



## *News from the Superintendent*

By Superintendent Boyd

Congratulations! Thank you for helping your student to successfully complete the first quarter. We hope that you will join your students for Parent Teacher Conferences scheduled at each of our schools for October 30th where they will showcase their hard work. YKSD has a lot to celebrate! There are lots of activities going on inside and outside of school this time of year. Many sites have already hosted their culture week, having a huge impact on our students. Community members volunteered their time to help the students learn traditional ways. Students were engaged in learning, whether it be making jam or helping cut meat or dancing to prepare for AFN! We are seeing success with the project based learning that is happening in our communities.

To ensure our students are graduate ready, YKSD is focusing on strengthening college and career readiness skills. Many of our schools have incorporated a mentoring program that promotes high school students working alongside of the elementary students to help build reading skills. High school students are also participating in Career Technical Programs focusing on health careers, education, and small engine repair to name a few. YKSD's partnership with the University of Alaska Fairbanks is providing outstanding opportunities through the Educators Rising program. We are one of thirteen school districts working with the University to prepare our students to become future educators.

YKSD has been awarded the first ever Native American Education Language Program Grant as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act. The program is intended to help our district expand the district's existing Athabascan program from grades K-4 to all students, Pre-K to grade 12 and to publish digital story books in Native languages. YKSD has partnered with Brightways Learning and the Association of Alaska School Boards. Senator Lisa Murkowski posted a nice announcement about our district receiving this award.

Research supports that in order for students to learn, they must be engaged and present each day. This year our student attendance has seen improvement. A recent report which tracks chronically absent students, those who are miss 10 percent or more of school, was released by Alaska Department of Education. Many of the CSCs and school staff members have worked together to develop incentives to increase student attendance, which includes being on time to school every day. The community engagement has already made a significant improvement. Thank you, especially because we are in our critical 20-day enrollment count!

In an effort to streamline communication in our school district and communities, YKSD will be utilizing a mass communication notification system to share relevant news and timely updates with families. The new system is expected to be up and running by December. Please continue to also check the website and Facebook links. In addition, parents have access to their student grades in PowerSchool. For more information about how to access PowerSchool information, please call your teacher or principal.

CSC election and official regional school board election results will be provided next month. On behalf of the YKSD school board, I would like to thank you for all of your hard work and efforts supporting our students. As I continue my travels throughout the district, I look forward to meeting with the students and community members.



## *October is National Principal Recognition Month* By Superintendent Boyd

In an executive proclamation, Governor Walker recognizes the vital role principals hold in the education of Alaska students and proclaims October 2017 as School Principals and Assistant Principals Recognition Month. National Principal's Month is an opportunity to say "thank you" to principals and to share with the community all the great work that principals do. The key to student success is a great school and the key to a great school is a great principal. YKSD is fortunate to have a wonderful team of principals. From left, Joe Krause, Manley, Paul Gilbert, Rampart, Larry Parker, Allakaket, Charles Burns, Kaltag, Casey Weter, Huslia, Mike Day, Koyukuk, Jason Johnson, Nulato, Patty White, Hughes, Anne Titus, Ruby and Vicky Charlie, Minto. Please thank them for their hard work either in person or electronically!



### *Congratulations Irene Peters!*

By Kimberlee Pippin

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



**Irene Peters**  
Teacher Aide / Paraprofessional  
Jimmy Huntington School  
Huslia, Alaska

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



## *Happenings from the Office of Federal Programs*

By Gina Hrinko

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



### *Grant Highlights*

**Indian Education:** Each site was provided with an allotment of funding to use for increasing academic achievement. Activities can include after-school tutoring, cultural activities, purchasing of supplies or student incentives. Principals will work with staff to determine how to best use these funds.

**New Grant Alert:** We have several new grants that have recently been awarded and we are currently developing a timeline for the implementation of these grants. Information about the upcoming projects will be shared as soon as possible. We are excited about the opportunity to continue to implement activities such as Phlight Club, book slams and more!

**"We have several new grants that have been recently awarded"**

### *Professional Development*

We have had several exciting opportunities for professional development so far this year. This month, all of our principals will participate in the annual principal conference in Anchorage. This will be a great time for ongoing collaboration amongst peers, as well as a great opportunity to connect and network with other principals from around the state. New teachers and PBL (Project-Based Learning) teachers will also be participating in professional development in Fairbanks this month.

### *Migrant Education*

By Sean Lawson



Over the past few months, our district has been busy implementing the Migrant Education Program by taking part in a number of activities aimed at engaging our students, including this year's first Migrant Book Distribution. With this program, our State and Federal Programs Department staff send books to our migrant students all across the district so that they may continue to develop their reading and comprehension skills. Our staff members help to distribute the books at each of the schools in conjunction with activities designed to promote literacy and education for our students and their families. This has been one of the most popular parts of the Migrant Education Program. We look forward to our next book distribution which will take place around the Winter Break!



## *Primary Support Program*

By Rachel Reilly

Because our primary teachers have been charged with the essential task of assuring that all of the students in their PreK-3rd grade classrooms "Start Strong" with a strong foundation in literacy and math, the district is once again implementing the Primary Support Program with a few modifications based on the learning that took place last year. The supports available through this program include:

**1) Pacing Guides and Lesson Templates for the Wonders curriculum:** The YKSD's Reading Wonders Pacing Guide is designed to help teachers maximize instruction and assure that their students have the skills needed to achieve at their highest levels every year.

