our Jimmy Huntington School staff. Susan comes to us from Pennsylvania and will be teaching the middle school students in Huslia. Her teaching background is in English and she looks forward to encouraging students to grow their language skills alongside science, math, social studies, and even alongside health and physical education.



Submitted by Patty Hill, Human Resources

The District is pleased to announce that the Food Service Program is expanding to two new sites: Jimmy Huntington School in Huslia and MHS Gladys Dart School in Manley Hot Springs. What does this mean for our students? Starting in January breakfast and lunch will be served at no charge. We are excited about this opportunity to provide meals to more of our Yukon Koyukuk School District students.

Submitted by Kaitlyn Storms, Food Service

Business Office Fiscal Year Trivia:

- The Business Office processed nearly 3,600 payroll checks to over 425 employees
- The Business Office processed over 6,600 payments to vendors
- The Business Office tracked over \$29.3 purchases from the General Fund, over \$4.8M from Special Revenue Funds and over \$730,000 from Capital Project Funds
- The Food Service Program served 39,894 breakfast and lunch meals to students at five of our River Site Schools

Submitted by Jenny Martens, CFO

Facilities Department

Student Transportation

An effective student transportation program is a key for helping students arrive to school safely and on time each day. The Yukon-Koyukuk School District operates school buses at three of our remote schools – Allakaket, Huslia, and Nulato. In the past few years it has become increasingly difficult for applicants to become certified bus drivers due to stricter requirements. To become certified, applicants must attend a week long training session and pass a DMV road exam while driving a school bus.



We are happy to report that as of October 2015, all three sites have certified local school bus drivers operating bus routes! We would like to thank Charlotte Mayo (Allakaket), Vivian Robb (Huslia), and Neil Sommer (Nulato) for their hard work and dedication to providing safe and efficient transportation for the students of their communities. Please let your local school bus driver know that you appreciate them as well!



Special Education and Support Services

YKSD "Counselor's Corner"

the YKSD Counseling Department has been working hard this quarter getting secondary students registered for upcoming ACT and WorkKeys testing. Our upcoming testing windows are as follows:

ACT Arranged Testing

October 24th - November 15th

WorkKeys Internet Testing

November 9th - April 1st

Please check with your school site's administrative staff for official test dates and times.

Tips to do your best on the test!

- 1) Keep a Positive Attitude: It might be tough, but you can do it! A positive attitude goes a long way toward success.
- 2) Get Some Rest: Cramming doesn't work. Do a quick review of materials and then get to bed early. Your mind and body needs rest so you can do your best.
- 3) Fuel Your Brain: Don't skip breakfast the morning of the test. Get to school early and start focusing on the task at hand.
- 4) Test Time: Take a deep breath and make sure you have everything you need to succeed. Do you have extra pencils, a calculator or scratch paper?
- 5) Read Carefully: Finally, pay special attention to test directions. Slow down and read each word closely. When you are finished, go back and check your answers. You've got this!

2015 Red Ribbon Week is October 23rd - October 31. Please join us in this national alcohol, tobacco and other drug and violence prevention awareness campaign by talking to students about how to say NO! You can visit redribbon.org for more information, activity ideas and lesson plans.

Submitted by Jessica Davidson, Counselor

Special Education Specifics

What is this special education LANGUAGE?!

- *IEP = Individualized Education Program
- *PWN=Prior Written Notice
- *FAPE = Free Appropriate Public Education
- *ESY= Extended School Year
- *FBA =Functional Behavior Assessment
- *LRE= Least Restrictive Environment
- *BIP = Behavior Intervention Plan
- *IDEA = Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- *ESER= Evaluation Summary and Eligibility Report

To be eligible for special education services:

- The child must experience a disability that meets one or more of the Alaska eligibility criteria listed below
- The child's educational performance must be adversely affected; and
- The child must need specially designed instruction and/or related services

State of Alaska Categories of Disabilities in Education:

- Autism
- Deafness
- Deaf-Blindness
- Emotional Disturbance
- Hearing Impairment
- Specific learning Disability
- Speech or Language Impairment
- Multiple Disabilities
- Cognitive Impairment
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Early Childhood Developmental Delay
- Other Health Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment

Submitted by Cristina Welker, Director of Special Education

Native Language

Students Ashley "Denaanodoneyhtl" W. of Koyukuk and Jasmine "Edesoonh" W. of Fairbanks/Allakaket/Koyukuk put the finishing touch on the sookaanee (bread) that they made from scratch. The learned how to recite the entire recipe in Denaakk'e, as they made the bread, such as "Beegee beyee desnoh.", which means "I'm pouring flour into it." This was part of a Denaakk'e language camp, "Onee' Denaayel Heneehaayh" that YKSD coordinated. It was held at Birch Lake, housing courtesy of Joe and Barb Paskvan.



