# From the Desk of Superintendent Boyd

Happy Holidays Everyone! The winter break is fast approaching and I wish you a restful holiday season with your family and friends. I would like to extend a thank you to members of the community who attended the literacy and paint nights! The schools have been working hard to create opportunities for everyone to have some fun together! The holiday break for students begins December 15<sup>th</sup> with the first day of school after the break January 3<sup>rd</sup>. YKSD staff return on January 2<sup>nd</sup> for a workday to prepare classrooms and lesson plans.

Yukon Koyukuk School District is being featured on Gavel to Gavel during the legislative session. Our work with the Alaska Association of School Boards on Book Slams and with social emotional learning is highlighted.

#### YKSD Goals

- \* Start Strong: Every student starts strong with a solid foundation in grades Pre-K-Third.
- \* Read by Third Grade: Every student reads by the end of third grade.
- \* Graduate Ready: Every student graduates ready for college and careers.

Through the strategic planning process and the work of many community members, students, parents, teachers, administrators, and Board members, district goals were developed for 2019-2021. In the next several newsletters, I will be highlighting one goal area and including district activities/initiatives that came out of the input from the focus group meetings. This month's goal area is Start Strong. The objectives that were developed by the committee include encouraging students to read 20 minutes per night at home, creating pre-k classrooms that are standalone for direct instruction, and providing teachers with extra sup-

#### School Calendar

It is already that time of year to be considering the school calendar for the next two years. Your school principals in conjunction with the CSCs will be meeting to review the proposed calendars. We would like your input. The draft calendar is posted here on our website and on pages 38 and 39 of this newsletter.



## Student Council Members

By Superintendent Boyd

I would like to recognize our Student Council Members. The students meet on a monthly basis using Video Technology to discuss student activities and academic topics. These students are our future leaders of Alaska!

Nulato- Charles Pitka, President

Rampart- Liyana Woods-Newman, Vice President

Allakaket- Rhea Linus, Secretary

Huslia- Talia Henry, Treasurer

Kaltag- Clayton Neglaska

Minto-Isaiah Alexander

Ruby- Misty Frank & Charles Ambrose

Koyukuk- Dazlyn Dayton & Morgan Malamute

Hughes- Lewis Williams Manley- Jackson Wolfe





Board Members

By Kim Pippin

Returning to the School Board for another 3-year term, Wilmer Beetus from Hughes and Shirley Kruger from Nulato each took their Oath of Office at the Regular School Board Meeting on October 26th at Minto School. Immediately following the oaths, nominations and a vote were taken for each office including chairperson, vice-chairperson, treasurer and secretary. Committee appointments were a discussion item to be finalized in December.

Chairperson – Maurice McGinty
Vice-Chairperson – Fred Bifelt
Treasurer – Gloria Patsy
Secretary – Shirley Kruger
Member – Wilmer Beetus
Member – Wilma David
Member – Dian Gurtler

#### **Board Meeting Schedule**

January 24, 2019	Regular Board Meeting	Andrew K. Demoski School in Nulato
March 7, 2019	Regular Board Meeting	District Office in Fairbanks
April 18, 2019	Regular Board Meeting	Johnny Oldman School in Hughes
May 23, 2019	Regular Board Meeting	Raven Homeschool in Anchorage

# Board Recognition



# **Staff Award Winners**



Thomas Esmailka Maintenance Merreline A. Kangas School Ruby, Alaska



Connie Foster Cook Gladys Dart School Manley, Alaska



Teresa Trinidad Classroom Aide Rampart School Rampart, Alaska

#### **Staff Nominees**

Gordon Hart, SPED Teacher, Andrew K. Demoski School, Nulato, Alaska Brenda Jimmie, Custodian, Minto School, Minto, Alaska Veronica Miller, Custodian, Kaltag School, Kaltag, Alaska

#### **Student Award Winners**



Sheldon Albert
Grade 10
Merreline A. Kangas School
Ruby, Alaska



Michael Fischer
Grade 12
Raven Homeschool
Anchorage, Alaska



Leina Tillotson Grade 5 Raven Homeschool Juneau, Alaska



Roshell Woellert
Grade 6
Gladys Dart School
Manley, Alaska

#### **Student Nominees**

Madison Abel, Grade 8, Raven Homeschool, Fairbanks, Alaska
Morgan Bickford, Grade 1, Raven Homeschool, Delta, Alaska
Eowyn Davidson, Grade 5, Raven Homeschool, Eagle River, Alaska
Brooke Hanson, Grade 2, Raven Homeschool, Delta, Alaska
Kaylin Hood, Grade 8, Raven Homeschool, Wasilla, Alaska
Natalie Newman, Grade 7, Rampart School, Rampart, Alaska
Charles (Chuck) Pitka, Grade 12, Andrew K. Demoski School, Nulato, Alaska
Jude Saunders, Grade 4, Kaltag School, Kaltag, Alaska
Darian Woods, Grade 6, Rampart School, Rampart, Alaska
James Zuiderduin, Grade 10, Raven Homeschool, Juneau, Alaska

# Welcome New Business Office Staff

By Kristen Winters

The Business Office said goodbye to Trevor Bridgewater, Food Service Technician, on November 9. Trevor accepted a Food Service position with the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, an advancement in his career. He provided training to Rachel Lyle, Food Service Specialist, who took over for Trevor at the beginning of November. We welcome Rachel to YKSD and know she will bring enthusiasm to her new job.

We also welcome Kyle Crane, Accounts Payable Technician, who assumed the role previously held by Susan Erickson. Kyle is very excited to be part of the YKSD team, and is working very hard to ensure that our invoices and payments are processed timely. Please take time to introduce yourselves to Rachel and Kyle.



Rachel Lyle, Food Service Specialist



Kyle Crane, Accounts Payable Technician

# Happenings from the Director of State & Federal Programs By Gina Hrinko

Holiday Greetings from the Federal Programs department! Winter is definitely in the air. This quarter, our department has kept busy working on grants, helping you implement grant programs and ordering supplies for your classrooms!

# Grant Highlights



#### PreK Stockings:

Stockings were sent out to our schools for all the PreK children. These stockings are sent each holiday and the children really look forward to them. They are filled with school supplies, a small toy, and a chocolate.

#### Literacy Nights and Paint Nite:

These after-school activities have been very successful and the feedback we've received has been really positive. Both of these activities provide an evening of fun as staff, students and community come together to participate. We're so glad we're able to offer these activities through our Start Strong grant!

Enjoy the snow as it is falling. It is beautiful!



Literacy Nights are still going strong! Sara Henderson has been to Hughes, Rampart, and Minto since our last newsletter. Allakaket, Nulato, and Ruby will be experiencing them soon!

