

May 2017

Yukon-Koyukuk School District Staff Connections



YKSD Graduates

Superintendent Boyd

As we approach the end of yet another busy year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our teachers, administrators, instructional support, principal aides, custodians, maintenance men, parents, CSC members, and Regional Board Members for all the support you have given to the students of YKSD throughout the year. You are the reason for our students' success and it is your dedication to the students that makes you so invaluable. Also, I would like to thank our 300 plus students in all ten communities for making this another incredible year!

Spotlight of Success

Congratulations to our student's continuous journey moving forward into adulthood! Graduation is a big moment for our Yukon Koyukuk Seniors! Keep your eye out in the Fairbanks Daily Newspaper as the graduates' names will be displayed prominently during the third week of May!

Allakaket School in Allakaket

Daryl Gray
Megan Henry

Jimmy Huntington School in Huslia

Courtney Agnes
Edward Bifelt
Trevor Henry
Bruce Sam
Irene Sam
Richard Vent
Dorothy Williams

Gladys Dart School in Manley Hot Springs

Ryan Hoffman
September Massey

Minto School in Minto

Serenity Melendrez
Patrick Smith
Triston Titus
Michael VanHatten
Deven Woods
Hannah Yeomans

Andrew K. Demoski School in Nulato

William Agnes
Chastity Alexie
Shawn Demoski
Jocelyn Patsy

Rampart School in Rampart

Millena Jordan
Kristi Smoke

Career Pathways Graduates

By Patty Woody

Exciting News! YKSD has its first graduates in career pathways. These students worked diligently to earn at least two credits in either an Education, Construction, or Health Science Career Pathway. Not only does this help the students prepare for a future career in one of these areas, the students also are graduating with Honors in the respective career pathway! To receive these honors, the students have taken classes related to their selected career pathway and have earned certifications relating to that pathway!

Congratulations to the following students!



Irene V.E.Y. Sam
Jimmy Huntington School
Health Science Career Pathway



Ryan Hoffman
Gladys Dart School
Health Science Career Pathway



September Massey
Gladys Dart School
Health Science Career Pathway
Education Career Pathway



Patrick Smith
Minto School
Construction Career Pathway



Deven Woods
Minto School
Construction Career Pathway



Triston Titus
Minto School
Construction Career Pathway



Serenity Melendrez
Minto School
Health Science Career Pathway

2017 Certified Employee of the Year

Anne Titus



This award is given each year to the staff member that colleagues and community members recognize as providing outstanding contributions to their schools and communities. Anne has been employed by YKSD since 1981. She has served her Ruby community as a valued elementary teacher and principal for over 35 years! Anne's dedication, hard work and positive attitude has made a tremendous impact on the district and the students at Merrelaine A. Kangas School.

2017 Classified Employee of the Year

Andy Esmailka



This award is given each year to the staff member that colleagues and community members recognize as providing outstanding contributions to their schools and communities. Andy has been serving as a Maintenance Person in Kaltag and Allakaket since 2012. He can always be counted on to keep everything running; from vehicles to the water plant and most importantly, the school!

The YKSD Regional School Board is pleased to highlight the excellence exhibited by our staff and students!

Staff Award Winner



Jenny Martens
YKSD Business Manager
Fairbanks

Student Award Winners



Kendra Prybilla
Grade 1
Gladys Dart School
Manley Hot Springs



Landon Nickoli
Kindergarten
Merrelaine A. Kangas School
Ruby



Maxim Puchalskiy
Grade 11
Raven School
Delta



Kristi Smoke
Grade 12
Rampart School
Rampart

Honorable Mentions

Devin Agnes, Grade 11, Andrew K. Demoski School, Nulato
Ruth Ann Attla, Kindergarten, Johnny Oldman School, Hughes
Christiana Blackledge, Grade 10, Raven School, Delta
Gabe Boyles, Grade 6, Raven School, Anchorage
Haley Brunner, Grade 7, Raven School, Wasilla
Kenneth Esmailka, Grade 5, Kaltag School, Kaltag
Chasity Greenway, Grade 2, Merrelaine A. Kangas, Ruby
Trevon Madros, Grade 1, Andrew K. Demoski School, Nulato
Christian Moses, Grade 3, Ella B. Verneti School, Koyukuk
Miles, Starr, Grade 5, Jimmy Huntington School, Huslia

Thank you to our principals, teachers and support staff for all of your efforts teaching our students!

Inside the Creation of the First Denaakk'e Language Digital Book

Superintendent Boyd

During two days in February, 37 students, teachers and elders gathered at Allakaket school to participate in a digital publishing workshop that resulted in the creation of *Tobaan Utsuh*, a digital picture book adapted from a traditional Athabaskan legend that goes back for generations. *Tobaan Utsuh*, was originally an oral story, and now for the first time the story has been captured into a modern digital format that can be easily shared for everyone to enjoy.

The digital book is the first of its kind to incorporate written and spoken Denaakk'e language and culture, targeting elementary-aged students. It contains numerous interactive "touch zones" that, when tapped, trigger audio translations and sounds of story characters and objects. The workshop, facilitated by AASB's Consortium for Digital Learning (CDL), began by leading students and teachers through the process of creating a storyboard outlining the text and illustrations for each page. Using art supplies, students in grades K-12 then created page illustrations. Every grade level had an important role in the development of the book. The primary students created the water and sky, the upper elementary worked on the tree bark and pictures, and the middle school students drew the pictures of the animals and helped make the sounds of the animals.



Creating the book took two and a half days; one day to complete the majority of the artwork, and another day to record and organize the narration. Audio narration and translations of story objects in the Denaakk'e language were recorded by students and elders. To add additional context to the story, the book also incorporates video clips of local elder Irene "Hogetnolno" Henry. On the third day, students were taught how to use the Book Creator app that will allow them to create their own books.



