

March 2019

## Yukon-Koyukuk School District Staff Connections

### *Congratulations to our Certified and Classified Employees of the year!*

Superintendent Boyd

The Yukon-Koyukuk School District Regional School Board is pleased to announce the certified and classified employees of the year! These awards are given each year to the staff members that colleagues and community members recognize as providing outstanding contributions to their schools and communities. Please be sure to send them a congratulatory note! Their accomplishment is well deserving! To learn more about our celebrated employees, please read the following articles.

#### **Certified Employee of the Year Brandy Henderson, Elementary Teacher at Jimmy Huntington School**

Brandy Henderson is the most deserving employee you could have for teacher of the year. Each school day she starts her day at 6 am. She is the first person at work every day without question. She is regularly at the school each evening until well after everyone else goes home. She is not only dedicated to the kids but also to the YKSD teachers and staff. She donates her time each summer to help teach the new hires what it will take to live comfortably in the bush. Also, if you were to go to her room after any school day you will find other teachers in her classroom discussing their day or collaborating together to make our school the best it can be. It would be easy to say that she is the glue that holds this staff together. With 20 years of teaching experience and 11 of those here at YKSD, you won't find another teacher who makes a bigger difference. She is and will continue to be the best at what she does regardless of if she gets this award.

She has for the last 11 years been an active part of the community, attending all functions and events. Brandy lives full time in the community making it "home". She inspires and makes a significant impact on students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn without a question.



## Classified Employee of the Year Mike Johnson, Custodian at Andrew K. Demoski School



Mike Johnson is incredibly conscientious about how he approaches his job each day. He has excellent attendance and an impressive work ethic. He goes above and beyond to ensure that the school is clean and ready for the students and staff each and every day.

Since our school is a community school that is used for after-school activities on a regular basis, Mike is instrumental in preparing the school for all of the community's needs.

Mike is very patient and supportive with all of our students, staff, and community members.

Though Mike is generally fairly quiet and reserved, his actions speak for themselves. He is very easy going and serves as a role model for all of our students. Mike has excellent attendance and is very trustworthy.

Mike is always willing to do whatever is needed to keep the school running smoothly each and every day. Mike never complains and greets everyone with a smile.

Mike works in harmony with all staff members at all times. He is very consistent; you can always count on Mike. He quietly goes about his business each afternoon. It would be very easy to take Mike for granted because he works diligently each day with no drama or need for recognition to give his best each day.

## *Retirement*

Superintendent Boyd



I would also like to highlight Nancy Mason who is retiring after spending 18 years working for Yukon Koyukuk School District. Nancy currently serves as the upper grade level teacher in Kaltag School. Over the years, Nancy has served as Principal of Allakaket, Principal of Kaltag and the district reading specialist. Nancy has committed her life to education. She works tirelessly with all of her students coming in early and leaving late to ensure the students have whatever skills they need. Nancy, we thank you for enriching our students with knowledge and guiding them day in and day out. You are an incredibly knowledgeable, passionate, funny and hardworking – best wishes for retirement.



## *State and Federal Programs*

By Gina Hrinko, State and Federal Programs Director



Happy March from the Federal Programs department! Winter is coming to an end and the warm weather makes us think spring is just around the corner! This quarter, our department continues to be busy working on grants, helping you implement grant programs and ordering supplies for your classrooms!

As the year begins to wind down, please let us know if there are any supplies that are needed for the remainder of the year. Also, please be thinking ahead to next year and provide us with a “wish list” of supplies that you would like for next year. While we are not able to promise that everything on the list will be purchased, we will do our best to get as much as we can to make your year easier.

## *Ready for PreK*

By Rachel Reilly, ECE Coordinator

Enrollment has started, which means you may be hearing from families with questions about whether their child will be able to start PreK in the fall. The district only has two requirements for enrollment:

1. The child will have to turn 4 on or before September 1, 2019; and
2. The child needs to be able to consistently use the bathroom independently.

This last requirement can be difficult for some families (the longer a child has been in diapers, the harder it can be for them to break that habit), but it's essential for all of our children's health that each child start school using the bathroom independently. Families can check out these resources if they're looking for help in potty-training:

- [American Academy of Pediatrics](#): A wide array of resources families can use to address their child's specific needs
- [Parents.com](#): Step-by-step guide with a short video summarizing the info

Of course, we also recognize that some children will be more proficient/ready to do this on their own in their new school environments than others. To help all children be successful, you may want to:

- Invite parents to explore and practice using the bathroom at school with their children before school starts. This will show the child that there is nothing scary and give them time to practice with a safe adult.
- Hang posters in the bathroom stalls and by the sink with pictures reminding the children of the steps they need to take when using the bathroom ([like the ones in this video](#))
- Schedule whole-class bathroom breaks when students first arrive at school, and after snack or meals.
- Ask parents to send extra clothes to PreK just in case.



## *Literacy Celebrations*

By Kristi Burns,  
Literacy Coordinator

### Continuing Education: RTI Conference in Anchorage



### Implementing RTI Strategies

Dyad (paired) reading is a researched method to improve fluency. According to Brown, Mohr, Wilcox, and Barrett, students who pair read for 15 minutes per day on 3-4 levels harder than the stronger reader for 90 days increase their reading 2-3 levels above the weaker readers' levels.

