Congratulations Graduates!

Superintendent Boyd

Congratulations to our seniors on **their** academic and personal success! They have worked hard to reach this milestone, and we know they will continue to be successful as they pursue **their** next steps in life! With our Raven and River Schools we have almost 200 seniors graduating this year!

Allakaket School in Allakaket, AK

Daryl Gray

Andrew K. Demoski School in Nulato, AK

Devin Agnes Lily Lolnitz Kaylon Madros Kyana Madros Jonathan Miller

Johnny Oldman School in Hughes, AK

Natasha Ambrose

Jimmy Huntington School in Huslia, AK

Elizabeth Henderson Jennifer Penn Natalie Sam Tony Sam

Kaltag School in Kaltag, AK

Colby Esmailka Shana Esmailka

Gladys Dart School in Manley Hot Springs, AK

Jessica Hoffman Kalli Madison Woellert

Minto School in Minto, AK

Benjamin Moses Charlie Susan Frank Christian Hunter Dakota Titus Leon Titus

Rampart School in Rampart, AK

Millena Jordan

Graduation Dates for Yukon Koyukuk School District

Allakaket	May 18	Nulato	May 11		
Hughes	May 21	Rampart	May 21		
Huslia	May 11	Ruby	May 18		
Kaltag	May 10	Raven Anchorage	May 24		
Koyukuk	May 21	Raven Fairbanks	May 25		
Manley	May 10	Raven Delta	June 1		
Minto	May 11	Raven Wasilla	May 22		
		Raven Juneau	May 22		



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Legislation Impacting Education

Superintendent Boyd

Governor Walker signed a school funding bill into law, HB 287. This law ensures two years of stable funding for Alaska's schools and helps us prepare and implement quality programs for students.

Another bill of interest is SB102; Internet for Schools. This bill would help raise the minimum speed requirement for state Broadband Access Grants (BAG) from 10 to 25 megabits of download speed. All River schools are currently at 10 megabits, so 25 megabits would be a great improvement. This bill has not yet passed.

For teachers, principals, and counselors who have retired, SB 185 would allow school districts to re-employ educators who are retired for six months if the educator is younger than age 62 or for 60 days if the educator is aged 62 years or older. Educators who are re-employed under these new allowances will continue to receive retirement benefits during the period of reemployment. This bill has not yet passed.

SB26 is the bill that grows the permanent fund, protects the dividend and provides for a structured draw. With the passage of SB26, school districts can count on another \$1.25 billion in Fiscal Year 2030, with an additional \$30 million to be distributed as a grant using K-12 foundation formula. This will equate to over \$300,000 for YKSD if passed.

Board Recognition

The Yukon-Koyukuk Regional School Board recognizes excellence in students and staff members at each meeting. Congratulations to the people listed below! We hope that you will continue to strive to meet your goals and continue to be an excellent role model for your peers.

Staff

The following staff member has been recognized for his excellent contribution to education:



Beattus Moses Special Education Aide Andrew K. Demoski School Nulato, Alaska

Board Recognition

Students

The following students have been recognized for their outstanding achievements this school year.

Student Winners



Calista Gurney Grade 6 Raven Homeschool Delta, Alaska



Jordan David
Grade 8
Jimmy Huntington School
Huslia, Alaska

Student Nominees



Morgan Malemute Grade 6 Ella B. Vernetti School Koyukuk, Alaska



Alexis Moses
Grade 3
Ella B. Vernetti School
Koyukuk, Alaska



Gabriel Agnes
Grade 5
Andrew K Demoski School
Nulato, Alaska



Kayden Broek Grade 5 Raven Homeschool Anchorage, Alaska



Thalen Roper Grade 9 Raven Homeschool Eagle River, Alaska



Veronica Burke Grade 5 Raven Homeschool Wasilla, Alaska



Adeline Knavel Grade 11 Raven Homeschool Fairbanks, Alaska

May 2018 YKSD Staff Connections Page 4

Alaska's Heart Through Student Art

Many art submissions arrived at the district office for ACSA's annual Alaska's Heart Through Student Art exhibit in Juneau!

We were only able to send three pieces of art to be displayed in Juneau; one student allowed their art to be auctioned at the event. We have enjoyed displaying the remaining pieces in the District Office Boardroom.

The students did a great job and we are very proud of them! We will begin collecting student artwork submissions in January or February 2019.



Superintendent Boyd and Representative Lincoln.



Senator Coghill, Superintendent Boyd, and Senator Kelly.



Representative Talerico and Superintendent Boyd.



Student art on display at the District Office.



Happenings from the Office of Federal Programs

By Gina Hrinko

Greetings from the Federal Programs department! Spring is definitely in the air – the snow is melting and it's warming up outside! Our department continues to be busy as we spend down grants, complete reports, and work with each site to insure you have the supplies and materials you need for next school year.

Program Highlights

We continue to have lots of exciting activities happening through our current grant programs. Through the *CRESEL*, *Start Strong* and *School Improvement* grants, instructional coaches are traveling to sites and working with teachers and students.

Paint Nites

Paint Nites have been successful at each school site. This activity is funded through our Start Strong grant and provides evening of fun for everyone as staff, students, and community come together for an evening of painting.

Literacy Nights

We've been able to conduct literacy nights in Kaltag, Koyukuk, Ruby, and Huslia this quarter. These activities provide students and families with resources for building literacy skills. A literacy night provides an evening of fun and engagement for everyone who participates!





Literacy Night in Koyukuk



Literacy Night in Kaltag.

Business Office News

Jenny Martens

Welcome Kristen Winters!

We are happy to welcome Kristen Winters to the YKSD Business Office Team to serve you as our Business Manager beginning in July, 2018. Kristen is a lifelong resident of Alaska, but escaped the cold to receive her degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in accounting from California State University Long Beach. She comes to us with a strong accounting and management background in various businesses in Fairbanks and North Pole. Kristen is married, has two daughters and previously spent many hours of her time for the advancement of girl's hockey in the interior. A past board member of the Fairbanks Amateur Hockey Association, and PTA board member and treasurer, Kristen and her husband now enjoy their empty nest, cabin south of Cantwell, and warm vacations in Arizona.