Superintendent Kerry Boyd and teacher David Fields

The Allakaket students were motivated by the assignment of creating a digital book because it had value outside of the classroom. Using the approach of digital learning to teach writing engaged them because it is educationally meaningful and the students are encouraged when they see that their effort has value to their parents, elders and their classmates.

In today's world, we are all surrounded by technology, so we need to embrace it and help our children utilize it in a productive manner. Teaching students to create digital content is an essential skill, and enabling them to publish their writing for others to experience is rewarding on many levels.

AASB facilitated the entire process and made it very simple for the students to be successful with their first attempt of creating a digital book. YKSD is now confident that we can create additional digital books as school projects in all of our communities. The entire school had a lot of fun learning and we plan on doing this again.

The project was the result of the Allakaket Community School Committee's goal for the inclusion and implementation of local, culturally responsive activities for all grades that can be incorporated into the curriculum and instructional materials for the school. The digital book project was initiated by Allakaket school Principal Larry Parker and Superintendent Kerry Boyd. The completed digital book was developed in-house by CDL staff and distributed within the Yukon-Koyukuk School District. I would personally like to thank AASB for all their support and expertise leading us through the entire process.



Susan Paskvan, Native Language Coordinator for Yukon-Koyukuk School District works from a storyboard on the back wall to assist students in creating page illustrations for the book.



Larry Parker and elder Irene "Hogetnolno" Henry observe a student creating a book page background illustration.



Students use a laptop to create audio sound effects that will be incorporated into the digital storybook as interactive touch zones that trigger Denaakk'e language word translations, and sounds of story characters and objects.

State & Federal Programs

Primary Support Program

By Rachel Reilly



Pre-Kindergarten Program

This year, a major goal of the PreKindergarten program was to more fully integrate it into our primary classrooms by aligning the curricula and assessments to those used in Kindergarten. Teachers have reported that their students are able to meet and exceed classroom expectations, that they are navigating their new friendships in the school environment and that many of their students are recognizing many numbers and most of their letters. Our teachers are also excited about the level of family involvement in

their classrooms. Teachers are currently completing the final rounds of assessments, and that data will be shared with families before school lets out for the year.

We are currently working on a strategic plan for next year that is being guided by recommendations from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. Program staff and families served will give input on the program's strengths and needs so that we can assure that we are offering a high quality early learning experience for our youngest learners next year.

Highly Qualified Paraprofessionals

Congratulations to Teresa Trinidad of Rampart, and Kia Wiehl and Lilah Nollner of Minto, who all earned their HQ statuses this quarter! If you're an aide looking to earn your HQ status, please contact Rachel Reilly by email (rreilly@yksd.com) or phone (907-374-9418) to talk about your options. 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.

Indian Education

By Sean Lawson

This quarter our schools have been doing some exciting things with the Indian Education grant, which provides each school an allocation of funds to use for cultural education and development. In our district, this has meant everything from studying Native language and art, as well as learning about

traditional cooking, clothing, singing, and dancing. The staff at Kaltag School have been putting together an archery range so that students may learn and develop the use of a bow and arrow. At the Raven Correspondence School teachers have been showing students Native arts though a month-

long native culture workshop, that included everything from working with beads to carving soap statues. As the school year progresses the Indian Education grant will continue to support the education and cultural enrichment of our students, with the help of our dedicated teachers and principals.



Counseling Corner

By Jolene McGinty

YKSD Healthy Lifestyles and Career Fairs

April has been the Month of teaching Healthy Lifestyles and Career Fairs around the District. Nulato had a very successful fair that was a joint venture with the Nulato Tribal Council and YKSD. There were many presenters bringing their expertise to our students. The students were especially excited to learn and they asked tons of questions. The Koyukuk students came down to participate in the Fair as well and it was good to see them.

The focus was to have past graduates of AKD present to our current students, their story and what it was like to transition from AKD to life after graduation. Additionally, there were presenters from Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center, Tanana Chiefs Conference and 2 public health nurses available to answer health questions. There were University of Alaska representatives available to provide post-secondary information to our graduating class as well as past graduates.

In Ruby, we had the same CAIHC and TCC staff available to talk to the students and community about the various programs they have available. The students were set up in interview teams to meet with each presenter, to find out more about “what they do when they begin to work”. The little Kindergarten-ers were in charge of recording the interviews with their iPads.

Both fairs were packed with information for the students as well as community members. We still have fairs going on within the District, so there are still opportunities for individuals to attend. Huslia had their fair the first week in May.



Teaching and Learning Department

By Chane Beam

Attention parents: it is time to gear up for Summer Reading! Summer is an important time for students to keep reading and improve their language skills. If your child does not read regularly over the summer, they may be in danger of the “[summer slide](#)”—a decline in their reading ability.



Numerous studies indicate that students who don't read or read infrequently during their summer vacation see their reading abilities stagnate or decline. This effect becomes more pronounced as students get older and advance through the school system.

However, this “summer slide” can be avoided by ensuring that children are as engaged as possible in whatever they choose to read—just as long as they're reading every day.

Anything that keeps students reading works. The more engaged you are in the text, the closer you're going to read it. The closer you read it, the more you comprehend. And that process grows your skill.

The best ways to keep your child from becoming a “rusty reader” over the summer are:

1. Encourage your children to read books they enjoy for at least 30 minutes per day. Your child will likely be more engrossed in material they choose themselves than material that is forced on them.
2. Provide incentives for reluctant readers. For example, if your child enjoys basketball, agree to take them to the local court if they do their “daily reading.”
3. Make reading a social act. Establish a time during the day when all members of the family gather and read on their own, or take turns reading the same book aloud.

Connect your reading to family outings. If you take your kids to the river, consider reading a book about fish or the ocean with them later that day. The outing can help place the reading into a broader context.