# Ruby will be experiencing them soon! Schedule: November 28 ~ Allakaket December 4 ~ Nulato December 6 ~ Ruby December 10 ~ Husbar

# December 4 ~ Nulato December 6 ~ Ruby January 10 ~ Hughes January 16 ~ Manley January 24 ~ Koyukuk





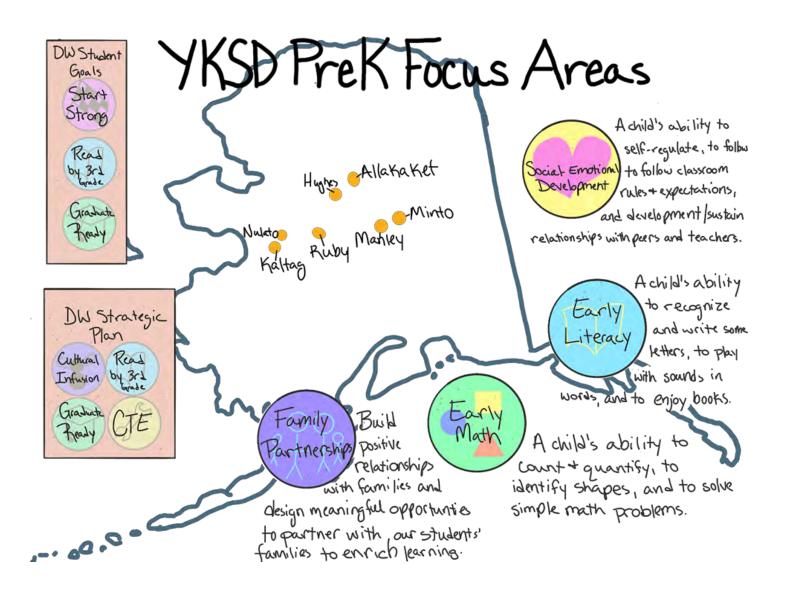
Rampart

#### Welcome New Pre-K Staff



This year, the YKSD has expanded our Pre-K program to include more standalone Pre-Kindergarten classrooms taught by Associate Teachers in Hughes, Nulato, Ruby and Minto. This change assures that are littlest learners have access to high-quality, developmentally appropriate learning environments and that our Primary students are adequately supported and challenged in their classrooms.

Our new teachers and Pre-Kindergarten aides from across the district met in Fairbanks in November to learn about the district's goals for our Pre-Kindergarten students; establish rules, routines and daily schedules that meet the students' developmental needs and that will help them transition smoothly into their Kindergarten classrooms next year; plan collaboratively using our PreK curricula; and begin exploring our assessment tool. It was great to get to learn from and with one another during this time. Our amazing Pre-K team will meet monthly to further this learning through the rest of the year, and we're confident that we're setting a strong foundation for our youngest students.



December 2018 YKSD Staff Connections Page 7

# Assessment Department News

By Patty White

This fall has been a busy time for District Assessments. We began the year with all students, grades 2-11, taking



the Northwest Education Association Measure of Academic Progress (NWEA MAP) assessments, in September. We have completed these assessments 3 times per year for grades 3 – 12 for the past seven years. We use AimsWeb Benchmark testing for the Primary (grades K-I). First grade students will begin taking the MAP this year in the Winter Benchmark. 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 2019.

Upcoming assessments include: MAP and AimsWeb mid-year testing January 7-25; ACCESS test for student with Limited English Proficiency in February and March; the annual State of Alaska test, PEAKS – March 25- April 26; and MAP end of year testing April 22–May 8.

In order to start preparing for the PEAKS assessments in the spring, here are a few FAQs from the state website:

What are summative assessments? A summative assessment is given at the end of an instructional period to measure how well students have learned the content. These statewide summative assessments in English language arts, mathematics, and science are given close to the end of the school year.

When are the assessments given to students? The summative assessments, called the Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools, or PEAKS, and the Alaska Science Assessment are administered each spring. A test window calendar is available on the PEAKS webpage (https://education.alaska.gov/assessments/peaks).

I am a teacher. How can I prepare my students for the assessments? Can students study for the test? The most effective way to prepare students for the assessments is to ensure that the Alaska English Language Arts and Mathematics Standards are being utilized in your instruction. Materials available on the DEED website include information regarding the format of the standards, resources that support effective strategies, as well as resources that help educators evaluate instructional materials. Student preparation resources are also available for educators to assist students in becoming familiar with the format of the assessments: both computer-based and paper-based. For more information, please visit the PEAKS and Alaska Science Student

Preparation webpage (https://education.alaska.gov/assessments/peaks/StudentPreparation).

I am a parent. How can I support my student in performing well on the assessments? Be sure that your student has nourishment and a good night's sleep before the tests. Encourage your student to do his or her best on the test, but to understand that it will not affect his or her grades in the classroom.

Please feel free to contact Andrea Durny at <u>adurny@yksd.com</u>, 374-9424 or Patty White at <u>pwhite@yksd.com</u>, 374-9407 if you have any questions or would like more information regarding District Assessments.



# AASB Youth Leadership Institute~November 7-12 By Andrea Durn

For the past several years YKSD has sponsored officers from the AWSC to attend the Alaska Association of School Board Conference in Anchorage the first weekend in November at the Hilton. The theme of the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference is "Youth Redefining Education". The officers who attended were Rhea Linus (Secretary) of Allakaket and Talia Henry (Treasurer) of Huslia.



Rhea Linus pictured with Superintendent Kerry Boyd, and Maurice McGinty, YKSD School Board Chairman. Rhea became the first ever student to play the grand piano during the President's reception.



Rhea and Talia pictured with one of the Keynote Speakers, Eskimo Ninja Warrior Nick Hanson.

# Students to Travel to Los Angeles with Team Hollywood

By Andrea Durny

Juniors and Seniors attending the YKSD Shootout in Huslia were able to apply for a trip to **Los Angeles with Team Hollywood** to attend a LA Lakers Game on January 4th, 2019 with the agent of Team Hollywood. The following three students were selected by a committee.

Seth Turenne, Minto Talia Henry, Huslia Charles Pitka, Nulato

While in LA they will see the Lakers Game on Friday, January 4th. Tour UCLA on Saturday, January 5 as well as watch the game on campus. Final details are in the works for an additional college visit.