Congratulations Trevor!

Trevor Bridgewater, YKSD's Food Service Technician, was recently recognized as a future leader of Alaska School Nutrition Association. Trevor was invited to network with other School Nutrition Association members and leaders from across the country and participate in enhancing his leadership and communications skills. Trevor is currently on the AKSNA board and serves as the professional organization's Public Policy and Legislation Chair. This is a huge honor. YKSD is fortunate to have Trevor's skills supporting our Food Service Programs at all our River Sites. Congratulations to Trevor!





Special Education Department

Cristina Welker

Greetings from the Special Education Department! It has been a successful year with many milestones marked. As we prepare for our Fall compliance monitoring from EED, we reflect on our many accomplishments with both students and staff and send a big thank you for the hard work you do for our students! We hope everyone has a wonderful summer!

82 Summer Activities for Families with Special Needs

Karen Wang

Read the full article by clicking the following link: 82 Summer Activities Link

Safety Sunday

- 1. Teach your child his or her full name.
- 2. Teach your child your full name.
- 3. Have your child memorize your home address show where the house number is located outside and show where the street name.
- 4. Have your child memorize your phone number. Practice reciting key information.
- 5. Learn how to cross the street safely.
- 6. Practice an escape route in case of fire.
- 7. Practice saying "no:" make it a game in which you take turns asking each other to do increasingly absurd things.
- 8. Play hide-and-go-seek to teach your child how to remain calm while looking for you.
- 9. Teach your child the buddy system.
- 10. Teach your child what an emergency is and how to call 911.
- 11. Practice asking for help with things that are hot, sharp, dangerous or too high to reach.
- 12. Start swimming lessons.

Make Something Monday

- 13. Arrange 5 or 6 photos to make a poster or scrapbook page.
- 14. Sweetened condensed milk makes a beautiful, edible fingerpaint.
- 15. Plant a seedling outdoors.
- 16. Dig for worms it's a great exercise for fine motor skills and tactile defensiveness. Re-home the worms next to that seedling you planted.
- 17. Bubble snakes.
- 18. Make a leaf scrapbook.
- 19. Color the sidewalk with chalk. Wash it all away with water.
- 20. Paint using different types of paintbrushes: a fly swatter, a flower, a cotton swab, a sponge, a leaf, etc.
- 21. Build an obstacle course with hula hoops, lawn furniture and empty boxes.
- 22. Tie-dye some t-shirts.
- 23. Make a magic wand using all available materials.
- 24. Build a "fairy house" outdoors with sticks, pebbles, pine cones, bark, leaves and other natural materials found outdoors.

Time to Read Tuesday

- 25. Sign up for your local library's summer reading program.
- 26. Read a book under a tree.
- 27. Read all but the last page of a storybook and ask your children to suggest an ending.
- 28. Have your child dictate and illustrate a story, and read it together. It's OK if the story is 1 or 2 sentences long.
- 29. Make a home video of your child reading a story aloud, or of you reading aloud to your child.
- 30. After you finish reading a book such as The Lorax, go see the movie.
- 31. Read some books on a specific topic, such as insects, then do a related activity such as a bug hunt or catching fireflies.
- 32. Have your child create a summer schedule for the family and read off the schedule every morning.
- 33. Check out a book of simple science experiments and try some of them at home.
- 34. Check out a book about a historical figure and play dress-up at home.
- 35. Have your child write out a checklist for a scavenger hunt, and find everything on the list together.
- 36. Swap favorite books with your friends.



82 Summer Activities for Families with Special Needs

What's Cooking? Wednesday

- 37. Fruit smoothies in the blender.
- 38. No-bake oatmeal cookies on the stove.
- 39. Pizza.
- 40. Spinach-artichoke dip in the blender.
- 41. Banana muffins.
- 42. Roll-up sandwiches.
- 43. Fruit kebabs.
- 44. Chicken soup in the crock-pot (plug it in on the porch so that it doesn't heat up the house).
- 45. Roasted marshmallows.
- 46. Scrambled eggs and pancakes for dinner.
- 47. Lemonade from scratch.
- 48. Guacamole.

Thoughtful Thursday

- 49. Wash the car together. No driveway and no car? Then wash the toy cars.
- 50. Call someone just to say hello.
- 51. Pick some flowers (dandelions and clovers are OK) and give the bouquet to someone who isn't expecting them.
- 52. Write a top ten list of a person's best attributes and give the list as a gift to that person.
- 53. Write a thank-you letter to someone and mail it.
- 54. Donate clothing, books and toys to charity.
- 55. Teach your child to do one chore.
- 56. Give someone a homemade art project.
- 57. Volunteer at a food bank.
- 58. Collect bottles and cans, and donate the money to charity.
- 59. Pray for someone who needs a prayer.
- 60. Hug someone who needs a hug.

Somewhere Fun Friday

- 61. Petting farm or petting zoo.
- 62. A playground in a different neighborhood.
- 63. An art museum check first to see when general admission is free!
- 64. The beach.
- 65. Pick fresh fruit at a local farm or visit the farmer's market.
- 66. Ride a train.
- 67. Find a carnival or a street fair.
- 68. Ice cream shop.
- 69. Waterpark or sprayground.
- 70. Visit a friend.
- 71. Nature trail or botanical garden.
- 72. A skyscraper or another high place with a grand view of the world.

Social Skills Saturday

- 73. Tell a story from your own childhood. Have your child tell a related story from his or her life experience yes, even if your child is nonverbal.
- 74. Lie in the grass and take turns looking for shapes or pictures in the clouds.
- 75. Go around and ask every family member at home the same silly question, and share the answers.
- 76. Look at some old family photos and name all the people in them.
- 77. Practice making emotional facial expressions on cue with your child: neutral, happy, sad, fearful, angry, disgusted, surprised. Take turns and make it fun.
- 78. Practice listening skills by responding only with nonverbal communication for 1 to 5 minutes then switch roles.
- 79. Be someone's mirror: imitate a person's actions as if you are that person's reflection in a mirror for 1 minute. Then switch roles.
- 80. Play Follow the Leader. Match the leader's pace for as long as possible, then let a new leader take over.
- 81. Play the statue game: one person freezes like a statue and the other person has to make the statue laugh. Take turns.
- 82. Develop family traditions: sing a song together, recite a poem, say a prayer that has special meaning to your family.