Work with your kids this summer... they will be better readers tomorrow for it!

Teaching and Learning Department continued

By Chane Beam



READING: A CRITICAL PART OF YOUR SUMMER

HOW TO BEAT "SUMMER SLIDE"

Children who are given access to books over the summer perform

35-40%

better on reading achievement tests.

—First Book



During the summer months, children who don't read fall an average of **2 MONTHS BEHIND.**



However, kids who read over the summer can make slight **GAINS!**



By fifth grade, children can be as much as **2.5 YEARS BEHIND** in reading due to "summer slide."


Reading Practice Is Essential. Kids Get Better At Reading By Reading.

"One of the major differences between poor and good readers is the difference in the quantity of total time they spend reading."


—National Reading Panel, 2000




Daily Reading Adds Up!

If a child reads **30 minutes a day** at home, every day of the school year, he or she will have read **90 hours in one year.** That's more than two weeks of school!

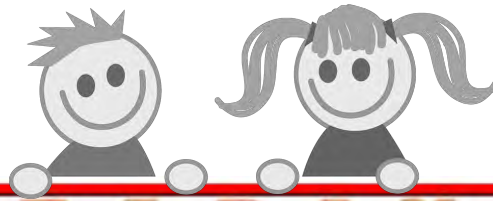


Why do we have Summer Reading?



<p>Prevent the "summer slide"</p>  <p>Summer break contributes to achievement gaps in students between grades</p>	<p>Increase background knowledge</p>  <p>Summer reading increases prior knowledge needed to succeed during the school year</p>	<p>Enriches language & vocabulary</p>  <p>The more you read over summer break, the more you can comprehend difficult texts</p>
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"The man who does not read has no advantage over the man who cannot read." —Mark Twain



READING

BINGO

A BOOK WITH MORE THAN 500 PAGES	A FORGOTTEN CLASSIC	A BOOK THAT BECAME A MOVIE	A BOOK PUBLISHED THIS YEAR	A BOOK WITH A NUMBER IN THE TITLE
A BOOK WRITTEN BY SOMEONE UNDER THIRTY	A BOOK WITH NON-HUMAN CHARACTERS	A FUNNY BOOK	A BOOK BY A FEMALE AUTHOR	A BOOK WITH A MYSTERY
A BOOK WITH A ONE-WORD TITLE	A BOOK OF SHORT STORIES	FREE SQUARE	A BOOK SET ON A DIFFERENT CONTINENT	A BOOK OF NON FICTION
THE FIRST BOOK BY A FAVOURITE AUTHOR	A BOOK YOU HEARD ABOUT ONLINE	A BEST-SELLING BOOK	A BOOK BASED ON A TRUE STORY	A BOOK AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR TO BE READ PILE
A BOOK YOUR FRIEND LOVES	A BOOK THAT SCARES YOU	A BOOK THAT IS MORE THAN 10 YEARS OLD	THE SECOND BOOK IN A SERIES	A BOOK WITH A BLUE COVER

Minto Healthy Living and Career Fair

By Patty Woody

On Tuesday, April 25th, the Minto Healthy Living and Career Fair took place at the Minto School, with students and community members from Minto and Manley Hot Springs participating. In the morning of the event, presentations took place in the classrooms. A variety of presenters ranging from Tanana Chiefs Conference to the Alaska Air National Guard, to different trade organizations to Minto Tribe's Chief, all presented information about their organizations and corresponding careers. Others shared about health care careers, joining the military, working in the construction trades, staying smoke free, preventing diabetes, and being healthy.

In the afternoon tables were set up in the gym for students and community members to learn more about different careers and ways to be healthy. Thanks to all who traveled to Minto to help support this event, including the University of Alaska Fairbanks – Interior Aleutians Campus; Tanana Chiefs Conference – Diabetes Prevention, Tobacco Prevention, Education, DVSA ; Carpenters Union; Alaska Joint Electrical Training Trust; Alaska Laborers Local 942 Training School; Alaska Operating Engineers; Interior Alaska Area Health Education Consortium; Gelvin Consulting; Tower Hills International; Fairbanks Pipeline Training Center; Andrea Durny on Education Careers, Alaska Air National Guard, Fairbanks Plumbers & Pipefitters.

The Alaska Operating Engineers brought their heavy equipment simulator and the Carpenters brought their simulator demonstrating a hydraulic engine. Students really enjoyed practicing operating the heavy equipment. Students visited each presenter during the afternoon and participated in a scavenger hunt to learn about all the different careers, training opportunities, and ways to be healthy. In the evening, a covered dish took place with people from YWAM joining in. Both the YWAM folks and students took turns sharing songs. Overall it was a great day to learn about being healthy and career and employment opportunities!



Denaakkenaage' Benhti Kokhut'ana Kenaga'

By Susan Paskvan

There are seven classes, two languages, Denaakk'e and Benhti Kokht'ana Kenaga' for a total of 142 students. All three dialects of Denaakk'e are taught.

Topics taught in March/April:



A paper maché noye'e (beaver) with parts of it's body labeled in Denaakk'e

Continuation of Dog Unit: Students learned phrases about dog racing in anticipation of the Iditarod dog races that came through their villages. Students in Huslia made posters with phrases in Denaakk'e that were posted at their Community Hall. Several of these ended up in news media posts.

mentary and junior high classes made paper maché beavers and labeled the different parts of the beaver. They also learned about traditional uses of the meat, bones, and fur.

Chores Unit: Students learned the Denaakk'e phrases for daily chores. Their homework was to do chores and report back on what they did.

ABC Book: Katie Riemer in Huslia made an alphabet chart for the classroom, so

I adapted this to the Denaakk'e dialects (upper, central and lower).

Spring Birds Unit: Students learned the name of birds that migrate back in the spring time. In addition to the birds, they learn the traditional stories about the birds from the k'edon ts'ednee times.