**2) Primary Professional Learning Community Videoconferences:** Each quarter, every primary teacher will sign in to participate in a PLC meeting addressing common needs. These meetings are designed to 1) be meaningful to the teacher and his/her professional growth; and 2) positively impact student achievement in every PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom. Our first meeting will take place on October 18.

**3) Individualized support:** The ECE Coordinator will be reaching out to teachers individually on-site and over VTC to assure that every primary teacher has the resources necessary to support their students. Teachers will also connect with one another to support each other in this endeavor.

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



## *Highly Qualified Paraprofessionals*

By Rachel Reilly

The State of Alaska requires that every paraprofessional who works for a 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.

## Teaching and Learning Department



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

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

3600 minutes in  
a school year

**1,800,000 words**



**90<sup>th</sup> percentile**

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

900 minutes in  
a school year

**282,000 words**



**50<sup>th</sup> percentile**

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

180 minutes in  
a school year

**8,000 words**



**10<sup>th</sup> percentile**

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

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

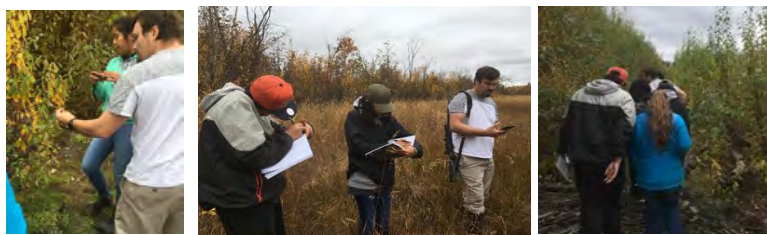


## Alaska Ecology

By Patty Woody

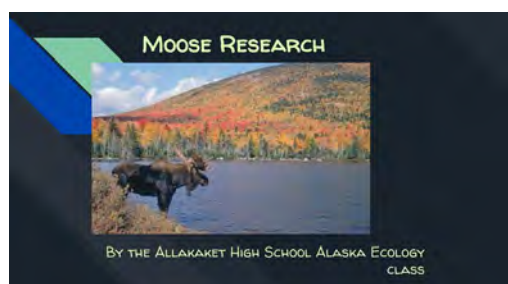
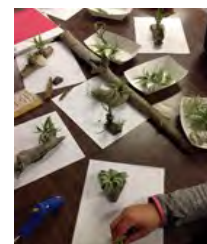
The YKSD is offering a new science class for middle school and high school students. Over the past six months, a science committee has developed the new curriculum with the assistance of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, the Fairbanks Soil & Water Conservation District, and the University of Alaska GLOBE Project. This curriculum was designed to help our students better understand the ecosystems in which they live. Students will explore boreal forest, tundra, and wetland ecosystems and the living and nonliving factors that interact within each system. By the end of the course students should be able to answer the essential question of “What factors limit the diversity of species yet create spectacular adaptations of local flora and fauna?”

The course provides students an opportunity to participate in hands-on activities focused on learning about the environment around them. Students will learn more about moose, trees, transect study, globe, wetlands, water cycle, forest and tundra, forests, ecosystems, investigation, food chain, community connections, tundra, human impact, wetlands, migration, fire, habitat, compost, adaptations, populations, birds, energy flow, insects, animals in our region. Great projects and learning opportunities have been taking place across the district!



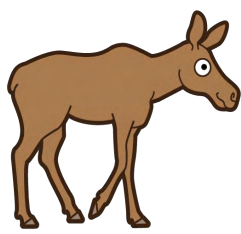
In Huslia, students could be found outside investigating and recording the types of moose environments.

In Kaltag students have been taking a closer look by focusing on indoor and outdoor ecology. With winter closing in, they are developing indoor environments using air plants and beta fish.



In Allakaket the middle school and high school students collaboratively developed a presentation on moose, which they presented to the elementary students. The elementary students were very engaged and asked many great questions. There are plans for another project!

In Manley Hot Springs, students have been using transect studies to dig deep and learn about a 2 foot by 2 foot square. Scientists use transect studies for many things: comparing and contrasting, insect life, specific plant species, animal signs, and much more.



In Nulato a student shared with a community member the importance of cow moose and how hunting a cow moose can affect the moose population in a negative way for many years.



## ***Congratulations!***

By Patty Woody

The following students have received their Alaska Driver's License, their Alaska Driver's Permit or passed the Alaska Driver's Permit Test!

### ***Driver's Permit***



*Austin Nollner*



*Talia Henry*



*Rhea Linus*



*JesCynthia  
David*



*Charles Pitka*



*Aviendha  
Titus-Allmond*

### ***Driver's License***



*Elizabeth Henderson*



*Leon Titus*



## ***Assessment Department News***

By Patty White

This fall has been a busy time for District Assessments. We began the year with all students, grades 3-11, taking the Northwest Education Association Measure of Academic Progress (NWEA MAP) assessments, in September. We have completed these assessments three times per year for grades 3 – 12 for the past seven years. We changed to AimsWeb Benchmark testing for the Primary (grades K-2) last year to replace PMAP, which had been used for the primary grades. Changing to a more appropriate testing instrument for younger students gives us a better picture of what students know at all grade levels and allows us to see growth or concerns in students from grades K-12, which helps teachers target instruction to student's individual needs. All MAP testing is completed on the computer and scored immediately, which provides teachers with needed information right away. As an added benefit, the computerized tests give our student experience with testing on a computer, which will be the testing method for the State of Alaska Test, PEAKS, in the Spring of 2018. PEAKS results from Spring 2017 were mailed to parents in early September. If you have questions on your child's scores, please talk to your teacher or principal or call the district office.

