

OCTOBER 2016



YKSD Staff Connections

News from the Superintendent

By Kerry Boyd

Welcome to the first Connections Newsletter of the 2016/2017 School Year! The teachers, principals, and support personnel from our 11 schools have all included articles and pictures of their school and community happenings. The Yukon Koyukuk School District is off to a terrific start this year! Below are a few of the highlights taking place in YKSD.

Andrew K. Demoski School is well underway with its \$7 million comprehensive school renovation project! The renovation project will be completed next fall. For Cultural Week, a group of students were lead on a moose hunt. With the help of students and community volunteers, the meat was used for a community covered dish. Jimmy Huntington School was recently awarded \$15.7 million for a school renewal and addition project which will begin this summer! The school will gain modern amenities and over 10,000 square feet! In collaboration with Cold Climate Housing, Minto is finalizing a brand new 3-bedroom home with the help of locally skilled men and women. Minto students are participating in cross country running this year and are getting ready for basketball season.

YKSD in partnership with Alaska Gateway School District received a new \$5 million ANE grant, the ACHILL project- Alaska Care for Husbandry Instruction for Lifelong Learners. This project incorporates Dog Mushing activities based off of the Frank Attla Youth and Sled Dog Care mushing Program launched by George Attla. The opportunity will provide dual credit through the University of Alaska with courses related to veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry. The grant is expected to increase graduation rates, student leadership skills, and will improve teacher cultural heritage knowledge. Eighteen our sophomores and juniors are participating in the first session of the ANE Career Pathways program in Fairbanks. This intensive academy will provide students with exposure to health and education careers with dual credit opportunities and courses to help earn credentials to become CNAs, nurses, medical technicians and teachers. Allakaket School along with the Alaska Association of School Board personnel hosted a school/community meeting. There was a wonderful turn-out from the entire staff and many community members! The team set school and student goals and established a positive learning environment for all.

Gladys Dart School secondary students are learning the basics of drafting and will continue to explore relevant field opportunities. They are also continuing their work on the Manley Newsletter, a tradition for over 50 years.

Merrelaine A. Kangas students in Ruby are taking the lead once again with archery. They expect to see more students participating in the national archery contest! They have also begun a wrestling team with their middle and high school students. Rampart School had a wonderful turn-out for their Meet and Greet with families! Our newest school is off to a great start! Rampart School is a picture back-drop on the Lt. Governor's website!

Kaltag had their culture week with great activities for the students including working on survival skills, making fish ice-cream and pies with berries they collected. As a final day of camp, students sang songs for the Elders and other community members. A big thanks to Tristan Madros, Kendra Ekada, and Jaylene Esmailka for planning the entire culture week. In Koyukuk Marie Dayton is teaching students to create dream catchers. For additional cultural teachings, when the community brings in moose meat, they process the meat for them! The Koyukuk



Phillip (Tucker) Semaken and Kerry Boyd in Kaltag at a community covered dish event.



"a lot of good
things are
taking place
in YKSD."

News from the Superintendent continued

teachers also including several lessons on making jam, and jarring fish.

The students finished their Fun Run with the help of community members, Susan Paskvan, and two young inspirational men, Robert Pilot and Adam Paskvan. Last year the late Cindy Pilot, participated in the Fun Run. She loved the students very dearly. Judy Madros walked the mile in memory of her. Raven School has grown to 1400 students with activities in each of its five statewide offices. They began a Rocket Readers group which focuses on literacy skills for beginning and struggling readers. Several of the offices have Lego League Clubs where they participate in statewide competitions.

As you can see, there are a lot of good things taking place in YKSD. We feel confident that our students will greatly benefit from the new programs and ongoing initiatives implemented this school year. I encourage you to stay involved as we travel through this school year and employ 21st century learning strategies throughout the district. I look forward to meeting with you as I travel to the schools. Thanks for all you do to support the children!



Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A"
reads **20 minutes**
each day

3600 minutes in
a school year

1,800,000 words



90th percentile

Student "B"
reads **5 minutes**
each day

900 minutes in
a school year

282,000 words



50th percentile

Student "C"
reads **1 minute**
each day

180 minutes in
a school year

8,000 words



10th percentile



*Maddison Frank-Charlie, 3rd grade
Minto student showing the artwork
she created for Susan Paskvan.*

By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

Happenings from the Office of the Assistant Superintendent and Federal Programs

By Gina Hrinko



Phlight Club at Camp Bingle.

Happy fall from the Federal Programs department! We hope everyone is enjoying the nice fall weather we've been having. We've had a great beginning of the school year and are looking forward to a great year.

Grant Highlights

Expanding our Horizons: Through this project, we are able to provide on-site mentoring and coaching for teachers working in the primary classrooms. Kim Barnes and Rachel Reilly will be traveling to selected school sites to provide on-site, in the classroom coaching. Rachel will be providing VTC support for all primary teachers through this project.

Indian Education: Each school site will be emailed an allotment that can be spent on supplies, cultural activi-

ties, art supplies, or support for remediation. An email will be sent out to all Principals at the end of next week with the allotment amount for their school site.

New Grant Alert – ANE Virtual Careers: We are so excited about our new ANE Virtual Careers grant project. This project focuses on careers in the health and education fields. Students will be offered opportunities to participate in specific classes, and workshops related to these two fields. Addi-

tionally, there will be a health academy and an education academy for those students who are interested in the health field or in becoming an educator. Please be on the lookout for student course and academy opportunities information that will be sent out from our CTE department. Patty Woody and Bob Hawkins will also be sharing information with students as they visit your school sites. The kickoff for the grant was the career fly-in which took place successfully last week.