Back to front: Lisa W., Rosbell W., and Justin G.

Beaver Unit: Student first learned about the beaver habitat. They made a poster about a beaver lodge, learned facts about the beaver. The upper ele-

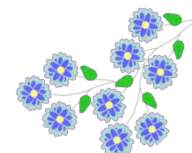
District Travel!

Manley Hot Springs ~March 7-10, 2017: The certified teachers were traveling, so I was the certified educator on site for the week. During the day I taught my regular video-conference classes, taught a unit on art for the upper grades and a dog sled unit for the younger grades. In the evening I graded papers, prepared for the classroom lessons, and chaperoned open gym.

Springs Gladys Dart School students were interviewed by KTUU News at the Manley checkpoint. The Iditarod started out of Fairbanks due to the low snow levels in Anchorage.

Minto School March 27, 2017: Clifford Alexander had luck with beaver trapping so he brought a carcass to the school. Students in grades K-5 watched and helped him skin the beaver. Clifford talked to them about traditional beliefs in caring for the animals.

Manley Hot Springs ~ March 27-March 31st: I administered the PEAKS test to the upper grades in Manley Hot Springs. This test took all day Tuesday to Friday. We started each day with yoga. After PEAKS testing, students in Manley Hot Springs Gladys Dart School, hone their skate skiing skills.



Kaden Sam successfully loops the beaver pelvic bone on the stick as elder and retired teacher Gertie Sam looks on. Gertie donated the game to the school. This game was played during the language night at the school.

District Travel continued

By Susan Paskvan

Huslia ~April 4-7, 2017:

During the day I visited all of the elementary classes and junior high classes. Students worked on their beaver habitat and paper maché beaver. I held a language night that was very well attended by students, staff, parents and elders. Gertie Sam demonstrated a traditional game using a beaver pelvic bone and stick. Elders Gertie, Alberta Vent and Eleanor Sam helped out in a balloon relay race. Students had to pop a balloon and say the denaakk'e phrase inside each balloon. Then those elders plus Brandy Henderson each taught the students how to make strawberry shortcake using instructions in Denaakk'e.

Koyukuk ~ April 10-14, 2017:

The Ella B. Vernetti students took the PEAKS testing most of the morning and afternoon. We started each day with Cosmic Kids Yoga on YouTube. While the certified staff on site administered the test, I worked with the remaining students upstairs in the library. During the morning session, they worked on their regular core subjects of language arts, math, and science. In the afternoons, I taught them the two beaver units plus we made an Easter basket. We celebrated the end of testing week with strawberry shortcake.



Clifford Alexander shows students how to skin a beaver (tso') in Minto School. L-R Jewel A; Nicholas R., Curtis B. and Clifford Alexander.



Students at Ella B. Vernetti School start the day with Cosmic Kids Yoga before their PEAKS testing

Iditarod Biography Project

By Susan Paskvan



Warner Vent of Huslia feeds his dogs during the Iditarod. He raced in 1974, 1976 and 1977. Photo courtesy of Warner Vent

The YKSD Board of Education spearheaded a project to write a biography about living Alaska Native mushers who raced in the Iditarod. Judith Ferguson was selected as the author to interview and write about the mushers. The mushers are Henry Beatus, Hughes; Warner Vent, Huslia; Gerald Riley, Nenana; Rudy Demoski, Wasilla; Ramy Brooks, Fairbanks; Roxy Wright, Fairbanks; Dean Painter, Nulato; Emmitt Peters, Ruby; Rose Albert, Ruby/Anchorage; Don Honea, Sr., Fairbanks; Ken Chase, Anvik; and a chapter on the Frank Attla Youth & Sled Dog Care Mushing Program.

Yearbook

By Susan Paskvan

Order your yearbook for \$30.00. The web address is www.treering.com/validate. Enter school passcode: 1014207409961115.

Technology Update

By Luke Meinert

Congratulations Luke!



Luke Meinert, YKSD's Director of Technology, was recently honored as a "20 to Watch" Educator for 2016-2017. The tribute was created to identify emerging education technology leaders who will inspire students and help shape the national education conversation for the next 20 years. This is a huge honor, and Luke feels very fortunate to work in such a great district that is supportive of utilizing emerging technologies!

Tech News!

By Luke Meinert

Power School Registration: We have launched a new online registration portal for our students through our current student information system, PowerSchool. This spring parents will be able to login to their Power School parent account and complete their student's registration. This new portal improves the user experience as well as having a much better integration with our student data.

PEAKS Testing: The computer based [PEAKS Assessment](#) went surprisingly well for all Raven and the three river sites we piloted the assessment at this year. There was a great deal of uncertainty going into the testing window given the history with computerized state testing

Canvas LMS: The district has selected Canvas as its Learning Management System to host AKgrad courses, and other virtual courses in the future. We're very excited about having this new tool for our teachers & students!

<https://www.canvaslms.com/>

New Raven Website: The Tech Department has transitioned Raven to a [new website!](#) Special thanks to our technology support specialist, Daniel Barnes, who put in a tremendous amount of work into making sure it was ready by March 22nd. We've received a lot of positive feedback on the new site!

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!

I'd like to thank the Board for continuing to support the purchase of technology for our students, which prepares them to take these assessments.



Assessment Department News

By Patty White

The new Statewide Assessment Performance Evaluation for Alaska Schools (PEAKS) from DRC was administered this spring 2017. Students took the English Language Arts and Math assessments in grades 3 through 10, and the Science assessments in grades 4, 8, and 10. Students in Allakaket, Hughes, Huslia, Manley, Minto, Rampart, and Ruby took the test on paper and students in Kaltag, Koyukuk, Nulato, and Raven took the assessment on computer. Overall, it was a successful testing experience. Since this was a new test for the state, student score reports will not be available until the fall. The state has to follow a process to set the cut scores and get State Board approval before the score reports will be printed.



