

# YKSD Staff Connections



December 2016

## *Yukon Koyukuk School District Receives Accreditation Status*

Superintendent Boyd

Congratulations to students, staff and community members! Yukon Koyukuk School District has earned district accreditation from AdvancED, the most rigorous school accreditation organization in the United States! What does accreditation mean? Full district accreditation signals a quality education and the commitment of our district to continuous improvement. It also means your student's courses and credits are more likely to be recognized when applying for college application or when transferring to another school. In addition, accreditation improves acknowledgment when applying for federal student aid and scholarships. Another major benefit of accreditation is that our certified teachers and staff provide an official diploma!

What does the review team do? The AdvancED organization conducts rigorous on-site external reviews of K-12 schools across the nation. The AdvancED review team for YKSD was comprised of six team members from the lower 48 and Anchorage. The team of educators spent three days evaluating the district and its school improvement process including, parent interviews, student interviews, school board interviews and classroom observations. The team acknowledged the amount of pride and commitment they saw when working with students and was very impressed with the welcoming communities. As a result of their work, YKSD earned the accreditation status for five years!

The district was awarded three powerful practices. Three powerful practices the team cited are:

- ◆ YKSD engages in effective family communication practices
- ◆ YKSD fosters an environment where mentor relationships between adults and students are established and encouraged
- ◆ YKSD uses a comprehensive assessment system, Response to Intervention (RTI), which is well known by all stakeholders and utilizes measures that are consistent across the district

Each district that goes through the process is given at least one improvement priority. YKSD will work over the next two years on two improvement priorities:

- ◆ Review and evaluate the current professional learning program in order for teachers to embed experiential learning strategies, including hands-on and project-based tasks in their practice.
- ◆ Evaluate decisions to see that they are supporting system goals and values, leadership priorities, teaching and learning, and are financially sound.

Through the work of the teachers, CSCs, the YKSD Regional School Board, support staff and administration, the district began its process of self-assessment using AdvancED criteria last year.

The accreditation will help the school district improve to better serve our students. I am very pleased to be working with such a great team!



*Kim Pippin and Kerry Boyd*



## Recognizing our Regional School Board, Area Wide Student Council and CSCs!

Superintendent Boyd

The first few months of the school year have gone by quickly and it has been an exciting and eventful time. The local CSCs have assembled new members. The student body has been busy discussing important school business and helping with important school business. I would like to officially recognize the 2016/2017 YKSD Regional School Board, CSC Members and Area Wide Student Council.

### YKSD Regional School Board

Maurice McGinty, (Nulato, Ruby, Koyukuk, and Kaltag)	President
Fred Bifelt, (Huslia, Hughes, Allakaket and Bettles)	Vice President
Dian Gurtler, (Manley, Minto, and the Road System)	Treasurer
Gloria Patsy, (Nulato, Ruby, Koyukuk, and Kaltag)	Secretary
Wilma David, (Minto, Manley, and the Road System)	Member
Shirley Kruger, (Nulato, Ruby, Koyukuk, and Kaltag)	Member
Wilmer Beetus, (Huslia, Hughes, Allakaket and Bettles)	Member

### Area Wide Student Council

Jocelyn Patsy, Nualto- President  
Cameron Hildebrand, Nulato-Vice President  
Jessica Hoffman, Manley- Secretary  
Elizabeth Henderson, Huslia-Treasurer

Kaltag- Clayton Neglaska, Jamie McGinty  
Allakaket- Desmond Edwin, Megan Henry  
Huslia- Zoe Ballard-Huffman, Dorothy Williams, Elizabeth Henderson  
Nulato- Cameron Hildebrand, Jocelyn Patsy  
Minto- Dakota Titus, Briana Charlie, Latisha Roberts  
Ruby- Sheldon Albert, Ethan McGinty  
Koyukuk – Isaac Morgan, Ashley Williams  
Manley- Jessica Hoffman, September Massey  
Rampart- Millena Jordan, Liyana Woods-Newman

Congratulations to our leaders! Be sure to thank them for all the good work they do each and every day for YKSD!





## Community School Committees

SEAT	ALLAKAKET	TERM EXPIRES
A	Steven Bergman	2018
B	Jonathan Henzie	2018
C	Emily Gray	2017
D	Liz Strassburg	2018
E	Valerie Bergman	2019

SEAT	JOHNNY OLDMAN (HUGHES)	TERM EXPIRES
A	Amanda Oldman-Tritt	2019
B	Wilmer Beetus	2019
C	Alfred Attla, Jr.	2018
D	Ella Sam	2017
E	Melanie Burtis	2018

SEAT	JIMMY HUNTINGTON (HUSLIA)	TERM EXPIRES
A	Nakon' Vent	2017
B	Aubrey Felicia Bifelt	2019
C	Lorraine Pavlick	2018
D	Leona Starr	2019
E	Sophie Joyce Sam	2018

SEAT	KALTAG	TERM EXPIRES
A	Jessica McGinty*	2017
B	Ann Neglaska*	2017
C	Christina Semaken*	2017
D	VACANT	2019
E	VACANT	2019

SEAT	ELLA B. VERNETTI (KOYUKUK)	TERM EXPIRES
A	Jessica Gibson	2018
B	Martha Dayton	2019
C	Hazel Lohnitz	2017
D	Eliza Jones	2017
E	April Williams	2018

SEAT	MHS GLADYS DART (MANLEY)	TERM EXPIRES
A	Tanis Joiner	2017
B	Bea Schafer	2019
C	Cindy Moore	2018

