

December 2019

Yukon Koyukuk School District Staff Connections

From the Desk of Superintendent Boyd

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!

The year 2019 ends and it is already the time of the end of the year holidays. I take this opportunity to wish you a very *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2020!* I hope the holiday season is filled with some good cheer and wonderful family time for each of you. This time of year can be very hectic as we run from activity to activity, or try and get some last second sewing or shopping finished before the holidays. I encourage each of you to take some family time during the upcoming break! Students return to school on January 7th.

Congratulations to Staff & Students Highlighted by YKSD Regional School Board!

These students and staff members were recognized by their peers and selected by the YKSD Regional School Board for their outstanding commitment!

Outstanding YKSD Staff

Ronald Pitka- Kaltag School-Kaltag

Julie Szidloski -Raven-Delta Junction

Judy Madros-Andrew K. Demoski School-Nulato

Outstanding YKSD Students

Andriana Duncanson -Fairbanks Raven

Alexis Moses -Ella B. Verneti School- Koyukuk

Breeauna O'Rear-Fairbanks Raven

Crystalee Sam - Johnny Oldman School -Hughes



Governor's Budget Released

Superintendent Boyd

Governor Dunleavy released his budget proposal for next year – FY21. His budget proposal will now go to the Legislature for consideration during the next session in Juneau, which begins January 21st.

Overall, the Governor's budget proposal makes only relatively modest reductions. Instead of the large budget cuts he proposed last session, this budget is basically a flat-funding proposal.

Below is a web link to his funding proposal for education. In summary, here are some of the highlights:

- K-12 formula funding is fully funded
- Pupil transportation is fully funded
- Pre-Kindergarten Grants are reduced by \$5 million (from \$7 million to \$2 million)
- Early Learning Coordination is reduced \$472,300

[https://omb.alaska.gov/ombfiles/21 budget/EED/Proposed/21compsummary eed.pdf](https://omb.alaska.gov/ombfiles/21%20budget/EED/Proposed/21compsummaryeed.pdf)

For school construction costs, here's what's in the budget proposal:

- \$50,077,100 is appropriated for School Bond Debt Reimbursement
- \$18,369,500 is appropriated to the REAA & Small Municipal School District Fund (these will be applied toward the DOE priority list)

Key items of interest in Governor Dunleavy's priority setting budget:

Fully funds K-12 education

Fully funds the Alaska Court System

Provides a full PFD

Funds 3 new prosecutors

Funds 15 new Alaska State Trooper positions

Increases general fund spending to the Department of Corrections by 17.4%

Increases general fund spending on Pioneer Homes by 18.3%

Provides \$43 million for homelessness assistance

To review the entire budget proposal, here is a link to the Office of Management & Budget page with all of the budget materials: <https://omb.alaska.gov/fiscal-year-2021-proposed-budget/>



Board Recognition

Staff Award Winners

Judy Madros: Teacher ~ Andrew K. Demoski School ~ Nulato



Mrs. Madros has shown great determination and resilience in getting her students on task and on grade level. She may have the most difficult class on campus because of the age ranges from kindergarten to third grade. It is always a challenge to teach multi grade levels within a room, but teaching students across such a broad range is most difficult.

Mrs. Madros has shown a balance between patience and being challenging. Every opportunity she has she is helping students gain confidence and new skills. She is in a constant motion of moving around the room and working with every student.

The school is very blessed and appreciative of the heart and effort she is providing for our youngest students.

Julie Szidloski: Administrative Assistant ~ Raven Homeschool ~ Delta

Julie Szidloski encapsulates what it means to be a dedicated, caring, and quality employee. From offering a consistently positive and helpful attitude to every student and family she encounters to ensuring that students have everything they need for success, Julie truly does it all.

Julie's commitment to Raven for nearly 14 years attests to her unwavering loyalty to the district, school, families and students. As an administrative assistant, Julie handles an incredibly wide variety of duties with grace and a willingness to go above and beyond her job requirements.