**Ruby is practicing this method.**

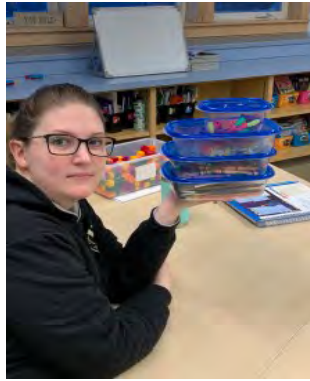


### *Reading Ideas by Mary Legan: Winter In-service*

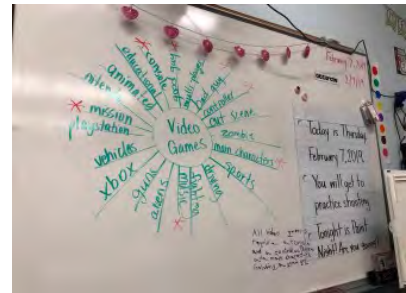
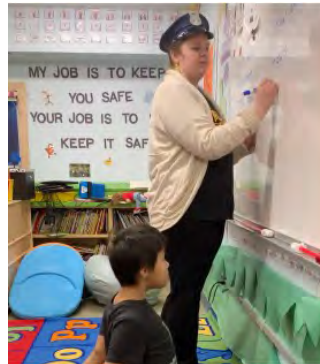
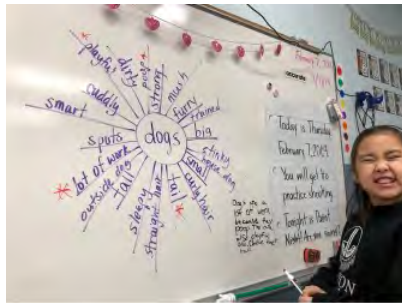
**By Kristi Burns,  
Literacy Coordinator**

# Reading Ideas Implementation in Ruby

## Sorting Junk



### *Naming Common Attributes and highlighting Critical Attributes*

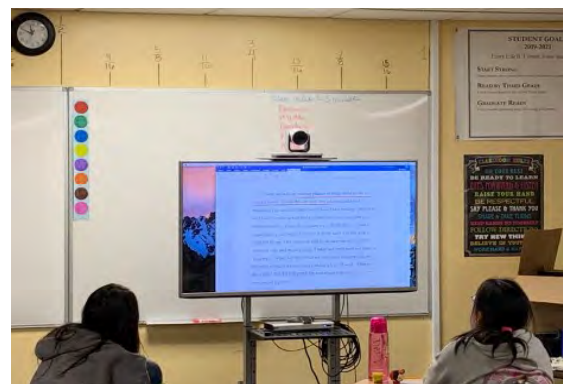


## Reading Ideas Implementation in Koyukuk

### Finding Critical Attributes



### *Finding the Main Idea with color coding*



## *Cosmetology and Science in Koyukuk, Hughes, Minto, and Rampart*

By Kristi Burns,  
Literacy Coordinator

*Braiding Hair*



*Painting Nails*



*Cutting Hair*



*Dying Hair*



*New Haircuts!*



*Shaving Hair*



## *Hygiene Experiment with glitter and lotion*



## *All About the Water Cycle*

By Kristi Burns,  
Literacy Coordinator

*Music*



*Art*



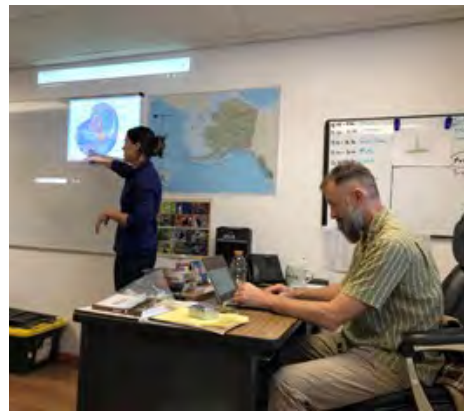
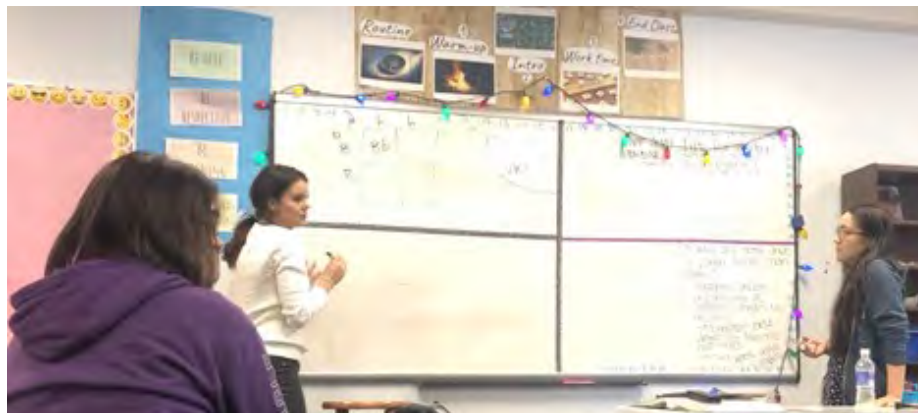
*Science*



*Writing*



## *Genetics and Cells*



## *Literacy Nights*

By Kristi Burns,  
Literacy Coordinator



*Allakaket*



*Rampart*

## *Literacy Nights*

### *Ruby*



*Literacy Nights are coming to Manley and Kaltag SOON!*

## *Maintenance Department*

By Ben McFarlane,  
Maintenance Supervisor

The Maintenance Department recently completed an interesting project at the Fairbanks district office. The project consisted of installing two programmable electronic signs adjacent to Airport Way. Work began late last fall excavating and pouring a concrete foundation for the signs. A trench was dug between the signs and the office to install underground conduit for the power and data lines. The signs were manufactured in California especially for the Yukon Koyukuk School District with artwork displaying the Raven Logo and the Yukon Koyukuk School District name.

The signs arrived in Fairbanks in January. Interior Mobile Welding completed the fabrication of the steel posts and supports and mounted the signs in place. Next, our electrician connected power to the signs and our technology department helped run the data cable and connected the signs to the internet. We are now able to display messages to traffic along Airport Way and help get the word out about the great programs available here at YKSD!



*Current temperature displayed for eastbound traffic on Airport Way.*



*"Enroll Today" message displayed to westbound traffic on Airport Way.*

## Counseling Corner

By Cristina Welker, Special Education  
and Support Services Director

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

It's that time of year again!

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



Research shows that an unfamiliar test accommodation given to a student with a disability may negatively impact performance. Accordingly, an IEP or 504 team should be cautious about adding an accommodation shortly before an assessment. In general, a good practice is to make sure an accommodation has been used in the student's regular or special education classes for instruction and classroom assessments for at least three months or 90 days before testing. This will ensure that the student has experience with the accommodation and that the accommodation is appropriate for the student.

When accommodations are provided as part of a computer-based assessment, the IEP team must take care to ensure that students have opportunities to become familiar with the technological aspects of the accommodations. In addition to using the accommodation in instruction, students should have the opportunity to use the computer-based practice tests to be familiar with how accommodations will be made available on computer-based assessments.