"We are so excited about our new ANE Virtual Careers grant project."



Professional Development

In a couple of weeks, all of our Principals will be attending the Principal conference in Anchorage. This will be a great

time for all of us to collaborate, as well as network with other Principals from around the state. The professional

development will focus on school leadership and climate.

Accreditation

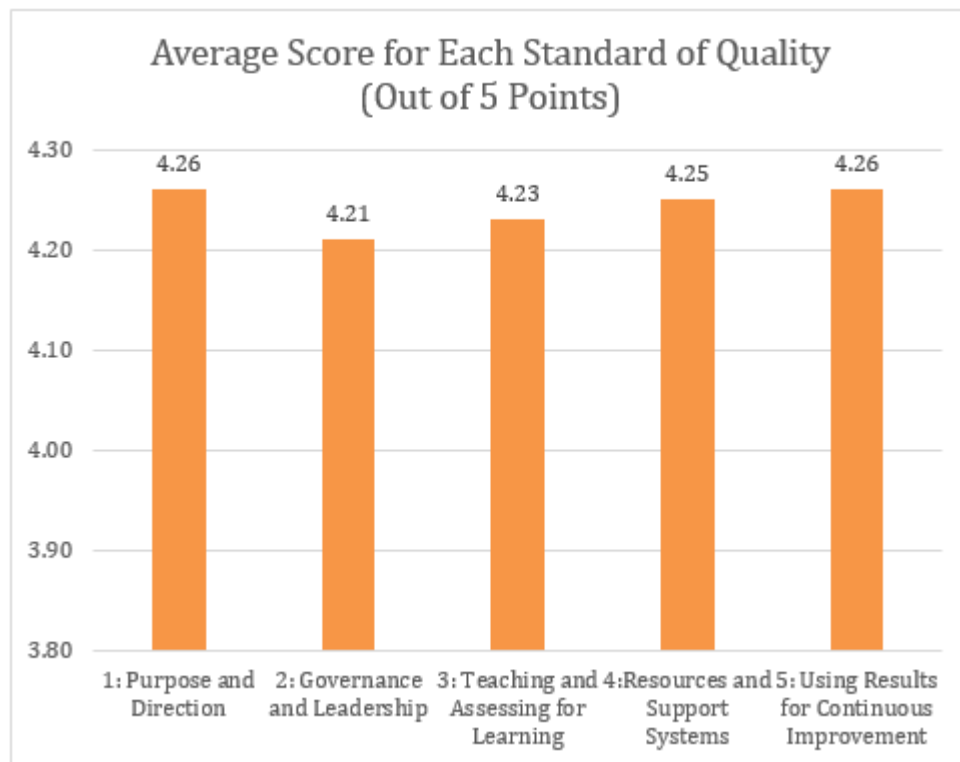
By Rachel Reilly

This November, the YKSD will complete the Accreditation Process through AdvancED to identify our district's strengths as well as to set some priorities for continued growth. During our external review, evaluators from across the nation will come together to review the information and data our leadership team has put together to show how we address each Standard of Quality, visit 3-4 of our schools to observe in our classrooms, conduct interviews with all stakeholder groups, and formally identify areas that are in further need of development. More information will be available on the district website about this process as we near the visit.



Stakeholder Feedback

Last spring all of our stakeholder groups (Elementary & Secondary Students, Community Members, and Staff) completed surveys addressing the quality of our district's offerings. The findings from those surveys are below:



Our stakeholder groups identified the following strengths:

- 1) We have a comprehensive assessment/RTI system to assure that every student achieves to his/her highest potential.
- 2) Our goals/purpose are clear to all stakeholder groups.
- 3) Our staff members all have high expectations for student learning.
- 4) Students feel their teachers have clear expectations and grade fairly.
- 5) Secondary students and their families feel that their schools adequately prepare them to be successful in their post-secondary pursuits.

Accreditation continued

Areas of Need

Our stakeholder groups identified the following specific needs:

- 1) More opportunities for our teachers to participate in peer coaching/mentoring.
- 2) Additional training for our district's governing body about how its roles and responsibilities are different from the school leadership team's.
- 3) Assuring that every student has access to the support services s/he needs to be successful.
- 4) Increasing the number of opportunities for parents and students to give input on decisions about the district's purpose and direction.
- 5) Ensuring that all students are treated fairly and with respect from school staff.

Thank you to everyone who completed these surveys! If you would like more specific information about the results of the survey or the Accreditation process, please contact your school principal.



Primary Support Program

By Rachel Reilly

"We anticipate that we will see good things come out of this program this year."

Because our primary teachers have been charged with the essential task of assuring that all of the students in their PreK-3rd grade classrooms "Start Strong" with a strong foundation in literacy and math, the district is expanding the supports available to them this year to include:

1) Pacing Guides and Lesson Templates for the Wonders curriculum:

This year, we will be piloting a Pacing Guide designed to help teachers maximize instruction and assure that their students have the skills needed to achieve at their highest levels every year.

2) Primary Professional Learning Community

Videoconferences: Each quarter, every primary teacher will sign in to par-

ticipate in a PLC meeting addressing common needs.

These meetings will focus on the needs teachers identified during the first PLC meeting. The dates for the remaining meetings are November 29, February 14, and April 11.

