

From the Office of the Superintendent:

I've been visiting our schools and am seeing first-hand the excitement and hard work taking place in our classrooms. Traditionally, this is a busy time of the year as the semester begins to wind down and plans of celebrating the holidays begin to take shape. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all they have done in making the first semester of school one of the best ever! We have had a productive

start with our staff and students engaged in teaching and learning.



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From the Office of the Superintendent

Books are a wonderful way to build holiday memories and enjoy this time of year with your children. We all can reflect back on some of our favorites. To add to the tradition of the holidays, there are many books that can become an important part of your family year after year. I have included a list of holiday book selections for your children.

- Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer by Rick Bunson
- Alaskan Night Before Christmas (Night Before Christmas Series) by Tricia Brown
- How the Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr. Seuss
- The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg
- The Night Before Christmas by Clement Moore, Jan Brett (illustrator)

I would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

As we enjoy the upcoming holidays, it is my sincere desire that each of you receives and returns the seasonal bounty of blessings and good tidings that make this time of year truly special.

Submitted by Kerry Boyd, Superintendent

Happenings from the Office of the Assistant Superintendent and Federal Programs

Happy holidays from the Federal Programs department! We hope everyone is enjoying the last few days of school before our nice winter break!

Grant Highlights

<u>Indian Education</u>: 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. An email was sent out to sites this week with the remaining allotment amount that can be spent.

<u>New Grant Alert - ANE Virtual Careers</u>: We are gearing up to fully implement our new ANE Virtual Careers grant that was recently awarded. Please be on the lookout for student course and academy opportunities that will be sent out from our CTE department.

<u>Migrant Education:</u> Now that migrant recruiting has concluded for the year, our schools have begun conducting literacy activities and book distributions for our students. We have been hearing from all of our sites that many students and families have been participating in the activities and appreciate the opportunity to choose their own books to keep and read.

Professional Development

We are looking forward to January, as all of our Principals will be attending the RTI conference in Anchorage. This will be a great time for them to collaborate with each other, as well as network with other principals from around the state. The professional development will focus on RTI implementation.

Submitted by Gina Hrinko, Assistant Superintendent

Welcome Sean Lawson!



We'd like to take a moment to welcome the newest member to our Federal Programs team, Sean Lawson! Sean is from Virginia, and graduated from James Madison University with a degree in Criminal Justice. He has been hired as the new Administrative Assistant for our department. Sean has been in Alaska, with his girlfriend and dog, for about 6 months now. This is officially his first Alaska winter experience.

As many of you already know, Steve has been hired as the newest Fairbanks Raven Teacher. While we will miss Steve in our department, he will be a great asset to the Raven program. Sean will be working closely with Steve and Rachel over the next few weeks as we move into this transition.

When you see Sean around the district, please take the time to give him a warm welcome. We're so glad to have him as part of our team!

Technology Department

RUS Grant

I'm very excited to report that YKSD has received \$496,701 under the 2015 Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program administered by the Rural Utilities Service. This grant will bring a Polycom videoconferencing unit, along with a 46-inch



tlat screen television to every

classroom in the district. We will also be receiving 10 new servers, 10 new switches, and 3 infrastructure appliances that assist with video conferencing. This new gear will open

up many new learning opportunities for our students along with improving upon the video conferences that



are already happening in our schools. We will begin rolling out the infrastructure components in January, and videoconferencing units in the spring

ERATE

We've submitted our yearly form 470's to advertise for eligible services through Erate. Along with Internet and telecommunication services we've submitted three requests for proposals (RFPs) for switches, firewalls, and UPS's.