Upcoming assessments include: MAP and AimsWeb mid-year testing January 8-26; ACCESS test for student with Limited English Proficiency in February and March; the annual State of Alaska test, PEAKS – March 26-April 27; and MAP end of year testing April 23 –May 9.



Please feel free to contact Andrea Durny at [adurny@yksd.com](mailto:adurny@yksd.com), 374-9424 or Patty White at [pwhite@yksd.com](mailto:pwhite@yksd.com), 374-9407 if you have any questions or would like more information regarding District Assessments.

## Area Wide Student Council (AWSC)

By Andrea Durny

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

### FY18 AWSC Members

Kaltag- Jamie McGinty, Trinidy Madros  
 Allakaket- Rhea Lilus  
 Huslia- Elizabeth Henderson, Zoe Ballard-Huffman  
 Nulato- Charles Pitka, Justin Miller  
 Minto- Dakota Titus  
 Ruby- Misty Frank, Darwon Paul  
 Koyukuk- Damien Dayton, Morgan Malamute  
 Rampart- Teionna Wiehl, Liyana Newman-Woods  
 Manley- Ian Massey, Kalli Woellert

### Positions

President: Elizabeth Henderson, Huslia  
 Vice President: Dakota Titus, Minto  
 Secretary: Zoe Ballard-Huffman, Huslia  
 Treasurer: Ian Massey, Manley

### FY18 Meeting Dates

October 18  
 November 15  
 December 6  
 February 14  
 March 21  
 April 18

If you have any items that need to be recognized, please contact your site representative. The meeting schedule for FY18 is listed above, meetings are at 1:15pm.

## Phlight Club

By Andrea Durny

Phlight Club was held at Camp Bingle located on Harding Lake August 11-13. This opportunity was open to any students from YKSD and the Fairbanks area. Travel was paid for by the CARE grant. Currently we have reached the end of this grant cycle although we will continue to seek additional grants. Derek Peterson was our main presenter. While at camp we focused on making connections with adult anchors to build our webs of support/resiliency, leadership and fun. This was such a beautiful weekend to spend at camp; the staff was great, we had access to the lake boats, bunk cabins, fire pit and the food was marvelous. It is great to see the student's leadership continue to grow, learning to build webs of support for themselves and connecting with adults in their villages.





## 8th Annual Fun Run

By Andrea Durny

A total of 212 runners district wide participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Fun Run. Each student who registered received a free t-shirt. Thank you to the teachers and parents for working with our students to fill in their Healthy Lifestyles Activity Logs as we work together with our communities to promote health and wellness within our schools. Trophies will be mailed to the top 3 runners in each category listed below. Thank you to all sites for your participation and coordinating efforts which make this event happen for our students. A complete list of runners times can be seen in your school's front office.

### Grades K-1, 1/2mile

1. Cola Sipary, Nulato. 4:38
2. Davita Harris, Koyukuk. 4:50
3. Aiyana Madros, Nulato. 4:57



Allakaket

### Grades 3-7, 1mile

1. Clayton Wiehl, Minto. 7:33
2. Commack Stanley, Nulato. 8:19
3. Justin Charlie, Minto 8:26



Manley

### Grades 8-12, 3.1miles

1. Sheldon Albert, Ruby 21:46
2. Jeremiah Henry, Huslia 23:02
3. Seth Turrene, Minto 24:04



Nulato



Minto



Koyukuk



Huslia

## Youth Leadership & Boarding

By Andrea Durny

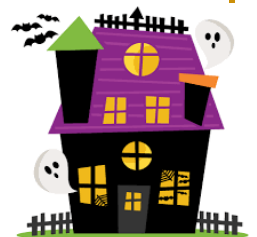
### AASB Youth Leadership Institute Nov. 8-12, 2017:

For the past several years YKSD has sponsored three students from the Area Wide Student Council (AWSC) to attend the Alaska Association of School Board Conference in Anchorage the first weekend in November at the Hilton. The theme of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference is "Empowering the Whole Child". The officers attending will be determined at the October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### YKSD Home Away Program:

Formerly known as the Boarding Home Program, YKSD is has been accepting applications of students in grades 8-12 for families who meet eligibility requirements. This reimbursement program is intended to assist families with the cost of housing a student who may need additional tangible supports in reaching their academic goals and don't want to leave the cultural/family setting. Ap-

plications are reviewed by a committee once a week. The application process for the FY18 YKSD Home Away Program is now closed. For more information please contact Andrea Durny, 907-374-9424 or [adurny@yksd.com](mailto:adurny@yksd.com).



## ACHILL Grant

By Andrea Durny

In partnership with Alaska Gateway School District, YKSD is able to offer dual credit classes for High School Veterinary Science, Middle School Animal Science as well as funding after school kennel clubs. This is a rather large four year grant which will fund the dog kennel visits, student travel, \$25 per hour for local cultural experts to assist with projects, Kennel Club stipends, classroom, technology, cultural, and dog training supplies, etc.