Technology Department

By Luke Meinert

Technology Workshops

YKSD is fortunate to be selected as the one district in Alaska for a collaboration with CoSN, Team4Tech, and Pure Storage. The project has two components, one will be focused on our overall IT infrastructure of the district, and the other will be enhancing our utilization of EdTech in the classroom. May 15th -17th ten volunteers traveled to our district office and conducted workshops.

We had ten teachers that participated in the workshops. These trainings included sessions on 3D Printing, Robotics, WeVideo, Book Creator and Project based learning. Each participant received a technology workshop participation certificate. On the 18th the Team4Tech volunteers flew out to one of our sites and conducted workshops for our students on Saturday May 19th.

Our teachers that came in for the workshops stayed for one more day of training with a trainer from the **Buck Institute of Learning (BIE).** This session focused on how to incorporate their newly learned EdTech skills into project-based learning with students.



Raven Home School 1:1



- Every K-12 student will have the opportunity to purchase a laptop through allotment.
- ♦ All students enrolled in the 2018/2019 school year will be eligible for the 1:1 laptop program regardless of their current device option
- ◆ The K-12 laptop will be capable of supporting all academic work
- All students will have access to O365 and Microsoft Office applications on laptop.

eSports Alaska

Luke Meinert



Esports are competitive video games such as League of Legends and Overwatch where two teams showcase their teamwork, strategy, and skill, as they compete against one another to achieve an objective.

At the professional level, players compete in sold out stadiums all over the world in front of millions of viewers.

munications Manager Angela Gonzalez, MatSu EdTech Coach Jeffery Blackburn, UAF School of Management Professor Peggy Keiper, and YKSD Director of Technology Luke Meinert.

Workshops for interested students, teachers, and administrators began in mid-April with the goal of getting at least eight teams from around the state to participate in a fall league. In the spring there will be state and regional competitions with some teams qualifying for a national championship held in Florida. This exposure can lead to earning college scholarships to play on eSports teams.

YKSD is starting an eSports conference for high school students in Alaska in partnership with the Electronic Gaming Federation (EGF). There are over 3,000 students that play video games on a regular basis in Alaska, and we want to organize these students and provide them with a positive school sponsored activity. All games played for this activity will be rated T-For Teen or E-For Everyone.

I've organized an advisory board to assist in the rollout of the league. Members of this committee include: Superintendent Kerry Boyd, ASAA President Billy Strickland, GCI VP of Healthcare & Education Pam Lloyd, First Alaskans Indigenous



Learn more by clicking the following link:



E-rate and Bandwidth Assistance Grant

Luke Meinert

We've submitted all of this year's USAC paperwork to advertise and secure Internet services for FY19. In addition to our E-rate forms, we've submitted our application for Alaska's Bandwidth Assistance Grant (BAG) that provides funding for the out of pocket costs of transitioning our schools to 10Mbps.

USAC's category 1 contribution will be approximately \$1,653,264 to help supply internet services for our schools and district office.

The BAG will provide \$216,214 to offset our high Internet costs. Huslia's bandwidth will increase from 10Mbps to 20Mbps, which will provide this school's larger student population with a better experience on the Internet for learning activities.



Counseling Corner

Jolene McGinty



Counseling Corner continued

Minto Healthy Living & Career Fair

Patty Woody

On Thursday, April 26, 2018 the Minto Healthy Living and Career Fair took place. In the morning, presenters came and shared information about careers and training opportunities with the different age groups. Students learned about employability skills, getting an education at UAF, applying for financial aid and scholarships, the military, apprenticeships and trade unions, and becoming a firefighter.



In the afternoon students and community member visited tables and learned about careers and training opportunities from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Tanana Chiefs Conference Education Department, Alaska Air National Guard, Alaska Fire Service, Interior Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Fairbanks Carpenters, EXCEL Alaska, and the Alaska Job Center. Students and community members competed in a scavenger hunt to learn about the different opportunities. Fun and learning were had by all!



Teaching and Learning Department

Chane Beam

Acellus

During the 2017-18 school year, YKSD has been using an online learning program called Acellus for math classes.

This article was taken in part from the Kansas City Star published 3/27/18 and written by Mara Rose Williams.

Educators say it's a "game changer." It's in more than 2,600 schools across the country, used by about a million students and adding more all the time, even home schoolers.

Acellus was conceived and founded by Kansas City scientist/engineer Roger Billings. He is most noted for being a pioneer in the use of hydrogen as fuel, particularly in vehicles. The system was first installed in a St. Joseph, Mo., school in 2001, and it has been growing rapidly since. "Acellus does not allow you to fail," said Jill Maxon, a special education teacher in the Grain Valley school district..." Kansas City Public School District is one of the latest to bring Acellus into its classrooms.

How it works

Acellus, with its 137 employees, uses a technology Billings dubbed "prism diagnostics." Employees first travel the country finding top teachers in every subject, has them come to studios at its Kansas City headquarters and then video records them as they teach lessons.

In the classroom or computer lab, students call up the online lessons under the supervision of a flesh and blood teacher. Each student, however, works through the lesson at his or her own pace. Students can also call up a lesson remotely - from home, a library, or anywhere - without a teacher present. After each lesson the student takes a quiz...(then) based on the answers the student gives, Acellus determines whether the student processed the lesson well and understands it or whether they missed some concept along the way and aren't ready to move forward to next lesson. The key is that Acellus will send the student back into the lesson and probably even present it in a different way. It can also slow down the lesson. All the while the teachers supervising the lesson can see on their screens what lesson each student is doing, how far along they are, how many times they were sent back and what concepts they are stuck on. The teachers can then decide to provide person-to-person help. Even students working remotely can turn to a real teacher later if they need one.