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. Students have also completed the end of year MAPs and Aimsweb benchmark testing.

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.



Maintenance Department

By Gale Bourne

Meet Percy Lolnitz

The YKSD Maintenance Department would like to tip its hat to Percy Lolnitz. Percy currently works in the maintenance/custodial position at the Ella B. Verneti School in Koyukuk. All great schools require a hardworking and dedicated staff, and Percy is an important part of the team. He works hard every day to provide the students with a warm and welcome learning environment.

In addition to working for the school district, Percy is involved with the Hunting and Fishing Task Force through Tanana Chief Conference. For the past three years, he has often traveled from Koyukuk in order to participate in Task Force meetings. The objective of the Task Force is to protect the wellbeing of the Alaska native people through preserving traditional native hunting and fishing practices. Meetings include discussions on harvesting and sharing of fish, game and other resources. They focus on the social, cultural, spiritual and economic survival of the people and their communities. Percy feels strongly about these issues and works diligently to both educate and promote the goals and objectives of the Task Force.

Percy advocates continuing education. He believes education is the key to young people being able to find steady, good paying jobs, both within the villages and statewide. He emphasizes that "education," does not just mean traditional education, but includes trade school and apprenticeship programs as well. Becoming a skilled worker is especially important in the current economic conditions within the State of Alaska.

Percy is a valued employee, and the YKSD Maintenance Department is honored to work with him. Together we endeavor to provide a better facility for the staff and students of the Ella B. Verneti School.

Youth Leadership News

By Andrea Durny

Phlight Club

From May 5th - 8th twenty-four students in grades 8-12 from throughout the Yukon Koyukuk School District attended Phlight Club in Fairbanks. There were also 26 students from the Fairbanks area who joined in for a total of 46 participants. This was an extremely fun and engaging leadership opportunity where our students learned about creating a web of support to achieve their goals in life as well as making many new friends. We Thank Effie Kokrine Charter School for hosting the students at their school as well as the following chaperones: Susan Paskvan, Jolene McGinty, Beth Buchanan, Danielle Esmailka, Jessie David, Scott Brucker, Tristan Madros, Tracy Snow and Breanna Semaken. The Phlight Club instructors were Andrea Durny-Nield and Amy McDonald. Funding for this opportunity was provided in partnership with WWIDEA through the CARE grant. The next and final Phlight Club provided by this grant will be held at Harding Lake August 11-14, 2017, please have your incoming 8th through 12th graders apply.



Alaska Association of Student Government

By Andrea Durny

This year the conference took place at Thunder Mountain High School in Juneau. There are more than 300 student represented from throughout Alaska. The students toured the Capital, held meetings with legislators and held their own General Assembly meetings. Pictured are Millena Jordan (Rampart), Elizabeth Henderson (Huslia) and Dakota Titus (Minto) with Governor Bill Walker who spoke with the students.



YKSD Boarding Home Program

By Andrea Durny

The Boarding Home Program is for incoming 8th through 12th grade students transferring into or within YKSD that meet eligibility requirements. Together with our communities and families, this program is intended to assist those students within our district who may need additional tangible support in reaching their academic goals, and don't want to leave the cultural/family setting. For more information please contact Andrea Durny, adurny@yksd.com, 907-374-9424 beginning in August. The deadline to apply for funding with the program and to have students enrolled into school is September 29, 2017.

7th Annual Virtual Pizza Party was April 21st

By Andrea Durny

Over 100 Papa Murphy's pizzas were sent to our sites to celebrate their testing efforts. Students present during PEAK Testing are entered into drawings for prizes such as: Gift Basket, \$10 iTunes Card, \$25 Visa Card, DVD, Phone Card, over 80 prizes were given out to students. Each year the party continues to be a huge hit and is a fun way to celebrate our student's efforts all year long.

GRAND PRIZE WINNERS

Bike- Jimmy Silas (Nulato), Steven Morgan (Ruby)

\$50 visa card- Clayton Neglaska (Kaltag), Anna Belle Liners (Hughes), Kalli Woellert (Manley), Morris Saunders (Huslia)



Manley students enjoying their pizza during the party

Business Office News!

Jenny Martens

The business office can look back to a very successful year supporting the administration, staff, students, and communities. At the beginning of FY17 we welcomed a new member to the business office team: Amanda Williams who has proved to be a great addition to the business office team supporting the Raven Home School Program and performing backup duties within the business office. This past year we continued the regular Principal Aide meetings and successfully expanded our food service program so all our river school students are offered free breakfast and lunch. We finished FY16 strong with a "clean" audit and successful conclusion to a two year review of our Impact Aid Program. We made sure that staff was well informed about the new health insurance plan that will continue to provide excellent health insurance benefits while stabilizing costs. We continue to answer to the Superintendent's goal to find efficiencies in our procedures. This past year we implemented a new online leave request system, so that we can eliminate the use of paper leave slips. We are in the set up and training phase of a new electronic timesheet and summation system, which will significantly improve our efficiencies and again reduce the need for paper. Next year we hope to purchase a new business software program that will improve our processes and turn-around time while at the same time improve the experience of our employees, such as Administrative Assistants and Principal Aides. As much as we are thankful to see FY17 come to a close we equally look forward to improving our processes and support to our schools and departments in FY18.

Business Office Team: Jenny Martens, Trevor Bridgewater, Susan Erickson, Patty Hill, Tami Rump, Amanda Williams and Kathy Steckel.

Congratulations Jenny!

Superintendent Boyd



Congratulations Jenny Martens for being recognized as the outstanding staff member of the month for her diligence and commitment to YKSD! We are thankful for all of her hard work balancing the budget and providing accurate fiscal results!