We currently have two students in Huslia taking the dual credit **Vet Tech Course**. The units for these courses are in Wikispace and the teacher onsite ensures that the students submit assignments to Peggy Bruno as well as enter grades into PowerSchool. The other sites enrolled into the **High School Vet Tech Course** are Rampart and Minto. The high school classes are also available for college credit.

**Middle School Animal Science** is offered at Allakaket and Rampart School.

The units for the **Middle School AK Culture and Dog Mushing** course have been designed by local teachers this past summer and are currently in Wikispace for our teachers to utilize. The Units are wonderful. Huslia, Rampart and Minto are offering the class to their middle school students.



Andrea Durny and Victoria Patsy holding one of the tanned moose hides



Hughes, Nulato, Ruby and Kaltag are participating in after school dog mushing clubs with local mushers. The grant paid for and has shipped dog food to each of the mushers for the winter.

One of two locally purchased tanned moose hides will be sent out to our sites taking part in our ACHILL Grant Courses. The hides were purchased for our students to work on cultural projects.

If any of our villages would like your 6-12th grade students to participate, please talk with the school. We have been working to recruit dog mushers and local cultural instructors.

## Business Office News

### Congratulations Amanda!

Congratulations to Amanda and Sawyer Brecht on the arrival of their new baby daughter, Aurora, born September 15!





## *Food Service Happenings!*

By Trevor Bridgewater

The Food Service Department is happy to be back serving breakfast and lunch to all our river school students! Our cooks work hard every school day to offer healthy balanced meals so students can focus on achieving their goals.

This year we have been working on recipes to bring more 'made from scratch' foods to the breakfast and lunch menus. An effort has been made to use more whole ingredients to cut down on the amount of processed food served in our schools. Menu items such as carrot muffins, biscuits, meatloaf, and beef stroganoff were tested over the summer to refine the recipes.

Using the *Make It Local* recipe collection and with the help of the Breadline of Fairbanks we were able to start the year off with some fresh ideas for breakfast and lunch. Feedback from the students, staff, and parents help us create meals the students will enjoy. We look forward to offering healthy and appetizing meals for all students again this year.



*Make It Local* Alaska cookbook

Offering more 'made from scratch' meals is important because it gives our cooks the chance to impart their passion and knowledge about food while feeding the future of Alaska. The school breakfast and lunch programs are heavily regulated federal programs that offer schools the ability to serve balanced meals. The cooks have the opportunity to provide a connection to food and continue to make healthier meals for our students.



*Batches of Breakfast muffins for Rampart School (Blueberry & Oat, Carrot Ginger, and Vanilla Pear)*



*Breakfast Burrito with potato wedges, tomato salsa, and fruit*



*Rebecca Linus making fresh biscuits for breakfast in Allakaket, which were served with salmonberry jam.*





## *Native Language Program*

By K'etsoo Susan Paskvan



This fall students have practiced learning their introductions, unit on berry picking, practical classroom phrases, weather and making 3D and 2D clothing out of faux moose skin.

This year the video-conference classes are grouped by dialects. There are three Denaakk'e (Koyukon Athabascan) dialects, of which one of them (Allakaket) has a sub-dialect of the central. To teach by dialect makes sense because the vocabulary and phrases are almost the same throughout the dialect area. Here is an example of one word that changes by dialect for porcupine. upper - noonee; central – dekehone; lower – legedze. Instead of students hearing two or more versions per class, they only hear the version from their dialect. I am grateful for the speakers from our communities who help me learn the local versions.

Please thank the co-teachers of these classrooms for being willing to learn right along with the students. The difference between a certified teacher or paraprofessional who is involved in learning our languages makes a tremendous difference in teaching efficiency. It is challenging to teach over video-conference, but with the co-teachers help, we are able to engage students in playing games, singing songs, and pair share conversations.

In the middle school Denaakk'e class, the students have learned to successfully use Google Slides to create presentations. Students in Huslia and Rampart have downloaded the slides as a pdf then create a VoiceThread presentation in which they can record their voice. This is a valuable tool to individually assess the students work, especially since it is a distance delivered class. I'm currently taking an advanced VoiceThread course on teaching foreign languages.

I've been learning Benhti Kokhut'ana Kenaga' (Lower Tanana Athabascan) through direct instruction from setsoo Sarah Silas and recordings from the Alaska Native Language Archives. It takes a tremendous amount of research to teach one unit, but when our students are using our languages it is worth the extra work.

### *Fall Travel*

In August and September I've traveled to Nulato, Koyukuk, Minto and Manley Hot Springs. In Nulato and Minto we made jam with the students, following directions in Denaakke and Benhti Kokhut'ana Kenaga', respectively. In all four villages I took student portraits. The portraits will be made available to parents or legal guardians via email link to the Google Drive files. Most of the processing of these photos are done after hours, so the decision to stop selling photo packages saves me time to concentrate on language research. In addition to no photo packages, I will no longer create the district wide yearbook. The low sales did not justify the amount of time it took to create the yearbook. Sites do have the option of creating their own yearbook.

When I visit a school, I am available to teach language in the classrooms, provide language teaching games, host a language night, and do cultural activities. Principals and teachers must notify me if any on-site activities during my visit will disrupt my video-conference teaching schedule. As a courtesy to the language co-teachers, they need to be notified one week in advance if a class will be cancelled.