Eliza Jones, of Koyukuk, is the featured guest on the Wednesday Story hour series. She spoke about the significance that Denali was officially restored for our famed mountain. Deenaalee, as it is spelled in current orthography, in Denaakk'e (Koyukon Athabascan) means 'the great one'. President Barack Obama restored the name on August 30, on the eve of his visit to Alaska.

Lydia and Damien to Tyler: "Too beyee neneel." Pour water into it.
Tyler D.: "Too beyee esneel." I'm pouring water into it.

The students of Jimmy Huntington School picked lowbush cranberries prior to my visit. During my visit we made three cases of jam, with all steps recited in Denaakk'e. The Middle School Students gifted their jam to village elders.



At the Hughes Memorial Potlatch young students Terrance and Evan S. of Allakaket sing the lyrics of a song that Milly Bergman composed.

Through video-conference, there are 155 students in eight schools learning two Athabascan languages: Denaakk'e and Benhti Kenaga'. The students range in grades from Pre-Kindergarten to High School. Six classes are offered throughout the day. Through all the classes, I incorporate American Sign Language, to convey the message without resorting to frequent English.

The elementary classes focused on season activities, like picking berries, making dry meat, weather, animals, and classroom phrases. The lower elementary classes (Pre-K to grade 3) are taught using a variety of techniques that include songs, brain gym movements, games, choral response and question/answer with partners. The upper elementary (grades 4-5) classes are taught using some of the techniques in the lower elementary, but also included learning style activities like the fact wheel and more partner share.

The middle school/high school class (which actually has grades 4-11) is a beginning literacy course, Denaakkenaage' I. For this class, I revised a 1983 workbook with the current orthography (spelling) and integrated technology for student assignments. Students study the sound system to learn the unique letter combinations in Denaakk'e. They turn their homework in online, via Google Classroom and an online software, Edmodo.

In Minto, the language is Benhti Kenaga', which means language among the lakes. Minto, comes from Menhti 'among the lakes'. I am learning this language through past work with the elders of Minto. Unfortunately, I don't know the teaching songs for their language, but we use many question/answer phrases.

Submitted by Susan Paskvan, Native Language Coordinator

Assessments Department



The Assessment Department is engaged in supporting teachers in the various assessments administered in the

District. Students successfully completed the Fall MAP assessments in September and individual student results will be shared with parents at the Parent Teacher conferences on October 26. The new AMP test results will be released soon. Parents will receive a brochure to help understand the new report layout and results.

This school year, the district adopted the Aimsweb assessments to monitor the progress of students in Reading and Math. The Aimsweb results will be used by teachers to target interventions and support for students to help them be more successful in school.

Submitted by Patty White, Director of Assessments



Future Educators of Alaska will be off to a late start this year as FEA just got awarded the ANE grant. The good news is we will be continuing the program in FY16! At this time we are recruiting club advisors at sites, club advisors will plan weekly activities with the students and receive a stipend at the end of the school year. High school student enrolled into the club are eligible to attend the Statewide FEA Gathering this coming April in Anchorage. If you are interested in being an advisor please contact Andrea Durny, adurny@yksd.com

FEA College Classes: We currently have one high school student in Manley taking the online ED122 dual credit class through UAS, and 1 student in Nulato taking the online Algebra 2 dual credit class through AKLN. Tuition for both classes are paid for by FEA. This course is designed for 11th & 12th grade high school students who wish to pursue a career in education. It is a year long 3 credit course through the University of Alaska Southeast. All funding (including books and fees) are paid for by FEA. Students who successfully complete the course will gain ownership of the electronic tablet provided by UAS. Students enrolled into this class are also eligible to attend the annual CTSO Conference this coming April in Anchorage, all expenses paid for by FEA.

AASB Youth Leadership Institute Nov. 5-8, 2015. For the past several years YKSD has sponsored 3 students from the AWSC to attend the Alaska Association of School Board Conference in Anchorage the first weekend in November at the Hilton. The theme of the 62nd Annual Conference is "*Leading Children to Excellence*". The officers attending will be Brianna Stickman, Kelly Sam, Kalli Woellert; Chaperoned by Danielle Esmailka. While at the conference students will engage with students and School Board Members from throughout the State.