SEAT	MINTO	TERM EXPIRES
A	Frankie Silas	2018
B	Tawna Alexander	2019
C	Leslie David	2019
D	Keith Charlie	2018
E	Francine Wiehl	2017

SEAT	ANDREW K. DEMOSKI (NULATO)	TERM EXPIRES
A	Robyn George	2017
B	Eileen Madros	2017
C	Gloria Patsy	2018
D	Shirley Kruger	2019
E	Martha Turner	2019

SEAT	RAMPART	TERM EXPIRES
A	Floyd Green	2019
B	Dee Wiehl	2019
C	Yvonne Woods	2019

SEAT	MERRELINE A. KANGAS (RUBY)	TERM EXPIRES
A	Norma Williams	2017
B	Marie Cleaver	2018
C	Shaelene Nikolai	2019
D	MaryAnn McCarty	2017
E	Loretta Peters Brown	2019



## *Happenings from the Office of the Assistant Superintendent and Federal Programs*

By Gina Hrinko



It's hard to believe that the holiday season is upon us. It seems like just a couple of weeks ago we were at the beginning of the school year, welcoming students on the first day. We hope everyone is enjoying this last week of school filled with school holiday programs and parties. We've had a great first semester and are looking forward to an even better second semester!

### *Grant Highlights*

**Pre-K Program:** Stockings were sent out for all of our Pre-K students district-wide. The stockings have school supplies, a toy, a treat and some other small things that our Pre-K students will enjoy this holiday season.

**Expanding our Horizons:** Through this project, on-site mentoring and coaching for teachers working in the primary classrooms is provided. Kim Barnes and Rachel Reilly have been traveling to selected school sites to provide on-site, in the classroom

coaching. Rachel also provides VTC support for all primary teachers quarterly through an early elementary PLC and ongoing support more frequently.

**Indian Education:** Each school site has been emailed an allotment that can be spent on supplies, cultural activities, art supplies, or support for remediation. Please make sure to work with Sean to order the supplies you need for your activities.

**New Grant Alert – ANE Virtual Careers:** This program is off to a

great start. To date, students have had the opportunity to participate in a career fly-in that focused on health and education careers. This was a great chance for students to explore the two different career fields and to learn more about each one. Students also participated in an education academy. We had seven students attend and the feedback from students was very positive. The next academy will be the

"Stocking were sent out to all of our Pre-K students district-wide."



### *Professional Development*

All of our Principals attended the Principal conference in Anchorage back at the end of October. This was a rejuvenating time and opportunity to network and

collaborate with other Principals from around the state. The conference focused on school leadership and climate. The next professional development opportunity

for Principals will be in January. All Principals will be attending the RTI conference in Anchorage.



## Primary Support Program

By Rachel Reilly

### **Primary Professional Learning Communities**

In November, PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade teachers met in focus groups using VTC to discuss teaching and learning. The teachers divided into small groups based on goals they'd set for their professional growth at the beginning of the year. Topics included time management, interventions for RTI time, differentiating during whole group instruction, and designing small group and independent activities that facilitate meaningful learning. The teachers established next steps for their group work

that they will execute in the coming weeks. The ECE coordinator will also be working with each group during this time to assure that the momentum established during these sessions is sustained. It's so exciting to have the opportunity to collaborate!

### **Highly Qualified Paraprofessionals**

The State of Alaska requires that every paraprofessional who works for a school district implementing a School-Wide Program be Highly Qualified.

To remain in compliance with this requirement, the Yukon Koyukuk School District offers all new hires a 90-day grace period to earn this status. There are two ways to become Highly Qualified: 1) submit transcripts showing that you have earned at least 36 credits at an accredited college/university or 2) pass the ETS Parapro Assessment. If you are interested in earning this status, please contact Rachel Reilly by email ([rreilly@yksd.com](mailto:rreilly@yksd.com)) or phone (907-374-9418) to talk about your options.



## Early Literacy Tip for Families

By Rachel Reilly

We know that talking with your child from the day they are born is one of the best ways to make sure that they are ready to read when they enter school. Listening to you talk helps your children develop their vocabularies and become familiar with the patterns of language that they may encounter when they start to read.

This quarter, tell stories to your child about their history:

- 1) How did you get ready for their birth?
- 2) How did you choose their name?
- 3) What's a memory that you have of them as a baby?
- 4) What is something you remember from your own childhood?
- 5) Do you have stories about other family members?

Telling stories like these will not only help your child develop their speaking and listening skills, but it will also help them develop strong confidence in who they are and what they are capable of.



## State & Federal Programs News

By Sean Lawson

**Accreditation** This Fall the State & Federal Programs Department has been busy. In conjunction with our usual grant programs, this quarter saw us hosting a visit for the Federal Accreditation team in November. Thanks to everyone working in our villages and YKSD District Office who helped make the accreditation process possible, and congratulations on the overwhelming success!

**Reading Lofts** It has not all been all Federal regulations and compliance in the Grants Department, though; this Fall we had the opportunity to send reading lofts to several sites for their elementary students to enjoy. We would like to thank everyone who helped receive the (many, many) shipments that were part of that process, and a special thanks to Evelyn Esmailka in Allakaket for sending us these pictures of the finished product!

**Book Distribution** As we prepare to break for the holiday we are getting ready for another book distribution to our schools, which will coincide with a literacy night activity for both the students and their parents at several of our sites. We'd like to wish everyone that is a part of our district a happy holiday season, and we are looking forward to the start of another exciting semester!