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# YKSD Basketball Shootout in Huslia

By Andrea Durny

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual YKSD Basketball Shootout (formerly known as the Jamboree) was hosted in the brand new, beautiful gym at Huslia, November 30-December 2. This event was open to all YKSD students in grades 8-12. A major highlight this year was having Team Hollywood from Los Angeles in attendance. They had such a huge impact and made it such a fun experience for the kids! It was much like what you'd see at professional game with the entertainment and game commentating. I have heard nothing but good reviews about Team Hollywood in Ruby and Huslia. One evening, in Huslia, they conducted a skills and drills camp for grades K-12 and the next evening the whole community came out for the show. Pete, who is a wonderful speaker, gave motivational speeches and examples of leadership and the kids were fully engaged. I especially appreciate the timing of this event, which was the week which opened basketball season. The skills and drills training by Team Hollywood showed our students what it takes to build a great program and the level they need be at for the season. Thank you to the School Board for putting on the Shootout, Huslia for hosting, cooks, hall monitors, score/book keepers, all the volunteers, coaches and chaperones for making the weekend such a success for the kids.









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## Basketball Shootout 'Thank You'

By Andrea Durny



Thank you to our cooks: Karen, Tasha, Linda and Gertie

# Team Hollywood

By Andrea Durny

Team Hollywood of Los Angeles finished up their 2018 "Positive Vibes YKSD Tour" in Ruby and Huslia the week of November 27. They weren't able to make it to a couple of our sites in the spring. The show was a well-received event by our communities that brought a lot of laughter and energy to all. Some of the comments parents have shared are below:

"We really appreciate them coming to Huslia and playing ball with your students. It is good to see the kids so happy and excited, so full of questions." ~ Huslia Parent

"Thank you YKSD for putting this on. It was just what we needed, the laughter and coming together was awesome." ~ Ruby Parent

"It was so amazing seeing such a wonderful performance by Team Hollywood." ~ Huslia community member



Huslia student Lyla, taking Team Hollywood to visit the dog yard.



Team Hollywood in Ruby pictured with student.



Trevor, AKA Clumsy of Team Hollywood pictured with David Sam in Huslia.



## A-CHILL

By Kathy Turco



YKSD A-CHILL students are enjoying a variety of activities over the semester with teachers encouraging outdoor, hands-on learning in combination with structured classroom lessons. The Alaska Culture-Dog Mushing class curriculum allows time to incorporate traditional cultural knowledge taught by the elders and community members whose interest and involvement is increasing each semester. The late snow and warmer than normal temperatures offered students the opportunity to learn animal husbandry by com-

paring old ways to new ways. The *Local History Documentary* class students are learning skills such as storyboarding and use of media equipment. Project-based learning gives students concrete goals to aim for and reach. The teachers have reported that students are excited about creating programs from start to finish. Students conducting interviews of community members have brought the school and community together.

A-CHILL 6-12th grade students have had the opportunity to learn more Native Youth Olympics (NYO) by the re-



turn of instructor Amanda Attla who spends I- 2 days at each school. The games require goal setting with peer support and students are enjoying the challenge. Teachers learn along with students and they practice together. The schools report students are interested in the games and want to compete.

Returning media Instructor Ira Hardy has traveled to teach students and support teachers leading the *Local History Documentary* class. He teaches media skills and works with students on projects they designed. As the semester has progressed, students have shown notable skill development and confidence. Teachers learn

along with students and are reporting that the classes are productive and that students

are excited to finish their projects. The students are planning to share their programs with their community and other schools.

Itinerant teacher Mari Hoe-Raitto has traveled to YKSD schools to assist teachers with the **A-CHILL** curriculum. She shares classroom activities that incorporate in-kennel learning and encourages idea exchanges with dog musher teachers striving to use dogs to work best with students. Mari spends time with both the classroom and dog musher teachers. To the communities, she shares that need for local culture experts (LCE), the hiring process and pro-



vides applications. She offers teachers support in incorporating LCE teaching in their classes. Mari splits her time doing the same in Alaska Gateway School District, our **A-CHILL** partner.





# A-CHILL continued

By Kathy Turco



Alaska Culture-Dog Mushing middle school students in **ALLAKAKET** continue attending two inkennel classes a week taught by two local dog musher teachers and elders stop in to support. Dog musher teachers communicate about classes to help students gain the most knowledge. Teachers work to sync the CANVAS platform curriculum with in-kennel learning. Students showed great interest in NYO and want to learn more.

Middle school students in **RUBY** have a good grasp of the skills and concepts learned in *Local History Documentary* class. They are excited about finishing their final project. Students in the *Alaska Culture-Dog Mushing* class have been happy to work with dogs and learn from the dog musher teacher. The visiting itinerant teacher shared new activities that they enjoyed. Students have also enjoyed the NYO instruction and want to compete.

**NULATO** students enrolled in the *Alaska Culture-Dog Mushing* class go to the dog yard weekly. Young dogs are keeping students on their toes while learning about husbandry in every class. Teachers are supporting community involvement in both the classroom and the dog yard. Interest in local culture experts teaching is increasing. The itinerant teacher taught students to harness and run with young dogs. Teachers and students enjoyed learning NYO.



**HUGHES** students go to dog yard every week and culture related learning is just starting by a LCE who engages students in hands-on projects. The teacher works hard to incorporate community ideas into the **A-CHILL** curriculum. Community members volunteer their time in the classroom and at the kennels. Next week students will learn NYO.

Middle and high school **HUSLIA** students stay engaged in the *Alaska Culture-Dog Mushing* by consistent In-Kennel classes taught by three dog musher teachers in rotation. They continue to learn new things about animal husbandry. Advanced *Veterinary Science* 

students are excelling. Middle school students are progressing well with their media projects as part of the *Local History Documentary* class. All students have liked NYO instruction from Amanda, who reports teachers are very excited to be coaches!

**MANLEY** students enrolled in the *Local History Documentary* class have been working hard all semester to learn as much as possible about media technology and production. Students are showing great interest and enjoy the class. **MINTO** students taking the class have filmed in the dog yard and interviewed elders. Minto students enrolled in the *Alaska Culture-Dog Mushing* classes have been proud to work with teachers to finish building a new dog yard. They are learning all about puppy care and training as their project for this school year. The schools' staff is committed to hands-on learning with support from the community. Students have enjoyed the visiting instructors and the students look like they have a natural ability in NYO.





**KOYUKUK, KALTAG**, and **RAMPART** are working on ways to incorporate **A-CHILL** in the classroom especially involving community members. School staff is working together to encourage **A-CHILL CHAMPION MINDSET** concepts. Students have learned NYO with teachers excited to coach. There are plans to do more next semester.

Learn more about A-CHILL at www.achill.life

~photos of students taken by **A-CHILL** teachers~

# Teaching and Learning Department

By Chane Beam

# Attendance Matters!



When do Absences

Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

# Absences can add up quickly!

Only 2 absences a month equals 18 absences a year!