Boarding Home Program: The application process for the FY16 YKSD Boarding Home Program is now closed. We currently have 4 students in the program. Together with our communities and families, this program is intended to assist those students within our district who may need additional tangible supports in reaching their academic goals, and don't want to leave the cultural/family setting. We will be accepting applications for the Boarding Home option beginning in the fall of 2016 to students who meet eligibility requirements, transfer within the district, or into the district. For more information please contact Andrea Durny, adurny@yksd.com, 907-374-9424

Submitted by Andrea Durny, Assessments Coordinator

Assessments Department



6th Annual Fun Run: We had a total of 179 runners submit times from the Fun Run September 25th. Once again partnering with the Healthy Lifestyles program, students who filled out their activity logs for the month of September were sent a free t-shirt. The top 3 runners in each category below were mailed trophies to add to the site awards ceremonies. Thank you to all sites for participating and coordination efforts in making this event happen for our students. I hope that you had fun and enjoyed the t-shirts.

Grades K-1, 1/2mile

1. Alec Malamute, Koyukuk. 3:55
2. Peyton Ekada, Nulato. 3:55
3. Kellian Kriska, Nulato. 4:04

Grades 3-7, 1mile

1. Mac Kesey, Minto. 5:15
2. Aiden Woods, Minto. 6.20
3. David Gomez, Manley 6:46

Grades 8-12, 3.1miles

1. Christian Hunter, Minto 15:15
2. Matthew Titus, Minto 16.20
3. Triston Titus, Minto 16:30



Allakaket



Kaltag



Nulato

Area Wide Student Council (AWSC). We are entering our year 6th year with the district wide student council which is comprised of 2 student representatives from each site. Site representatives are either nominated or voted in at their location. The first meeting took place October 7th and they had the reorganization of their board. Here is the outcome of the silent voting.

President: Brianna Stickman, Nulato

Vice President: Kelly Sam, Huslia

Secretary: Kalli Woellert, Maney

Treasurer: Shawn Demoski, Nulato

FY16 AWSD Members

Kaltag- Leon Semaken and Tia Esmailka

Allakaket- Logan Dugay and Sarah Henzie

Minto- Serenity Melendrez Ruby- Sadie Wright and Stephanie Williams

Manley- Kalli Woellert & Alexis Rowlett-Woellert

Hughes- Vacant

Nulato- Shawn Demoski and Brianna Stickman

Huslia- Maddison Attla, Flora Huntington and Kelly Sam

Koyukuk- Treston Demoski and Lavin Kriska

This is a great leadership opportunity and we look forward to having a great year. The AWSC meets once per month over VTC to share ideas and give their site report which will be presented to the School Board by Brianna Stickman. If you have any items that need to be recognizes please contact your site representative. The meeting schedule for FY16 is as follows.

November 18 @ 1:15pm

December 8 @ 1:15pm

January 13 @ 1:15pm

February 24 @ 1:15pm

March 23 @ 1:15pm

April 20 @ 1:15pm

Phlight Club

Phlight Club. Was held in Ruby October 1-4, 2015. We had a total of 29 students travel in from every school in the district as well as 9 chaperones. All 6 students in graded 7-12 from Ruby participated as well and we spent time working with the elementary classes on Fun Friday. Travel was paid for by the CARE grant. Derek Peterson was our main presenter. It is great to see the student's leadership continue to grow, learning to build webs of support for themselves and connecting with adults in their villages. A community cover dish was held on Friday night and a dance on Saturday. Community members made comments that it was great to see so many youth walking in their village and running around in their school. We were weathered an additional day due to the fog.

Submitted by Andrea Durny



Battle of the Books

Teams

K-2: Manley, Minto, Allakaket, Koyukuk, Huslia, Raven-Juneau, Raven-Anchorage, Raven-Fairbanks, Raven-Delta.

3-4: Manley, Minto, Koyukuk, Raven-Juneau, Raven-Anchorage, Raven-Fairbanks, Raven-Delta.

5-6: Manley, Minto, Koyukuk, Huslia, Raven-Juneau, Raven-Anchorage, Raven-Fairbanks, Raven-Delta.