3) Primary Advisory Committee Meetings:

This group will work together to make sure that the supports offered are relevant to teachers' needs. The group will plan the Primary PLCs together, develop resources to share with all of the primary teachers, and evaluate the success of the supports provided. If these tasks sound intriguing to you, please send Rachel an email.

4) Individual-

ized support: The ECE Coordinator will be reaching out

to teachers individually on-site and over VTC to assure that every primary teacher has the resources necessary to support their students. Teachers will also connect with one another to support each other in this endeavor.

The teachers have already expressed that they value this increased level of support and the additional opportunities to formally engage with one another. We anticipate that we will see good things come out of this program this year.



Migrant Education

By Sean Lawson

During the upcoming Winter months our Migrant Education program will take part in a number of activities aimed at engaging and enabling our students, including the first of this year's Migrant Book Distributions. With this program, books are sent to

our migrant students across the district so that they may develop their reading and comprehension skills anywhere they are. In the past, our staff members have helped distribute these books in conjunction with activities at each school designed to

promote literacy and education, often with students as well as their families. This has been one of the most popular parts of the Migrant Education program, and we look forward to the opportunity to share in this activity again in the new school year!



Tristen Linus and Mr. Fields at Literacy Night in Allakaket.

Counselor's Corner

By Cristina Welker



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

ACT Arranged Testing

October 22 – November 6, 2016

December 10, 2016 – January 1, 2017

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

Tips to do Your Best on the Test

Keep a Positive Attitude:

It might be tough, but you can do it! A positive attitude goes a long way toward success.

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.

Fuel Your Brain:

Don't skip breakfast the morning of the test. Get to school early and start focusing on the task at hand.

Test Time: Take a deep breath and make sure you have every-

thing you need to succeed. Do you have extra pencils, a calculator or scratch paper?

Read Carefully: Finally, pay special attention to the test directions. Slow down and read each word closely. When you are finished, go back and check your answers.

You've Got This!



Special Education Specifics

By Cristina Welker



What is this special education LANGUAGE?!?!

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

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



National Principals Month

By Kerry Boyd

October is National Principals Month. Please help recognize our school principals! Vicky Charlie, Casey Weter, Anne Titus, Patty White, Larry Parker, John Hersrud (not pictured), and Jason Johnson! National Principals Month is an opportunity to say "thank you" to principals everywhere and to share with the community all the great work that our principals do. The key to student success is a great school, and the key to a great school is the great principal. YKSD principals work hard for the students of YKSD each and every day and they deserve to be recognized!



Instruction, Curriculum & Professional Development

By Chane Beam

The Five Components of Literacy

The Yukon Koyukuk School District is focusing on improving reading achievement in all grade levels. Parents can play a significant role in helping their children be successful readers by practicing with the young readers.

There are five components of literacy and parents can help with each component.

Component	Description	How parents can help
Phonemic Awareness	Students are able to hear, identify, and manipulate sounds. Ex> Rhyming, Syllables, and Beginning Sounds	Practice rhyming with your Pre K-2 grade students. Practice counting syllables in words. Practice beginning sounds.
Phonics	Students can see the relationship between sounds and letters, both spoken and written. Decoding is part of phonics.	Practice the alphabet song and recognition of both upper and lower case letters and the sounds that they make.
Fluency	Students can read with accuracy, appropriate rate, expression and phrasing.	Read to your children out loud with extra emphasis on being accurate and expressive. Have the children re-read the same passage with the same expression.
Vocabulary	Students know the meaning and pronunciation of words. Lack of vocabulary lead to lack of comprehension.	Point out the meanings of new words and give the children easy to understand definitions. Praise the children when they use new vocabulary words.
Comprehension	The culmination of all the reading components. The students know and understand what they just read.	Ask your children comprehension questions after they read a passage. "What was the main idea?" "Why did the character do that?" "What do you think will happen next?"



Reading with your child

Twenty minutes a day is all it takes to build key reading skills. Here are seven ways to build a better reader from birth to age five!

1. Create reading rituals and read together every day
2. Snuggle up close with a book
3. Talk about the pictures and ask questions
4. Share different kinds of books
5. Read with expression
6. Read favourite books again and again
7. Record yourself reading and play it on car trips or as an alternative to television



'good readers are made on the lap of a parent'

Maintenance Department

By Gale Bourne

Annual Asbestos Notification

SERRC has completed a comprehensive asbestos inspection and management plan for the Yukon Koyukuk School District. This report is available for your inspection during normal school hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) at the District Office and on line at <http://yksd.schoolwires.net/>.

As a result of the inspection performed by SERRC, asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM) were identified and their condition assessed. The areas noted have been encapsulated, or removed by the District. A long range plan for handling the materials has been developed.

An ongoing operations and maintenance program which includes periodic surveillance and re-inspections has been implemented by the District and will remain in effect until all ACBM has been removed from District facilities. Please direct any concerns to Gale Bourne, Director of Facilities, at (907) 374-9404.

Food Service Happenings!

By Trevor Bridgewater



With the start of a new school year we are all working hard to make the most of every school day. Breakfast and lunch are great tools to help keep students focused and ready for new challenges. In an average month our district serves over 6,000 combined breakfast and lunch meals! With the help of all staff members we are working to make the meals program the best it can be at each school. The renovations and upgrades to schools and kitchens across the district are essential to continuing to serve safe, nutritious meals to our students. Thank you all for making this possible.

This year, our district has been accepted to participate in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program offered through the USDA. Our district has participated in past years and I am happy to announce that all schools will be part of the program this year. This is considered an educational snack to promote eating a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables. Bananas and grapes have been our selections so far this year and we look forward to hearing what students think of future offerings.