FileWave

We're in the process of transitioning management platforms for our computers and mobile devices. FileWave helps with management in all of the categories listed below:



Submitted by Luke Meinert, Director of Technology

Facebook

YKSD has become Facebook official. Please visit our District Facebook page for all of our most recent news and happenings. https://www.facebook.com/yukonkoyukukschooldistrict/



Career and Technical Education

Second Semester Distance Courses

Name of Class	Application	Credits	Notes
	Details	Earned	
Introduction to Health Careers	To sign up for this class, counselors register students at Alaska Learning Network AND fill out Tech Prep Registration https://drive.google.com/a/yksd.com/file/d/0B 3pmVLwft9noR0ZtcDNpVldlM3BFMmdKVFZQ UkhiSIFQMkFZ/view?usp=sharing	0.5 high school credits; 2 UAF credits	Students learn about a variety of different careers in health care, including the roles, responsibilities, and training required for each of the careers. This is a great introductory course for students interested in health care.
Professionalism in the Healthcare Workplace	To sign up for this class, counselors register students at Alaska Learning Network AND fill out Tech Prep Registration https://drive.google.com/a/yksd.com/file/d/0B 3pmVLwft9noR0ZtcDNpVldlM3BFMmdKVFZQ UkhiSIFQMkFZ/view?usp=sharing	0.5 high school credits; 2 UAF credits	This course teaches students the hands on technical skills necessary for a job in the health care field, including good character, strong work ethic, personal traits, and professional traits. Students will learn interview skills, business manners, customer service, and dressing for success.
Human Behavior in Healthcare	To sign up for this class, counselors register students at Alaska Learning Network AND fill out Tech Prep Registration https://drive.google.com/a/yksd.com/file/d/0B_3pmVLwft9noR0ZtcDNpVldlM3BFMmdKVFZQ_UkhiSIFQMkFZ/view?usp=sharing	0.5 high school credits; 1 UAF credit	Students will learn about the general concepts in human behavior and specialized psychological issues when dealing with patients in a health care setting.
Math in Healthcare	To sign up for this class, counselors register students at Alaska Learning Network AND fill out Tech Prep Registration https://drive.google.com/a/yksd.com/file/d/0B 3pmVLwft9noR0ZtcDNpVldIM3BFMmdKVFZQ UkhiSIFQMkFZ/view?usp=sharing	0.5 high school credits; 3 UAF credits	This course covers the practical application of math in a healthcare setting, including arithmetic review, decimals, fractions, percentage, interest, ratios, proportion, and metric measurements related to health care instruments, charts, graphs, and medications

Second Semester Camps and Academies

Name of Camp or	Application	Credits	Notes
Academy	Details	Earned	
EXCEL Alaska's Camp	Application Link:	0.5-1.0 high	Students will have the opportunity to obtain their fire fighter
Kick Ash	https://drive.google.com/a/yksd.com/file/d/0B	school credits	internship certification and emergency trauma technician training
	3pmVLwft9nocUpuSS00UmtEbGp6bkgxVHZwT		through hands-on classes. Two spots available.
	<u>UJMMW9UTEZF/view?usp=sharing</u>		
	Deadline: January 29 to Patty Woody at		
	pwoody@yksd.com		
YKSD's Health	Application Link:	0.5 - 1.0 high	Students will have the opportunity to obtain their emergency trauma
Academy	https://drive.google.com/a/yksd.com/file/d/0B	school credits;	technician certification and learn how culture, nutrition, and health
	3pmVLwft9nob29HRFJxblpCOWxNd21FbG40c	3-6 UAF	care are related.
	XRadWxlZWRj/view?usp=sharing	credits	
	Deadline: January 29 to Patty Woody at		
	pwoody@yksd.com		
EXCEL Alaska's	Application Link:	TBD	Students will have the opportunity to participate in ACT or
Summer Bridge	https://drive.google.com/a/yksd.com/file/d/0B		WorkKeys preparation, post-secondary planning, hands on learning
Camp	3pmVLwft9nocUpuSS00UmtEbGp6bkgxVHZwT		in a specific career area, and the opportunity to obtain a driver's
	<u>UJMMW9UTEZF/view?usp=sharing</u>		license or driver's permit.
	Deadline: April 29 to Patty Woody at		
	pwoody@yksd.com		
		1	

Submitted by Patty Woody, CTE Coordinator

Business Office and Human Resources Update



Happy Holidays from the Business Office!