7-8: Manley, Koyukuk, Huslia, Raven-Juneau, Raven-Anchorage, Raven-Fairbanks, Raven-Delta.

High School: Manley, Raven-Juneau, Raven-Anchorage, Raven-Fairbanks, Raven-Delta.

Good luck to all of the teams!

Here is a tentative schedule for the district battles. These district battles will be conducted via VTC or by phone conference.

February 8th-Grades 3/4- 7 teams

February 9th-Grades 5/6- 9 teams

February 10th-Middle School- 7 teams

February 11th- High School- 5 teams

February 15th-K-2- 9 teams

State battles are scheduled for the week of February 22nd.

Submitted by Danielle Esmailka, Administrative Assistant

Instruction, Curriculum and Professional Development Department

Important information for High School students

Beginning in 2015-16, YKSD high school students will earn credits each semester rather than each quarter. This is beneficial as students who do not pass the first nine-week quarter still have the chance to improve the next quarter in order to pass the class. If successful, they will not have to make up the first quarter. Quarters failed previous to 2015-16 still have to be made up in order to graduate.

All high school students are required to take an end of the semester exam in each class. The exam could be either a typical written exam or a long-term project depending on what the teacher assigns. The end of semester exam or project is worth 10% of the final semester grade.

Exams will be given during the week of December 7-11. Each school will develop its own exam schedule.

The first semester grades will be determined as follows:

45% - 1st Quarter
45% - 2nd Quarter
10% - Sem Exam

100% - Final Semester Grade

Credit is awarded based on the Final Semester Grade

Things to remember:

All 9th-12th graders will take semester exams or complete semester projects.

Credits are earned at the end of each semester rather than each quarter.

1st Quarter (45%) + 2nd Quarter (45%) + Exam (10%) = Final Semester Grade

Submitted by Chane Beam, Director of Instruction, Curriculum and Professional Development

Instruction, Curriculum and Professional Development Department

Support Parents

Word Solving Strategies

Growing firsties

Ways to
Take Action
& Solve Words

ALWAYS...

- Make Sense
- Sound Right
- Look Right

Eagle Eye



Look at the picture.

Think "what is in the picture that starts with the beginning letter?"

Lips the Fish



Get your mouth ready!

Say the beginning sound.

Stretchy Snake



Slowly stretch each letter sound to make the word.

ship = sh || p

Chunky Monkey



Break the word into chunks you already know.

mat
flat
spl at ter

Tryin' Lion



Try to re-read the sentence.

Think "what makes sense?"

Skippy Frog



Skip the tricky word.

Read to the end.

Go back & try it again.

Flippy Dolphin



Flip the vowel sound.

Try the long & short sounds.

Careful Caterpillar



Carefully read the whole word.

Think about all the word parts.

Think about what makes sense.

Fluent Reading Sounds Like...

- ⦿ Phrased like talk
- ⦿ Expression matches meaning
- ⦿ Paused at punctuation
- ⦿ Pace is just right...not too fast or too slow



Study Think Ask Respond

Be A Self-Monitor!

as they

Read with their Child

Andrew K. Demoski School

Retired NFL Players, Motivation and Basketball Games

On October 16th, the Nulato Tribe and AKD Staff worked together in order to bring 5 retired NFL players out to our site to speak with our students and parents about bullying, the power of "choice" and leadership. Further, school awards were presented to the children throughout the night and the evening culminated in basketball games between the players, student-body and community as well as a covered dish.



NFL players Mike Wilson, "Swervin" Mervyn Fernandez, Ron Fellows, Stephone Paige, and Dokie Williams

Moose Harvest and Processing (Cultural Activity)



As part of integrating the local culture into our school day, the tribe and school worked

together in order to obtain a permit from the DNR in hopes of harvesting a late season moose. The students had "luck" and as a result, the entire student-body and members of the community processed the moose together within the school. This afternoon was filled with laughter, elders stories and life's lessons!

Submitted by Jason Johnson, Principal



Middle/High School Fundraiser

As part of the business leadership course here, the middle and high school students decided to set up AKD School as a pizza delivery service! To accomplish this task, the students had to set pricing, determine roles and establish a business model. While a few tough lessons were learned along the way,



the students were extremely successful and are very anxious for their next financial opportunity!



Submitted by Jason Johnson, Principal

Allakaket School

We started out the school year with a wonderful Open House on September 09, 2015. The faculty hosted a dinner for community members and students to come and meet with their teachers. We had a great turn out with community members, parents, and students in attendance.