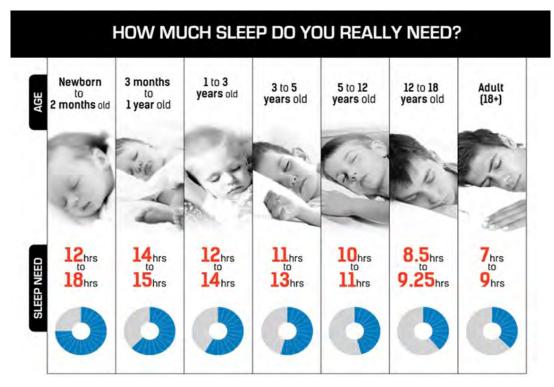
# What counts as an absence?





# Sleep is directly related to good attendance!





You have to breathe.
You have to eat.
You have to sleep!
Sleep is not a luxury.

Sleep is an essential biological function impacting health, daytime functioning, and well-being

Pediatric sleep specialist Dr. Lisa Meltzer, Ph.D. CBSM National Jewish Health

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# Denaakkenaage' Hunek, Benhti Kenaga' Khwnek 'Our Language News'

By K'etsoo Susan Paskvan

Lessons this fall included: essential classroom phrases, question words, introduction, family, feelings, animals, counting, cooking and clothing phrases. December lessons focused on learning the holiday songs. For Jingle Bells, the song varies by village, so there are five different versions. Two classes are learning Amazing Grace and Silent Night.

#### Holiday Program – Twelfth Annual Virtual Holiday Program

The program was held December 13, 2018 from 1:00 to 2:00 PM.



**Nulato** – October 24-26, 2018. The brand new staff went to Fairbanks for new teacher training, so I was part of a group that substituted. This was during Nulato's Wellness Week activities co-hosted by the Nulato Tribal Council and Tanana Chiefs Conference. There were events every evening. On the last day we hosted afternoon Halloween craft projects. During my trip, I gave the assessments to the two language classes and took the school photos.



Students, staff, and Wellness Week visitors posing in front of the newly remodeled Andrew K. Demoski School in Nulato.



Andy T. and Andrew M. making pumpkins at the Pumpkin Patch.

**Koyukuk** – November 7-9, 2018. I administered the language assessment to the two language classes, took school photos, and made jam with the students. On Friday night, along with the Koyukuk Tribal Council behavioral health program, we held a school lock-in. Students met, made their own safety rules, and planned their activities.



K'etsoo donaaldloye yee neneel. Susan is pouring the high-bush cranberry jam into the jars. Milla H. observes.



Students playing board games as part of the Ella B. Vernetti School lock in. Students made their own safety rules for the night and decided upon their own games. Making decisions and free play is a fundamental part of a child's development.

# 'Our Language News' continued

#### By K'etsoo Susan Paskvan



**Huslia** – November 28 to December 2, 2018. There are five language classes participating in Denaakk'e courses in Huslia from Kindergarten to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Students completed the language assessment. They also learned three language games: man in the middle, one man out, and inside-outside circles. It's easier to teach games while on-site.

Team Hollywood held their Positive Vibes Tour in Huslia November 28 to December 1<sup>st</sup>. See Andrea Durny's article for detailed information.



Team Hollywood Maurice "Mo" Woodward and Trevor "Clumzy" Bryant run students through a skills and drills basketball camp.



Annette Moses' fourth graders sang Amazing Grace in Denaakk'e for Team Hollywood.



Captain America, AKA Clumzy, gets the Huslia crowd engaged in the Positive Vibes Tour.



# Technology Corner

By Luke Meinert

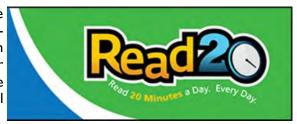
# Alaska's First High School eSports Season is Wrapping Up



Alaska is now the second state to join EGFH, a national high school eSports league. The Yukon-Koyukuk School District has made this happen, and partnered with EGFH to roll this out to secondary students all over Alaska. Teams throughout the state competed in League of Legends, Overwatch, and Rocket League; many matches were live streamed at <a href="https://www.twitch.tv/officialegf">https://www.twitch.tv/officialegf</a>. Andrew K Demoski, Jimmy Huntington, and Raven Homeschool had teams competing in this inaugural season. We hope to add additional YKSD teams for the spring season that will kick off in February.

#### Read20

The Tech Team is assisting with the District's Read20 Initiative. We're piloting a take home e-reader program at Hughes and Koyukuk. Students are encouraged to take iPads to and from school, so they can check out books from our online library and then read them after school hours. No Internet connection is needed once the books have been downloaded. This is a great way to expose students to additional print options that schools don't currently have available.



# Code.org





The Alaska Staff Development Network & the Alaska Council of School Administrators are working to expand access to computer science in schools throughout Alaska. YKSD has been selected as a showcase district to show how this can work in rural schools. Computer science helps nurture problem-solving skills, logic, collaboration and creativity. These skills will open doors in every field. Students will gain an opportunity to create technology that will solve problems in their communities and in the world.

<u>Code.org</u> is a national nonprofit that believes that every student should have the opportunity to learn computer science, just like biology, chemistry or algebra.

- Code.org is the organization behind the Hour of Code, completed by over 600 million students in 180 countries.
- Code.org's professional development workshops were developed to empower teachers from every type of background to be able to teach computer science and support computational thinking.
- Code.org has partnered with more than 120 school districts and 700,000 teachers use their K-12 curriculum. All
  curriculum is available online at no cost.

We have pledged to get several teachers throughout our district trained on how to implement this in their classrooms prior to the 2019-2020 school year.

# Technology Corner continued

By Luke Meinert

# Alaska Week of Code December 3-7, 2018



https://education.alaska.gov/alaska-week-of-code

#### EdTech Coaches

YKSD has four EdTech coaches that have been assisting our teachers with designing lessons and utilizing technological tools in their classrooms. These coaches are full time teachers themselves and have taken on this role as an extra duty. We're very excited to be able to provide this service to our colleagues! Here are the goals we've set for our new coaches:

- 1. Coach and mentor teachers on best practices for leveraging technological tools to support transformational change throughout the instructional environment.
- 2. Work with teachers to identify lesson or unit outcomes and assist with technological utilization if needed.
- 3. Provide at least one training opportunity a month for YKSD educators.
- 4. Assist in planning, developing, and deploying new technologies.
- 5. Assist with troubleshooting issues affecting teaching and learning.