### Re-enrollment and New Student Registration for the 2019-2020 School Year!

By Ariel Novak, Registrar

It's that time of year again! Re-enrollment and new student registration opens up on Monday, March 18th! Be on the lookout for enrollment activities happening at your local school. We look forward to a great rest of the school year and a smooth transition into the 19-20 school year!



## *Teaching and Learning Department*

By Chane Beam, Director  
of Teaching and Learning

Article from [www.readingpartners.org](http://www.readingpartners.org)

### *5 Easy Ways Parents Can Increase Their Child's Reading Fluency*

Reading is one of the most important components of language learning and education. It forms the basis for learning how to read – only to learn from what we read. While most children gain the fundamentals of reading by the time they are in second grade, not every child develops the ability to read fluently. Reading fluency is more or less a skill that enables the reader to read **quickly, accurately, and with expression**.

If your child is struggling to read fluently, there are many strategies you can use at home to support this critical, life-long skill. Don't worry! Any child who struggles with reading fluency can improve with practice, attention, and consistent feedback. Here are a few simple ways to get your kids reading pages and pages of text with absolute confidence.

#### **1. Model fluent reading**

Young children are naturally pretty fast learners. The one thing that we often overlook is their ability to learn from others. One of the best ways to improve a child's reading fluency is to model it for him. Let the child see and hear what fluent reading should sound like. Make sure you include plenty of expressions and emotion while reading and model proper phrasing and pacing. Then ask your child to read the same passage in the same style or manner as you did.



#### **2. Stopwatch readings**

Another strategy that works for improving reading speed, which is also a major part of fluency, is asking your child to read a given passage in a set time frame. Here's how it's done: Set a stopwatch for one minute, and have your child read a passage with as few errors as possible. Notice where your child stops or breaks his fluency and work on improving those areas. Perhaps there was a word he couldn't pronounce. Ask him to repeatedly pronounce the word after learning the meaning. Then once again, ask your child to read the passage with the timer set to one minute. This time the reading should be faster!

The one minute read works because it is a manageable chunk of time and your child will be able to practice several repeated reads in a row without losing focus or interest.

Use a graph to track the number of words your child read per minute, along with the number of errors and challenging words. Your child will be excited to know he/she is improving, so be sure to celebrate improvements regularly.

#### **3. Choral read aloud sessions**

"Choral reading," is when a teacher or parent reads aloud and asks the children to follow at the same pace. Choral reading is another way to show your child what fluent reading should sound like. Choosing a book at the child's independent reading level will make it easier for him/her to keep up with the accuracy and pace.

#### 4. Marked reading

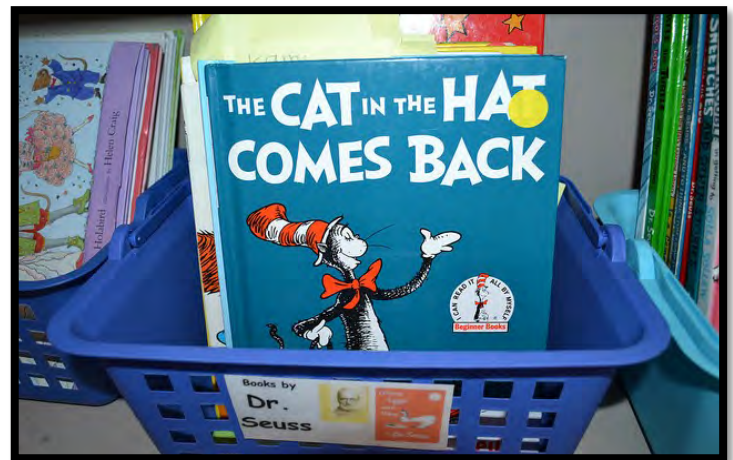


Take a passage and ask your child to read while you silently follow on a copy of that same passage. Mark places where your child made mistakes (mispronunciation, skipped words, etc.) and keep practicing these words and passages. This can be done during the stop watch reading exercise or a read aloud activity.

To track progress, mark the number of errors and challenging words each time the passage is read. Again, remember to celebrate progress with prizes and/or praise.

#### 5. Re-read favorite books

Always encourage your child to re-read favorite books. Some parents or teachers discourage children from reading the same books again and again in an attempt to expose them to new information. However, constantly reading new material doesn't help reading fluency at all. In fact, the more accustomed to reading a particular book your child is, the more fluent he becomes at reading it. This gives them the confidence, accuracy, and speed needed to read fluently without focusing on just reading and instead more on comprehending and mimicking expressions.



Lastly, the best way to improve children's reading fluency is by encouraging them to read more often while keeping speed, accuracy, and expression in mind. The more they read, the better they get! Modeling positive reading behavior sets the tone for reading in your household.

*Martin Berk is a well-trained personal tutor hailing from Los Angeles. He works as a senior editor at an online company offering the services of expert coursework writers UK. He's also an avid reader and a wannabe blogger with keen interest in teaching, tech and education, etc.*



## *Denaakk'e and Benhti Koks'ana Kenaga' Workbooks*

By Susan Paskvan, Native  
Language Coordinator

The Native Language program at Yukon-Koyukuk School District is working on an elementary language workbook for the two Athabascan languages within the YKSD region: Denaakk'e and Benhti Koks'ana Kenaga'.

The workbook will have units on introduction, feelings, weather, anatomy, counting, cooking and food, clothing, animals, dogs, color, classroom items and birds. Within each unit will be vocabulary and phrases to have brief conversations on the various topics.

The conversational style of teaching is an adaptation of Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS). This method, developed by Blaine Ray, strongly supports comprehensive input. This system will use gestures, toys, American Sign Language, emotions, reading and storytelling so that the targeted language is easily understandable. To increase conversation, the teacher uses circling questions that encourage yes/no answers; either/or answers; or answer questions using the five w's: who, where, when, why and how. Students will be given a statement, asked a question, then provided options for positive or negative answers.

TPRS is a method that encourages personalizing the language so students feel connected to the language. In addition, short stories on the topics are introduced so students build up their language proficiency with the goal of re-telling the story.