Julie is always willing to go the extra distance whether it's recruiting, volunteering, or reaching out to families who are experiencing life challenges. Julie's professionalism, positivity and team player ambiance makes anyone feel welcome and a sense of ease when asking for support.



Ronald Pitka: Maintenance Worker ~ Kaltag



Kaltag's new maintenance worker Ronald Pitka shows up to work consistently and is a very reliable member of our team. Ronald is always ready to help out where needed and wants to learn as much as he can about his job responsibilities. Ronald has a great demeanor and works well with all.



Board Recognition

Student Award Winners

Andriana Duncanson: Raven Homeschool ~ Fairbanks



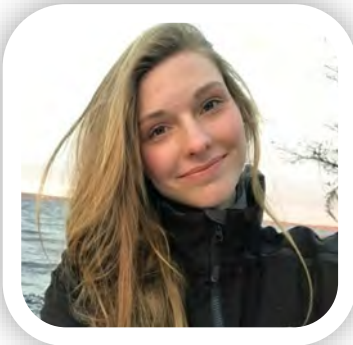
When one thinks of a student who is driven by integrity, demonstrates leadership qualities and attains high academic achievement, Andriana Duncanson easily comes to mind. She is a paramount example of what a homeschool student should always strive to become. Andriana is a young lady who exemplifies many talents; she is a self-taught artist, pianist, and is currently writing her first novel, all while maintaining high academic standards.

Crystalee Sam: Johnny Oldman School ~ Hughes

Crystalee (Grade 7) is a great leader in the classroom and a positive role model for the younger students. She works hard every day on her classes. She has excellent attendance, positive attitude, and good grades.



Breeauna O'Rear: Raven Homeschool ~ Fairbanks



Breeauna has been with Raven Homeschool for 12 years, where she has consistently been a model student on and off the field. She exemplifies the characteristics of a student-athlete who works hard juggling between the demands of completing high school classes, college courses at University of Fairbanks online, volunteering in the community, participating in various clubs and attending athletic practices while maintaining good academic standards.

Happenings from the State & Federal Programs Department

Gina Hrinko, State and
Federal Programs Director

Happy holidays from the Federal Programs department! It has been a busy but successful first semester for everyone, and we are looking forward to an even better second semester. Thanks to everyone for all their hard work. We hope everyone is enjoying the last few days of school before our nice winter break!

Grant Highlights

Indian Education:

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



Federal Programs Monitor:

Every five years, the Federal Programs department is monitored by the State Department of Education. This is our year for being monitored. The monitor will take place the week of February 11th. More information will be shared as needed through your principal.

Pre-K Stockings:

Please be on the lookout for the Pre-K Christmas stockings that were recently sent out to your school site. These stockings can be given to the Pre-K students the last day of school before Christmas break.



Christmas is Coming...

Kristi Burns, Grants Coordinator

Christmas is coming in the Federal and State Grants department. It looks like everyone has been good this year! Pre-K students are receiving stockings full of goodies. Families are receiving a Christmas book to read during the holidays. The YKSD staff is also receiving gifts.

We look forward to beginning STREAM Nights again next semester. The January dates are as follows: Huslia ~ Jan. 14th and Minto ~ Jan. 28th.

May each of you have a Happy Holiday and stay safe!

Assessment Department News

Patty White, School Operations
and Assessments Director



This fall has been a busy time for District Assessments. We began the year with all students, grades K-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 – 11 for the past eight years. 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 2020.

Upcoming assessments include: MAP and AimsWeb mid-year testing January 8-24; ACCESS test for student with Limited English Proficiency in February and March; the annual State of Alaska test, PEAKS – March 30- May 1; and MAP end of year testing April 27– May 14.

In order to start preparing for the PEAKS assessments in the spring, here are a few FAQs from the state website: <https://education.alaska.gov/assessments/peaks>

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.

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. See resources on the PEAKS webpage.