October starts National Farm to School Month! This would be a great

opportunity to fund an idea you might be thinking about for your school. This can cover a range of ideas from school gardens to greenhouses to indoor hydroponic setups. Planning grants are available now and applications are due in December. I would be happy to help with the process and look forward to hearing any ideas you may have. See the links below for more information on the program as well as a project completed here in Alaska.

<http://www.farmtoschool.org/>

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/FarmToSchool/MobileHydroponics.pdf>



The HResource

By Patty Hill

Happy Fall Everyone! It's amazing how quickly the first quarter has passed. I would like to take this opportunity to let everyone know what a great group of new teachers we have this year. It is getting more and more difficult every year to find passionate teachers. I can't thank our newest group enough for taking a chance on YKSD. The students are lucky to have such strong and dedicated teachers. I hope everyone is doing their best to make sure they feel welcome, supported and encouraged.

I don't know about you, but the everyday hustle and bustle finds me taking shortcuts more often than I used to, particularly when it comes to communicating with those around me. I shoot off a short email or a quick text with emojis rather than picking up the telephone or marching down the hall to actually "speak" with someone. Does this mean I'm too busy or too lazy? I think it's a mixture of both. We've all become so accustomed to dealing with people via text and email that it has become our most common mode of communication; but not necessarily the most effective. Join me in setting goal to practice more face to face communicating with those around you this school year. Nothing can replace the human connection....not even emojis!



Assessment Department News

By Patty White

This fall has been a busy time for District Assessments. We began the year with all students, grades 3-11, taking the Northwest Education Association Measure of Academic Progress (NWEA MAP) assessments, in September. We have completed these assessments 3 times per year for grades 3 – 12 for the past six years. We changed to AimsWeb Benchmark testing for the Primary (grades K-2) this year to replace PMAP, which had been used for the primary grades. Changing to a more appropriate testing instrument for younger students gives us a better picture of what students know at all grade levels and allows us to see growth or concerns in students from grades K-12, which helps teachers target instruction to

student's individual needs. All MAP testing is completed on the computer and scored immediately, which provides teachers with needed information right away. As an added benefit, the computerized tests give our student experience with testing on a computer, which could be the testing method for the new State of Alaska Test in the Spring of 2017.

Upcoming assessments include: MAP and AimsWeb mid-year testing January 11-27; ACCESS test for student with Limited English Proficiency in February; the annual State of Alaska test – dates not determined; and MAP end of year testing April 24 – May 5.

Please feel free to contact Patty White at pwhite@yksd.com or 374-9407 if you have any questions or would like more information regarding District Assessments.



Youth Leadership & Boarding News

By Andrea Durny

YKSD Boarding Home Program:

YKSD is again offering the Boarding Home Reimbursement Program in 2016-17 to families who meet eligibility requirements. This reimbursement program is intended to assist families with the cost of housing a student who may need additional tangible supports in reaching their academic goals, and don't want to leave the

cultural/family setting. Applications are reviewed by a committee once a week. The application process for the FY17 YKSD Boarding Home Program is now closed. For more information please contact Andrea Durny, adurny@yksd.com, 907-374-9424

AASB Youth Leadership Institute Nov. 10-13, 2016.

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 63rd Annual Conference is "Every Student, Every Story". The

officers attending will be determined at the October 12th meeting. For more information please contact Andrea Durny, adurny@yksd.com, 907-374-9424



Technology Update

By Luke Meinert



Technology ~ Connecting our District to the world, one school at a time!

Videoconferencing

Our large RUS grant project has been completed! We had a Polycom engineer in the district office during the week of September 8th assisting with installation of new video infrastructure. A field engineer from Solutionz travelled to all of our River sites to install 31 new Polycom video conferencing units in each classroom. This is an exciting addition to our video network as it allows students to join distance learning courses from their classroom. It also opens up the possibility to additional virtual fieldtrips and experiences.

Palo Alto Networks – Firewall

We're in the process of deploying new

firewalls to all of our river sites. This will help prioritize traffic for school specific web-sites and applications that are critical for our students & faculty. We currently have 9 of 10 firewalls deployed. We'll install the final firewall in Koyukuk next week.

UniFi Security Gateway

Ubiquiti Networks introduces the UniFi® Security Gateway, which extends the UniFi Enterprise System to encompass routing and security for your network. The UniFi Security Gateway combines reliable security features with high-performance routing technology in a cost-effective unit. We've been installing these alongside of our fire-

walls this Fall to better utilize the bandwidth in our schools. You can read more about these devices here: <https://www.ubnt.com/unifi-switching-routing/usg/>

Chromebooks

We continue to rollout Chromebooks throughout the district. All 7-12th grade students are issued a Chromebook, and we're now starting to replace older Mac's in the elementary. Chromebooks are affordable, easy to manage, have excellent battery life, & promote collaboration with the Google Apps for Education suite.



Technology Department getting our new school in Rampart ready for students!

Area Wide Student Council (AWSC)

By Andrea Durny

We are entering our year 7th year with the district wide student council which is comprised of two student representatives from each site. Site representatives are either nominated or voted in at their location. This is a great leadership opportunity for our students; the officers meet once a month over VTC to give their site reports. The first AWSC meeting took place October 12th where they reorganize their board and determine who their President will be. The president serves as the Student School Board Representative, presenting the AWSC report the YKSD Board Meetings.