The workbook went through several phases: deciding what topics to include in the school year; modifications for early elementary (grades K-2) and upper elementary (3-6); deciding what vocabulary and phrases to include in each; and deciding on the language activities that encourage vocabulary development and conversation. Meetings were held in the first year of the grant to make all of these decisions.

In this second year of the AN ELDER grant, Susan Paskvan is working intensively with Lisa Kersch on the design and layout of the workbook.

## *Welcome to the Business Office!*

By Kristen Winters, CFO



The Business Office staff is now complete as we welcome Andie Levesque to our team. Andie joined YKSD on February 4<sup>th</sup> to fill the role of Assistant Controller. In this capacity Andie will provide support to our Raven Home-school program and assistance with audits, grants management and general fund accounting tasks. Andie most recently held the position of Fiscal Manager for the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation. She has a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a double major in Information Systems and Business Management and is very excited for the opportunity to be of assistance to the students, teachers and communities we serve.

Please take time to say hello and introduce yourselves to Andie.

## *School Operations & Assessments*

By Patty White, Director of School Operations and Assessments.

The Statewide assessment, Performance Evaluation for Alaska Schools (PEAKS), from DRC will be administered again this spring 2019. Students will take the English language arts and math assessments in grades 3 through 9, and the science assessments in grades 4, 8, and 10. All students will take the assessment on computer this year. Please check with your school for the exact testing dates and times and help your child be prepared by getting proper sleep before testing.

These end-of-year assessments inform policy makers and the public, including parents, about how well students are meeting Alaska's academic standards; provide data to improve schools and to close achievement gaps; and ensure equity in educational opportunity for all students. School districts will continue to use classroom assessments throughout the school year to monitor student progress and inform instruction.

A handout that explains the purpose of Alaska's statewide assessments may be accessed here:

[https://education.alaska.gov/tls/Assessments/Peaks/FAQ\\_ParentsStateAssessments.pdf](https://education.alaska.gov/tls/Assessments/Peaks/FAQ_ParentsStateAssessments.pdf)

Frequently asked questions may also be accessed through the following link:

[https://education.alaska.gov/tls/Assessments/Peaks/FAQ\\_AlaskasAssessment.pdf](https://education.alaska.gov/tls/Assessments/Peaks/FAQ_AlaskasAssessment.pdf)



Upcoming assessments for YKSD students include: PEAKS, the annual State of Alaska test – March 25 – April 26; and MAP end of year testing April 22 – May 8.

Please feel free to contact Andrea Durny at [adurny@yksd.com](mailto:adurny@yksd.com) or Patty White at [pwhite@yksd.com](mailto:pwhite@yksd.com) or 374-9400 if you have any questions or would like more information regarding District Assessments.

**NEW!!**

**2017-2018 School Report Cards to the Public** are now available for each YKSD school at this link:

<https://education.alaska.gov/reportcardtothepublic>



## ***PEAKS Assessment***

By **Andrea Durny**, Student Support  
and Testing Coordinator

The PEAKS assessment window is March 25-April 26, 2019 and YKSD will be utilizing the computer based test. Each school will be scheduling dates within the window for the assessment. For more information on PEAKS please visit <https://education.alaska.gov/assessments/peaks>

### **Why Should My Child Take the State Assessment?**

#### **What is my child tested on in the spring?**

Each spring, schools give the statewide assessments in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics to students in grades 3 – 9 and science in grades 4, 8, and 10. This test provides students the opportunity to show their understanding of important skills in these subject areas at their grade level.

#### **Why is assessment important in my child's education?**

There are five essential questions that we ask (and answer) in regard to student learning every day in our classrooms:

1. What do we want our students to know and do? (Effective statewide standards)
2. How will we teach them? (Effective local curriculum and instruction)
3. How will we know if they learned it? (Effective assessment)
4. What will we do if they do not learn it? (Effective intervention)
5. What will we do if they already know it? (Effective enrichment)

Effective assessment is the bridge between teaching the standards and ensuring that support is available for all students. It is a key part of student learning, and everything we do should work toward this goal.

#### **How is this assessment meaningful for my child?**

The statewide assessment is a summative assessment, which is just one piece of a balanced assessment system. Summative assessments are designed to give information on a student's understanding of the state's English language arts, mathematics, and science standards. When administered over multiple years, this assessment is even more meaningful because it informs you on how far your child has progressed in their learning.

#### **Why does DEED give a statewide assessment?**

First, we want to be able to inform parents, educators, policy makers, the community, and businesses how our schools and districts are performing. Second, after we have determined how our schools are performing, we want to identify schools in the most need of school improvement efforts. Third, we want to ensure there is equity in education. Our mission is to provide an excellent education to every student every day.

## ***Phlight Club***

By **Andrea Durny**, Student Support  
and Testing Coordinator

Through a three year grant in partnership with Galena and Iditarod Area School Districts, YKSD will continue to offer two Phlight Clubs per year. The spring meeting will be hosted at:

**Location:** Minto, AK

**Dates:** April 26-28, 2019

**Ages:** Open to students in grades 7-12

**Deadline to apply:** April 3, 2019

Applications can be found at the local school or by emailing [adurny@yksd.com](mailto:adurny@yksd.com). The fall dates will be determined at a later date by the Alaska Wide Student Counsel (AWSC).



April 26-28, 2019  
Minto, Alaska

***Teens & Adults will have a blast – Sign-up Now!***

Working to make our schools and community a place where all youth feel connected, respected, and successful.



- Fun & challenging activities
- Meals Provided
- Overnight at the School – bring sleeping gear, etc.
- Connect with adults
- Build your web of support
- Leadership



**Kaleidoscope Connect**  
Full-spectrum Youth Development



**Come have some fun!**



**Facilitators: Amy  
McDonald & Andrea Durny  
907-374-9424**

## 2019 Golden Heart Conference Tournament

By Andrea Durny, Student Support and Testing Coordinator

The 2019 Golden Heart Conference Tournament was hosted by Minto featuring the Fort Yukon Eagles, Tri Valley Warriors, Huslia Hustlers, Minto Lakers, Tanana Wolves and the Nulato Wolves. Games were held at the UAF Alaska Airlines Center and the Championship games were held at Lathrop High School. Congratulations to the 2019 defending Conference Champions Tanana Wolves and the Tri Valley Lady Warriors. Both teams will represent the Golden Heart Conference at the State Tournament.