Submitted by Laurie Beam, Principal



Allakaket students participating in the Fun Run:



Jimmy Huntington School

Jimmy Huntington School has been busy this past quarter. In September, Huslia hosted Purina Dog Food Company to showcase the Frank Attla Youth and Sled Dog Program. They videoed the 9th grade students working in the dog yards, Arleigh Reynolds, UAF Professor, presented to the 9th grade Veterinarian class. On October 5 Kathy Turco and Catharine Axley showed, In Attla's Tracks by Catherine Axley, which is the documentary that was filmed throughout last year with the Frank Attla Youth and Sled Dog Program. They also showed the 2015 Iditarod video, The Deep Freeze. High School students are prepping for ACT Test at the end of the month. High School careers class has had the opportunity to interview several people about local jobs and even talk to a Military Recruiter over VTC. Jr. High Basketball has started and our teams went to Galena and Huslia will be hosting our annual tournament Oct 23-25. Jr. High basketball team will be traveling to Tanana Nov. 6-8. Darrell Sam participated in Regional Cross Country running meet and placed 14th. Kelly Sam was selected as the vice-president of the Area Wide Student Council. Jimmy Huntington School would like to give a big thank you to Gertie Sam for coming out of retirement to teach the middle school students. New hire Susan Rohde is transitioning and will be taking over as our middle school teacher.

Submitted by Cassandra Weter, Principal

Kaltag School

Mrs. Barb's Room



A new item has made an appearance on our wall. Mr. Bookworm is here to help and recognize the students who read. When the student finishes a book they write a short book report about the book and then connected to the bookworm. Our goal for the class is to have Mr. Bookworm grow all around the room.

Submitted by Doug Stahr, Principal

Remember: Breakfast is served every morning from 8:00-8:20 am. Lunch is served everyday also! A note to parents...I am

concerned seeing all the food being thrown away in the trash.



If your child would prefer a brown bag lunch, this will be welcomed. This staff does not want to see hungry students. Please join me in thanking Joanna for preparing these meals for the students.

Merrelaine A. Kangas School

Our new motto! We chant this at every morning circle.

Success is not final

Failure is not fatal

It is the courage to continue that counts!

- Winston Churchill



The Merrelaine A. Kangas School enjoying lunch with Superintendent Kerry Boyd, cook Evelyn Sarten, and principal Anne Titus.

Submitted by Susan Paskvan, Native Language Coordinator

At MAK School we are:

Learning how to get along
Changing answers gracefully when we are wrong
Trading jokes and stories
Learning songs.
We are MAK strong

We are:

Eating good
Hiking the woods
Gearing up for Halloween
And all the good stuff in between

We are:

Continuing with reading, writing and math
Considering a yearbook, enjoying new staff
After school gym, basketball and archery
Parents getting involved- that's a treat
At MAK School life is sweet!

Submitted by Anne Titus, Principal

Minto School

On September 2nd, Idaho businessman Dennis Combs visited Minto School and presented each student with a new winter jacket from Big Ray's. Mr. Combs was on an "Alaskan Mission", he flew his private plane to Alaska and wanted to give to the children of Minto. The students had no idea that each of them would be getting a brand new quality winter jacket when they were called to the gym for an assembly. Afterwards, the students sang a few Athabascan songs for Mr. Combs. The boys then threw him up, something that Minto people do in fun and appreciation. Students later sent Mr. Combs handmade thank you cards for his generosity. It's nice to know that there are still people out there who give out of the kindness of their heart to complete strangers. The parents and students are very appreciative of this act of kindness!

Submitted by Vicky Charlie, Principal



Minto School wrapped up their cross country running season in Talkeetna at the regional meet in Anchorage. Runners included Matthew Titus, Triston Titus, Deven Woods, and from Huslia Darrel "D2" Sam. Christian Hunter qualified for the state cross country meet by holding down the final qualifying spot on a cool fall day in Talkeetna. It was the first time a student from YKSD has qualified for the state cross country meet in many years. The state cross country meet took place at Bartlett High School in Anchorage on a cold rainy day with incredibly muddy trails. This year proved to be a successful first year for cross country running program with the hope that our students maintain healthy lifestyles throughout their time in YKSD and into adulthood. Races throughout the season included the Throth Yeddha run at UAF, the Equinox Marathon in Fairbanks, regional cross country meet in Talkeetna, and State in Anchorage. Two separate Minto boys teams completed the equinox marathon as a relay, and Darrel Sam of Huslia cranked out all 26 miles to complete his first marathon! Post regional meet also included a hike up Kesugi Ridge in the Alaska Range. Fargo Kesey and Scott Brucker alternated duties as cross country running coaches.