### *Travel schedule for the remainder of the year*

October 9-11 Merreline A. Kangas School in Ruby

October 16-18: Rampart School

October 30-November 1: Kaltag School

November 6-8: Allakaket School

November 8-10: Johnny Oldman School in Hughes

November 14-17: Jimmy Huntington School in Huslia

## School Visits

By K'etsoo Susan Paskvan



Students at the Andrew K. Demoski School participated in a two-day cultural celebration. Here, they are saying: "Geege too' meyee neneel" 'pour berries into it' to Brother Bob Ruzicka as he pours the blueberry jam mixture into the jars. Students recited all of the steps, from learning phrases about picking berries, to washing the jars, to mixing the ingredients in lower De-naakk'e dialect.

"Sk'e'eedeno" Priscilla Williams' class pose for their group photo at the Ella B. Vernetti School in Koyukuk.



Students and staff of the Manley Hot Springs Gladys Dart School jump for joy.

Scott Brucker leads Athaliah Duby and Kilah Cobb's class in a round of Five Little Ducks while I pour the nitl'et (cranberry) jelly into jars.



## Counselor's Corner

By Cristina Welker

### Bullying Awareness

October is National Bullying Prevention Month! Your counselors will be working with students of all ages this month on preventing bullying type behaviors, reporting such behaviors and helping friends who may be experiencing bullying.



**October is  
Bullying  
Awareness  
Month**

### Red Ribbon Week ~ October 23-31



Red Ribbon Week is October 23-31 – students will be receiving fidget spinners from their counselors promoting being drug free!



## Maintenance Department

By Ben McFarlane

South East Regional Resource Center (SERRC) has completed a comprehensive asbestos inspection and management plan for the Yukon Koyukuk School District. This report is available for your inspection during normal school hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) at the District Office and on line at <https://www.yksd.com>.

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



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





## *Technology Update*

By Luke Meinert

### *1:1 Chromebooks:*

YKSD is now 1:1 with Dell Chromebooks for all of our students. In past year's all middle and high school students have had a Chromebook issued to them. With YKSD's School Board's support, we were able to distribute a Chromebook to every elementary student in the district. Teachers received training on how to use and manage the Chromebooks at in-service, and will receive follow up training throughout the year.

### *ClassLink:*

This Fall we deployed Classlink for our students to use this school year. ClassLink solves the problem of too many passwords, and too many files scattered about. It's a one click single sign-on solution that gives students access to everything they need to learn, anywhere, with just one password. Accessible from any device, ClassLink is the perfect tool for ensuring the success of a 1:1 or BYOD initiative. It even allows our younger students the ability to login with a QR code they hold up to the camera, which can save hours for valuable learning time throughout the course of the week!

### *Alaska's Bandwidth Assistance Grant:*

The Department of Education released our bandwidth assistance grant agreement this month. I've completed the remaining paperwork and submitted to DEED. This grant covers a good portion of the district's share of internet costs for our river schools after the USAC funds have been applied. The state has agreed to provide us \$232,002 in funding that can only be used for Internet costs. This is critical to maintaining bandwidth levels we have at our schools to support the educational endeavors of our students.

### *Zoom Video:*

YKSD has transitioned to Zoom for our video conferencing platform. This new platform has added features that will be a benefit our students as well as streamline offerings for board meetings. One of the big improvements for board meetings will be the ability to use a telephone to call into the same bridge as all of the other participants are using for video. This will cut down on the lag/echo we've experienced in the past with telephone calls. Improvements for our students/teachers include:

- Breakout rooms
- Easy recording options
- Integrated whiteboard
- Enhanced scheduling capabilities



## Kaltag School

By Evelyn Esmailka



Back row: Nancy Mason, Kerry Boyd, Charles Burns, Jaylene Esmailka, Judy Madros and Hazel Olson. Front row: Lizzie Alexie

## Johnny Oldman School

By Patty White

We have had a great start to the school year in Hughes! We welcomed our new teacher, Judith-Hope Bates, from Michigan and returning teacher Sally Spellman with a Meet & Greet on August 13, that was well attended by the community. We have 1 pre-k student, 14 K-6 students and 2 students in high school for a total of 17 students! Our students are working really hard on their reading and math, learning their Native language and how to type and play recorders. All students participated in the annual District Fun Run on September 28. They are busy planning for the Halloween carnival at the end of the month. We are looking forward to a great school year and really appreciate the great support we get from the community of Hughes.



Judith-Hope Bates



# Andrew K. Demoski School

By Jason Johnson

## Cultural Week

Culture Days are just wrapping up here at AKD School and the students took part in a variety of activities including: Native singing and dancing, making jam, beading, harvesting a moose, storytelling and making Fry Bread. Additionally, we had a very nice turnout for the community potlatch which was held in order to celebrate and thank all of the volunteers, elders and the Nulato Tribe who made it a very memorable series of days for the students!

Photos By K'etsoo Susan Paskvan



*Superintendent Boyd enjoying Cultural Week in Nulato*



*Making smaaldzaak fry bread*



*Meat Cutting*



*De'aak ~ Faux moose skin chiefs jacket made out of paper bags*



*Dancing*



*Faux boots made out of paper bags*



*Interviewing Elders*



*Beading*



*Meat Cutting*



*Mr. Kevin Stofocik reviewing CHAMPS behavior*



*Meat Cutting*



*Beading*



*Making smaaldzaak fry bread*



## *Ella B. Vernetti School*

By Michael Day

We welcomed Michael Day and Priscilla Williams as our new teachers. Marie Dayton as our new Principal Aide, Ruth Agnes as our new cook, and Carl Sweetsir is our new teacher aide.