AK Grad

By Christina Hum

One of our goals this year has been to better meet the needs of our student population for AK Grad. In order to do this, we approached the question from two angles: surveying students and compiling a profile of our student population based on Nicholas's Graves rich experience. We found that the profile range not only gave us a better idea of our students, but also provided grounds for rich discussions with others when we shared at the Principal's and Counselor's state conference. Nicholas explained that students who have failed a class and need to recover the credit for graduation are considered credit recovery students (CR), and students who are struggling or have life circumstances that

#### Goal 1: Which students are at risk or CR students? Student A Student B Student C Student D 18 yrs old 16 yrs old 16-17 yrs old 17 yrs old 5 or less credits 15 credits earned Failed at least ½ Declining grades 1 or less CR Classes HS courses. May or may not earned Has 1 child typically 1 content have CR class Missed at least 1 . year of school Unable to attend External 50-100% of time Brick & Mortar Support at home struggles living independently . May or may not have . Specific high interest, passionate (working) support at home



affect their schooling are at risk of failing courses and possibly not graduating. Knowing this helps us as online instructors to plan how to meet these different needs, such as making content accessible anywhere, allowing for varied due dates, or providing material in different formats.

The second angle, surveying for students needs, provided us with information to help consider how best to update our online courses to better meet students' goals. One particular interesting element we found was that many of our students were thinking about college or post-secondary training for careers. Many were solely focused on earning their diploma, and many were still uncertain about their path. Knowing this, we can help provide skills necessary to students to plan for

their future, and devise goal setting and career exploration throughout the content. Our hope for AK Grad is to provide our students with the missing skills and knowledge necessary to take them in a direction they want to go to finish high school and well after.

#### District Office Christmas Tree

Each year the District invites the schools to submit ornaments or art for the central office Board Room Christmas Tree. Student ornaments will remain on display for the month of December. The district office mailed a box of 'make and take' ornaments to the students as a thank you. We'd like to thank the following classes for submitting ornaments: Nancy Mason (Kaltag), Mr. & Mrs. Krause (Manley), and Evelyn Esmailka & David Field (Allakaket). The ornaments were all handmade and spectacular.

#### By Andrea Durny



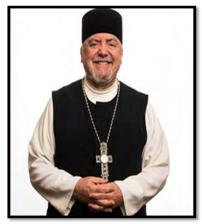


# Counselors Corner

By Cristina Welker

In November the YKSD School Counselors had opportunity to attend the Alaska School Counselor Association Annual Conference in Anchorage. The agenda was packed full of information for our counselors to use every day with our students. This was also a great opportunity to collaborate with Alaska school counselors from around the state!

Two of the many wonderful speakers we were able to learn from were Father Michael Oleska and Dr. Russell Sabella.







Dr. Russell Sabella

#### Some topics included:

- Individual and group counseling;
- Counseling technology and tech-literacy;
- ♦ Comprehensive school counseling programs;
- Peer helper programs and training;
- Solution focused brief counseling and parent/teacher consultations
- ♦ Cyberbullying; and
- Developing, maintaining, and repairing your digital reputation.

Please see your school counselor for more detail on these topics and other discussions from the conference!





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# Red Ribbon Week

By Jolene McGinty

Red Ribbon week was October 23-31; it is the oldest and largest drug prevention awareness and antibullying campaign across the nation. The students in Ruby, Nulato, Koyukuk and Kaltag participated in Red Ribbon week by making posters incorporating Halloween as well. All students received new drug awareness swag tags and a new type of a stress ball with an actual red ribbon tying them together. It was a fun learning experience for all!









Andrea Durny led this activity in Koyukuk! **Koyukuk** 

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# Maintenance News





Toyo Stove Repair Training

In December, the YKSD Maintenance Department conducted a two-day Toyo Stove repair class. Participants practiced dissembling, repair, cleaning and reassembling of various types and models of stoves. A second class will be conducted in the spring.









# Johnny Oldman School

By Patty White



We have had a very busy quarter at Johnny Oldman School! During November 4th-7th grade students were able to experience some learning fun with Mystery Skype. It was a great end to our study on regions in the United States. The other classroom, whose location we did not know, asked us questions to figure out where we were from. Seneca was our voice to answer questions. We then asked questions to the other classroom (Ethan read them) and tried to guess what state they lived in. Crystalee and Payton, in our classroom, were able to narrow it down to find out the 8th grade classroom was from Illinois. The students from both schools then gave a tour of our schools and answered questions about the other school. It was exciting to see the kids so interested in geography and learning about other schools.

At the end of the month, November 29, we had a Grinch Night! Students, family, and community members enjoyed hearing the story "How the Grinch Stole Christmas", decorated ornaments and cookies as well as other activities. We had great attendance and everyone enjoyed the evening.





# Kaltag School

By Charles Burns

On Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> we held a Halloween Carnival at the school. We had many games, a cake walk, face painting, and shoot for pop. The kids, and some adults, sported awesome costumes! Everyone had a great time!

On Wednesday, November 21st, school staff members took four turkeys to the community hall to join in the communities' Thanksgiving celebration. The turkeys were donated by YKSD District Office and were enjoyed by all!

On Wednesday, November 28th, Amanda Attla visited the school and worked with our students on NYO events. She taught them several different events and talked about respect and always doing your best.

Nancy Mason and Judy Madros continue to work diligently to provide learning and growth opportunities for the students. Dave Filby and the students are getting to know each other and are improving their routines every day!

Hazel Olsen and Lizzy Alexie are working hard supporting the teachers and the students! They have increased their instructional activities with the students and their efforts are making a great difference!

Monica Alexie continues to do a great job as our cook. The students look forward to their meals. Jaylene Esmailka is still doing an excellent job as the administrative assistant. She is always willing to fill in as needed.

Veronica Miller takes excellent care of our school as custodian. Every morning when school begins you can tell that she worked the evening before. Stewart Madros is joining us in the maintenance position. We are very glad to have him coming on board.

Student engagement has been steady and our attendance has been great (95%)! We are looking forward to Christmas Break and the start of the second semester!

Merry Christmas from Kaltag School!



# Rampart School

Written by students Vanessa, Chase, Liyana, and Natalie

#### Dancing at the Alaska Federation of Natives Conference

#### Preparation/Rehearsal

The dance group in Rampart, Dlul Hutaaneets Hut'aane Ch'egedelee (translates from Denaakk'e to "Rampart people are singing"), was started three years ago by Mary-Ann Wiehl. She began dancing in Tanana when she was younger. When she moved to Rampart, she missed dancing so she started the dance group. This dance group represents the first native dance group in Rampart for the last 100 years.

We started to practice two months before our dance performance at the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN). Practice was each day after school for about an hour.