FY17 AWSC Members

Kaltag- Jamie McGinty, Clayton Neglaska
 Allakaket- Desmond Edwin, Megan Henry
 Huslia- Elizabeth Henderson, Dorothy Williams, Zoe Ballard-Huffman
 Nulato- Jocelyn Patsy, Cameron Hildebrand
 Minto- Latisha Roberts, Briana Charlie
 Ruby- Ethan McGinty, Sheldon Albert
 Koyukuk- Ashley Williams, Isaac Morgan

Positions:

President: TBD
 Vice President: TBD
 Secretary: TBD
 Treasurer: TBD

FY17 Meeting Dates

October 12
 November 16
 December 7
 January 11
 February 22
 March 22
 April 26

If you have any items that need to be recognized, please contact your site representative. The meeting schedule for FY17 is listed above, meetings are at 1:15pm.

Phlight Club

By Andrea Durny

Phlight Club was held at Camp Bingle located on Harding Lake August 11-14, 2016. We had a total of 29 students travel in as well as 10 chaperones. Travel was paid for by the CARE grant, we are currently in year two of a three-year grant. Derek Peterson was our main presenter. While at camp we focused on making connections with adult anchors to build our webs of support/resiliency, leadership and fun. This was such a beautiful weekend to spend at camp; the staff was great, we had access to the lake boats, bunk cabins, fire pit and the food was marvelous. 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.



7th Annual Fun Run

We had a total of 201 runners district wide participate in the Fun Run the weekend of September 30th. Each student who registered received a free t-shirt. Thank you to the teachers and parents for working with the students to fill in their Healthy Life-styles Activity Logs as we work together with our communities to promote health and wellness within our schools. The right column lists the top 3 runners in each category, they will

receive trophies to add to the site awards ceremonies. Thank you to all the sites for their participation and coordination efforts which made this event happen for our students. I hope that you had fun and enjoyed the t-shirts. For a complete list of runners times please see your schools front office.



Allakaket



Kaltag



Nulato



Minto



Huslia

By Andrea Durny

Top Runners by Category

Grades K-1, 1/2mile

1. Trevon Madros, Nulato. 3:57
2. Naomi Fox, Allakaket. 4:00
3. Cola Sipary, Nulato. 4:00

Grades 3-7, 1mile

1. Roshell Woellert, Manley. 6:17
2. Travis Madros, Nulato. 7:32
3. Benjamin Swider, Manley. 7:38

Grades 8-12, 3.1miles

1. Sheldon Albert, Ruby. 17:50
2. Mac Kesey, Minto. 20:20
3. David Gomez, Manley. 21:32



Koyukuk

Johnny Oldman School

By Patty White



School is off to a great start in Hughes this year. Students enjoyed the district Fun Run on a beautiful sunny day as all students participated.

Plans are underway for the Halloween carnival and Culture Week which will be coming up later this month.



Allakaket Tribal Office Health Meeting Field Trip By Evelyn Esmailka



I took my Preschool, Kindergarten, and First Grade classes on a field trip to Allakaket Tribal Office for a Health Meeting. The students have been studying about their community and their leaders for Social Studies. They were able to meet with many leaders from the

State Health Committees, Allakaket Tribal Council, Allakaket City Council and Allakaket Behavioral health. They were also able to meet with Elisa Bergman the Allakaket Tribal Administrator and the elders of the village. Concerns were voiced to have water and sewer ser-

vices in every home in Allakaket so that the children will remain healthy and strong. My class listened to the speakers, ate, and visited with the people in the meeting. Thank you, Mr. Parker for approving this field trip! The students learned so much at the meeting.

Allakaket School Family Literacy Night

By Evelyn Esmailka



Hello everyone! Here are some pictures of the first Allakaket School Family Literacy Night that was held on Friday, September 16th. Thank you staff, Mr. Parker, Mr. Fields, and Mr. Fox for helping me make this event so successful. We welcomed parents and children of all ages. The children read to adults and the adults read to the children. Older chil-

dren read to younger siblings and other children. We read for an hour and fifteen minutes and some were enjoying themselves and read even longer! I served spaghetti, garlic bread, cake with blueberries and juice. It was nice to eat and visit with all the participants. The children made beaded necklaces for themselves or their parents and we

remodeled Reading with Expression Loft! The event was held in my classroom and lasted around two hours. I would like to send out a special 'Thank You' to Mr. Fields for reading the longest with the two students he was with. We had a wonderful turn out, a total of 24 parents and children attended! Thank you all for coming!



Ella B. Vernetti School News

By Judy Madros & Patty White

We welcomed Marie Dayton back to our staff.

Students have been working diligently in all their classes this first quarter and have learned a great deal as demonstrated on their MAP testing. Students showed great improvement in Reading and Math on the Fall MAP assessment given in September!

Cultural Week: We're just beginning our culture week here in Koyukuk! Susan Paskvan came for a visit and held native language and yoga classes for the younger students. Marie Dayton is busy directing students on how to

create dreamcatchers. Our students will also be making traditional native items. The girls will make native shirts while the boys make native sewing kits.

Moose: If anyone from the community would like to bring their moose meat to us we will process it for them. We also have plans for making jam, jarring fish, and moose meat.

Fun Run: We just held our Fun Run with the help of community members. Susan Paskvan, Robert Pilot and Adam Paskvan, who are two young inspirational men, ran with the students and en-

couraged them as they went! Last year, our late Cindy Pilot, participated in the Fun Run. She loved our students very dearly. Judy Madros, one of the teachers, walked the mile in her memory.