Acellus an equalizer

"It is a game changer," said Rashawn Caruthers, director of career and technology education for the district. "Education is an issue of equity and access," Caruthers said, adding that KCPS has been trying to knock down those barriers by making sure every student has access to a computer and the internet at home. "Now Acellus allows us the rich content we need to move students forward." An extra bonus is that KCPS students can use Acellus lessons anywhere, even from home. "That takes their learning beyond the boundaries of the school walls," Caruthers said. "We are excited because it is engaging kids in different ways and all kids learn differently. It gives kids a chance to modify their own learning."

To learn more about YKSD's use of Acellus you can look at the curriculum by clicking the link below:







YKSD Staff Connections Page 14 May 2018

Project Based Learning

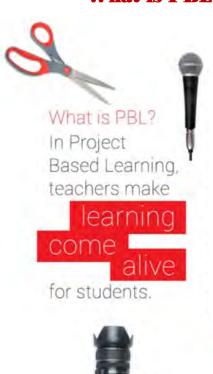
Chane Beam

This year, YKSD started a new pilot program focused on Project Based Learning. Staffs from Allakaket, Kaltag and Gladys Dart School all attended training last summer and implemented the idea in the 2017-18 school year. This summer, a few teachers from Jimmy Huntington School and Merreline Kangas School will also be attending the training. Check out the visuals for some details as to what PBL is and what each project should include.

Key Knowledge, Understanding, and **Challenging Problem** Sustained Inquiry -Success Skills or Question -Students engage in a rigorous, The project is focused on student extended process of asking The project is framed by a learning goals, including stanquestions, finding resources, and meaningful problem to solve or dards-based content and skills applying information. a question to answer, at the such as critical thinking/problem appropriate level of challenge management and collaboration. Authenticity -Reflection -Student Voice & Choice -The project features real-world Students make some decisions context, tasks and tools, quality learning, the effectiveness of about the project, including how they work and what they create. their inquiry and project activities, standards, or impact - or speaks the quality of student work, obstacles and how to overcome interests, and issues in their lives. Critique & Revision -Public Product -Students give, receive, and use Students make their project work feedback to improve their process public by explaining, displaying and products. nd/or presenting it to people beyond the classroom.

Each PBL project should include:

What is PBL?



Students work on a project over an extended period of time – from a week up to a semester - that engages them in solving a real-world problem or answering a complex question. They demonstrate their knowledge and skills by developing a public product or presentation for a real audience.

As a result, students develop deep content knowledge as well as critical thinking, creativity, and communication skills in the context of doing an authentic, meaningful project. Project Based Learning unleashes a contagious, creative energy among students and teachers.



Twenty Minutes a Day! Even During Summer!

It's actually more important for students to read over the summer to prevent the "Summer Slide"!



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Denaakkenaage' Hunek; Denakenaga' Hunik 'Our Language News'

Susan Paskvan

The goal of the Board of Education is to increase the capacity of the Native Language program.

Courses

The topics taught in March, April and May included: review of all topics from September to April; phrases about dogs; winter birds; birds and insects that return in the spring.

Students learned the software, VoiceThread, where they can see a picture, listen to the audio, and practice recording audio comments. VoiceThread was chosen as the Native language assessment tool for the AN ELDER grant because students could record their responses to the vocabulary and phrases from their Chromebook computers. Ophelia Moses and I really enjoyed listening to the recordings. Great job Denaakk'e and Benhti Kokhot'ana Kenaga' teachers.

Travel Highlights



Jimmy Huntington School students sing their heart out at the Festival of Native Arts in Fairbanks, March 3, 2018. Students from Huslia, Rampart and Kaltag performed at the Festival.



Language Specialists, teachers, and paraprofessionals worked hard over three days in March to outline the curriculum framework for our district. Funding provided by the AN ELDER grant.

L-R: Kk'oleyo Dewey Hoffman, Madeline Williams, Madeline Riley, Ophelia Moses, Tim

L-R: Kk oteyo Dewey Hoffman, Madetine Williams, Madetine Riley, Ophelia Moses, 11m Main, Mary Rose Agnes, Amy Graham, and Susan Paskvan. Front, Sarah Silas, Irene Henry, and Eliza Jones.

Travel continued



Jimmy Huntington School students (grade 7-12) camped out five days at the Selawik Hot Springs. Activities included winter survival skills, sewing a betseedaakoge' (needle bags), historical stories, mapping the valley and learning about the medicinal healing at this place.



Susan Paskvan

Senator Lisa Murkowski and a team of Doyon, Limited and Tanana Chiefs Conference representatives toured the village of Nulato April 2, 2018. Pictured here are principal Jason Johnson, Senator Murkowski and student Cola Sipary. Cola gifted the senator with a necklace she just made that morning.



Students at the Johnny Oldman School: Dymond S., Gabrielle A.; Crystallee S.; and Payton B. show the projects they worked on. The students learned how to sew gets (beaver mittens) with their setsoo Yendzehtl Madeline Williams. They also made picture frames with this year's school picture.



The Ella B. Vernetti School and Koyukuk Tribal Council hosted a spring culture camp at Łaats Kkokk'e, AKA Tommy's Camp. Activities included setting beaver snares; skinning and butchering a super blanket beaver; sewing a betseedaakoge'; fire making contest; cooking outside; setting up a tent with el (spruce boughs) outside; and snowshoe baseball.



Maddison F-C. of Minto shows the painting of nogeddha delk'ezri (red fox) that she painted as part of the afterschool activities for the AN ELDER grant.



Students at the Allakaket School work on picture frames for Mother's Day

Youth News

Andrea Durny

ACHILL Grant

As we close out the school year we would like to highlight some of the fun activities we offered through the ACHILL program. This year Minto, Manley, Rampart, Huslia, Allakaket, Ruby, Hughes, Nulato and Raven signed up for classes; if your school is interested in participating in ACHILL next year, please register.



Students in Minto constructing dog houses.

Rampart - Decoy making and taxidermy

Hughes - Rabbit hat making with Madeline Williams

Minto - Construction of dog houses, ice fishing, mushing

Author and professional skijoring instructor, Mari Hoee-Raitto was able to travel to the following sites to teach skijoring and dog harnessing: Ruby, Huslia, Minto, Allakaket, Manley.



Mari teaching skijoring in Allakaket



Minto students skijoring.