## Special Education Specifics

By Cristina Welker

### *FYI! Accommodations for Students with Disabilities on an IEP or 504 Plan*

**Accommodations:** are changes in practices and procedures that provide equitable access to grade level content during instruction and assessment that do not alter the validity of the assessment, score interpretation, reliability, or security of the assessment. Accommodations are intended to reduce or even eliminate the effects of a student's disability; **they do not** reduce learning expectations. The accommodations provided to a student should generally be the same for classroom instruction and for assessments. It is critical to note that although some accommodations may be appropriate for instructional use, they may not be appropriate for use on a standardized assessment. Because of the close link between assessment and instruction, the IEP or 504 plan must describe how the accommodations for assessment are provided routinely for classroom instruction. The IEP or 504 team should select appropriate accommodations based on the student's need, and must provide documentation and the rationale for the accommodations in the IEP or 504 plan.

Research shows that an unfamiliar test accommodation given to a student with a disability may negatively impact performance. Accordingly, an IEP or 504 team should be cautious about adding an accommodation shortly before an assessment. In general, a good practice is to make sure an accommodation has been used in the student's regular or special education classes for instruction and classroom assessments for at least three months or 90 days before testing. This will ensure that the student has experience with the accommodation and that the accommodation is appropriate for the student. When accommodations are provided as part of a computer-based assessment, the IEP team must take care to ensure that students have opportunities to become familiar with the technological aspects of the accommodations. In addition to using the accommodation in instruction, students should have the opportunity to use the computer-based practice tests to be familiar with how accommodations will be made available on computer-based assessments.

**Modifications:** A modification is a change in the content, format, and/or administration of a test that alters what the test is designed to measure or the comparability of scores. A modification makes an assessment invalid. Modifications are determined based on what the assessments is designed to measure. Educators must become familiar with each assessment in order to prevent invalidation.



### *Jimmy Huntington School-Renovation Project* By Gale Bourne



After years of planning and preparation, the Jimmy Huntington School renovation project is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2017.

CONGRATULATIONS HUSLIA!



## Red Ribbon Week

By Cristina Welker

2016 Red Ribbon Week was October 23<sup>rd</sup> – October 31<sup>st</sup>. Here are some pictures of students in Kaltag & Koyukuk who worked with Counselor Jolene to get these amazing decorations up! It's awesome how they combined Halloween with saying **NO to drugs!** You can visit [redribbon.org](http://redribbon.org) for more information, activity ideas and lesson plans. This year's theme was:


**YOLO. Be Drug Free.™**





# RED RIBBON WEEK®

## BY THE NUMBERS




**1985**  
  
 Year That Special Agent Kiki Camarena of the DEA was kidnapped, tortured and murdered by a drug cartel in Mexico.


The **THREE** most widely used drugs by youth and adults: alcohol, prescription drugs and marijuana.<sup>1</sup>



**2016**  
 National Theme:  
**YOLO. Be Drug Free.™**




**80 MILLION**  
 The estimated number of people participating in Red Ribbon Week activities each year.




**1985**  
 Year That Special Agent Kiki Camarena of the DEA was kidnapped, tortured and murdered by a drug cartel in Mexico.




**1985**  
 Year That Special Agent Kiki Camarena of the DEA was kidnapped, tortured and murdered by a drug cartel in Mexico.




**\$18**  
 Amount saved per \$1 invested in effective school-based prevention.<sup>2</sup>



**4,300**  
 Children under the age of 21 who die each year from underage drinking-related causes.<sup>3</sup>



**ONE**  
 The number of people required to make a difference. Each one of us has the power to help kids grow up safe, healthy and drug free. Get involved in Red Ribbon Week.



**WWW.REDRIBBON.ORG**

1. <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUHresusPWHTM12013/Web/NSDUHresults2013.pdf>

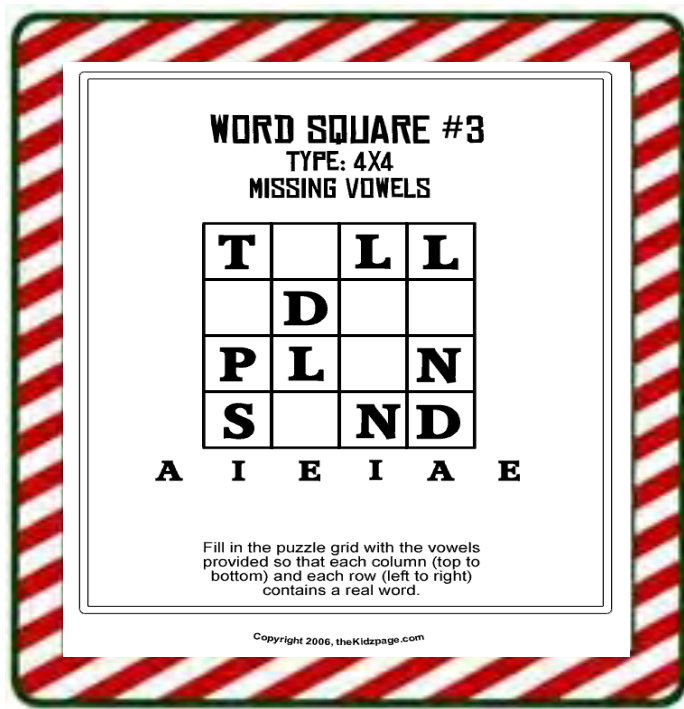
2. <http://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/cost-benefits-prevention.pdf>

3. <http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/fact-sheets/underage-drinking.htm>



## Instruction, Curriculum & Professional Development

By Chane Beam



Chane Beam brainstorming ways to help kids achieve their full potential.