Johnny Oldman School

By Patty White

Ms. Sally's Pre-K and first grade students are studying a unit on plants, and decided to plant and grow snow peas seeds to better learn the needs of plants and how we can help them stay alive and grow. We now have happy and healthy plants!

Ms. Carolyn's grades 2 - 5 students are learning animal names in Denaakkenaage' and made some fabulous pictures of wolves, birds, and moose. Students have completed PEAKS and MAPs testing and are working hard finish the year strong!



Kaltag School

By Patty White

The students from Kaltag practiced countless hours throughout the winter months to be ready to perform. They traveled to Fairbanks for the Festival of Native Arts in March. They danced at the Fairbanks Native Association and at the YKSD District Office and other places in Fairbanks. At the FNA, they joined with the Nulato Dancers for a spectacular performance.

Students from the middle school have been actively involved in the Area Wide Student Council and several students will be attending Phlight Club on May 5 in Fairbanks.

Students completed their PEAKS and MAPS testing and are showing great improvement in Reading and Math.



Ella B. Vernetti School News

By Patty White



Susan Paskvan visited the students in Koyukuk. They enjoyed learning some yoga, weaving baskets, making paper mache beavers, and coloring Easter eggs. The students learned a lot and had fun doing so. Thank you, Susan!

The upper elementary class has also been enjoying some STEM projects using the Little Bits kit and learning coding and how motors work. The students have also experimented with other STEM kits including electric circuits and electricity. They have been very excited to work with these new materials.



Jimmy Huntington School

By Liz Wright

Dancing with the Spirits spent the week in Huslia, teaching the students how to play the guitar and the violin. Josephine Malamute and Belle Mickelson sure had fun with these kiddos. It was great to hear all the kids using their musical skills as they practiced. At the end of the week, the students held a concert for the community. Pictured are the individual classes.



Mrs. Brandy Henderson's Kindergarten class



Mrs. Brandy Henderson's 1st grade class



Mrs. Annette Moses 2-3 grade class.



Mrs. Katie Riemer's 4-5 grade class

Allakaket School

By Evelyn Esmailka

Andy Esmailka's Classified Employee of the Year Celebration



Easter Basket Winners: Caleb Bergman and Hazel Strassburg



Merrelaine A. Kangas School

By Anne Titus

MAK Staff and students are looking forward to closing out the year with a bike rodeo, ice cream social and two environmental science workshops.

Our recent Career and Health Fair were well received and all who participated had a lot of fun. At the close of this school year we will say goodbye to the JD McBride and his family as they move on to new endeavors and we wish them well.

The staff and students wish to thank parents, the community, regional board, local CSC and district personnel for their support over the course of this school year.

2017 What Color is Your Parachute?



Rampart School

By John Hersrud

April has been long, busy, and productive for the Rampart Warriors. It came in like a lion with the annual spring carnival. Foot races, dancing, food, music, and visiting, and when out with Lil Dribblers on Sunday. Travel in and out of Rampart was good, the weather cooperated and the opening of the road allowed people to come in trucks loaded with snow mobiles and fun. The population tripled that weekend.

Next we had Amanda York and a couple from TCC come out and put on a Health and Career Fair. Rampart may be a little short on young adults, but our students stepped right up and took in the Health Fair, and learned much from the three ladies sharing healthy ideas and topics of importance to growing children and young adults. 4 middle school students, Liyana Newman-Woods, Laci Mayfield-Kriska, Natalie Newman, and Joni Newman, added science projects, though 2 of them had to be in Fairbanks and didn't get to present. The students in Rampart love science. Amanda aided a couple young adults in completing their FAFSAs and applications to AVTEC. We closed the evening with an excellent dinner of spaghetti, salads, followed by a movie.

The end of the month brought in test prep, and we are currently completing the Map testing. Josephine Malemute and Nakosi taught the students music on string instruments. The students are natural musicians, they loved it and are doing great.



Gladys Dart School

By: Patty White

The students have been busy carving Diamond willow walking sticks during Natural Resources class. The students cut them down and carved and cleaned and varnished their sticks. Every student went home with one.

Spring has sprung and we have been spending time every afternoon outside after a long winter in the gym. We are walking and biking for PE class. The two seniors are busy planning graduation. Some students were invited to attend the Prom at Effie Kokrine School on April 29, and several students will attend the Phlight Club on May 5-7 in Fairbanks. The classes also planted flowers to share on Mothers day.



Andrew K. Demoski School

By Jason Johnson

This was an extremely exciting time for our students! We hosted approximately 20 guests, which consisted of a huge number of former AKD graduates, who spoke to the students during our career fair regarding setting goals, post-secondary plans, character building and enjoying life!

Our high school students began their day hearing from local residents about potential careers with the Local 302 Operating Engineers and then learned from a variety of professionals including, medical, dental, the Alaska State Police, multiple UAF and rural services representatives about careers and also about the power of positive thoughts and the significance of healthy relationships.

Additionally, our elementary school students were joined by some of our neighbors from Koyukuk! They all had a lot of fun working with the Alaska State Police and the "Kids Don't Float" Program. Further, they took part in character building sessions and learned the importance of supporting each other and having a positive outlook!



Minto School

By Scott Brucker

We held a school wide snowshoe tea race. There were approximately eight teams of students. Each team had to perform a three person snowshoe relay, each lap was 1 mile. After the three relay racers finished the team received their flint and steel strikers to start a fire, with that the group was able to collect birch bark and spruce branches. Water had to be boiled for a full minute to finish the race. The fastest team took about 58 minutes to complete all of the tasks and the slowest team took 1 hour 20 minutes.



Minto School continued

By Scott Brucker

Effie Kokrine Snowshoe Race



ACHILL Program



Raven Homeschool—Juneau

By Theresa Miller & Ryan Tilbury

Congratulations!