We sang the songs and practice the dances such as the cross dance. Other songs we dance a little differently:

- Aunt Judy's Washtub: a mourning song dance by making the motions of washing clothes in a washtub.
- Seagull Song: danced by making the motions of a seagull picking up something off the beach.
- Rampart Mischief Kids: the kids make mischief around the older people that are standing in a staggered pattern.
- Rampart Miners: danced by making motions of mining in the old days.

Two years ago is when most of the *regalia* (traditional clothing, such as: dresses, vests, parkas, slippers, gloves, boots, pants, and headbands) was made and more was made since then. The beadwork on all of the dresses took a lot of time. Some of the regalia has been handed down from past generations. The regalia on the dancers can differ from dresses, vests, and even *kuspuks* (a traditional coat). The beaded jewelry that goes with the regalia is also part of the outfit and has almost the same story.

#### **Travel & Conference**

The Rampart dance group was one of 14 dance groups from regions all across Alaska. Many of the dance groups were Athabaskan, Aleut, Tlingit, and others. Songs performed by dance groups are traditional based on the area they are from. The regalia worn by the groups also differs from region to region.

Travel to the AFN conference was very difficult due to weather conditions and the amount of people going. We had to charter three planes to make it possible for everyone to travel from Rampart to Fairbanks. Then, everyone drove vehicles from Fairbanks to Anchorage, a trip of about 6 hours.

At the conference, there were many exhibits. Most of the exhibits had traditional Alaskan arts. There were other exhibits consisting of many cool things like survival tools, snowshoes, knives, beadworks, and ivory sculptures.

The traditional outfits were interesting to everyone because the other dance groups regalia were very cool and vibrant and had amazing patterns. *Mukluks* and *kuspuks* were very consistent in a lot of the dance groups. We really like how they used seal fur into the lining of the *kuspuk* hood and the *mukluks*. The mittens also had very colorful fur patterns.







# Rampart School continued

#### **Performances**

Dluł Hutaaneets Hut'aane Ch'egedelee performed twice while in Anchorage, Alaska. One of performance was for an anti-bullying and suicide prevention program for the Cook Inlet Tribal Council. Getting dressed in our regalia took some time because the room was very small.

We got into our places and started to perform. With each song we sang, every-body from the crowd started to join in and sing and dance along with us. Once we finished, the small room echoed with applause. To us, it was good practice for the larger performance just two days away.

As excited as we were to perform, there was still a bit of confusion in timing, causing us to rush to get ready. As we were getting ready people were scrambling for their tickets, and for the missing parts of their regalia. Once we got our regalia on everybody was free to wander the building and discover small pieces of history that were hung up on the wall and in glass display cases. A lot of us spent our free time in the food line, which took more than a majority of our time.

Then finally, it was time to perform. We were all lined up on the side of the stage, waiting for our turn to dance as we watched the Anchorage Unangax Dancers dance. Once they were done, the Unangax Dancers said their goodbyes earning lots of applause, and whoops from the crowd watching them.

We impatiently waited for our names to be called to the stage, our hearts racing, nervousness filled us. Then we slowly, but surely, walked up the stairs on the small stage and begun dancing and singing our songs, each one filling us with adrenaline.

The last three invitational songs, we invited people to join us on stage. Many people came and danced on stage with us but there was a bit of difficulty fitting everybody in the stage. Just as we finished, applause roared throughout the room, cheering was heard for miles. With smiles plastered on our faces, we feel we have outdone ourselves giving our best performance yet. We exited the buildings like champions, and went back to our hotel exhausted and ready for bed. Performing at AFN was a great experience.





December 2018 YKSD Staff Connections Page 26



# Ella B. Vernetti School

By Michael Day

#### School wide

Ella B. Vernetti School has had an exhilarating fall! Since Halloween fell on a school night, we decided to have our Halloween Carnival on October 27<sup>th</sup>. The students put forth a lot of effort in decorating the gym and we had a very successful evening. This quarter the students have been working extremely hard to reach their reading and math goals and much progress has taken place. In both classes we have several students that are working above their grade level. By the end of the year we are expecting to have all of our students working at grade level or higher.

#### Mrs. Williams' class

Ms. Williams has been working with her students and teaching them how to crochet. She is also working hard with them on the Battle of the Books. Recently they have been working on the Book *Creator* and on how to do coding on the computer. Mrs. Bobo, from the Book Slam, worked with the students getting them connected and logged in. She is also working with them on following directions in baking. She has helped them bake cupcakes, bread, and macaroni and cheese.

#### Mr. Day's Class

This year my students have been learning how rockets are fired. Each of them have had an opportunity to fire off their own rockets. These rockets were purchased from Estes Rockets. We had a great time! Mrs. Bobo came to our school and worked with the students to create our second book. With the help of Eliza Jones, we feel that it was a great success. She also helped create logins for the students so they are able to work on coding.

#### Travel 1

We have not participated in any travelling events this year; the students are wanting to earn enough money to take a trip next year to the lower 48. Our goal is to choose a location that the students will be able to gain insight in historical events and places.

# Congratulations Morgan Malemute!

Morgan Malemute took first place in the 2018 Doyon, Limited Holiday Artwork Contest. She entered a drawing of a winter wonderland that had a Christmas tree, children, animals and the northern lights. Her drawing will be in the Doyon's annual shareholder holiday calendar. For being selected as the first place winner she will receive an iPad. Way to go Morgan!



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# Merreline A. Kangas School

By Paul Gilbert

Ruby has enjoyed a wonderful month. We held our Thanksgiving dinner, a community elder's dinner and we have begun building a partnership with the Ruby Tribal Council which was kicked off with a dinner event. The students have been active in the woodshop; they have completed their gun project and began their bow project until being interrupted with a special treat. George Albert, Local Cultural Expert, has come in to the school to work with the students on building snowshoes. The younger kids have begun working on their Christmas presentation.



# Gladys Dart School





Manley Pottery is going strong. We held a craft bazaar on December 2.



It has been good snowshoe weather! Very warm!



Gladys Dart School's entire student body.



Manley Pottery's kiln is opened after glazing our craft bazaar items.



Lorrie Green brings her puppies for a visit



# Andrew K. Demoski School

#### Merry Christmas from Nulato

By Shaine Nixon

The past month has been a busy one in Nulato and Andrew K. Demoski School. Students traveled for several basketball games as well as hosting one. The Nulato Lady Wolves hosted the Galena Lady Hawks followed up by a movie night and lock in.

Most recently, eight students traveled to Huslia for the YKSD Shoot Out. They had a great time. While there, Charles Pitka won a trip to Las Angeles with TEAM HOLLYWOOD. Congratulations to him and all the students competing in basketball.