Below is the list of the YKSD team awards

Minto Boys Runner Up

Minto/Huslia/Tanana Girls Runner Up

### Boys All Tournament Team

Seth Turenne, 11th grade, Minto- Tournament MVP

Joey Kruger, 12th grade, Nulato

Jeremiah Henry, 12th grade, Huslia

Austin Esmailka, 12th grade, Nulato

Javon Phillips, 11th grade, Minto



*Huslia Boys Team*

### Girls All Conference Team

Talia Henry, 11th Grade, Huslia

Mercedes Frank, 10th grade, Minto

### Boys Academic Team

Seth Turenne- Minto

Charles Pitka- Nulato

### Girls Academic Team

Talia Henry, Huslia



*Minto Girls Team*



*Minto Boys Team*

### Huslia Boys- Sportsmanship Award



*Girls Academic Team*



*Girls All Conference Team*



*Boys Academic Team*



*Boys All Conference Team*

## A-CHILL News!

By Kathy Turco, A-CHILL  
Mushing Coordinator



YKSD **A-CHILL** students in Hughes, Manley, Allakaket, Minto, Huslia, and Nulato weathered the cold air temperatures of January by indoor classes with dog musher teachers and visiting with the A-CHILL itinerant teacher Mari Hoe-Raitto. While Ruby students are learning how to make a sled and snowshoes with George Albert.

In February, students in Ruby, Minto, Allakaket, Nulato, Kaltag, Rampart, Hughes, and Koyukuk had special instruction by SKIKU (*the Iñupaiq word for ice—siku—with ski*). The ski practice was great and the new equipment helped students get ready for skijoring with dogs. All schools are gearing up for more time with dogs in March as the light and warmth returns to the Interior.

**SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS:** YKSD **A-CHILL** student trip to the Alaska Gateway School District (AGSD) took place February 17 -20. Four students along with a teacher and principal flew to Fairbanks for a packed schedule. They attended a local play, visited the *Morris Thompson Visitor Center* and *Fairbanks Community Dog Mushing Museum*. Mari Hoe Raitto gave instruction at her kennel in Salsha where students learned about caring for sled dogs, herding dogs, and running a dog boarding business. They visited an open class sprint racing kennel, and traveled to Tanacross and Tok. They stayed at Tanacross school and visited Tok School which included their ice rink, greenhouse, and bio-fuel facility. They visited two kennels and were taught by AGSD Dog Musher Teachers. The highlight of the trip was that the students were able to run their own dog teams on the same trail at the same time!

**Thank You AGSD A-CHILL!**



## Technology Corner

By Luke Meinert,  
Technology Director

### Registration for 2019-2020 School Year

We are excited to announce online re-enrollment for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year! The enrollment forms for your student at the Yukon Koyukuk School District are now available online. You will use the PowerSchool Parent Portal to access the PowerSchool Registration for Returning Students.

**This process is REQUIRED for EVERY student. This enables the district to maintain current medical and emergency information as well as give students access to field trips and technology.**

#### How do I re-enroll my student?

Visit <https://yksd.powerschool.com/public/> and sign in to your PowerSchool Parent Portal. From the Parent Portal,

1. Select the student you wish to register along the top.
2. Select the Returning Student Registration button on the left.
3. Agree to the terms and conditions.
4. Click Begin Forms.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### I can't remember my login for the PowerSchool Parent Portal!

There are links on the login page for retrieving both your password *and* your username. If you no longer have access to the email account that you registered your Parent Portal account with, please contact your school for

#### My student wasn't at YKSD last year. How do I re-enroll them?

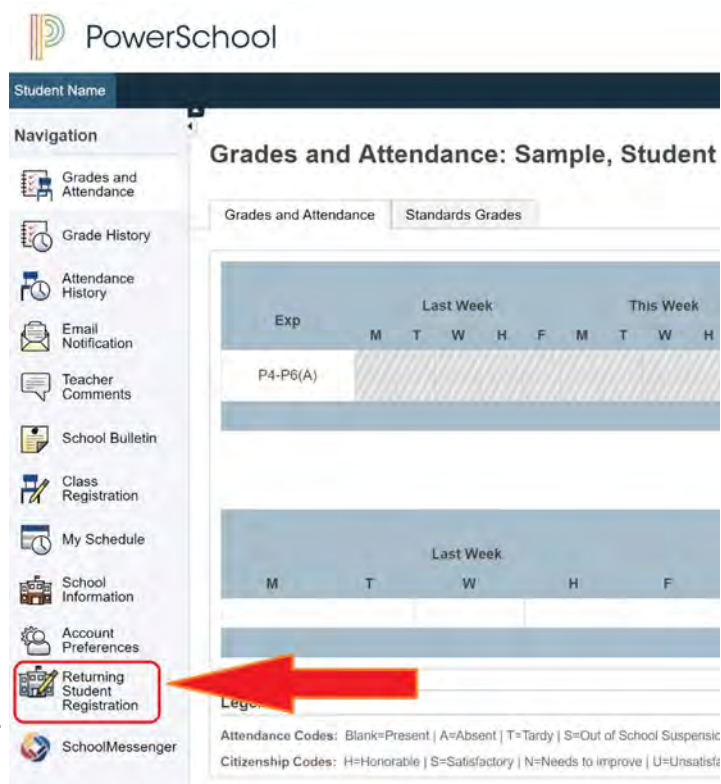
Any returning students who were not enrolled in the district on *March 1st, 2019* must use the link for new students down below.

#### Do I have to answer all the questions?

You must answer all questions marked with the word "required."

#### What if I make a mistake?

If you would like to make a change prior to submitting the form, you can navigate back to the page using the "< Prev" and "Next >" buttons or the page titles in the left-hand navigation bar. If you are on the Review page, click on the underlined field. If you have already submitted the form, then you will need to contact your student's school, so they can make the changes for you.



## *Technology Corner continued*

### **I've completed the form, now what?**

Once you have finished entering your information, click "Submit." This will send all of the information you've entered to the school. If you cannot click on this button, you will need to make sure that you have answered all required questions and corrected any formatting errors. These will be highlighted in red on the Review page.