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

**Cultural Week:** We're just finished our cultural week and had a great time. The students made jam, went on a walk to the top of Koyukuk Mountain and picked Lavender Tea. Susan Paskvan came for a visit and held Native language and yoga classes for the 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. The students are presently building model caches.

**Fun Run:** We just held our Fun Run with the help of community members. Susan Paskvan, Robert Pilot and Adam Paskvan, who are two young inspirational men, ran with the students and encouraged them as they went!

**Chess Anyone?** This year our 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are learning how to play

chess. We are fortunate to have Carl working at the school and he has helped the students understand the game.

**The Students' Inspiration:** Each day the students return to school with enthusiasm and motivation to continue on their path to success. It is going to be a fantastic year!



## *Jimmy Huntington School*

By Liz Wright

The Jimmy Huntington School held their annual Fun Run on Oct. 2nd. There were 55 students that participated. The kids were super excited to participate this year. They all wanted to thank the District Office for the awesome new t-shirts. Here are a few pictures of the kids running.



## *Allakaket School*

By Evelyn Esmailka



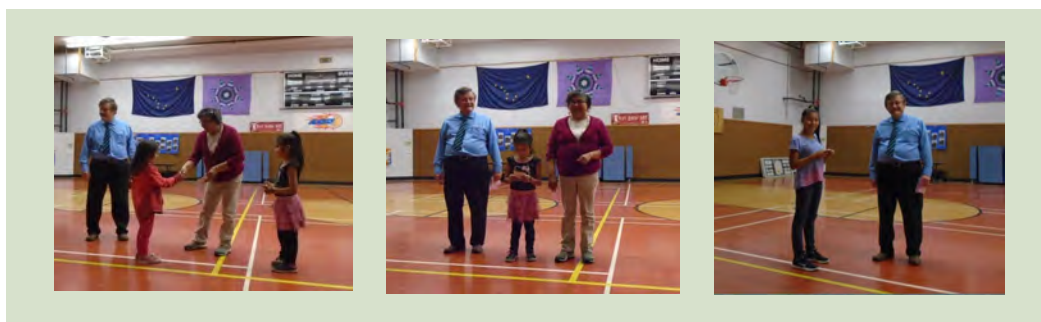
### *Allakaket's PreK Class is Excited about Learning*

Here are my PreK students. I have four students this year and they are busy, talkative, and learning the alphabet in their names. They sure had fun with the alphabet, counting, and reading books. My class keeps me so busy, and makes the day goes by so fast. I sure enjoy them and their excitement about learning.



### *Three Students Receive Perfect Attendance Awards*

Here is the Perfect Attendance Award Assembly for September. My two students had not missed a day of school since school started. They are Hazel Strassburg and Leah Edwards, and they are both in First grade. Another student, Kearra Edwards, from Middle School had perfect attendance too.



### *Welcome Megan Henry*

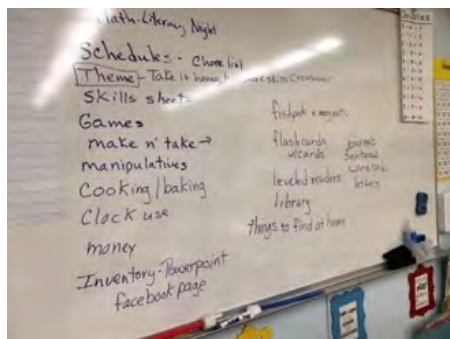


I want to welcome my new teacher Aide, Megan Henry, to the YKSD. She graduated from Allakaket last May with a Paraprofessional Certificate and she participated in Future Educators Program for the past 4 years. She is a great asset to my classroom and is learning my classroom routines, schedules, how to follow lesson plans and get the classroom set-up for the next school day. Thank you Megan.



## Merrelaine A. Kangas School

By Anne Titus



MAK Staff recently worked on an EXL activity that extends into the community. This month as we host our annual Family Math and Literacy Night!



Rohn Wiehl showing our Doyon Christmas contest project. Thanks Susan!



MAK students ready to run in this year's YKSD Fun Run!



## Gladys Dart School

By: Joe Krause

Manley K-5 students are busy learning all sorts of things. We have begun making our "WiFi Hut" that'll serve the after school crowd who use the Internet. Once we get our order in from Amazon we should be able to bring this to completion. This is part of our Project Based Learning effort that the district has asked us to pilot along with a few other schools.

The 6th-12th graders will help us complete the WiFi Hut and include us in their Manley Test Kitchen project. This creative project that Mrs. Christine Krause is spearheading will involve a professional chef from Idaho spending a few days at our school working with students to budget, plan, prepare, and serve a wonderful dinner to our community. We have already had our first round of practice interviews for the dishwasher position.

We've had our first monthly Movie Night, weekly Open Gym time, and are working together to get the ice rink prepared for the first good freeze. We even had an impromptu grouse preparing lesson when a grouse smashed into our classroom window and the kids all wanted to take the dead bird home for dinner. We harvested the meat and sent it home with Roshell, who LOVES her chicken dinners!