## Senior Financial Aid Night

By Patty Woody

In Minto on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, seniors participated in the Senior Financial Aid Night. The students gathered together with their parents and worked on the Federal Application for Free Student Aid, also known as FAFSA. Gabrielle Russell

who is an Academic Advisor with the University of Alaska Fairbanks – Rural Student Services traveled to Minto to help insure the seniors completed the FAFSA online. The FAFSA is required for students to receive any type of finan-

cial aid, which includes scholarships, grants, and loans, when attending a trade school, college, or community college. Three of the seniors completely finished their FAFSA!



## *Denaakkenaage' / Denakenaga' Hunek 'Our Language News'*

By Susan Paskvan

There are seven classes, two languages: Denaakk'e (Koyukon Athabascan) and Benhti Khut'ana Kenaga' (Lower Tanana Athabascan). All three dialects of Denaakk'e are taught: upper, central and lower. As of December 5, 2016 there are 175 students enrolled in six online video-conference classes.

Topics from August to December for elementary:

name (my name is \_\_\_\_); berries (I'm picking berries); colors (It is white.); animals (bull, cow, calf); alphabet; weather (It is windy.); counting (two systems – 3+3 (6) and 5+1 (6)). Extension of colors to describing the color of items in the classroom and animals. Once they had that mastered, they learned the verb *est'aanh/est'anh* (I have . . .) with the color dog. For example, "*Łeek daaletl'ets est'aanh.*" 'I have a black dog' in Denaakk'e. "*Łiga dodetl'ets est'anh.*" 'I have a black dog' in Benhti Kokhut'ana Kenaga'. In November, the students learned food items, I'm hungry for \_\_\_\_, and a song of Thanksgiving. The students in several villages will perform these songs at their community luncheon. In December, the students learned holiday songs in preparation for their school presentations as well as the 10<sup>th</sup> annual virtual holiday party.

The elementary classes are taught using total physical response (jump, walk); songs (weather song); games (number sequences); and much repetition. The easiest part is how students are able to pronounce the phrases so effectively. Using choral response, they repeat after me and are learning how to answer questions. The challenging part is developing their skills enough so they can answer without the choral response method.

Topics for grades 5-12 (6<sup>th</sup> hour). Students learned their introduction, the Athabascan language area; the alphabet; researched their own phrases for flashcards (both online and physical cards); and sentence word order using the positional verbs. Students learned basic positional verbs (sitting, standing, lying down), possessive nouns (*sedaadze/sedadza*) 'my younger sister', the verb 'to have', parts of the body, numerals, the verb 'to be' with weather verbs (*edzoo hoolaanh/edli khulanh*) and describing oneself (*Aalaakk'aket hut'aane eslaanh/ Benhti hut'ane esdlanh*). The students use both Google Classroom and VoiceThread for their assignments.

The co-teachers at the sites have been absolutely fabulous – learning right along with the students. I've had parents report back to me that their children know more Denaakk'e than they do. We encourage our students to practice Denaakk'e/Benhti Kokhut'ana Kenaga' with their family.

### *School Photos and Yearbook*

By Susan Paskvan



As of December 5<sup>th</sup>, school portraits are done in all ten schools. Even though editing the photos, uploading to Google Drive, ordering through Sam's Club, and then shipping the orders takes an extensive amount of time, the families truly appreciate getting school photos.

TreeRing is vendor for the yearbook. The address is [www.treering.com/validate](http://www.treering.com/validate).

Enter school passcode: 1014207409961115.



## School Trips

By Susan Paskvan



This semester Susan Paskvan has visited all ten schools and here are some highlights.



Students in Allakaket School made Coconut Chocolate Chip Cookies following a recipe with instructions in Denaakk'e; using first and second person instructions: All the students say to the person stirring the ingredients: *Ten-oogheneeneeyh* 'stir it' The person stirring says: *Ten-oogheneesneyh* 'I'm stirring it'.



An effective way for students to learn another language is to say the phrase while doing the action, this is known as Total Physical Response. Here, students at the Ella B. Verneti School chant "*Ghegeggyuyhtl, ghegeggyuyhtl!*" 'I'm running; I'm running' as they race in the district fun run.



Integrating art and second language learning is a natural fit because it engages the creative side of the brain with learning phrases in Denaakk'e. In this lesson students at the Merrelene A. Kangas School begin learning phrases for *dlet* 'mountain'; *teyh* 'hill'; *hene* 'river' and *k'etsaan* 'grass' on a landscape drawing. Then they put an animal of their choice in the foreground.



In addition to taking school portraits, I try to capture staff teaching, cooking, tutoring, etc. Connie Foster at the Manley Hot Springs Gladys Dart School emphasized that preparing meals for the students must include proper presentation.



*Soochedel'ot.* (They are playing.) Students at Johnny Oldman School have a blast while playing in their gymnasium.



Some of the seniors in Minto School taking in the beautiful scenery of the Minto lakes. Minto's name derives from the *Benhti Kokhut'ana Kenaga'* name "*Menhti*" which means 'among the lakes'.

Note: When a syllable has two labial (sounds made from the lips) consonants, such as a "b" and "n" the "m" is often used instead of the "b" to harmonize the consonants. This consonant harmony is why you may see the name of the village spelled in both ways: *Menhti/Benhti*.



YKSD graduate, Tristan Madros, leads students in traditional songs from Kaltag, Nulato and Koyukuk. The students look up to Tristan as a leader; they snap to attention when he wants to lead them in a song.