Story Hour: We started the year out with Eliza Jones presenting to the district during story hour on August 24. Students drew pictures of the stories she told them.



Inspiring Us All: Each day the students return to school with enthusiasm and motivation to continue on their path to success.

Gladys Dart School

By: Patty White

We have been really busy this first quarter in Manley. We welcomed new teachers, Doug and Barb Stahr. In August the students and staff took their annual hike to Rampart. It was a beautiful day and all enjoyed the hike.

Several students participated in the Fun Run at UAF in September and are continuing to train for cross country running and stay in shape for cross country skiing which is coming up soon!

In addition, students are enjoying drafting class. They received tabletop drafting tables from the CTE department and are learning to draft in a professional manner.



Kaltag School

By Patty White



School is off to a great start in Kaltag. We had the Regional School Board meeting in Kaltag on August 31. We have a new early elementary teacher, Kilah Cobb, from California and a new principal, Patty White. We welcomed the School Board and the new staff members with a covered dish din-

ner on August 30. We had a great turnout.

Students and staff enjoyed Culture Week on September 19-23. Susan Paskvan and Jolene McGinty from the district office were in Kaltag to help and participated in all the activities. Students cooked,

danced, and participated in outdoor activities. It was a great learning experience and celebration of our culture.

Kaltag School Cultural Week

By Nancy Mason

We've just finished out Cultural Studies Week and it was amazing!

Day 1 – The students worked on survival skills; they helped make a fire and then they cooked their own lunch and it ended with roasted marshmallows over the fire to make s'mores. Afterward the students went berry picking and fishing.

Day 2 – The students made fish ice cream and then made pies with the berries that they collected. They practiced native singing and dancing with Tristan Madros and Kendra Ekada.

Day 3 – The students participated in storytelling and finished off with native singing and dancing.

Day 4 – The students invited the Elders of the community for a lunch showcasing traditional food, including food they had made during the week. After the luncheon, the students performed the songs they had been practicing for the Elders and also other community members that attended the luncheon. They were dressed in their regalia. Susan Paskvan had her afternoon Native Language class watch their performance. For those interested, we made a video of the performance.

It was impressive that the next generation (Tristan Madros, Kendra Ekada, and Jaylene Esmailka) planned and coordinated our entire cultural week. They did a really good job!



Merrelaine A. Kangas School

By Anne Titus



*Merrelaine A. Kangas School
Family Fun Night.*

MAK School has gotten off to a very good start this year. We have been really busy as usual with fall time activities, reviews and fun things to do. Students have participated in the following activities:

August: Open House – Family Fun Night & Community Gathering

September: Fun Friday activities that includ-

ed crafts, archery, cheerleading and wrestling. Staff polled the students for ideas and we are trying to offer as many mini clubs as we can during all four quarters of this year. These Clubs occur twice a month during the last hour of the day. The Fun Run – All Students participated in the YKSD Fun Run.

October: Our planned events for October are: Family Homework Night where parents will come to a Make and Take activity night to learn games and ideas for activates to do with children and grandchildren. Our annual Halloween Carnival will take place on October 28th along with the Parent Conferences.

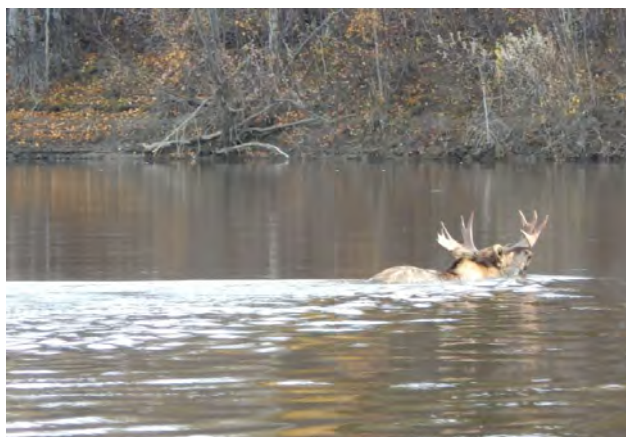
Andrew K. Demoski School

By Jason Johnson

We have two new teachers on our staff who are absolutely incredible. Ms. Chelsea Moore is teaching our K-2 students and Mr. Kevin Stofocik is instructing our middle and high school students in

English, History and Art. We also just completed our cultural week activities and our digital photography students have captured the events as part of their course. Included in theses community activities were

looking for moose, harvesting as they had 'luck,' completing beadwork, listening to storytelling and native singing and dances.



Rampart School Joins YKSD

By Vanessa Kubanyi
Photo Journalist Student

We are proud to announce that we have joined YKSD in July 2016 and opened our doors for the first day of school on August 22nd. It is swell going to school here knowing the student's beforehand as well as the opportunity to have a teacher and teacher's assistant for each of the classrooms. Student's 6th-12th have individual learning plans and three seniors are on track to graduate this spring. "The high school students are very determined to meet their rigorous graduation requirements and

have shown the intrinsic motivation to make it happen," says HS Teacher and Principal John Hersrud.

These pictures are of our school, the Principal's Assistant working with the Pre-school and Kindergarten students, and the final picture is of the Middle School students working on the computers. "I like how this school district works, how all of the students can have more one on one time with the teachers, independent studying so we can have more understanding of our

work on our own page. We can also stay longer after school or in the mornings to study and make sure we are caught up on work, because the teachers are willing to help us more," Millena Jordan said after I asked her thoughts on our new district. I personally think this school district gives us more opportunity to go farther in the work we do and preparing for the next step with our organized schedules, proper equipment, and good teachers.