### **What if I have more than one student in the district? Do I need to do this for each child?**

Yes, because you'll need to provide information that is specific for each child. We recommend that you complete and submit one form and then start another – this will allow you to "snap" (or share) selected family information, which saves you time.

### **I'm not sure how to answer a question. I don't know what the question is asking.**

You can contact your school for information regarding any of the required fields.

### **Who do we call with questions about registration?**

Your school's office admin will be able to assist you with registration questions, or can help you get in contact with elevated support if needed.

For technical support, visit our PowerSchool Community at <https://help.powerschool.com/> help center. If your student is brand new to YKSD, welcome! You can use this link to register a new student to our district. <https://registration.powerschool.com/family/login?ReturnUrl=%2ffamily%2fhome.aspx>

This link is *only* for students who were not enrolled in YKSD on March 1st, 2019!

## *Jimmy Huntington School*

By Casey Weter, Principal

The high school teachers at JHS are working together on a large Project-Based Learning project. Philp Peterson is using the books *Shadows on the Koyukuk* by Sydney Huntington in his English classes and Steve Swatling is teaching local science and geothermal properties. The end result is the students will attend a week long field trip to our local hot springs about 80 miles away. While they are there they will learn survival skills and work on hands-on science projects and their English skills. Before the students can attend this exciting field trip, they need to write an essay about the books they read and our history.



A poster Mr. Swatling made to advertise to the students, parents, and the community about the English and Science Field Trip.

## Johnny Oldman School

By Patty White, Principal



Johnny Oldman School in Hughes started the year off with a winter dance! This was the first dance that the school has hosted in many years. Students, parents, and community members came out to dance and try out the karaoke.

We also had a visit from a Cosmetologist and a biology student. Many were excited for a new do. Our school gym was abuzz as adults and children had their hair cut and colored. Paige also took time to teach the students about the water cycle with

a fun hands-on activity. We appreciate both ladies and all they did while visiting.

Recently our students had the opportunity to partake in skiing with Skiku! Everyone had a blast! We learned the basics of skiing, stopping, and following directions. The students helped wax racing sleds and even shot a laser rifle! It has been a wonderful month and we are eager to see what Spring has in store.



## Kaltag School

By Charles Burns, Principal



Kaltag has had an exciting 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter! Several of our students travelled to Fairbanks with the Kaltag Dance Troup to perform at FNA. They did great and had a blast!

SkiKu also visited our site. They were largely sponsored by Tanana Chiefs Conference. McKinley and Ian were great working with our students on cross country skiing and biathlon shooting. They brought skiing equipment to leave at our site for our students to use!



# Rampart School

## Water Purification Project

By Students: Malik, Chase, Liyana, Natalie



Last month, Rampart was selected as one of two communities in Alaska to participate in a pilot water purification program. This program provides an easy and affordable way to access clean water by making a water filter for you and your family. The project is called Village Safe Water and is a part of the Water Division for the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation ([dec.alaska.gov/water.aspx](http://dec.alaska.gov/water.aspx)).

Water engineers, Chris Schulz and Chase Nelson, came to talk about this problem and provide water filters to all the homes in Rampart. Chris' inspiration to become a water engineer was from a professor in college. As Chris moved on from college, he made water filters (like the one we are writing about today) for Mayan descendants in Guatemala.

Chase's story for becoming a water engineer is similar to Chris'. Chase grew up in Sitka, Alaska. He said that as he was studying, he saw how much of a problem unsafe water can be. As he said, "Everybody doesn't need to be sick all the time by drinking nasty water."

The current water sources for Rampart are Minook creek (about a mile outside of town) and chemically treated water from a community well that is used to supply water for the washeteria, clinic, and school.

Students at the Rampart school built a total of 18 water filters to learn the process. Later that day, community members rebuilt the filters with the help of the students and water engineers. These filters provide a reliably clean water source for each of the homes and school in Rampart.

### Why is safe drinking water important?

Safe drinking water is important for many reasons. Forty percent (40%) of the world's population doesn't have safe drinking water. The World Health Organization says that "every year more than 3.4 million people die from water related diseases, making it the number one cause of disease and death around the world. Most of the victims are young children."

There are good bacteria and bad bacteria. Good bacteria is the bacteria that helps you digest and decompose your food and fight other invading and harmful bacteria. However, bad bacteria in water can cause a lot of illnesses.

Unsafe drinking water can cause diarrhea, cholera, dysentery, typhoid and polio. (Vestergaard) Some of these illnesses can be lethal. The design of this filter is to stop these and provide safe drinking water.



## *Rampart School continued*

### **How the filter works**

The bacteria in water is about 4-6  $\mu\text{m}$  (micrometer = one millionth of a meter). The ceramic water filter contains pores that are about 2-3  $\mu\text{m}$ . The pores are much smaller than the bacteria, which blocks them. So, when you pour water into the top bucket, the water works its way through the filter pores and goes into the bottom bucket, leaving the bacteria behind.

Inside the bottom layer of the disc, is a sand-like substance which contains carbon, providing additional molecular filtration. Carbon bonds with other particles like chemicals. Chlorine, a chemical used to treat water, is removed through this substance. When chemicals come in contact with the carbon layer, it will trap the particles, purifying the water even more. This process is a very simple and effective way to get clean water.

To ensure proper filtration, water is tested to see how much bacteria is in the water before and after filtration. Samples of filtered and unfiltered water are sent to Fairbanks to be tested twice a month. Samples from the other village in the pilot program, Chefnak, Alaska, show the unfiltered water had about 200 bacteria and the filtered water had 0 bacteria.

### **Instructions**

This filter is easy and affordable to make (estimated cost is around \$20).

#### **Items needed:**

- |                                   |                         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| I - Five gallon bucket            | I - Three gallon bucket |
| I - Nozzle (with rubber stoppers) | I - Water filter        |

#### **Steps:**

1. Sterilize buckets by cleaning with bleach.
2. Put hole (same size as water filter) in the bottom of three gallon bucket. Put the filter in and secure it tightly with nut.
3. Put hole (same size as nozzle) in the side of five gallon bucket. Secure the nozzle in the hole with the rubber stoppers and a nut.
4. Position the three gallon bucket into the five gallon bucket securely.
5. Put water in the filter and let it sit for a night. Empty the filter in the morning. (Do not use water from the first filtration; this is used to clean the filter and filter system.)