A University of Alaska, Fairbanks Veterinarian visited the following sites: Minto, Nulato, Allakaket and Huslia



UAF Veterinarian visiting Nulato

NYO instructor and professional beader, Amanda Attla went to: Rampart, Minto, Nulato, Kaltag, Koyukuk, Ruby, Hughes, Huslia and Allakaket



Allakaket student trying the high kick



Manley student trying the high kick



Calvin McGinty of Kaltag trying the wrist carry



Amanda Attla pictured with Ruby students after teaching them to make Eskimo Yo-yos

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Team Hollywood

By Andrea Durny

This spring YKSD had the unique opportunity to take part in the Team Hollywood spring tour, which was a community event. Dressed in super hero costumes, they performed a scenario that sent a good message to students. Afterwards they played basketball and performed comical skits with spectators. It was an evening of laughter and fun for all ages. The group flew up from Los Angeles, California and contained two Harlem Globetrotter type players as well as an NFL Player. They performed at the following sites.

- April 24- Allakaket
- April 25- Hughes
- April 26- Rampart
- April 28- Kaltag
- May 1- Nulato
- May 2- Koyukuk









YKSD is planning on bringing them back next school year to perform at the schools that were missed.

9th Annual Virtual Pizza Party - May 4th

By Andrea Durny

Well over 100 Papa Murphy's pizzas were sent to our sites to celebrate their PEAKS/MAPS/AIMS testing efforts. Students were entered into drawings for prizes such as: basketball, dodge ball, movie card, bubbles, \$10 iTunes Card, \$25 Visa Card, DVD. 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 and staff's efforts all year long.

GRAND PRIZE WINNERS

Bikes - Jenevieve Johnson, Natalie Newman (Rampart), Cody Kriska (Nulato) **\$100 Visa Cards** - Precious Lestenkoff (Huslia), Rhea Linus (Allakaket)



Ruby Students enjoying their pizza during the party!



Breanna Semaken and Susan Paskvan in the Fairbanks Board Room with all the sites pictured in the back screen.

Page 19 YKSD Staff Connections May 2018

Phlight Club

Andrea Durny

28 students in grades 6-11 from throughout YKSD attended Phlight Club April 27-29 in Kaltag. This was an amazing event with a fun group students. We had several alumni come back to teach. The activities went from the time students woke up in the morning until midnight and we had a dance Saturday night. The initiatives are built off of high levels of trust and team building. We were weathered in an additional two days with Team Hollywood and the community took really great care of us. From the food, to the smiles, to the most awesome school dance, to the games, it was all amazing.

As Kaylena Charlie of Minto put it "Phlight Club is a chance for our students to come together, learn new life skills about trusting people, leadership, working together as a team and making your voice be heard. Most importantly to have a fun experience and take these new skills you're learning out into your life."

Thank you Kaltag for hosting the students at the school as well as the chaperones: Breanna Semaken, Beatus Moses, Danielle Esmailka, Gerald Patsy, Kaylena Charlie, and Barbie Sam. The Phlight Club instructors were Andrea Durny and Amy McDonald. Funding for this opportunity was provided through a YKSD Grant. The next and final Phlight Club activity provided by this grant will be held at Harding Lake August 8-10, 2018. Please have your incoming 8th through 12th graders apply.







2018-2019 YKSD Home Away Program

Andrea Durny

This program is for incoming 8th through 12th grade students transferring into or within YKSD who meet eligibility requirements. In partnership with our communities and families, this program is intended to assist those students within our district who may need additional tangible supports in reaching their academic goals, and don't want to leave the cultural and family setting. For more information please contact Andrea Durny, adurny@yksd.com, 907-374-9424 beginning in August. The deadline to apply for funding through this program and to have a student enrolled into school is October 1, 2018.



Assessment Department News

Patty White

The Statewide assessment, Performance Evaluation for Alaska Schools (PEAKS), from DRC was administered



again this spring. Students took the English language arts and math assessments in grades 3 through 9, and the science assessments in grades 4, 8, and 10. All students took the assessment on computer this year. Results will be available in August. The district will mail home copies for parents. Thank you to all the Parents, teachers and principals for a successful administration of the PEAKS assessments.

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.

Schools are completing the end of year Benchmark assessments this week.

Please feel free to contact Andrea Durny at <u>adurny@yksd.com</u> or Patty White at <u>pwhite@yksd.com</u> or 374-9400 if you have any questions or would like more information regarding District Assessments.

Maintenance Department

By Ben McFarlane



Welcome Jaylene!

We would like to welcome Jaylene Esmailka as our new Kaltag maintenance person. Jaylene has already been serving the Kaltag School as the principal aide and she will now be handling the maintenance duties as well. We have enjoyed working with Jaylene during her time at the Kaltag School and have found her to be very responsive and helpful. We are excited to have her as part of the team!

Gladys Dart School

Joe Krause



Manley's school-wide educational tour took us to the Whittier Ferry Terminal where we boarded the MV Aurora for a 7-hour cruise to Cordova, Alaska. None of our students knew about the Marine Highway System so this was a new experience.



The students loved the freedom on the ferry. The other passengers commented how lucky our students were to be able to have such a great experience



Cordova has a subpolar oceanic climate, which is quite different from the Interior. The forests were lush and green. This is the Haystack Hike in Cordova.



End of Haystack Hike.



Looking for treasures on the beaches. The tidepools were great to explore!



Denali was visible on the drive back home!

Allakaket School

Kelli Biggs

Allakaket High School was sent the instructional materials for a Family and Consumer Sciences Class, (F.A.C.S.) to build on their Project Based Learning. The class began by learning Basic Nutrition, studying nutrients received from foods we eat and how to be more thoughtful when making food choices. They also learned about diseases caused by protein and vitamin deficiencies.

In March, the class covered the Bread Unit of the text. They were given a fry bread recipe by a community member. They made and sold Navajo Tacos as a fundraiser for their class trip coming up in May. Through this experience, the staff and students learned about fire safety. No person or appliance was harmed through this learning experience.

A few weeks ago, they covered the Baked Goods Unit of the text. The students made an apple pie, cherry pie, chocolate chip cookie cake, chocolate chip cookies, Rice Krispies Treats, cinnamon rolls, and cupcakes with chocolate chip cookie dough icing. The students researched different recipes for pies and frosting for the cupcakes.