Minto School

By Vicky Charlie

Junior High Basketball at Minto

Almost all 5th-8th grade students are playing Junior High basketball this school year. Practice began on September 26th. Alicia Lee has been hired as the girls' coach and Tawna Alexander as the boys' coach. This is a very exciting time for the middle school students, especially the 5th graders who quickly have to learn that keeping their grades up is important. If any players are behind on school work, they have to sit in the bleachers while the rest of their team practices. The excitement continues for all students as they get to travel to the following communities this year: Healy, Tok, Northway and Nenana. We have received positive feedback from the principal at Healy after our teams traveled there October 6th-8th. He said that our students were very respectful and that he heard nothing but good things about them. Our boys placed second with a one-point loss in the championship game to Tok. Our girls placed third. It's important to remind students when they travel that they are representing our school and community and to show manners and respect to our hosts.



Miranda Smith at the free-throw line for Minto. The girls lost by 2 points to advance to the championship game and settled with taking 3rd place.



Championship game at the Tri-Valley Middle School Tournament, Minto (in black) vs. Tok.

Raven Homeschool—Anchorage

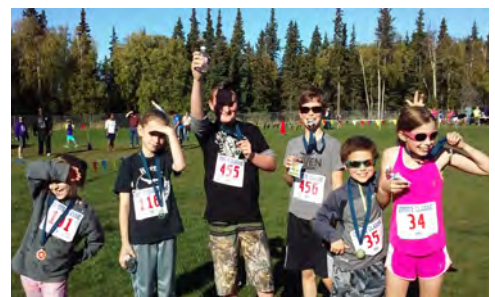
By Valerie Thurston



Spanish Class with Mrs. Romero



*5th & 6th Grade Battle of the Books
with Mrs. Davis*



*Runners participated in the
Healthy Futures Jamboree*



Science Workshop



Going live at the iHeart Radio Station



Raven Readers with Mrs. Thurston

Raven Homeschool—Delta Junction

By Heidi Minton

We recently had Ron Bergey here in our Delta office doing science classes. He held classes Friday for our Elementary students, and again on Monday for our High School students. We chose Slime, Chocolate & Explosions.



Raven Homeschool—Fairbanks

By Mo Ott



Raven Homeschool entered a float in this summer's Golden Days Parade. Staff worked hard on the float and it paid off, our float won the "Best Non-Commercial" entry! Great job to all who helped with the float and came out to support Raven Homeschool!

YKSD Birthdays

OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
Scotty Starr	2-Oct	Steve Duby	1-Nov	Rachel Reilly	1-Dec
Larry Parker	6-Oct	Sigwien Cleveland	2-Nov	Wilmer Beetus	6-Dec
Audrey Madros	8-Oct	Betty Hoffman	6-Nov	Cynthia Agnes	7-Dec
Kerry Boyd	9-Oct	Tami Rump	7-Nov	Rosemary Wiehl	8-Dec
Maurice McGinty	14-Oct	Judy Madros	8-Nov	Holly Shier	9-Dec
Stanley Arnold	14-Oct	Pat Baser	10-Nov	Dian Gurtler	10-Dec
Andy Esmailka	15-Jan	Hazel Olson	12-Nov	Monique Ratzlaff	13-Dec
Heidi Wright	18-Oct	Kilah Cobb	13-Nov	Emily Sommer	19-Dec
Marie Dayton	20-Oct	Olga Semaken	13-Nov	Nancy Mason	19-Dec
Randi Shrider	22-Oct	Nicholas Roberts	14-Nov	Rebecca Linus	19-Dec
Kevin Stofocik	27-Oct	Virginia Patsy	15-Nov	Lorrie Green	21-Dec
Andrea Cottrell	29-Oct	Doug Stahr	17-Nov	Brandy Henderson	26-Dec
		Cathy Walker	24-Nov	Jaylene Esmailka	26-Dec
		Evelyn Esmailka	24-Nov	Ben McFarlane	30-Dec
		Amy Graham	25-Nov		
		Bijan Welch	26-Nov		

2016-2017 YKSD School Calendar

August						
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2016

AUGUST

- 8-9 Principals at District Office
- 10-12 Principals on-site
- 11-12 New Teachers at District Office
- 15-16 Teacher Workday at site
- 17-19 In-service at site
- 22 First Day of School

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Regional School Board Meeting-Katag
- 5 Labor Day Holiday
- 10 Principal Workday
- 16 Mid-term Progress Reports
- 23 In-service at site

OCTOBER

- 14 End of 1st Quarter/Early Dismissal for Students/Report Cards
- 15 Principal Workday
- 24 Parent Teacher Conferences/Early Dismissal for Students
- 27 Regional School Board Meeting-Huslia

NOVEMBER

- 11 Mid-term Progress Reports
- 23 Early Dismissal for Students & Staff
- 24-25 Thanksgiving Holiday

DECEMBER

- 3 Principal Workday
- 9 Regional School Board Meeting-Fairbanks
- 16 End of Semester/Early Dismissal for Students/Report Cards
- 19-30 Holiday Break-No School

2017

JANUARY

- 2 Holiday Break - No School
- 3 Teacher Workday - No School
- 4 Students back to school
- 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day-No School
- 27 Regional School Board Meeting-Koyukuk
- 28 Principal Workday