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





YKSD Basketball Shootout in Minto

Andrea Durny, Student Support
and Testing Coordinator

The 6th Annual YKSD Basketball Shootout was hosted in Minto on December 6-7. This intramural activity is open to all YKSD students in grades 8-12. We had students from Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Huslia, Hughes and Allakaket fly in for the event. We'd like to give a big THANK YOU to Wrights Air for flying our students directly in and out of Minto. In some of our smaller schools students don't have the opportunity to participate in team sports so the shootout provides a chance for them to play in scrimmage games.

The students play on mixed teams with students from other schools. On Saturday morning all players participated in a fast paced 3 on 3 draft tournament with Peter Adams of Team Hollywood. During the draft, players must agree to accept the role of team captain and negotiate with other captains for trades and player selection. It was very impressive to see the captains' negotiation skills and leadership in action. Another highlight this year was having Clumzy of Team Hollywood return. He provided a lot of laughter with his game commendation and player interaction.

Thank you to the school board for putting on the Shootout, Minto for hosting, cooks, score/bookkeepers, Wrights Air, all the volunteers, coaches and chaperones for making this year's Shootout a success for the kids. Photos by Susan Paskvan.



More Photos from the Minto Shootout

K'etsoo Susan Paskvan,
Native Language Coordinator



ACHILL/Language Mets'egh Hoolaan/ Bets'egh Hoolaane Workshop

Andrea Durny, Student Support
and Testing Coordinator

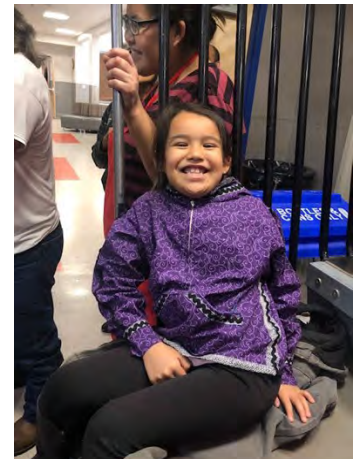
Susan Paskvan and Andrea Durny guided a Mets'eh Hoolaan workshop in the Nulato, November 18 & 19, and in Ruby, December 10 & 11.

Secondary teachers Victoria Deacon, Nulato and Sara Titus, Ruby, organized the afterschool activity by encouraging students to sew, recruited volunteers, and they helped with sewing.

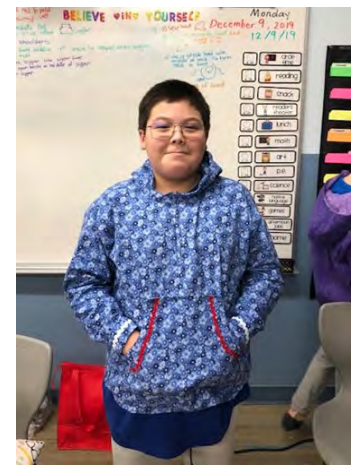
Students learned life skills through working on a project from beginning to end. At the beginning, students learned how to conserve by cutting fabric with little waste. Through trial and error, they learned that it's okay to have problems making a project. We had a few tears, but students persevered and finished their dresses.

The most beautiful part was the process was how they worked together. In Nulato, a father of two girls patiently sewed with them. In Ruby, grandparents sewed with their grandchildren. As students learned a step in the process, they shared their knowledge with students who were one step behind them. This multi-generational activity was definitely a way for us to share our cultural values: starting and ending a project; asking for help; never give up; learn life skills; and keeping your luck in sewing by keeping a clean work space.

Funding for this activity was through the A-CHILL grant and the AN ELDER Native language grant.
Photographs by Susan Paskvan.