## School Trips continued

By Susan Paskvan



As the school photographer, I truly enjoy taking photos, especially of graduating seniors. As I take their photo, I offer guidance on finishing the school year strong. I advise them that this photo not only represents finishing twelve years of education, it also represents the start to their future endeavors. I'm so happy and proud of all the graduating seniors. Here is the Class of 2017 from Jimmy Huntington School.



Superintendent Kerry Boyd joins the students at Rampart School in painting *kk'eeyh* 'birch bark' for thanksgiving presents for families. Students in several villages sang "*Baasee' eslaanh*" 'I am thankful' with phrases such as "*Seyehyoo ghu baasee' eslaanh.*" 'I am thankful for my family'.



### Christmas Riddles

Match the each Christmas riddle on the left to the correct answer on the right.



1. \_\_\_\_ What do Santa's elves learn when they go to school?

a. A cookie sheet

2. \_\_\_\_ What does a gingerbread man put on his bed when he goes to sleep at night?

b. Santa Claus walking backwards.

3. \_\_\_\_ Why are Christmas trees bad at knitting?

c. The elf-abet

4. \_\_\_\_ Who says, "Oh, oh, oh!"?

d. They're always dropping their needles.

5. \_\_\_\_ Which elf is the best singer at the North Pole?

e. Santa Jaws.

6. \_\_\_\_ Who brings presents to baby Sharks?

f. Frosted Flakes.

7. \_\_\_\_ What's black and white and red all over?

g. ELF-is Presley.

8. \_\_\_\_ What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

h. Santa Claus covered with chimney soot.

Answers: 1c, 2a, 3d, 4b, 5g, 6c, 7h, 8f

## *Happy Holidays from the Business Office!*

By Jenny Martens

The FY16 Audited Financial Statements will be presented to the YKSD School Board at the December 9<sup>th</sup> regular school board meeting. There were no audit findings thanks to the hard work of the staff. It is a good time to share with you some Business Office facts.

In Fiscal Year 2015-2016 the Business Office:

- ♦ processed 3,350 payroll checks to over 360 employees
- ♦ processed over \$4.3M in employee benefit payments to nearly 20 state and federal agencies and health/life plans
- ♦ processed over 4,700 purchase orders
- ♦ processed almost 7,000 accounts payable payments
- ♦ tracked nearly \$13.9M purchases from the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds and Capital Project Funds
- ♦ managed seven River Site food service programs that served 51,549 breakfast & lunch meals
- ♦ made sure expenditures were correctly coded using over 5,400 account codes, 47 separate funds and 11 student activities accounts
- ♦ supported and processed hire documents for 89 new employees: 4 certified staff, 25 permanent classified staff and 50 temporary hires

You can find a link to the Audited Financial Statements report on the Business Office Department page of the YKSD website.



The Business Office Wishes you and yours a very Happy Holiday season!

## Technology Update

By Luke Meinert

### Microsoft Office 365

YKSD has rolled out Office 365 for both river & Raven students. Office 365 Education is a collection of services that allows you to collaborate and share your schoolwork. It's available for free to teachers who are currently working at an academic institution and to students who are currently attending an academic institution. The service includes Office Online (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and OneNote), 1TB of OneDrive storage, Yammer, and SharePoint sites. This service allows teachers and students to install the full Office applications on up to 5 PCs or Macs for free!

changer in human communications because it uses data networks rather than physical wire to transmit voice data from one device to another.

**Why Choose VoIP Business Phone System?** Unlike an analog or digital phone system that requires direct cabling to each work station, a VoIP business phone system runs on your office's main Ethernet network or LAN (local area network). That means you can easily add new phones and extensions without physical cabling, take your office calls from your mobile device or home office phone, and integrate with other applications like CRM or Microsoft Outlook. With these final buildouts, all Raven offices, along with five of our river schools have been transitioned to VoIP,

host student records that would have traditionally been kept in file cabinets around the district. By doing so, Yukon-Koyukuk School District will realize reduced document storage and processing costs, increased collaboration and compliance, streamlined document administration and better preparedness in the event of a disaster. Square 9's Global Search C2 leverages Amazon Web Services for cloud based computing to increase productivity through efficient management of our documents. This is the same secure platform used by Salesforce.com, SAP, Spotify and many other SaaS providers to host our critical data. Yukon-Koyukuk School District will be able to store critical documents with confidence based on a durability standard of 99.999999999%. GlobalSearch C2 uses one of the strongest block ciphers available, 256-bit Advanced Encryption Standard for encryption for keeping our documents safe. As of today, we have 2740 files scanned into this platform.

"VoIP is a major game-changer in human communications"

### Raven – Juneau/Delta moving to VoIP

What is VoIP?

VoIP, pronounced "voype," stands for Voice over Internet Protocol. At its most basic, VoIP is simply a method for transmitting voice calls over a packet-based data network like the Internet. VoIP is a major game-

### Content Management

The Yukon-Koyukuk School District is transitioning to an enterprise content management system, Square 9, to





## Assessment Department News

By Patty White

The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development has selected Data Recognition Corp. (DRC) as its vendor for statewide student assessments in English language arts, math, and science.

The assessments from DRC will first be administered in spring 2017. Students will take the English language arts and math assessments in grades 3 to 10, and the science assessments in grades 4, 8, and 10. School districts can choose to give the assessments on paper or by computer.

These end-of-year assessments inform policy makers and the public, including parents, about how well students are meeting

Alaska's academic standards; provide data to improve schools and to close achievement gaps; and ensure equity in educational opportunity for all students. School districts will continue to use classroom assessments throughout the school year to monitor student progress and inform instruction.