With Amanda York and Mr. Parker's permission, they set up a table at the Healthy Lifestyle and Career Fair and sold their baked goods as a fundraiser for their class trip. Elizabeth made the two pies. She created the design for the apple pie and cut/braided the dough strips for the cherry pie. Ariella donated and baked the cinnamon rolls. Rhea made the Rice Krispies Treats. Rhea and Ariella mixed the ingredients for the cookie cake and cookies. Mr. Fields helped by gathering the hand mixer and other baking supplies. Ms. Biggs donated her kitchen space, supervised, and washed their dishes. We had a great time licking the spoons and mixing beaters (off the mixer, of course).

This week, the students covered the Poultry Unit of the text. Mr. Fields's mother graciously donated a turkey so the students had a lesson on how to cook a turkey. They learned that the amount of time it takes and oven temperature is determined by the weight of the turkey. They learned which herbs to use for the rub. Then, they got their hands dirty by massaging the oil and herbs onto the turkey. They also learned the built-in "pop-up timer" does not always pop-up to tell when the turkey is done. After the turkey was done, we had a nice dinner with Mr. Parker, Rebecca Linus, Mr. Fields, Ms. Biggs, and the high school students in attendance.

Many thanks to Mr. Beam and Ms. Woody for making the class and materials available, and to Gina Hrinko for purchasing the materials for fry bread and Navajo Tacos. The students have really enjoyed finding their way around the kitchen and playing an active role in the process.



Team Hollywood in Allakaket

Larry Parker









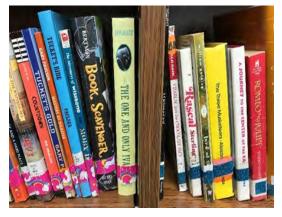


Minto School

Vicky Charlie

Before Spring Break, we began the task of reorganizing our main and elementary libraries. Since we have not had a school librarian for a number of years our books had become disorganized. We decided that it was time for a change! We weeded through all of our books and donated many, many boxes to Value Village. We then did away with the Dewey Decimal system and reorganized our library much like a bookstore. We have two sections: non-fiction and fiction, within those two categories we divided everything into genres: animals, fun facts, fantasy, realistic, etc. Each genre was labeled with a different colored tape so that anyone could shelve books once they are returned to the library. On April 18th we held an Open House and coordinated that with a literacy activity. It was a great turn out! We would like to thank the YKSD Federal Programs Department for all of the new books. Students and community members have already been very active in using the Library!









Johnny Oldman School

Patty White

The students at Johnny Oldman School had a great fourth quarter. Students completed the Aimsweb and MAP benchmark assessments in May. The students made good growth. The students in Ms. Bates' class had First Aid



training from some visiting paramedics. The class also completed the Book Slam with poems entitled "The Dogs of Hughes". We had a follow up to the CRESEL Community Meeting in March with great community participation. Many great ideas were shared on how to bring more culture into the classrooms. We really appreciate all the help from the parents and community. Students in Ms. Sally's class read the book <u>How to Make Ice Cream</u> and actually made ice cream using snow and ice from outside in the playground! They learned that you have to shake, shake, shake it! The district provided a Team Hollywood night on April 25 that was enjoyed by students, parents, and the community.



Kaltag School

Charles Burns

It has been an exciting Spring in Kaltag. Our site hosted Phlight Club. Due to weather concerns the two-day event turned into a four-day event. During Phlight Club, we were privileged to be entertained by Team Hollywood! Their show was fantastic and had a great message!

Our Blast Off to Literacy night was a fun and successful event. Almost every family participated! The Paint Night was also highly successful! Great fun was had by all.

The Book Slam resulted in a wonderful book titled, <u>Moose Hunting Kaltag Style</u>. The students really enjoyed working on it.

Our attendance has been good and our students worked very hard through our state and district testing. We are very proud of their efforts!



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Ella B. Vernetti School News

Mike Day

School wide:

As the year begins to come to a close we have had a fantastic year. The students have made a tremendous amount of growth over the year. Our attendance has been in the 90 percentile for the entire year. The individual student growth has been very encouraging. After the State PEAKS testing, we traveled to Galena for a fun day at the swimming pool. We couldn't have asked for better weather. Then the week of April 16th the Koyukuk Tribe sponsored a spring camp for the students. It was a great time and everyone that went couldn't say enough good things about what they learned. I want to give a special thanks to all of the Tribal members that helped put this together and worked with our youth.

Mrs. Williams' class:

The student's in Ms. Williams class have made the greatest gains academically. She has worked extremely hard in providing the students with a well-rounded education. For a reward she has had several after school activities to include a sleep over at the school. Her students had such a great time and could wait to tell me about it the next day.

Mr. Day's Class:

Over the last several months Mr. Day's students have been working on their knife project. This project started last November when we ordered the knife blanks that are made from Damascus Steel. In late March we began cutting out the leather for the sheaths and learning how to stamp designs into the leather. Then working on the process of treating and sewing the leather to make the sheath was very educational for the students. Finally, they began gluing the handles on the knives and shaping them to fit their individual hands. The last part of the project was to shape the sheath to fit their knives. In all, it was a great time and a learning experience for them.

Travel:

The students traveled to Galena on the 13th of April for a day of swimming. The following week many of the students traveled up the Koyukuk River for Spring Camp that was sponsored by the Koyukuk Tribe. Susan Paskvan took wonderful pictures of this event, please check this out in Google Drive.

Team Hollywood:

Team Hollywood ended up being weathered in at Kaltag so they were unable to arrive to our village on the 1st of May, but fortunately they arrived on 2nd of May. The kids and the families had a great evening! It was lots of fun!







Jimmy Huntington School

Liz Wright

The Huslia Tribe held our Annual Huslia Jr. Spring Carnival. The kids aging from 1 to 18 had a blast. There were dog races, snowshoe races, pop, candy and a money scramble.