Aiyana Patsy and Vivienne Wofford of Nulato with their completed project



Emmerysn Wiehl and Levi Williams of Ruby with their completed projects, they made as gifts for their grandparents



Lena McCarty and Gabriella McCarty of Ruby



Annie Honea, Uriah Morena-Hone and Anne Titus of Ruby



Teacher Sara Titus and Paraprofessional Melissa Captain of Ruby

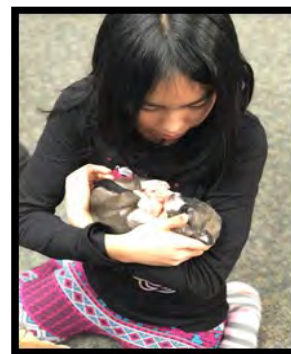
A-CHILL Update

Kathy Turco,
A-CHILL Coordinator



ter. The dog musher teacher taught students about puppy care and socialization. Students also learned about adult dog care in a yard including cooking for dogs, cleaning the yard, giving vaccinations and deworming. The teacher reported that the students' favorite activity is to take puppies for walks.

Johnny Oldman School: Hughes elementary students love their culture! The teacher dedicates every Wednesday afternoon to A-CHILL activities in and out of the classroom. Students listened to Elders share stories about dogs. Before snowfall, students looked for driftwood on riverbank for a holiday decoration project to be completed later in the semester.



Jimmy Huntington School: Three Huslia dog musher teachers share teaching the In-Kennel classes. They taught students how to feed dogs, which included chopping and stacking wood for the cook pot, and dog care such as putting straw in their houses. One dog musher teacher taught students how to fish under the ice. Another taught how to harness and hook up dogs with some classes ending with an Elder telling stories. In mid-November, Mari Hoe-Raitto traveled to Huslia to share a slideshow about the Yukon River Science & Culture Fish Camp with Huslia students. She taught students about handling dogs. Students learned how to sew their own neck and wrist warmers and they also learned how to make neck and tug lines, which they gave to the Huslia dog mushers.

Kaltag School: Kaltag teachers teamed up to start an A-CHILL after school club with students of mixed grades. Students started learning how sled dogs are closely tied to culture and about their care, which included exercise. Students were fitted for ski equipment and cleared a 5 Kilometer ski trail near the school. In early November, Mari traveled to Kaltag and was greeted with great teacher and student enthusiasm. She taught basic dog care including cutting nails, checking paws, brushing, feeding, and deworming dogs. Students had fun participating in sled dog games and activities. Students learned how to make their own skijor lines and leashes using fids. Mari taught students to sew their own neck and wrist warmers.



Minto School: As fall ended, Minto students started caring for dogs including taking young dogs for walks. Students continue to learn how to use tools and shop safety building dog boxes. In early October, Mari Hoe-Raitto, traveled to Minto to teach students to make useful dog equipment such as skijor lines and leashes. Mari explained dog care in the fall including first aid and prevention of injuries and sicknesses. She also spent time with the elementary students learning by using imaginary games and activities using a sled dog. At the end of the semester student were excited to learn to fish under the ice.

Andrew K. Demoski School: Nulato students love sled dogs! Each student is assigned a dog to care for every day. Students learned how to cook for and feed dogs, plus how to brush, cut nails, check teeth, collar tightness and more. Elders visited the classroom to share stories about Nulato and traditions such as treasuring all parts of the animal, and dog mushing. In early November, Mari Hoe-Raitto traveled to Nulato to teach students how to harness and run with dogs (canicross) and harness-break the puppies. Students practiced hooking dogs up and running them with a 4-wheeler. A visiting Huslia dog musher taught students to run dogs with a sled! Students also learned how to make lines with a fid and sew their own neck and hand warmers.





A-CHILL Update continued

Kathy Turco,
A-CHILL Coordinator

Rampart School: After being involved in cultural activities associated with late fall fishing and moose hunting, Rampart students started clearing trails and with a good first snow, they started skiing and using them to run their trap line. Students learned to skin and prepare hides. In late October, Mari Hoe-Raitto traveled to Rampart to teach A-CHILL students to sew their own neck warmers and wrist warmers. Students learned how to fid lines and tie knots. Mari explained dog care and health, including pet dogs. Students are getting organized to start their traditional dance group.