Congratulations to June Tuluk, graduating Raven Senior from Chevak, Alaska, on being selected to attend the Rural Alaska Honors Institute this summer. June has also been accepted to UAF and wants to pursue a teaching degree. And, on a wonderful note, June was active with the Native Youth Olympics and placed 1st in One Arm Reach and 3rd Place in Wrist Carry at Regionals and place overall 3rd at the state NYO competition.



Raven Homeschool—Anchorage

Submitted by Andrea Cottrell

Congratulations to Anchorage Raven's Midnight Sun Team

“Miska Alexia, Luke Stepp, Gabe Boyles, Aletta Demrovski along with coach/teacher, Deborah Fancher, of Raven Homeschool, which is part of the Yukon Koyukuk School District have been named national finalists in the 2nd annual Bright Schools Competition™. The competition is a collaborative effort of the [National Sleep Foundation](#) and the [National Science Teachers Association](#) that encourages students in grades 6-8 to explore the correlation between light and sleep and how it influences student health and performance. The Midnight Sun Team is one of 50 national finalist teams, chosen among 150 teams, made up of nearly 500 students from 53 schools. In early May, first-, second- and third-place national winning teams will be announced. The complete list of the national finalists can be found at <http://brightschoolscompetition.org/>.”

The full Press release can be found on our website at www.ravenschool.com



Raven Homeschool—Eagle River

By Andrea Cottrell & Kelsey Stone



11823 Old Glenn Hwy
Suite 103
Eagle River, AK 99577

Soft Opening
May 15th

Grand Opening
May 31st

RAVEN EAGLE RIVER OFFICE!

Administrative
Assistant:
Maegan Mascagno



Advisory Teacher:
Randi Shrider

Welcome!

Raven would like to introduce and welcome the newest member to our team. Maegan Mascagno has been hired as the new Administrative Assistant for our new office in Eagle River. Maegan has lived in Alaska since she was 3 years old, and has been in Anchorage since she was 4. She graduated from Dimond High and then attended UAA and has almost completed her Bachelor's degree in Sociology. Maegan has played volleyball almost her entire life and still continues to play year round on multiple teams. She also coaches as high school team with the Boys and Girls Club of Alaska. When she's not working or playing volleyball she enjoys spending time outside with her husband, friends, and family.



Raven Homeschool—Fairbanks

Congratulations!

By Ryan Tilbury



Congratulations to Damien “Baazal” Emelianoff, graduating senior on being selected to attend the Rural Alaska Honors Institute this summer. Baazal will attend UAF this fall and major in chemistry with a Pre-Med focus.



About Valarie: "Hello, my name is Valarie Martucci. I am a Raven Home School graduating junior and a freshman at the University of Alaska Fairbanks working to earn my Bachelors in Nursing. During my free time I participate in Future Farmers of America, 4H, Lathrop High School Varsity volleyball, and Lathrop High School baseball. This summer my family is planning on moving to the south where I am planning on attending the University of Tennessee, Knoxville to earn my Bachelors in Nursing and later my Masters in Nursing, while working locally."

The Carson Scholars Fund awards \$1,000 college scholarships to students in grades 4-11 who excel academically and are dedicated to serving their communities. Scholarship winners receive the honor of being named “Carson Scholars” and are awarded an Olympic-sized medal and a trophy for their school to celebrate their accomplishments. Previous winners of Carson Scholarships are eligible to reapply for Carson Scholar Recognition annually.

Raven Homeschool—Fairbanks continued

Congratulations Ryan Tilbury, Counselor with Raven Homeschool!

Taken from The Readiness Report and written by Master Sgt. Timm Huffman



“Maj. Ryan Tilbury, an Individual Mobilization Augmentee exercise planner with U.S. Pacific Command, recently received the Alaska Community Service Medal. The medal, awarded by the state’s governor, recognized Tilbury’s six years of service on the state’s Veterans Advisory Council.

Alaska has the highest per capita veteran population of any state, with nearly one third being either a veteran or a family member. The council, which is made up of veterans from communities around the state, is tasked to listen to veterans in their communities and bring informed recommendations about their needs to the state Office of Veteran’s Affairs and the governor.

During his two terms on the council, which ended in 2016, Tilbury championed a number of initiatives to improve the lives of the state’s many veterans.”

Raven Fairbanks Happenings!

Annual Cookie Bake Off

Our Annual Cookie-Off was a smashing success. We had 16 students that entered with lots and lots of great cookies to sample. The judges had a very difficult time trying to choose the winners. Thanks to our judges: Cristina Welker, Trevor Bridgewater and Chef Bernie from the River’s Edge Fine Dining.

Winners in the 5-10 age group

1st Place Gavin Rogers
2nd Place Bre Anna Tritle
3rd Place Lillian Schweska

Winners in the 11-18 age group

1st Place Lillyana Putt
2nd Place Amelia Knavel



Raven Firehouse Tour

Our Raven families were able to attend a tour of the downtown firehouse on March 2nd. The firefighters told us all about what they do, how they live part time at the station, depending on the shifts they were working and just how important their equipment is to their jobs. They have a live tracker, which shows where each team is at any given time. The downtown fire station has the most calls out in the borough due to the concentration of population. They also have cooperative agreements from neighboring stations for assistance when needed.



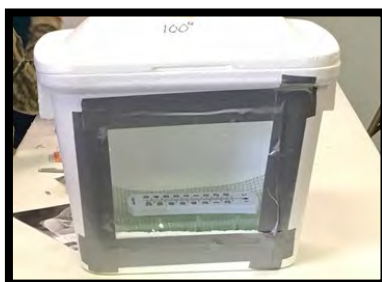
Falconer Visit

The Raven Fairbanks office had a visit from some feathery friends in February. Dave Lorrying a local falconer brought two of his beautiful birds to visit. Dave gave a very informative presentation on these unique birds. He discussed the training process, how and what he feeds them, what they do as predators and many other aspects of their lives.