A six-minute video that explains the purpose of Alaska's statewide assessments is at <https://vimeo.com/193465985>.

Upcoming assessments for YKSD students 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 – March 28 – April 28; and MAP end of year testing April 24 – May 5.

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



## Youth Leadership News

By Andrea Durny

### AASB Youth Leadership Institute

AWSC representatives Jessica Hoffman and Elizabeth Henderson represented YKSD at the 2016 Youth Leadership Institute (YLI), part of the Association of Alaska School Board's Annual Conference held at the Anchorage Hilton November 9-13. This year's theme was "Every Student, Every Story" and it was well attended by more than 80 students from throughout Alaska. The students enjoyed the experience and they were outstanding representatives of their schools. Jennie McLean was the chaperone for this event.



### FY17 Area Wide Student Council Members:

Jocelyn Patsy, Nulato – President  
Cameron Hildebrand, Nulato – Vice President  
Jessica Hoffman, Manley – Secretary  
Elizabeth Henderson, Huslia – Treasurer

### Members:

Kaltag – Clayton Neglaska, Jamie McGinty  
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Ruby – Sheldon Albert, Ethan McGinty  
Koyukuk – Isaac Morgan, Ashley Williams  
Hughes – Vacant  
Manley – Jessica Hoffman, September Massey  
Rampart – Millena Jordan, Liyana Woods-Newman



## *District Office Christmas Tree*

By Andrea Durny



Each year the District invites the sites to submit ornaments for the central office Christmas tree. Student's ornaments will remain on display outside the Superintendent's office during the month of December. For the classes who send in ornaments or artwork, the District Office will mail a box of 'make and take' ornaments to the students as a thank you. Funds for this activity were approved by the Area Wide Student Council fund.

## *Ornament Making in Rampart*

By Andrea Durny

Rampart's family ornament making activity with Superintendent Boyd was a huge success! The students were in full attendance along with their parents. Five stations were setup where the students made individual handmade ornaments. Everyone received a ticket to be entered into drawings for several door prizes including the grand prize of a turkey box dinner.



Superintendent Boyd working with the Rampart students.



Rampart students.

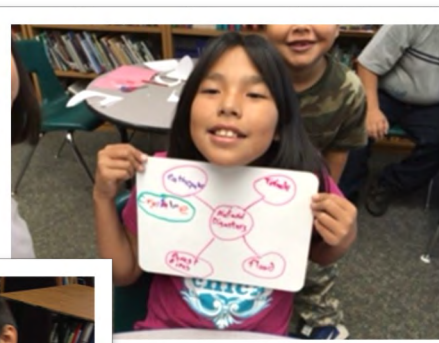




## Johnny Oldman School

By Patty White

Students at Johnny Oldman School have been working hard in Reading and Math this fall. The school held a Halloween carnival on October 29 and raised over \$1,100 for the student activity account. We really appreciate all the community support of the school! The students and staff enjoyed a family Thanksgiving meal on November 22 with most of the town attending. In addition, we welcomed a new teacher on December 1, Mrs. Carolyn Lampi. We are happy she joined our staff. We are looking forward to the kitchen remodel, which will happen over the holidays so that we can begin serving breakfast and lunch at the school on February 1<sup>st</sup>!



## Kaltag School

By Patty White



Students have been very active in Kaltag this fall. The teachers began a tutoring program at the end of October. Many students are attending and improving their academic skills. We had a professional development consultant, Tonio Verzzone, come to Kaltag and work with the instructional staff on improving student learning. Mr. Verzzone will return in January to continue the work with the staff and students. Kaltag

School hosted a Halloween carnival that was enjoyed by the whole community. In addition, they held a community Thanksgiving meal and most of the town attended. We have planned a Christmas Craft night for Dec. 13 where students and families can create some Christmas ornament and handmade gifts.



## *Ella B. Vernetti School News*

By Patty White

We have had a productive fall in Koyukuk! Students are reaching their goals in reading and math progress! The school held a Halloween Carnival on October 27 and a Thanksgiving luncheon on November 22. Both events were well attended by the community. The students are planning a Christmas fair on December 15 and looking forward to Toys for Tots arrival on December 9. The kitchen will be remodeled this month in preparation for starting the breakfast and lunch program on February 1<sup>st</sup>!



## *Gladys Dart School*

By: Patty White

Students and staff have been very busy at Gladys Dart School in Manley Hot Springs this fall. The school held a Halloween carnival that was well attended by the community. We had our annual Arts and Craft fair on November 19 where many community members set up tables to sell their arts and crafts items. The students sold many of their hand made items and planned, cooked and served lunch. The event was very successful. High School stu-

dents have participated in the CTE opportunities for technology and ACT preparation. We are also growing, we welcomed 4 new students to the school in November!



## Allakaket School

By Anne Elshazly



### Denaakk'e in Ms.

**Anne's Class** The middle school students are having a great time learning their native language, Denaakk'e. The lessons, so far, have included making a family tree, general greetings, counting, building vocabulary, and grammar. The students enjoyed going on a scavenger hunt outside

to learn about local plants, animals, and objects. Various learning tools are used in order to make learning fun, such as art and games. The class is led by teacher Susan Paskvan (K'etsoo') and co-taught by teacher Anne Elshazly. Irene Henry (Hogetnolno) assists the class making sure that the students are pronouncing

their Denaakk'e words correctly. She also shares information about plants, animals, and local history with the children. A recent informal class survey showed that the native language class was the students' favorite.