On December 4, we hosted a Literacy Night. Parents and students had a great time reading, eating, and winning door prizes. Our Paint Night had to be canceled for weather, so we will try again after the break.

Amanda Attla and Mari Hoe-Raitto spend several days with the kids working on A-CHILL and Native games. Everyone had a great time. Dog mushing continues to grow with a trip twice a week to the dog yard.

Merry Christmas to ALL and see you in 2019!



## It's Been a Busy Quarter

By Jeffrey Healy

In our wonderful Nulato community we have been busy this quarter. The elders started a cultural class teaching sewing and bead work in the school. Nulato held a basketball tournament for the middle school with four schools participating. The turnout had the stands full. The high school students and adults of the village were happy to have open gym week nights allowing for increased community spirit and it helped our teenagers to have somewhere to go in the evenings.

In my Earth science class, we are talking about minerals and rocks and the geologic time scale. The students created a time line that was 15 feet long highlighting the major events in our earth's history from the formation of the earth to the emergence of man. This exercise was followed by the students working in small groups to create their own board games based on the geologic time line. They were very proud of the results and requested to present their games to the 4th and 5th graders. It was a great success with the younger students playing the games and, hopefully, learning something about our planet's history.



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# Jimmy Huntington School

By Casey Weter

Here in Huslia we are striving towards the implementation of Project Based Learning for the Middle and High School as the central method of providing education for our students. With the holiday season upon us, the teachers of Huslia decided that our students should participate in a Thanksgiving and Christmas themed project in which the guiding questions of gift giving, thankfulness and the reasons for being thankful were the major theme. As food is a necessity of life that often brings communities together over the holidays, we decided to endeavor upon the art of bread making with our students. The goal of the project was for students to bake bread, and present it to our community during one of our holiday programs. The project formed into the two distinct activities of bread baking and a creative reflection on the experience.

We decided early in the project that students would work in pairs of two during the process of mixing the dough. Each pair of student was provided with their own bowl for mixing and all the supplies they needed for success. In order for this success to manifest itself, our students had to remember instructions, understand them well enough to apply them, analyze their progress, and evaluate their final product, as they synthesized the ingredients of yeast, water, flour, and salt into dough with the proper consistency. When we initially began the process, we had the expectation that a certain amount of our dough might not be usable for bread. The students rose to the occasion though, and surpassed all expectations. All of the dough that the students mixed turned out wonderful, and we were able to bake all of it into one-hundred and sixty-four pieces of flat-bread.

Now that the bread baking is behind us, our next phase of this project will be for students to compose an accompanying handout to present to our community members along with a Ziploc of fresh bread. As student choice is a major component of the Project Based Learning initiative, we decided to allow our students to choose what they wanted to present to the community. Our only guidelines were that they must include the text structures of description, and sequence as a reflection on the bread baking process. Many of our students have settled on the idea of designing recipe Christmas cards. In this way, students will not only be giving the gift of bread this Christmas, but also the gift of their knowledge and experience of how to bake bread.

# Bread Baking with the Students of Huslia



December 2018 YKSD Staff Connections Page 30



# Minto School

By Vicky Charlie

Minto School hosted a Veterans Day Cover Dish on November 12th to honor all Veterans that live in our community or have ties to our community. Our school secretary, Francine Wiehl, did an excellent job of gathering photos to display. Thank you to YKSD for providing the turkeys and to the community members who brought a dish to share.





Minto School has some staff and parents who go all out on Halloween! This year they did an outstanding job on the Haunted House which went through two classrooms and two smaller rooms. Pictured are staff, parents and one brave student who were part of the Haunted House.

We did some cooperative learning where students were broken into groups of 3-5 students across all grade levels. It was a very fun morning of being able to work with other students outside of their own classroom. Students did two different STEM activities: Army man launcher and Boat building. One group's boat held 19 marbles! Students and staff had a great time of working together and seeing the end products.





#### Allakaket School



Wednesday, November 28 was a lot of fun with Sara Henderson being a generous host for a successful Literacy Night.



Strassburg family reading together at Literacy Night.



Ms. Elshazly with students at Literacy Night.

"Dancing with the Spirit" music instructors, Ryan and Tyson, are here for the week of December 10-14. They are teaching the students how to strum ukuleles, guitars, fiddles, and sing songs. Thursday, December 13, our students will wow the community with a full program of singing, playing musical instruments, and performing in a play.



Ryan, Tyson, Stuart, Rhea, and Nicole during music lessons.



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# Raven Homeschool

By Maegan Mascagno

This school year has been a fun, busy time in every one of the Raven offices! Each office has been bustling with exciting field trips, engaging activities and informative workshops. Our families have enjoyed a plethora of opportunities. It has been a great reminder of how thankful we are for all of the people that are part of the Raven Homeschool family.

# Anchorage

The Anchorage office continues to sponsor many fun monthly activities like Lego League, Jr., Lego League, Battle of the Books, Spanish Club, and Geography Bee, just to name a few. Science teacher, Deb Fancher, taught fascinating workshops about the Science of Spices, Carbon Dioxide and the Physics of Toys. Terri Thurston has been hosting STEM workshops and students have learned about programming and gaming. In a hands-on ARTiculate workshop Danae Davis showed students how machines and art can mix by building fidgets and Ferris wheels, while learning all about the artist Diego Rivera. Tasha Boin Photography visited our office for school portraits. Several families participated and some great photos were taken. Two different shows at the Performing Arts Center, Black Violin



Anchorage students during the Alaska Wild Berry products field trip.

and AirPlay, were on the agenda for this year and everyone who attended said they were great field trips! There was also a fun field trip to Alaska Wild Berry Products where students were able to tour the chocolate factory and learn all about making candy. The Anchorage and Eagle River offices are hosting a joint Winter Party at Bear Tooth Theatre for fun, food and the movie *Balto*.

# Delta Junction



 $Delta\ students\ showing\ off\ their\ ARTiculate\ creations.$ 

Our Delta office is all about planning ahead! This year's seniors have met several times to organize graduation, discuss plans for after high school and talk about other important topics seniors face. The Terrific Tuesdays meetings are still going well. Each week participants meet to play games, complete an art project and enjoy each other's company. Their Lego League teams, Kevin Robotics and Innovation Creation Kids Stations (I.C.K.S), have been meeting frequently to prepare for their challenges. Heidi Mintun held a Brightways training workshop for parents to learn how to input their quarter grades and work samples. The Scholastic Book Fair in October was a big success, and it wouldn't have been possible without the help of our awesome vol-

unteers! As part of National Fire Prevention Month students completed a thorough tour of the Delta Volunteer Fire Department. During the tour the students learned all about fire safety and were able to see lots of the cool equipment. Heidi also taught a delightful ARTiculate workshop that several students participated in!