Facilities Department

Christmas Break Housing Rules

Dear Principals and Teachers,

The following housing rules apply from December 18th through January 4th 2015. If you are leaving site for more than one day during Christmas Break, the School Caretaker must perform routine daily inspections of your housing unit and serve as the point of contact for any emergencies.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE SITE:

- MAKE SURE YOU GIVE YOUR HOUSING KEYS TO YOUR PRINCIPAL
- Ensure all thermostats are set on 72 degrees Fahrenheit
- Report any issues with your housing heating equipment to the Maintenance Department
- Make sure all heat traces are turned on

Maintenance Department Contacts:

- Gale Bourne 750-8698
- Ben McFarlane 328-9244

Submitted by Gale Bourne, Director of Facilities & Maintenance

Special Education and Support Services

Counselor's Corner

T'was the semester before Christmas,

And all through the district, School counselors were working hard,

Plugging away at student transcripts.

Graduation sheets were hung, On bulletin boards with care. In hopes that all students, Would soon be aware.

Classroom guidance lessons were taught,

To students snug in their seats. While visions of deadlines before break,

Seemed impossible to meet

But the counselors were determined,
To help every child.
So they encouraged each stude

So they encouraged each student, With a high five, wink and smile.

Though the work can be tough, In the end, it's so rewarding. To help each student reach, The diplomas we'll be awarding.

So, a good winter break to all, As into a New Year we climb. Enjoy your two week rest, Because next semester is GO TIME!

Submitted by Jessica Davidson, Itinerant Counselor

Ever wonder what sounds a child should have mastered and by what age? This standard articulation chart is a great tool to share with parents who worry if their child's speech is developmentally appropriate.

Speech Sound Development

Speech Sound Norms taken from the Goldman Fristoe Test of Articulation-2 from 2000,

Age	Initial Sound	Medial Sound	Final Sound
2 years	/b/ /d/ /h/ /m/ /n/ /p/	/b/ /m/ /n/	/m/ /p/
3 years	/t/ /g/ /k/ /t/ /w/	/f/ /g/ /k/ ng /p/ /t/	/b/ /d/ /g/ /k/ /n/ /t/
4 your	/kw/	/d/	/1/
5 y+an	ch j /l/ /s/ sh y /bl/	ch j /l/ /s/ sh /z/	/l/ ng ch j /s/ sh /r/ /v/ /z/
6 уеан	/r/ /v/ /br/ /dr/ /fl/ /fr/ /gl/ /gr/ /kl/ /kr/ /pl/ /st/ /tr/	/r/ /v/	
7 years	/z/ /sl/ /sp/ /sw/ th	th	th

This table is the age at which 85% of the GFTA-2 Standardization Sample correctly produced the consonant and consonant cluster sounds,

Submitted by Cristina Welker, Director of Special Education

Native Language

In the second quarter the Denaakk'e and Benhti Kenaga' classes have been focused on the three holidays: Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

For Halloween the students made monsters and described them in Denaakk'e. They learned parts of the body, numbers, and feelings. Students are becoming proficient at answering questions posed to them in their language.

Thanksgiving activities included learning the names of food, statements like "Gen kk'aa de'eent'aa?" 'what are you hungry for?"; and a song I composed "Baasee' Eslaanh" 'I am thankful'.



For the 9th Annual Virtual Holiday program, students have been busy practicing the holiday songs. There are seven different versions of "K'edneltl'ees" 'Jingle Bells'. It has been a pleasure to work with Irene Henry and Madeline Williams, our two fluent speakers. They have helped tremendously in composing and transcribing the songs. It has also been a pleasure to have such a supportive group of teachers and paraprofessionals who are learning our language right along with the students. Without their support, our video-conference teaching is



definitely effective. If we have technical difficulties, our American Sign Language lessons have paid off We can communicate without hearing each other.

The students in the 6th hour class (grades 4-11) have been learning to conjugate verbs. This means that they are able to take a verb like -do 'to sit' and change the prefix to describe who is sitting. The paradigm for the verb to sit is: lesdo, leedo, ledo, ts'eldo, luhdo, and heldo (I am sitting, you are sitting, he/she/it is sitting, they are sitting, you guys

are sitting and they are sitting). In addition they are learning the imperfective (present tense) and perfective (past tense) forms of the verbs for weather. Students in that class are learning basic literacy. Assessments are given through the Edmodo.com website and Google Classroom. When I travel, students are given assignments or they practice their typing skills.