## Rampart School

By Paul Gilbert

**Announcements & Special Events** - Rampart School opened with 100% attendance and all MAP and AIMSWEB testing was completed for the fall. We had a great Welcome the Principal dinner and orientation. The Rampart Student Council holds weekly NFL and occasional UFC live event fundraisers. Power and Internet have been restored in Rampart and we had 3 days indoor recess due to a sow black bear and three cubs being sighted in town. The new Teacher Housing Project should be completed by the middle of October. We had our first frost of the year.

**Teacher & Staff Recognition** - Mr. Main did an excellent presentation on the Solar Eclipse for district in-service and for the students.

**New employees** - Mr. Paul J. R. Gilbert Principal/Teacher

**Birthdays** - September - Mariella Trinidad-Kriska  
October - Genivive May Johnson, Teionna Wiehl



Tim Main and Paul Gilbert

## Minto School

By Steve Duby

A group of sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students from Minto School engage in experiential learning (ExL) through inventorying plants with a transect study, part of the district's new science course, Alaska Ecology.



## *Raven Homeschool—Fairbanks*

By Jessica Desrochers



First LEGO League & FLL Jr. Start off with a bang!



### *Welcome Megan Bridgman ~ Fairbanks Family Liaison*

Hello! I am Megan Bridgman, I am the new Family Liaison. I grew up in the Pacific Northwest and moved here from Idaho in 2006 with my family. I did not expect to fall in love with Alaska! The interior has such a sense of community that when I married my (born and raised) Alaskan, we wanted to raise our family here! We have a son who is 9 and a daughter who will be 3 next month.

I enjoy spending time with my family, trying my hand at gardening and other various projects from home improvement to arts and crafts. I have a passion for nutrition, cooking, baking, Superheroes, Harry Potter....um I mean books, and learning new things! I look forward to learning and growing with you.





## *Raven Homeschool—Anchorage*

By Sarah Robinson

### *Welcome Sarah Robinson ~ Anchorage Family Liaison*

Growing up, I learned so much while moving from place to place and enjoyed the adventure of being a military family. Today that adventure continues because I am married to my best friend and he is actively serving in the Air Force. We have 3 fantastic children ages 12, 13, & 15 and they continually teach us more and more about ourselves!

I love spending time with the family, photography, reading, crafting and trying new recipes! I also have a passion for bringing more awareness & teaching understanding/acceptance of the special needs community. We are so fortunate to have found such an amazing homeschooling community and I look forward being a part of such a wonderful community of families!



## *Raven Homeschool—Eagle River*

### *Welcome Jolie McKay ~ Eagle River Family Liaison*

My husband and I have lived in Eagle River for 20 years (less a two-year sabbatical showing our sons another side of life only to have them demand to return to Alaska). We are blessed with four sons (and, ergo, a lot of broken stuff) and have been home educating for 16 years. Our two youngest, 12 and 14 are enrolled in Raven this year. Our middle son is 16, autistic, and incredibly funny (just be careful, if you laugh at his jokes you can expect to hear them 1000 time over!). Our oldest is 32 and now living in China with his lovely wife. But, thanks to the internet, continues to be a fabulous big brother and an invaluable resource (for me) into the minds of adolescent boys.





## *Raven Homeschool—Wasilla*

By Monique Razlaff



The Wasilla Raven office had two students show their chickens at the AK State Fair. They were excited and nervous at the same time!



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 1<sup>st</sup> 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!



### *Welcome Daphne Ward ~ Wasilla Family Liaison*



My name is Daphne Ward. I have been homeschooling for 3 1/2 years. I have 3 kiddos Dylan (11th), Savannah (6th), and Hunter (Pre-K); and I am married to a wonderful man who just retired from the United States Air Force.

I love homeschooling in Alaska. It gives me the opportunity to really bring out the talents of my children and explore the things that they are interested in - which results in a love for school! To be honest, not every day is easy; but overall, it is so worth it.

We love to go to our Raven office for workshops and activities and enjoy the field trips. Some of my hobbies include repurposing furniture, decorating, camping, fishing, and photography.

I am looking forward to working with our Raven staff and Raven families!

## *Raven Homeschool—Delta Junction*

By Heidi Minton

Tuesday in our Raven office is Terrific! Students from each grade level gather together for games and snacks.



Ryan Tilbury Meeting with Maxim Puchalskiy a senior.



This month's field trip was to the Alaska Flour Company in Delta Junction, the only flourmill in Alaska!

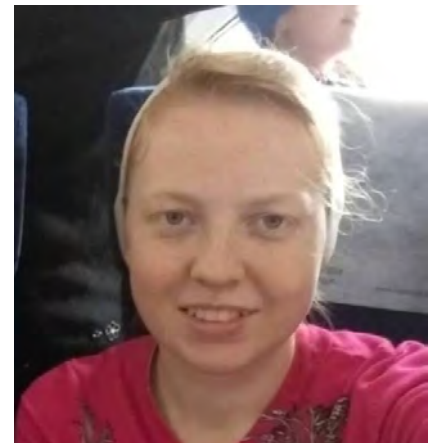


Daniel, Elizabeth, Jirah and Tim playing a game and enjoying pizza during Terrific Tuesdays



### *Welcome Katya Zastavskaya ~ Delta Family Liaison*

Hello my name is Katya Zastavskaya and I am the Family Liaison for the Delta Junction branch of Raven Homeschool. I was born in Ukraine, grew up in Minnesota, we moved to Delta Junction 10 years ago. I have been a part of Raven for 9 years, graduating from Raven myself and tutoring my siblings. I am so excited to be a part of this amazing team here in Delta, to watch everyone grow in learning. I love the opportunities that Raven offers homeschooling families, and hope I can be of help to Raven families in taking advantage of these opportunities!