#### Raven Homeschool continued

By Maegan Mascagno



# Eagle River

Eagle River has been a whirlwind of activity lately! Geography Club has explored Asia, North America and Australia while learning all about population, landmarks, geography, culture, and much more. Deb Fancher returned with exciting workshops on Carbon Dioxide, Science of Spices and the Physics of Toys. Steve Duby started a Ski Club and students and parents are excited to learn about classic and skate crosscountry skiing. Their four Battle of the Books teams have been reading and practicing answering questions for the competition in February. A representative from Alaska Civil Air Patrol, Lt. McPherson, came to the office and gave a presentation and demonstration of their programs and STEM tools. Randi Shrider held a parent workshop on the importance of internet safety. Students have also enjoyed exciting field trips over Eagle River students during the Alaska Rock Gym the last few months. They toured of Anchorage Fire Department Sta- field trip. tion #11 and the Chugiak-Eagle River Library. Students tested their grip



and stretched their muscles at the Alaska Rock Gym and later laughed and marveled with AirPlay at the Performing Arts Center. Steve also taught a great ARTiculate workshop where students created dinosaurs while learning about textures. In November, Raven staff members and families hosted a canned food drive at where they collected several tubs of canned goods for the very appreciative local food bank.

#### Fairbanks



Fairbanks students and families at the Great Alaska Bowl Company field trip.

Students in the Fairbanks office have been attending art classes where they've been learning all about shading in watercolors, the color wheel, color theory, and many other cool topics. The Fairbanks office invited RED Photography to their office to take school portraits for families. Students and parents toured the Fairbanks Community Food Bank and volunteered and helped assemble an astonishing three pallets of care packages for senior citizens! Students have also been staying active during the dark winter months with their Raven Running Club. Both Lego Leagues have been hard at work making their way through different challenges. Families participated in fun, hands-on field trips as well. First, they went to the Great Alaska Bowl Company and learned about using the wood lathe to spin and carve bowls. Then, they went to Expressions in Glass where students created their own wind chimes, pendants, small plates and sun catchers. The Fairbanks office also hosted

their first Literacy Night. Students attending Camp Read-A-Lot and enjoyed story time, puppet crafts, word fishing and a baked potato bar for dinner.

#### Raven Homeschool continued

By Maegan Mascagno



# Juneau

The Juneau office has been bursting at the seams with activity, as usual! Theresa Miller and Joan Gianotti finished off their Building Blocks of Reading Workshop Series by talking about vocabulary, spelling and comprehension. The Digital Animation and Drawing Club has been meeting weekly to work on projects together and to learn new concepts from one another. The "I Know I Can" activity was well attended and now several younger students are thinking about their futures and what they want to do when they grow up. Chess Club and Spanish Club are still meeting monthly. Their JrFLL teams are getting ready for the competition in December and have learned a lot about the moon this year. Students also enjoyed a police station tour as well as a fire station tour. Many students participated in their annual Turkey in Dis- Juneau students during the "I Know I guise competition and several turkeys were able to sneak past Thanksgiving Can" activity with Theresa Miller unnoticed because of their creative designs. Their Yearbook Committee has



also had a few planning meetings this year. The Juneau office held a Scholastic Book Fair in October and it was a huge success! Theresa led a fun STEAM activity, which ended up having only girls in attendance. They had a great time working through all of the activity stations together.

#### Wasilla



Turkey in Disguise winners from the Wasilla office.

The Wasilla office has had several fun activities and workshops to keep them busy. The office participated in Red Ribbon Week in October and quite a few students made the pledge to be drug free. Several students created cards for Veterans and visited with seniors at the Palmer Pioneer Home. Some students also participated in a workshop at Michael's Craft Store, where they created their own holiday ornaments to take home. Joy Shier has been working hard with her Battle of the Books teams; there are many participants this year! Wasilla's two Rocket Readers groups have made great progress in their reading and spelling skills as they worked with Kim Bergey. Science teacher, Mr. Bergey, taught everyone all about bees and honey. Families also participated in two days of learning about local homesteading farms, today's farming practices, and harvesting a variety of local, organic vegetables. The office coordinated several fun field trips for families to attend - a local hair salon, Central

Fire Station and a trip to Art Cafe to make glittering garden bugs. Their Pie Culinary Bake-Off was a big success and students baked several delicious pies to enjoy. There were so many great Turkey in Disguise creations that it was impossible to pick just one winner!



# Santa Claus

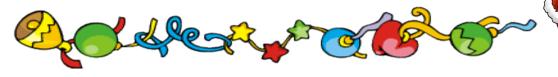
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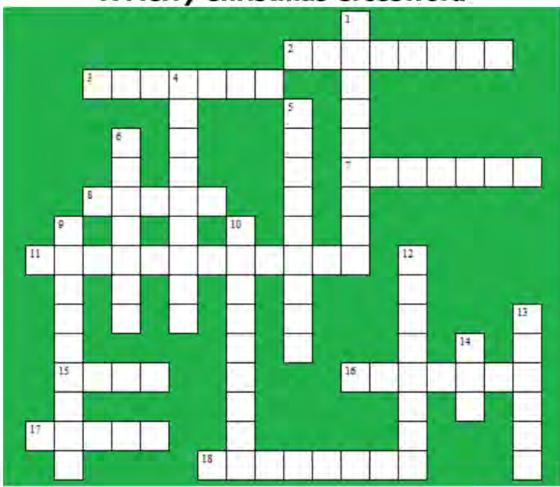
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Santa sleigh stockings toymaker Vixen workshop



Name:

# A Merry Christmas Crossword



#### ACROSS

- 2 Giant socks that might get filled with presents
- 3 Santa gets in your house through this
- 7 The only reindeer whose name begins with the letter p
- 8 Deck the halls with boughs of this
- 11 The night before Christmas
- 15 What's in Santa's bag?
- 16 Reindeer with the red nose
- 17 Person who brings gifts to good children
- 18 Christmas falls in this month

Super Teacher Worksheets

http://www.superteacherworksheets.com

#### DOWN

- 1 Where Santa lives
- 4 If you stand under this, you might get kissed.
- 5 Things you hang on a Christmas tree
- 6 A snack you leave out for Santa
- 9 December 25th
- 10 Yummy red and white candy
- 12 Eight of these pull Santa's sleigh
- 13 Santa says this
- 14 A helper who makes toys

#### Answers:

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# 2019-2020 YKSD Calendar

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