At long last, the photographs from seven schools are completed and in the mail. Thank you for your patience. Each photo is analyzed for clarity, pose, and proper color before a final portrait is selected. Once selected, it is uploaded, and proper sizing for orders is processed. All of this is volunteer time on my behalf, so it takes awhile. The best reward is working with your child in the "studio" making them smile. As I traveled I also took senior portraits. The most amazing place was out Horseshoe Hill and Long Lake in Huslia in the fall time.

Submitted by Susan Paskvan, Native Language Coordinator

Assessments Department

Alaska Measures of Progress - AMP Reports

Last spring, students in grades 3 to 10 took the Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) for the first time. AMP is the state's challenging assessment of rigorous standards for English and math. Standards are expectations for what students should know and be able to do.

This December, families will receive their first reports on how their students performed on AMP. Your school can help you understand the report. Regardless of your students' scores, the only consequence is they will receive support to improve their learning.



Students' scores on AMP placed them in one of four achievement categories: Level 1, 2, 3, or 4, from low to high, as defined by Alaska educators. Levels 3 and 4 represent meeting the standards. Levels 1 and 2 represent partially meeting the standards, not failure.

Many students who scored proficient on Alaska's former tests did not meet the standards in AMP. That's because the new standards are higher and the tests are more difficult. It's like a baseball player hitting .300 in the minor leagues one year and .240 in the major leagues the following year. The player hasn't declined in skill, but he's in a more rigorous league.

Under AMP, students aren't suddenly less skilled and teachers aren't less capable than before. But they are being asked to meet higher expectations. Over time, as students and teachers work with the new standards, AMP scores should rise. This has happened in other states that have adopted higher standards and assessments.

If your student is not yet meeting the standards, don't be discouraged. Students have time to improve. This year's test results are a baseline for future growth.

Submitted by Patty White, Director of Assessments

Instruction, Curriculum and Professional Development Department

The writing activity below is called Color My Words and can be used by parents with their children at home or by teachers with their classes. In this activity, the writers practice taking a simple sentence and expanding it into a well-written, descriptive sentence. You can see the themes of color and art run throughout the activity as the students "color their words". The example is about salmon, but the strategy can work with any sentence. Thanks to Laurie Strong for the great idea!

Submitted by Chane Beam, Director of Curriculum and Instruction



1. Prepare your work of art – use past tense

The salmon swam.

- · 2. Color your work of art -
- How? quickly
- When? during the summer
 Where? up the Yukon River
- The salmon swam quickly during the summer up the Yukon River.

3. Mix the colors

Quickly, the salmon swam up the Yukon River during the summer.

The salmon swam up the Yukon River quickly during the summer.

Up the Yukon River, the salmon swam quickly during the summer.

4. Brighten your colors

Which? weighing more than 30 pound What kind of? King How many? Hundreds

During the summer hundreds of King salmon, weighing more than 30 pounds swam quickly up the Yukon River.

5. Paint Your Words

Swam traveled Quickly swiftly

6. Finishing Touches

During the summer hundreds of King salmon, weighing more than 30 pounds traveled swiftly up the Yukon River.

Andrew K. Demoski School

Fundraising

The staff and students have put forth great effort in conducting multiple fundraisers for the upcoming basketball season here at AKD School. To date, the students have sold Navajo Tacos, Moose Nachos, Pizza and held multiple bake sales to support their season. Currently, the students have raised approximately \$7,000 dollars and are adding to this total each week.





Toys for Tots

On December 9th, "Toys for Tots" visited Nulato and filled the school with Santa's cheer. During this event, the community gathered at AKD school to share in the excitement as students received gifts from the U.S. Marine Corps and and Santa himself!

Basketball Season Opened

The AKD wolves are thrilled have a basketball team this year and they opened their season with a scrimmage against the Nulato women's team on December 5th. The gym was packed, fundraising incredibly effective and the community buzzing about the upcoming schedule and having basketball back!





Submitted by Jason Johnson, Principa

Allakaket School

We had a great Thanksgiving luncheon for the community. Staff served tasty turkeys, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, and the community contributed moose soup, bear soup, and lots of other veggie dishes and desserts! We had so much food this year!! Nobody left hungry!!