Jordan David won the 6-dog race, Ashton Williams won the 4-dog race, Trent Henry won the 2-dog race, and Tyrone Vent won the 1-dog race. Roy Vent won the Kindergarten snowshoe race, Zane Roberts won the 1st grade snowshoe race, and Gordon Vent won the 2nd grade snowshoe race. Trent Henry won the 3rd grade snowshoe race; Gage Bifelt won the 4th grade snowshoe race. Ashton Williams won the 5/6th grade snowshoe race, Tyler Roberts won the 7/8th grade snowshoe race. And the winner of the High school snowshoe race was Jeremiah Henry.

The local mushers let the kids use their dog teams for the 1, 2, 4 and 6 dog races. The school provided the snow-shoes and the tribe provided snacks. Here are some pictures of the kids enjoying the races.















Merreline A. Kangas School

By Anne Titus

Kindergartener Kiera Mayo-Arkell has been doing awesome in math! She's been focused and working hard. She's never afraid to ask for help and has been moving faster through Acellus than any of my other students. Plus, behavior-wise, she's been a rock star. She loves to read and her stories are very well written. She has a great school attitude and willingly helps her peers.

We say so long to Scotty Starr at the close of this school year. He has taught at the Ruby for many years and has been a good role model and mentor to several kids and young adults. We wish him well in future endeavors in and around Ruby. We will miss his political views and good humor around the building.

Our Health and Career Fair was excellent as always. The students had a great time with the fifteen presenters. Thank you Rachel Kangas for putting out such a tasty spread this year. It was a fun time with the career Olympics on Friday. The community hosted their first ever all age level Talent Show which was a lot of fun. The tribe and TCC awarded bikes and other prizes.

We, like other schools around the district, are eagerly anticipating spring and hope it arrives by the close of this school year. Students are looking forward to a field day/ bike rodeo and, with any luck, bikes will be out soon and sleds put away.

We had another visit from Ira Hardy who has an Elder project he has been working on with the middle school students. He will also send us a photo gallery based on our gym photo collage. We are hoping to meet with community members to complete the naming and labeling of photos for our Ruby Elders Hall.

Finally, during the recent board meeting held on April 25th we hosted a cover dish. I was honored with a resolution plaque and thank you gift from the Board of Directors. It was pretty nice. I feel I have had a great run here in Ruby teaching, learning and working beside some of the best people a person could ask for. When you leave a job after a long productive career, you hope that you have, at best, done a good job.

I hope that my legacy will be that parents never give up on their kids. Teachers keep pushing to get the best out of their students. That the administration keeps providing teachers, parents and students with the tools they need to we keep moving forward and trying innovative methods to bring our students into the next century.







Kiera Mayo-Arkell

Rampart School

Paul Gilbert

Rampart School has recently had a plethora of activities and there is more coming up! We have a new mural being painted by Teionna Wiehl that will show the History of Rampart. It is slated to be completed by May 18th. We had a paint night for the community and found we have many talented artists. Amanda Attla came to visit and worked with the students on NYO activities. We were very fortunate to have Clare Shilling from Shilling Taxidermy come to the school and show the students the art of taxidermy; the students responded by showing her how we make our duck decoys. Our Local Cultural Expert (LCE), Milton Moses, has been running our trapping class and we have set rabbit snares and marten sets. We finally caught a marten and the kids were shown how to skin and stretch the hide. Our LCE, Margaret "Doll" Moses, came to share her skills in mitten sewing using moose and beaver with the students. We had a wonderful experience with A-CHILL as the students were able to visit a dog yard and try skijoring. Our final project of the year will be to build an "Internet Cafe" for the students so they can be protected from the elements.









Skijoring

Margaret "Doll" Moses, teaching the students to make mittens out of moose and beaver.

Paint Night



Milton Moses teaching trapping, skinning and stretching the hid.





Amanda Attla teaching NYO activities.



History of Rampart Mural by Teionna Wiehl







Clare Shilling teaching students the art of taxidermy.

Andrew K. Demoski School

By Jason Johnson

The students here at AKD School have been incredibly busy over the past month while participating in a wrestling tournament, swimming and playing basketball in Galena. Several kiddos also found a love for music during this time as the Dancing with the Spirit team did a phenomenal job bringing joy throughout the building. Moreover, students continue to take part in the A-CHILL programming and are extremely excited about the future prospects of the dog team! In all, we owe a huge "thank you" to the Nulato Tribe, our CSC, our volunteers and community for the on-going support of AKD School!







Welcome Devin Agnes!

Jason Johnson



We would like to extend a heartfelt and sincere congratulations to Mr. Devin Agnes, as he became AKD School's newest employee. Please join us in welcoming him to the YKSD family as our building assistant.

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Raven Homeschool

Maegan Mascagno

This spring sure has been busy for the Raven Homeschool offices! Each office remains active with a lot of fun, educational activities, workshops and field trips each month. Raven was busy with PEAKS testing throughout the month of April. Our new enrollment period for the 2018-2019 school year launched in March and the staff is getting excited about all of the new families joining our program! It's thrilling to see how much our program is growing and how many families we are able to help each year.

Raven Homeschool—Anchorage

The Anchorage office had a big change in April, we moved into a new office! Our new office is located on the 6th floor of the Dimond Center Mall. Deb Fancher has continued to teach amazing science workshops. The students were able to learn all about Antarctica, receiving firsthand knowledge since Deb spent a month there. The students also learned about mushrooms, and in May, Deb will teach the them how to make Chocolate! Some Anchorage students went to the Performing Arts Center to watch "Peter and the Wolf". Several students went on a field trip to the Alaska Native Heritage Center where they learned all about the Native Youth Olympics and Alaska Native history. Our office also held a bear safety workshop where everyone learned a ton of extremely valuable information. We have two book clubs in the Anchorage office. The first club read A Wrinkle in Time then went to the theater to watch the movie. The second club read *The Lion, The Witch and The* Wardrobe. The Students in Action group teamed up to do some spring clean-up at one of the local parks!



Raven Homeschool—Delta Junction



Delta has been very busy with different workshops and activities over the past few months. In April there was a lot of activity in the office with PEAKS testing; we enjoyed seeing everyone! Currently we are getting ready for graduation and meeting with the seniors to pick out the song to play during the picture slideshow and many other important topics. We celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday by having a read-aloud; we read *Horton Hears a Who!* We also hosted a few different art activities and workshops. Students also made flower baskets and delivered them the local assisted living facility to celebrate May Day on May 1st. At the end of May, we will be hosting a big End of the Year party and a Spring Showcase.