Raven Homeschool—Wasilla

By Monique Ratzlaff

The Wasilla Raven office partnered with a local, private school to bring the Yukon Koyukuk School District's Starlab (portable planetarium) to Wasilla. The students of both schools experienced the constellations of the night sky as well as benefiting from excellent instruction! We received very positive feedback and plan on doing the same next year.



The Wasilla Raven office has jumped into 4H! We have students who are interested in poultry. They have built incubators and brooders and are hatching eggs. We also have a student interested in entrepreneurship. They are growing micro greens and are part of a couple of different farmer's markets here in the Valley and Anchorage.

Students here in Wasilla have been getting their First Aid / CPR certification with the American Red Cross through a local vendor. The office was fairly crackling with energy as students listened, asked questions, learned proper CPR technique and form, and practiced using the AED (Automated External Defibrillator).



Our very own Elliott C., a kindergarten student, placed 1st at state for wrestling! His season stats include 22 wins and 1 loss. That is pretty impressive for his first year playing this sport. Don't underestimate the little guy!

Raven Homeschool—Delta Junction

By Heidi Mintun

Our students came in to the office to dye Easter eggs. We enjoyed spending time together and being creative with colors.

Boy's Night Out was a trip to the Alaska state Trooper station. Raven students enjoyed checking out all the equipment and holding the rifle. Mike and Nalu tried on Trooper Lantz's vest, and were finger printed.

Our High school students toured our of the new Mt. McKinley Bank. Mr. Martinez told our student how to make deposits and write checks. We all learned a lot!



YKSD Birthdays

July		August		September	
Joan Gianotti	3-Jul	Julianne Szidloski	3-Aug	Luke Purdy	4-Sep
Rachel Weter	4-Jul	Kimberly Bergy	7-Aug	Cynthia Ekada	5-Sep
Anthony Semaken	6-Jul	Travis Henderson	9-Aug	Fred Bifelt	9-Sep
Percy Lolnitz	8-Jul	Jason Johnson	9-Aug	Philip Peterson	11-Sep
David Riemer	12-Jul	Daniel Barnes	10-Aug	Ariel Novak	14-Sep
Sara Titus	15-Jul	Gale Bourne	11-Aug	Amanda Williams	16-Sep
Liz Wright	17-Jul	Heidi Mintun	16-Aug	David Hoffman	17-Sep
Carmen Romero	18-Jul	Sophie Peters	16-Aug	Alicia Schuh	18-Sep
Jolene McGinty	18-Jul	Cristina Welker	16-Aug	Rose Wolfe	19-Sep
Terri Thurston	23-Jul	Joanna Madros	19-Aug	Tawna Alexander	20-Sep
Michael Johnson	25-Jul	Valerie Penn	19-Aug	John Hersrud	25-Sep
		Charlotte Mayo	21-Aug	Andrea Durny	26-Sep
		Ryan Tilbury	21-Aug	Joseph Turner	29-Sep
		Tracy Vent	22-Aug	Scott Brucker	29-Sep
		Trevor Bridgewater	26-Aug		
		Jessie David	27-Aug		
		Gina Hrinko	27-Aug		
		Mickey Kenny	30-Aug		
		Brad Kennon	30-Aug		



*Yukon Koyukuk School District
4762 Old Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709*

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<http://yksd.com>

Name: _____

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Yukon Koyukuk School District

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ALLAKAKET
HUGHES
KOYUKUK
RAMPART

ANCHORAGE
HUSLIA
MANLEY
RUBY

EAGLE RIVER
JUNEAU
MINTO
WASILLA

FAIRBANKS
KALTAG
NULATO

2017-2018 YKSD School Calendar

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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September						
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October						
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November						
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December						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



2017	
AUGUST	
7-9	Principals at District Office.
10-12	Principals on-site
10-12	New Teachers at District Office
14	Teacher Workday at site
15-18	In-service at site.
21	First Day of School
SEPTEMBER	
4	Labor Day Holiday
15	Mid-term Progress Reports
16	Principal Workday
22	In-service at site.
OCTOBER	
20	End of 1st Quarter/Early Dismissal for Students/Report Card
21-22	Principal Workday
30	Parent Teacher Conferences/Early Dismissal for Students
NOVEMBER	
3-4	Principal Workday
10	Mid-term Progress Reports
22	Early Dismissal for Students & Staff
23-24	Thanksgiving Holiday
DECEMBER	
2	Principal Workday
15	End of Semester/Early Dismissal for Students/Report Cards
18-29	Holiday Break-No School

2018	
JANUARY	
1	Holiday Break - No School
2	Teacher Workday - No School
3	Students back to school
15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day-No School
27-28	Principal Workday
FEBRUARY	
1-2	In-service at site
9	Mid-term Progress Reports
MARCH	
3	Principal Workday
9	End of Quarter/Early Dismissal for Students/Report Cards
12-16	Spring Break (varies by school)
26	Parent Teacher Conferences/Early Dismissal for Students
APRIL	
7	Principal Workday
20	Mid-term Progress Reports
MAY	
23	Last Day of School for Students/Report Cards
24-25	Teacher Workday
28	Memorial Holiday
29-31	Principal Workday

	Last Day of School/Report Cards
	End of Quarter-Early Dismissal for Students/Report Cards
	Minimum Day
	Legal Holiday
	Inservice Day
	Parent-Teacher Conf-Early Dismissal for Students
	Mid-Term Progress Reports
	First Day of School for Students
	Testing
	Vacation Day
	Teacher Workday
	Principal Workday (tentative dates)
	New Teacher Workday
	Regional School Board Meetings

January						
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June						
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