Merrelaine A. Kangas School: Ruby students continue to enjoy learning about sled dogs. Elementary students colored puppy drawings to hang on the wall and during imagination time, they fed and watered their puppies. Older students studied about the history of sled dogs in Ruby and about dog health. In mid-November Mari Hoe-Raitto traveled to Ruby and shared a slideshow about Yukon River Science & Culture Camp with Nulato students there. Students learned to make their own neck and wrist warmers, and also how to make skijor lines using fids. Mari taught about dog care and handling by teaching hands-on activities using her dogs. Older students ran with her dogs (canicross), and learned basic obedience. Students also practiced archery after school.

Allakaket School: The local two dog musher teachers have been volunteering their time to work with Allakaket students to set up an A-CHILL afterschool club. One dog musher received a vaccine donation and treated all sled dogs in the village. He is also preparing projects to teach culture to the students. With the help of her husband, the other dog musher teacher is teaching puppy and dog care including feeding and cleaning the dog yard. They practice handling, harnessing and hooking up dogs so both they and the dogs can be in shape to run this winter. Students love to take puppies and adults for walks.



RAVEN Homeschool in Manley: With the Manley school closed, last year's A-CHILL dog musher teacher is volunteering to prepare for RAVEN homeschool school students enrolling in the *Alaska Culture- Dog Mushing class*. The dog musher teacher has a small team including yearlings, which will be used for teaching In-Kennel classes. So far there are two local culture experts/teachers wanting to teach homeschool students. The dog musher teacher plans to teach students how to cook for and feed dogs, about dog yard maintenance, and about dog health including puppy care. Students will learn about feeding and caring for the dogs' feet, teeth, and fur. Students will learn to skijor and run dogs.



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

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



More A-CHILL Photos

Kathy Turco,
A-CHILL Coordinator



Photos submitted by A-CHILL Teachers.

Facilities & Maintenance

By Gale Bourne, Facilities
and Maintenance Director

THANK YOU TEAM!

The YKSD Maintenance Department would like to give a shout out to all of our diligent, hardworking maintenance staff. Our local maintenance technicians keep our schools comfortable and safe throughout the school year. They work through the cold winter months, keeping the heat on, the water thawed, vehicles running, and much, much more. They are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We appreciate them tremendously and are proud to have each one of them as part of our team.

A huge YKSD THANK YOU to:

Todd Bergman Allakaket School
Trevor Henry..... Jimmy Huntington School
Sigwein Cleveland..... Johnny Oldman School
Oscar Dayton..... Ella B. Verneti School
Vernon Madros..... Andrew K. Demoski School
Ronald Pitka..... Kaltag School
Thomas Esmailka..... Merrelaine A. Kangas School
Patrick Smith..... Minto School
David Hoffman..... Gladys Dart School



Teaching and Learning Department

Chane Beam, Teaching
and Learning Director

Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

December 2019

Yukon-Koyukuk School District

Chane Beam, Director of Teaching and Learning

Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ *How to Be a Lion* (Ed Vere)

Some lions believe there's only one way to be a lion and that Leonard is not doing it right. He's gentle and quiet, and his best friend is a duck!



When the other lions try to bully Leonard into changing, he must stand up for himself.

■ *A Ticket Around the World*

(Natalia Diaz and Melissa Owens)

Where would your child go if he had a ticket to any place in the world? The little boy in this book invites readers to explore 13 countries with him—and learn about languages, food, geography, cultures, and more along the way.



■ *Anne Arrives* (Kallie George)

The Cuthberts plan to adopt an orphaned boy to help on their farm, and they're disappointed when they get Anne instead. But Anne is determined to prove herself. The first book in the Anne series, in which *Anne of Green Gables* is adapted for beginning readers.

■ *Light Makes a Rainbow*

(Sharon Coan)

Learn all about rainbows in this non-fiction book. Simple explanations and colorful photos make it easy for readers to understand what makes rainbows appear. Includes hands-on activities. (Also available in Spanish.)



Winter literacy traditions

Keep your youngster's language arts skills strong during winter break. Fit reading, writing, speaking, and listening into family traditions with these activities.