We are getting ready for our Christmas program on December 15 @ 7pm. The students are practicing their singing and dancing. The gym will be quite festive with the decorations.

Allakaket School is gearing up for the basketball jamboree in January. We will welcome teams from Nulato, Huslia, and Minto. Our community is very excited the jamboree is here this year. We are still looking for volunteers to help out with scorekeeping, running the clock, and various other duties.

We had elections in October, please welcome our CSC members: Steven Bergman, Valerie Bergman, Emily Gray, Jonathan Henzie, and Elizabeth Strassburg.

Submitted by Laurie Beam, Principal

Gladys Dart School

Many high school students at Gladys Dart School have attended the CTE camps and academies offered this



fall. Students return very enthusiastic and share what they learned and did at the camps. It has been a great experience. One student attended the Excel Heavy Equipment academy, four students attended the IT Voyage to Excellence, and one student is currently attending the Excel Mini Bridging Camp.

n addition to all the fall activities, the school hosted a Craft Fair on November 21.

Local artists brought their items to sell and the students made many craft items to sell such as picture frames and bookmarks, cooked lunch for the attendees, and held cake walks and raffles. We had great community attendance and raised funds for our student activity fund.



Submitted by Patty White, Principal

Kaltag School

From the Principal's Desk:

This year is winding down with two major holidays upon us. I know Mrs. Barb is truly thankful with the opportunity of working with your children in school. It is truly rewarding when students come to school ready to learn and do their work. I personally have seen strides made with all of our students and I am thankful for all the hard work done by each of the staff members.

Making the Effort:

My thanks to all for making the effort of getting students to bed on time. I hear from the students the times that they go to bed. This really helps with the learning in the classroom. Also plenty of sleep, drinking water, and washing hands will help to keep our students healthier.

Open Gym:

If there is an interest in opening the gym, pease call to schedule the times. Please remember that the school is a drug and tobacco free zone. This means that drugs, tobacco, chew and alcohol are not allowed and will not be tolerated at any time. Please help to keep this a safe space for our students and families.

New Desks:

If you have not had the opportunity, come and see our new student desks. The students rave about them because they can organize themselves and find classwork readily. Submitted by Doug Stahr, Principal

Merreline A. Kangas School

Merry Christmas from Ruby- We are really excited to finish out the semester with a great new tradition. On Wednesday the 16th we are staging a Moveable Feast in the gym. Many cooks from around our little village have brainstormed and our mouths are watering with the prospect of a delicious friendly meal. After, we will have tables set up for Christmas crafts and art projects. We have live music scheduled with Christmas karaoke and carolers. It promises to be a great evening and fits in well with the Tribal festivities, which include an Elders luncheon, community Bazaar and potluck dinner at the Community Hall. So from MAK School to you all -- Happy Holidays! Play safe and stay safe!!!!

Submitted by Anne Titus, Principal

Minto School

The Minto cross country running team was honored for their successful season at a Cover Dish on November 11th. Congratulations to Christian Hunter grade 10, who qualified for the state meet in Anchorage!





Minto Student Council officers Christian Hunter (Secretary/Treasurer), Deven Woods (President), and Tristor Titus (Vice-President).

The Minto Student Council sponsored Spirit Week during the week of Nevember 16th. The Students enjoyed "Twin Day," "Rock Your Mocs Day," "Pajama Day," and "Hat Day."

Submitted by Vicky Charlie, Principal



Johnny Oldman School



Elementary students at Johnny Oldman School have been working hard at reading and math all semester. Students are making great progress in Reading and Math. Here they are practicing for the Christmas Program with teacher, Claudia Pinto. The Christmas Program will be on December 11, 2015.

Upper Elementary students in Jolene Kinsland's class are

learning about verbs through song. Jolene stated, "This song was introduced about a month ago - we hadn't talked about verbs, yet, but it sure got them in the student's brains in preparation for this week!" The class also participated in the Kahn Academy's "Hour of Code". Students are excited about learning how to program computers and have enjoyed learning about coding.