Raven Homeschool—Eagle River

The Eagle River office has had lots of exciting field trips, activities and workshops over the last couple of months. Some of our high school students enjoyed a field trip to the Palmer State Fairgrounds for the Alaska Career Construction Days. During the field trip they learned about welding, carpentry, surveying and several other trade skills. The Kids2College program wrapped up with an all-day UAA campus tour and a career panel where students interviewed local professionals. Other field trips included a tour of P&M Garden Services, "Step Afrika" at the Performing Arts Center, a tour of the Carrs Bakery Department, and a robotics demonstration at Eagle River High School. One of our awesome moms taught an art workshop where students used different vegetables to make prints. Deb Fancher also taught fascinating workshops about Antarctica and how to make chocolate. Randi Shrider led an informative parent workshop about the benefits of Microsoft Office. At the end of March, the Eagle River office held an Open House for new families to learn about the Raven Homeschool. It was a huge



Raven Homeschool—Wasilla



The Wasilla office has been busy with several different kinds of 4-H activities. The students learned all about different types of flour, leavening agents, and other ingredients that can be added to bread. We had a chicken egg activity where the students learned how to do egg candling with a phone light. We held our final Spanish club meeting of the school year. A group of students also became CPR certified with the American Heart Association when they participated in a day-long workshop with Life Safety Instruction. High school students participated in a tour of the Mat-Su College with their counselor, Randi Shrider. Some high school students participated in the Alaska Career Construction Days field trip and received hands-on experience in welding and carpentry. The Bird TLC program visited our office with an owl and taught us all about raptors. We also hosted an ARTiculate workshop where students learned how to paint whimsical animals. The Rocket Readers group finished their spring session making tremendous strides in their sight-reading vocabulary.

Raven Homeschool—Juneau

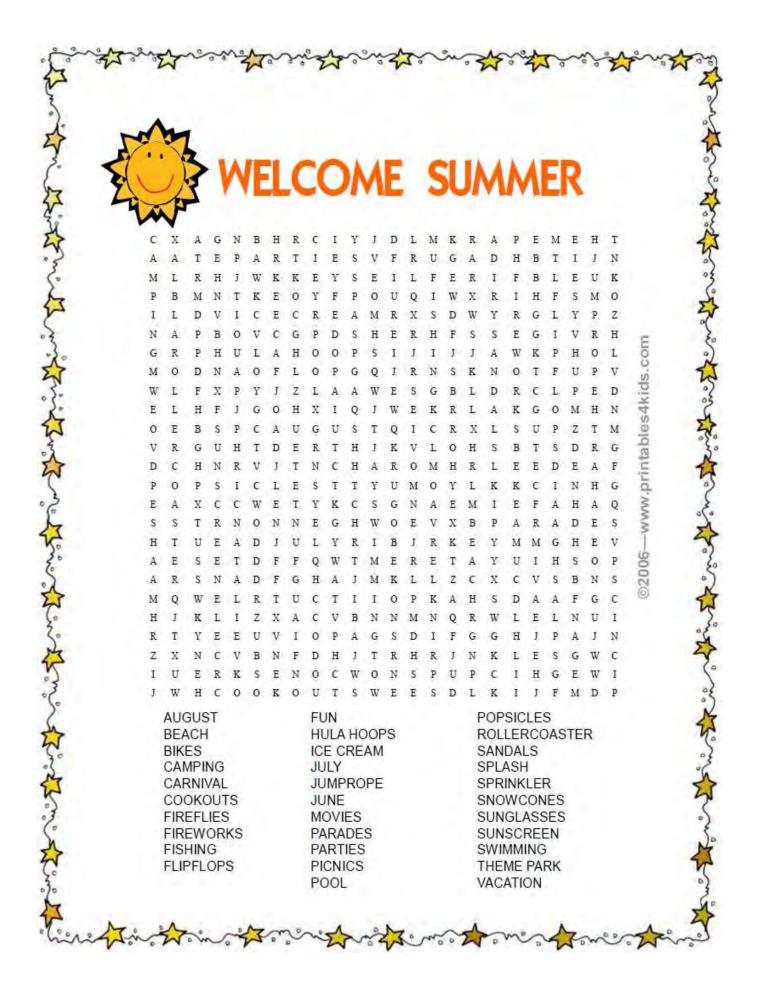
We don't take a break here in Juneau! We keep busy with student activities, field trips and workshops for our families! We followed the Iditared with their IditaREAD program where students participated in a reading race following the checkpoints the mushers met along the trail. Some of our middle and high school students participated in a scavenger hunt around town; they had to collect various items and take certain photos to complete the hunt. Several students attended a rock climbing field trip at the Rock Dump. There were also a few different art activities for everyone to enjoy. The first activity had students making junk critters out of clay and random household items, the result was very creative critters! We also hosted a special Masquerade Party to celebrate our re-enrollments; there were over 85 people who attended the party! We also held our annual Share Night where students demonstrated their many talents with other Raven families. DIPAC hosted Sea Week programs and several students were able to go on educational field trips and learn about the world of mollusks. Some middle and high school students were even able to dissect a squid!



Raven Homeschool—Fairbanks



We celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday by watching Horton Hears a Who; and our family liaison, Megan Bridgman, made "Cat in the Hat" and "Green Eggs and Ham" cupcakes to share with everyone! We also held an internet safety class where students learned how to keep themselves safe on the internet. Another fascinating field trip that we enjoyed was to the Fairbanks Police Department. During this field trip were able to tour the station and watch a Canine Unit demonstration. Our Junior LEGO league presented their final project to Raven parents and some district office employees; they did a great job! Students also visited the Fairbanks North Star Borough Big Dipper Ice Arena to learn how water is pumped, how the ice is frozen and how the Zamboni machines smooths the surface of the ice. We also had a few different art activities where students learned different techniques on different mediums.



2018-2019 YKSD School Calendar

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