## Merrelaine A. Kangas School

By Anne Titus

The students and staff enjoyed a visit from St. Nick on Thursday, December 8th. Guest soldiers from Toys for Tots and community members were entertained by the MAK Choir under the direction of Jen Tram. They sang "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and "Jingle Bells."

We are busy with end of the year activities and wish our families and friends along the rivers a rousing Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!





## Rampart School

By John Hersrud

Rampart school is in its second quarter, students have become accustomed to the daily excitement, and all are showing growth and responsible actions, with guiding principles of "Respect" and "Empathy." The seniors have had 4 fundraisers, including pizza night, Navaho taco night, and a couple of 50/50 splits and raffles. All is going well in Mr. Main's classroom, with 6 different levels, helping each other to learn. At any given time, you can pop your head in his room, and someone will be helping someone else. In the middle/high school you will find a bit more independence, as each student has their own classes, schedules, and learning plan. One thing we all have in common, we are all excited about the holidays coming up, and spending some time with family local or afar.



We have hung our stockings with care, (which were made with Superintendent Boyd) and all are welcome to put something in them anytime they choose, we have all been very good this year.



## Jimmy Huntington School

By Casey Weter



Jr. High Dog Mushing program started and the kids went out with Floyd Vent Sr. and Wesley Henry to learn how to check the ice for thickness, set beaver sets and check a fish net under the ice.



Wesley Henry is showing the students how big to make the set and how to hold the loop in place.



Wesley explaining how to shovel the ice out so they can pull the net out, telling the students how to check and make sure the ice is thick enough.



## *Minto School*

By Vicky Charlie



The Minto/Rampart Junior High girls team took 1st place at the Tok Junior High Basketball Tournament in October. It really is a cooperative effort when two schools come together to form a team giving everyone the opportunity to play.



## *Andrew K. Demoski School*

By Jason Johnson

On December 9th, AKD School was extremely fortunate to have the "Toys for 'Tots" foundation visit with our students and community members. The turnout for the event was beyond our expectations as the Nulato tribe came out in full force and our parents were incredibly supportive and enthusiastic to attend. Even better yet, we had one of our seniors (Cameron Hildebrand) and a school volunteer and community member (Arlene Ivanoff) take memorable pictures with dear Santa!



## *Raven Homeschool—Anchorage*

By Valerie Thurston



Raven Anchorage Performing Arts Center Tour



Outdoor Survival Skills



**Holiday Door Contest –**  
Thank you to the families and students who volunteered and came together to participate! Voting will take place on December 9<sup>th</sup>



Zumba Kids Class

## *Raven Homeschool—Delta Junction*

By Heidi Mintun

Faith Jenkins is a Senior with Raven Homeschool in Delta, she has been in FFA for four years and holds certificates. She is an accomplished welder, and uses this medium to make art projects. She also sings, plays the guitar and the piano. She also just published her first novel, called The Aitall Manor.



Faith Jenkin with Counselor, Ryan Tilbury.





## *Raven Homeschool—Fairbanks*

By Mo Ott

Fairbanks Raven families were out in full force for our Election 2016 Event Day. Our students and parents spent the afternoon of election day with the staff at the Fairbanks office. Student activities, a luncheon and mock voting were among the events that everyone enjoyed. We had a great turn out and want to thank our wonderful families for joining us.



## *Raven Homeschool—Juneau*

By Holly Shier



Here in the Juneau Raven Office, we have a lot to be thankful for. Our students enjoy monthly art activities using the ARTiculate kits available through the district office. In November, we also did a Thanksgiving Cards activity where the students got to make thank you cards for their families and helped us build a Thankfulness Tree on one of our bulletin boards to share what they are thankful for.



Visitors to the Juneau Raven Office are now greeted by a beautiful banner quilted by Amy Millsaps with Raven's new logo on it. Thank you, Amy





## Raven Homeschool—Wasilla

By Monique Ratzlaff

In order to promote literacy and equip parents with tools to teach their students, Wasilla advisory teacher, Kim Bergey, launched the Rocket Readers Club. It went for 6 weeks this fall. Utilizing methods and resources from VOWAC, Kim worked with students in Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Parents were encouraged to stay and watch, and even work with their child using the concepts presented in class. At the end of the 6 weeks, one parent-with tears in her voice- shared that she had been thinking she would be withdrawing from Raven because her child was not learning to read. However, the night before the last class he had read 3 short readers to her! She is excited for the spring session!



Advisory teacher, Joy Shier, excels at guiding the two Battle of the Books teams here in Wasilla. The teams come every week excited to share their book talks and practice for the future meet(s). Joy has, with the help of the Tech Department, gotten the teams on Google share where they are posting questions and collaborating on line.



The Wasilla Raven office has had exceptional science workshops this last quarter, which are always well attended! Mr. Ron Bergey has shared his passion for science with our students with workshops such as: Introduction to Bees & Honey, Pure Slime, Introduction to Physics, The Life of a Beaver & dissection, Dry Ice, Cow & Sheep Eye Dissection, Acids & Bases, and Geology Rocks. The latest, Mr. Bergey's Chocolate Factory, was the best smelling and tasting workshop!