Submitted by Patty White, Principal

Ella B. Vernetti School

Students in Josie Dayton's elementary classroom have been reading every day to improve their skills and get ready for the Battle of the Books. In math, they are learning about geometric solids. Students made 3D models of shapes out of clay and







Submitted by Patty White, Principal

Anchorage Raven Office

Anchorage Raven teams "Stack Attack" and "Rockin' Raven Robots" and coaches Terri

Thurston and Aric Bramlett did an amazing job at the LEGO competition! Both teams worked for three months in STEM content to prepare for the competition, had tons of fun while competing and scored higher than any other Anchorage Raven



team in the past. Stack Attack team member Noah



Bramlett impressed the judges with a robotics program that was the only of its kind in all of Alaska. Way to go!

Submitted by Valerie Thurston, RCS Admin Assistant

Juneau Raven Office



Juneau FLL Team "Trashformers" impressed the judges with their project to reduce plastic bags usage with a Take 1 Leave 1 Bag exchange program they donated to local grocery stores along with "Got Bags" reminder stickers. These four fourth graders and first time FLL participants scored 18th out of 28 on the robot competition. Most importantly, they had lots of fun!

FLL Team "Mindstorm Masters" took a First Place in the Juneau FLL competition for their project, a

stop-motion Lego infomercial on local recycling opportunities titled "Less Trash, More Cash." Mindstorm Masters also placed 2nd in the robot mission category. The team will travel to Anchorage to compete in the state tournament on Jan 16. Their video will be played on Juneau's waste management website, and the team is also working on getting it shown in the ads at the local movie theaters and on the KTOO local TV station.



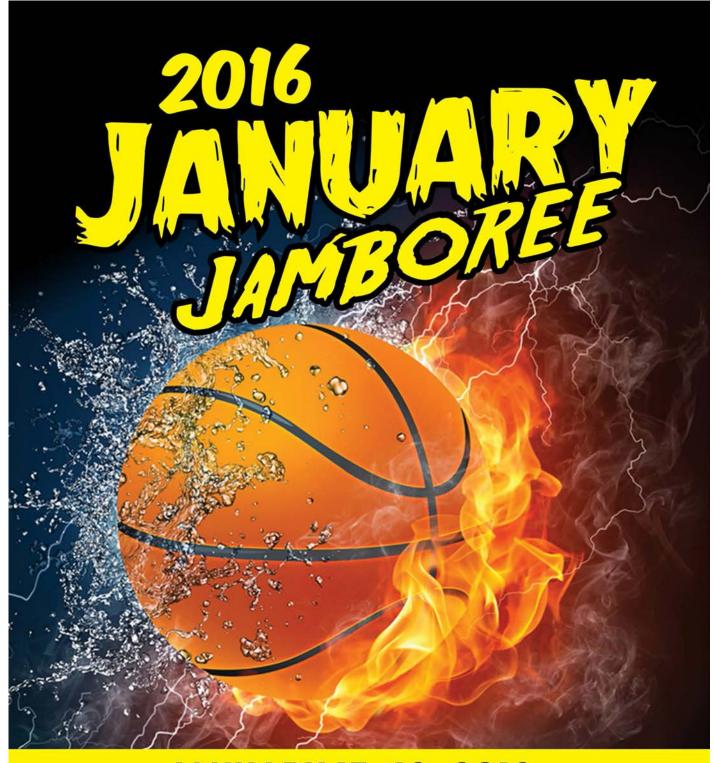


FLL Team "Lego Chocolates" were "Super Sweet" as they dressed in capes and had a great time at the tournament. They also got 12th place in the robot mission competition.

Three JrFLL teams "Jr Trashformers," "Trash Bash," and "Trashion Fashion" displayed what they learned this season through their models and poster boards at the Juneau Expo. The teams got to explain to the judges what they learned about recycling including their field trip to the local recycling center. Overall, they learned a lot about

teamwork and core values, and they had a great time doing it!

Submitted by Holly Shier, RCS Admin Assistant



JANUARY 15-16, 2016
LOCATION: Allakaket School Gymnasium

YUKON KOYUKUK SCHOOL DISTRICT