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3

### **References:**

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation;  
[www.dec.alaska.gov/water.aspx](http://www.dec.alaska.gov/water.aspx)

Vestergaard; "Waterborne Diseases";  
[www.vestergaard.com/global-challenges/waterborne-diseases](http://www.vestergaard.com/global-challenges/waterborne-diseases)

World Health Organization (WHO); "Waterborne Disease is World's Leading Killer";  
[www.voanews.com/a/a-13-2005-03-17-voa34-67381152/274768.html](http://www.voanews.com/a/a-13-2005-03-17-voa34-67381152/274768.html)



## Allakaket School

By Larry Parker, Principal

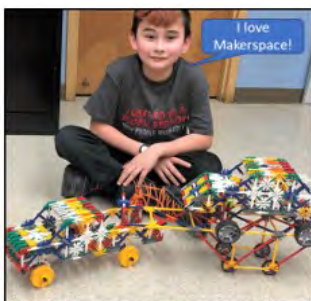
On February 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, we hosted a Jr High basketball tournament. We had visiting Jr. High teams from Minto, Hughes, Anaktuvuk Pass, and Fairbanks. The coaches, chaperones, Allakaket teachers and especially the students were all great. This was our first home tournament in at least nine years and we had a great turnout by the community. It was a very popular event.



Allakaket School was recognized at the statewide ASTE conference for its Book Slam submission winning the Ididabook award for the “Denaakk’e Songs for Children”

## Gladys Dart School

By Joe Krause, Principal



## *Ella B. Vernetti School*

By Mike Day, Principal

### *School wide:*

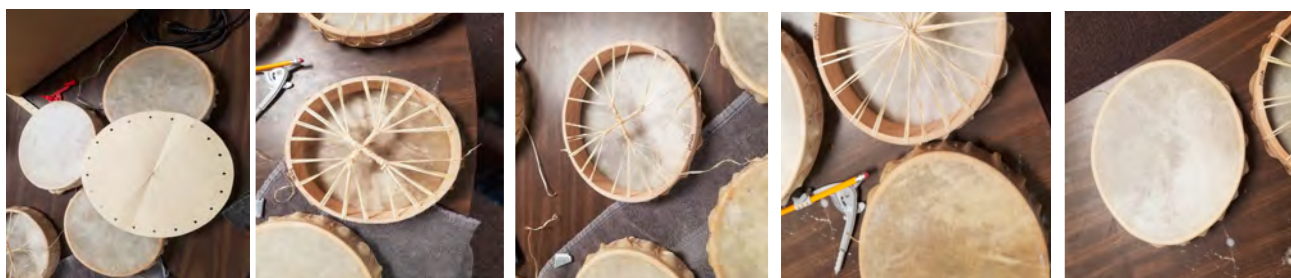
Ella B. Vernetti School has enjoyed a fantastic beginning of the 3rd quarter. Everyone is extremely engaged and actively learning in both classes. We had the opportunity to hold both a literacy night along with a school fund raiser. The students continue to earn money so they will be able to travel next year to the lower 48. So far they have earned close to \$2000. These fund raisers are cake walks, Navajo Tacos, and raffles. All of the students are excited about these activities. Besides these activities the students are enjoying the time they have twice a week with the District Art Teacher.

### *Mrs. Williams' Class*

Mrs. Williams has been working hard with her students and their academic growth is extraordinary. Many of her students made great progress in their benchmark testing and have shown strong improvement. Even though there were a few low scores, Mrs. Williams is working long hours after school and on the weekend to fill those gaps for her students. She is constantly tying in art projects with her lessons and involving the community in many of her lessons.

### *Mr. Day's Class*

Mr. Day class is working hard to be prepared for the State Testing once Spring Break is over. Just like Mrs. Williams class, Mr. Day's class had growth throughout the quarter. We are looking for more growth next quarter. This quarter the students worked on how fossils are made, drum making, land scape and mirror art. Below are samples of what the students created.



## *Minto School*

By Vicky Charlie, Principal

Minto School hosted the 2019 Golden Heart Conference IA Basketball Tournament in Fairbanks on February 28h through March 2nd. Boys teams in attendance were Fort Yukon, Huslia, Minto, Nulato, Tanana and Tri-Valley. Girls teams were Fort Yukon, Minto/Tanana/Huslia and Tri-Valley. There were some intense, close games which gave the fans what they came for! In the end, the Tanana boys held off the Minto Lakers for the conference title and the Tri-Valley girls beat the Minto/Tanana/Huslia team. Sending a big thanks to our tournament sponsors: Doyon, Limited, Minto Village Council, Fairbanks Native Association, Sam's Sourdough Cafe, Jolly Roger, Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Compeau's, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Veronica Charlie, Minto School Staff, Minto Lakeview Lodge, Janet Woods, Chief of Minto & Family, Youth Sports Bingo and Esther Hayward.



## *Raven Homeschool Counselor Ryan Tilbury*



Our Raven Homeschool Counselor, Ryan Tilbury, is a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. For his annual training he participated in a Multinational Exercise in Phitsanoluk, Thailand. Pictured here (third from the left), he is working with both Thai and Japanese officers.

## *Raven Homeschool*

By Maegan Mascagno, Administrative Assistant in Eagle River

This school year seems to be flying by! Each of our six offices have been bustling with workshops, field trips and all sorts of other activities. We launched our “Love Raven” re-enrollment campaign, and have had an overwhelmingly positive response! It is a great time to reflect on the impact we’re having on our students and families. Read on to see what fun activities our offices have been up to!