## YKSD Birthdays

January		February		March	
Evelyn Sarten	6-Jan	Ava Vent	4-Feb	Sean Lawson	12-Mar
Linda Wholecheese	6-Jan	Wilma David	7-Feb	Susan Paskvan	15-Mar
Carol Douglas	8-Jan	Katie Riemer	8-Feb	Patty Woody	17-Mar
Chane Beam	10-Jan	Sharon Clever	11-Feb	Colleen Weter	18-Mar
Luke Meinert	15-Jan	Irene Peters	12-Feb	Josephine Semaken	19-Mar
Jenny Martens	16-Jan	Erin Patsy	13-Feb	Francine Wiehl	30-Mar
Vivian Robb	17-Jan	Kim Pippin	15-Feb	Melissa Captain	30-Mar
Darryl Moore	18-Jan	Patty White	17-Feb	Joan Jones	31-Mar
Rudy Edwin	20-Jan	Lynnessa Baker	18-Feb		
Lilah Nollner	21-Jan	Marion Acker	20-Feb		
Lizzie Alexie	21-Jan	Joy Shier	22-Feb		
Susan Erickson	24-Jan	Bob Hawkins	23-Feb		
Casey Weter	28-Jan	Gloria Patsy	24-Feb		
Sally Spellman	28-Jan	Nicole Cleaver	26-Feb		
Irene Peters	31-Jan	Vicky Charlie	26-Feb		
		Constance Foster	28-Feb		
		Sarah Dayton	28-Feb		

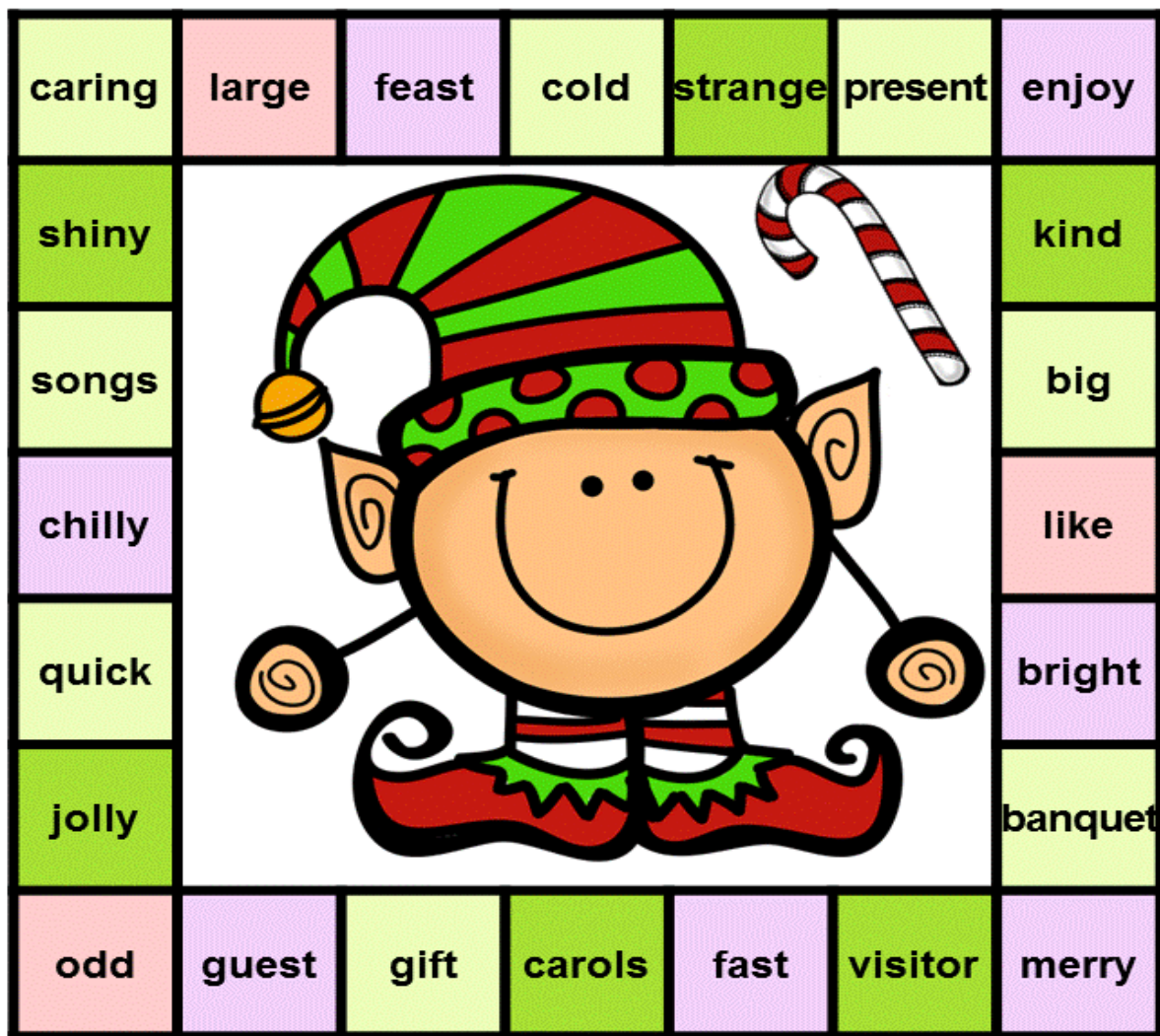


# Christmas Synonym Match

a game for 2 players

**Need: counters in 2 different colors – each player uses a different color**

Each player uses different colored counters. Players take turns to cover a pair of words that are synonyms, e.g. large and big. The words do not need to be beside each other. When no more pairs can be found, the winner is the player who has the longest line of counters in their color.



Games 4 Learning [www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/games-4-learning](http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/games-4-learning) ©Teresa Evans 2013 22

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# January Jamboree

**January 13-14, 2017**

**Merrelaine A. Kangas School GYM**

**Brought to you by:**

**Yukon Koyukuk School District**