Submitted by Scott Brucker, Special Education



Gladys Dart School



Manley Hot Springs Gladys Dart School has settled down for the new school. We had a "Meet & Greet" luncheon in August, prior to school starting, to meet the new teachers. It was well attended by students, parents and community members.

During our annual open house, the first Friday of the new school year, parents, staff and community members enjoyed a dinner of spaghetti, salad and garlic bread. The new teachers, Don and Pauline Romero were officially introduced to the community. They were commended for their work painting the classrooms and reorganizing the library. Mr. & Mrs. Romero thanked the staff and a number of the students who helped get the school ready.

GDS has been participating in cross-country running and attended the Trosh Yedda Fun Run at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

The student council elected new officers. They are President, Alexis Woellert; Vice President, Kalli Woellert; Secretary, Ryan Hoffman and Treasurer, September Massey. The student council will be engaged in several fund raising events this year. The first will be the annual Bazaar on November 20th where they will be selling food items and crafts. There will also be other local vendors selling their crafts. Vendor tables will be renting for \$10 each.

Several students have traveled to Phlight club and one student attended the CTE Heavy Equipment Training.

Mr. & Mrs. Romero and the staff and students are looking forward to this new school year. Everyone is enthusiastic and working hard to make this the best year yet.

Submitted by Patty White, Principal



Johnny Oldman School

Students and staff at Johnny Oldman School are off to a great start this year. They had an Ice Cream Social on the second day of school to celebrate the new teachers.



Students have participated in the District Fun Run and the Healthy Futures Challenge. On October 8 we had a Math and Literacy Night that was well attended. Parents enjoyed hearing their children read and also completed math and literacy activities. Thank you to the parents for supporting the school and helping us spread the message of the importance of education!

Submitted by Patty White, Principal

Ella B. Vernetti School

Ella B. Vernetti School in Koyukuk is growing and is up to 18 students this year! We started the year with a luncheon for Open House to meet the new teacher and welcome all the students and staff. The students have participated in the District Fun Run and Healthy Futures Challenge. The school had

Culture Week activities the week of September 21. Students participated in many activities and learned more about their culture and land.

Submitted by Patty White, Principal



Fairbanks Raven Office

Raven hosted its annual Back-to-Home Picnic on August 14th at the Chena Wayside Park. Such a great turnout and wonderful weather made the day even better. Lots of food, games and fun were had by all. Can't wait until next year!!!!!!



2015-16 school year has begun again with many student activities, one of those being our Lego Leagues. Our students are very excited about the projects that they will be involved with this year. The student's challenge will be "Trash Trek".



Our Raven staff participated in the KUAC Fund Raiser. Staff members, Ryan Tilbury, Mo Ott, Heidi Wright and Bob Hawkins took the early morning shift on the phone bank October 13th to help raise money for our local public radio/tv station. It was a very successful 2 hours. The goal was to raise \$5000.00, we raised \$6,915.00 for them. It was great fun and we hope to be a part of the spring fund raising project also. It was great exposure for our Raven Program.
Submitted by Mo Ott, Fairbanks Raven Administrative Assistant



Wasilla Raven Office



The Wasilla Raven Correspondence office has been utilizing the ARTiculate from the district. Once a month we have been hosting an ARTiculate workshop. Our families are very receptive to these workshops, and there has been a great turn out at each one of them. We have covered the following: Northern Migrations, Salmon in Kodiak, and Simple Machines. Students of all ages have been attending, and parents are enjoying the outlet for artistic endeavors.



We also have been having some super science workshops with the amazing Mr. Ron Bergey! There have been science workshops on the following: Introduction to Bees & Honey, Mr. Bergey's Chocolate Factory, and Why Dry Ice is Such a Gas. There has been a lot of buzz about attending these interactive, hands-on science workshops.

Submitted by Monique Ratzlaf, Wasilla Raven Administrative Assistant



2016 JANUARY JAMBOREE



JANUARY 15- 16, 2016

LOCATION : Allakaket School Gymnasium

YUKON KOYUKUK SCHOOL DISTRICT