### *Raven Homeschool—Anchorage*

The Anchorage office has been keeping busy with science workshops led by Deb Fancher. She taught students about the physics of toys, how to dissect dogfish sharks and all about states of matter and unique materials. Battle of the Books, both Lego Leagues, Spelling Bee and Geography Bee have all participated in their final competitions of the year. Terri Thurston has been keeping busy with Sewing School and teaching STEM workshops. Our Counselor, Randi Shrider, held a senior meeting in the office to begin planning the May graduation ceremony. Attendees discussed their class motto, class song and who should be the event guest speaker. The office is gearing up and getting ready for the spring PEAKS testing window to open. They have hosted several workshops to help families prepare for testing. The American Red Cross came to the office and hosted a Pillowcase Project workshop. During this workshop, students learned about disaster preparedness, safety during natural disasters and emotional coping skills. They also decorated pillowcases to take home and they learned how to create emergency supply kits. Students also had the opportunity to participate in field trips to the UAA Planetarium and the Performing Arts Center to watch “Black Violin”.



*Jr FLL celebration in the Anchorage office*

### *Raven Homeschool—Delta*



*Innovations Creation Kids Station Jr. Lego team in Delta*

Our Delta office celebrated the Chinese New Year with a handful of different events. Students made dragons and Chinese lanterns and learned about China’s geography. Their older students even learned to write Chinese letters and numbers. Their Jr. Lego teams, Innovations Creation Kids Station, held an open house in January where they were able to share their project and discuss what they’ve been working on. Their robotics team, Kevin Robotics, has been working hard and practicing their missions for competition. Students and families enjoyed a trip to Delta Junction’s one and only grocery store. The annual Boys’ Night Out event was a great success! Boys and their dads went on a hike and learned about winter survival skills such as fire building, track identification, food gathering and snaring techniques. The annual Girl’s Only Tea Party was equally successful. As ladies spent a fabulous afternoon full of games, snacks, tea and hat and dress up contests.

## *Raven Homeschool—Eagle River*



*Shark dissection workshop in Eagle River*

The Eagle River office has been a flurry of activities and workshops the past few months! Steve started a Ski Club and several families have been able to get out, learn a new skill, and take advantage of the good weather. Geography Club has been moving all over the place, studying Antarctica, Australia and Africa! Deb Fancher wowed students with three different science workshops; Physics of Toys, Sharks and the Science of Unique Materials. Steve and Randi introduced students to Georgia O'Keeffe and Alaska Landscapes during an ARTiculate workshop. Their four Battle of the Books teams did extremely well in the district battles with the K-2nd grade team going home with 1st place! Randi has been extra busy with counseling workshops, hosting "I Know I Can", Healthy Relationships Plus and Kids2College. Students also got together for Valentine's Day activities in the Eagle River office. First, coming in to decorate shoebox mailboxes they constructed, then, on Valentine's Day, filling up each other's mailboxes with cards and goodies. There was a potluck and several Valentine's Day related math and science activities. Students had the opportunity to participate in field trips to the UAA Planetarium, ice skating, a behind-the-scenes tour of the KTUU newsroom and to the Alaska Native Heritage Center.

## *Raven Homeschool—Fairbanks*

The Fairbanks Raven staff hosted a holiday potluck at the end of December. Families sampled tasty snacks, created keepsake fingerprint ornaments and decorated cookies. Nicole, from Barnes & Noble, also stopped by to read Disney stories to students in their "snow globe" lab. Students attended art classes and learned all kinds of new techniques. Their Battle of the Books teams all participated in the district battles. The high school team won and will be moving onto the state competition! The Alaska Civil Air Patrol visited the office and gave a presentation about STEM related products and activities. Families participated in a field trip to a working farm and pet boarding facility. They were able to give skiing and skijoring a try and have lunch around a bonfire after completing a scavenger hunt. Students learned about the differences between a nurse, paramedic and an EMT during their LifeMed Alaska field trip. They had a great time learning about and practicing CPR, checking out the ambulatory equipment and exploring the inside of the life flight plane.



*Fairbanks students dog sledding during a field trip*

## *Raven Homeschool—Juneau*



*Juneau's FIRST Lego League team Happy Dave*

The Juneau office has been bursting at the seams with activity! Their Digital Animation and Drawing Club, Chess Club and Spanish Club continue to meet monthly and advance their skills. Their FLL and Jr FIRST Lego League teams competed at the Juneau Robot Jamboree and team "Happy Dave" was able to travel to Anchorage to participate in the championship tournament. Counselor Ryan Tilbury visited the office in late January and brought with him a whirlwind of activities. All in one week, Ryan individually met with a dozen high school students, held a lunch meeting with graduating seniors, went on tours of the UAS campus and the CTE Center and lead an interactive College and Career Workshop. The office then hosted a Family Potluck and Movie Night and sponsored a H.E.A.R. high school activity with the National Guard. Theresa taught two different workshops as well, the first, Tiger Math and the second, Crystallizing Watercolors. Students also got a behind-the-scenes tour of the bowling alley before

spending the afternoon bowling with friends and family. Students of all grades learned about the Native Youth Olympics and participated in different activities.

## *Raven Homeschool—Wasilla*

Wasilla's biggest bit of news and excitement was moving into a new office! Their new space includes dedicated offices for each staff member, a reception area, kitchen, conference room, classrooms, resource room, tech room, library and computer lab area. They held a big grand re-opening party on Valentine's day where families participated in a chili cook off, played cornhole, did a cake walk, as well as face painting and crazy hair activities. Canine Readers, their middle school Battle of the Books team, won their district battle and are preparing for the state competition. Kim continued her Rocket Readers workshops, as well as hosting 4H workshops. Several students created oil pastel landscapes during a Georgia O'Keeffe inspired ARTiculate workshop. The Red Cross also visited the Wasilla office and hosted a Pillowcase Project activity for their students. Ruth, who has a secret juggling talent, is teaching students this fun skill during her Juggling 101 workshops! During the first workshop students learned the basics of juggling and practiced using scarves. Students and families got to shake off the winter blues by going to Fly Trampoline Park on a field trip. While there everyone had a super time jumping, jousting and trying to conquer the ninja park.



*Whiz Bang science during the Grand Re-Opening of Wasilla's office*



# Spring Word Search



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

SPRING  
MAY  
GREEN  
WARM  
UMBRELLA



MARCH  
FLOWERS  
GRASS  
SHOWERS  
EASTER



APRIL  
BASEBALL  
SUNSHINE  
RAIN  
BIRDS