FEBRUARY

- 2-3 In-service at site
- 10 Mid-term Progress Reports

MARCH

- 4 Principal Workday
- 10 End of Quarter/Early Dismissal for Students/Report Cards
- 10 Regional School Board Meeting-Fairbanks
- 13-17 Spring Break (varies by school)
- 27 Parent Teacher Conferences/Early Dismissal for Students
- 28 Testing window begins

APRIL

- 8 Principal Workday
- 14 Mid-term Progress Reports

MAY

- 2 AMP testing window ends
- 12 Regional School Board Meeting-Fairbanks
- 24 Last Day of School for Students/Report Cards
- 25-26 Teacher Workday
- 27-31 Principal Workdays (through June 2)
- 29 Memorial Holiday

June

- 1-2 Principal Workdays
- 2 Regional School Board Meeting-Anchorage

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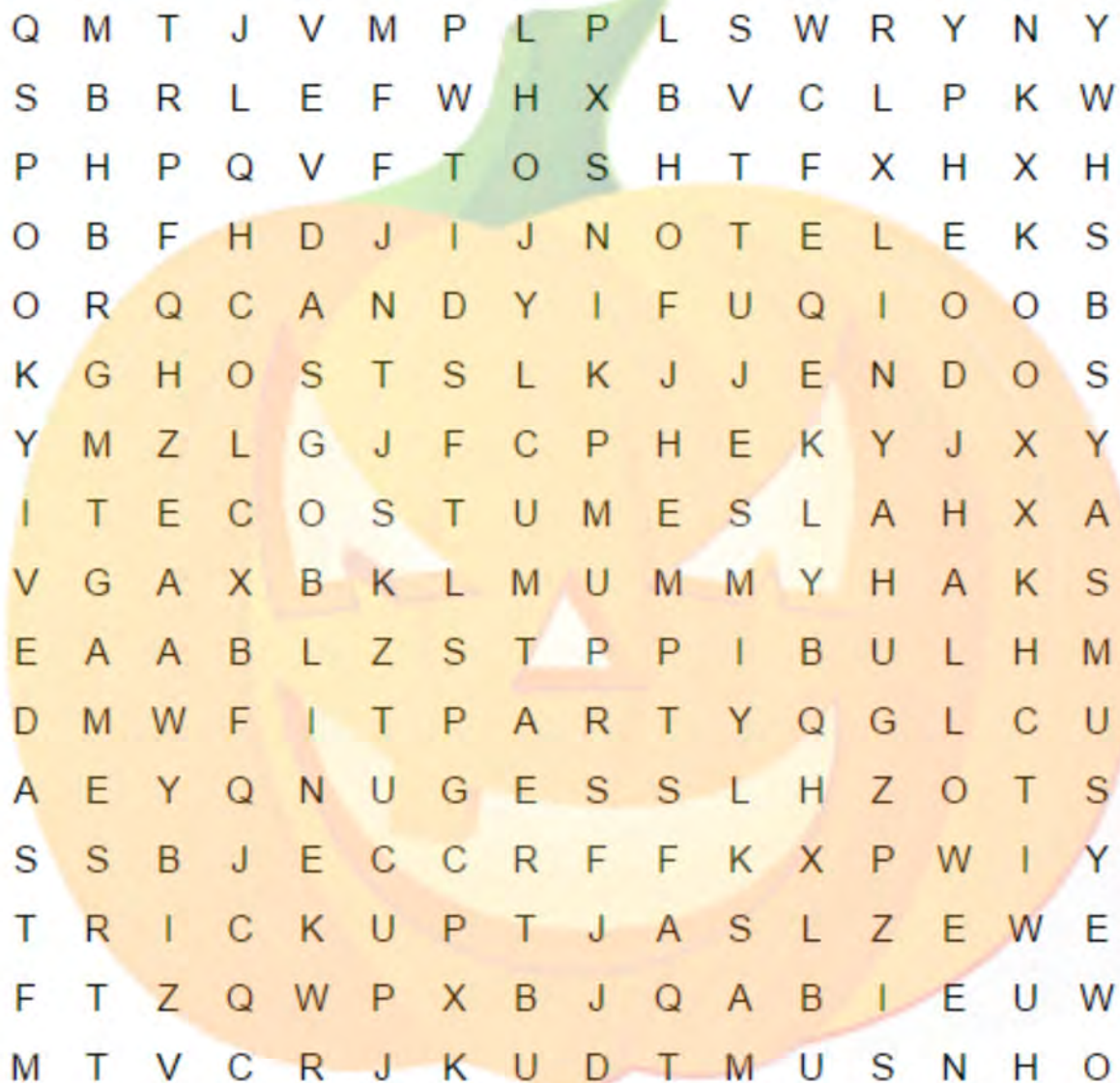
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June						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	



- C** Last Day of School/Report Cards
- E** End of Quarter-Early Dismissal for Students/Report Cards
- MD** Minimum Day
- H** Legal Holiday
- I** Inservice Day
- M** Parent-Teacher Conf-Early Dismissal for Students
- MT** Mid-Term Progress Reports
- O** First Day of School for Students
- T** Testing
- V** Vacation Day
- W** Teacher Workday
- P** Principal Workday (tentative dates)
- NT** New Teacher Workday
- O** Regional School Board Meetings

Halloween Word Search



BOO
GAMES
HALLOWEEN
PARTY
SPOOKY
WITCH

CANDY
GHOSTS
MASK
PUMPKINS
TRICK

COSTUMES
GOBLIN
MUMMY
SKELETON
TREAT

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January Jamboree

January 13-14, 2017

Merrelaine A. Kangas School GYM

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