## Raven Homeschool—Juneau

By Holly Shier

### Juneau Raven's Fall Picnic

During Ryan's visit to our office, we enjoyed a fall family picnic at Sandy Beach. Over 70 people attended and thankfully, the rain held off so the kids could play outside on the playground, in the sand, and on the volleyball court. Parents enjoyed a time to chat and connect inside the pavilion near the cozy fires, and as usual there was an abundance of delicious food for everyone to enjoy.



### Welcome Aleta LeBlanc ~ Juneau Family Liaison



Hello!! I am Aleta LeBlanc, full time homeschooling mom of two girls (8 & 11), newest member of team Raven in Juneau, and on call cleaner with Carver Construction. I have been homeschooling since January 2017 and my only regret is not having done so sooner! I was born and raised in Washington state and have lived in Alaska since June 1999. I love all things Alaska! My husband is Native Alaskan born and raised in various Southeast communities. As a family we enjoy hiking, camping, fishing, and hunting. I am looking forward to working with Raven families and learning all the ways I can help support your homeschool adventure!

## YKSD Birthdays



OCTOBER	
Scotty Starr	2-Oct
Sarah Baily	3-Oct
Larry Parker	6-Oct
Kerry Boyd	9-Oct
Maurice McGinty	14-Oct
Andy Esmailka	15-Oct
Heidi Wright	18-Oct
Marie Dayton	20-Oct
Randi Shrider	22-Oct
Kevin Stofocik	27-Oct
Andrea Cottrell	29-Oct

NOVEMBER	
Steve Duby	1-Nov
Sigwien Cleveland	2-Nov
Charles Burns	4-Nov
Betty Hoffman	6-Nov
Tami Rump	7-Nov
Judy Madros	8-Nov
Alexa Morales	9-Nov
Pat Baser	10-Nov
Hazel Olson	12-Nov
Kelsey Stone	12-Nov
Kilah Cobb	13-Nov
Olga Semaken	13-Nov
Nicholas Roberts	14-Nov
Zastavskaya, Katya	15-Nov
Cathy Walker	24-Nov
Evelyn Esmailka	24-Nov
Amy Graham	25-Nov

DECEMBER	
Rachel Reilly	1-Dec
Wilmer Beetus	6-Dec
Maegan Mascagno	6-Dec
Athaliah Duby	7-Dec
Cynthia Agnes	7-Dec
Rosemary Wiehl	8-Dec
Holly Shier	9-Dec
Dian Gurtler	10-Dec
Megan Henry	10-Dec
Monique Ratzlaff	13-Dec
Ciera Highsmith	17-Dec
Emily Sommer	19-Dec
Nancy Mason	19-Dec
Rebecca Linus	19-Dec
Lorrie Green	21-Dec
Paul Gilbert	21-Dec
Stewart Madros	25-Dec
Brandy Henderson	26-Dec
Jaylene Esmailka	26-Dec
Ben McFarlane	30-Dec
Fargo Kesey	30-Dec



**Happy Thanksgiving!**

*YKSD will be closed  
November 23 & 24*



## 2017-2018 YKSD School Calendar

August						
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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 Cards  
 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  
 26 PEAKS Computer-based test window begins

**APRIL**  
 2 PEAKS Paper-based test window begins  
 7 Principal Workday  
 13 PEAKS Paper-based test window ends  
 20 Mid-term Progress Reports  
 27 PEAKS Paper-based test window ends

**MAY**  
 22 Last Day of School for Students/Report Cards  
 23 Teacher Workday  
 28 Memorial Holiday  
 24-31 Principal Workday

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

January						
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# HALLOWEEN WORDSEARCH



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G G X H D A U J S E U D P X S O Y T V O  
F Y C A N D Y U U T I F S K E L E T O N  
D I L L S P E S T S L G S T K X O E E S  
A K E L P U R S N I L B O G S N L R P T  
R A D O I N S T I K E I X V A M P I R E  
O L F W D P S E H C T I W W X N X O D R  
D I T E U N P K I J U Z K E G H O S T S  
T K G E P S L O H R O X H R T E C B A H  
U R E N R G D P T E L U T I Y R F U I A  
I F P X S D G T S B L A C K H H I P B F  
C O S T U M E S U O G F N P O U I C C E  
H R I L K I Z A I T E E U L T J W P K R  
S B D A T O O E Z C T A F G R D Q U F A  
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B L T S S W C S A Y U S R E D I P S U S

## KEY

BATS  
BLACK  
CANDY  
COSTUMES  
GHOSTS

HALLOWEEN  
HAUNTED  
MONSTERS  
MUMMIES  
OCTOBER

ORANGE  
PUMPKINS  
SCARECROW  
SKELETON  
SPIDERS

TREAT  
TRICK  
VAMPIRE  
WITCHES  
ZOMBIES

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*Color Page*







***GET READY TO PLAY SOME BALL!***

Join us December 14-15 at the  
Kaltag School for our fourth annual

**YKSD BASKETBALL**  
**Jamboree**

Open to YKSD students in  
grades 8-12!