Celebrate reading

Give books a starring role on special days by holding read-a-thons while you sip hot chocolate. For instance, you might read winter-themed books on the first day of winter (December 21). Or on December 31, read about different ways people celebrate New Year's Eve around the world.

Share news

Help your child launch an annual family newsletter. He could ask relatives to submit short articles about important events during 2019 and then write an article or two of his own. Have him add headlines, draw illustrations, and write captions to complete the first edition!



Tell stories

Swapping family stories during gatherings builds your youngster's speaking and listening skills. Pull out photos to spark ideas, perhaps ones taken at a wedding or reunion, and invite your youngster to contribute details as everyone reminisces. What songs were played at the reception? What games did he play with his cousins? ♥

Inspired to write

Fill a basket with items that will give your child writing practice. Here are ideas for creating an "inspiration station."

● **Greeting cards.** Let your youngster cut cards in half and turn the fronts into postcards. She can write messages on the blank sides and mail the cards to relatives.

● **File folders.** Ask your child to glue a magazine picture on one inside panel of each folder. Help her write a story about the picture and glue it on the other inside panel. She could add a title on the front.

● **Homemade writing paper.** Have your youngster decorate the borders of plain white paper with stickers or stamps. Use a ruler to draw lines she can write on. ♥



100 “magic” words

Did you know that just 100 words in the English language account for about half of the words beginning readers encounter? Ask your youngster’s teacher or search online for a list of these *high-frequency words*, and use them to play the following games.

Word search. Arrange Scrabble tiles in an 8 x 8 grid, spelling several of the words vertically, horizontally, or diagonally. Give your youngster a list of the words you hid. Can she find them all?



Flashlight tag. Pick 10 of the words and have your child copy them onto separate sticky notes. Place them randomly around a room. Hand her a flashlight, turn off the lights, and call out the words one by one. It’s her job to shine her “spotlight” around the room looking for the word. Ask her to read each correct word out loud when she finds it.

Note: Encourage your youngster to look for high-frequency words when she reads. She may be surprised how common they are—and by how many she can read all by herself.♥

Fun with Words

Spot the comma

When you’re out and about with your child, try to spot as many commas as possible! You’ll help him learn where commas belong and what jobs they do.



See a comma? Read the words it goes with, and tell why it’s there. For example, your youngster might read “lettuce, tomato, and cheese” on a restaurant menu and say that those commas separate words in a series. Or maybe you’ll spot “December 12, 2019” on a newspaper (a comma goes between the date and year). Can he find a place where a comma should be or a comma that’s used incorrectly?♥

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote their children’s reading, writing, and language skills.

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Parent to Parent

Five-finger retelling

At school, my son Noah retells stories that he reads so the teacher can see how well he understands them. He recently learned a new retelling strategy that we’re enjoying at home: the five-finger retelling.

We read a story together, and Noah holds up each finger as he retells a different part. For his thumb, he introduces the main character. Then, he holds up a second finger and describes the setting. When he holds up his third, fourth, and fifth fingers, he explains what happened in the beginning, middle, and end of the story.

This has really helped Noah retell stories in sequence, and it works for more than books. We’ve used five-finger retelling to talk about everything from Noah’s day at school to sporting events we’ve attended.♥



Q&A Reading at the “right” level?

Q My daughter often wants to read books that are too hard or too easy for her. Shouldn’t she stick to books at her reading level?

A Reading levels help teachers select books that challenge kids just enough to make them better readers. But your child can also enjoy and learn from books that are above or below her level.

When she reads easier books, she gains confidence, becomes a more

fluent reader, and develops a love of reading. More difficult books challenge her vocabulary and comprehension skills and give her a sense of accomplishment—even if she doesn’t “get” everything.

Encourage her to explore any book she’s excited about. If she struggles with a book, offer to read it aloud. She’ll be more motivated to read, and the more she reads, the stronger her skills will grow.♥



Math+Science Connection

Building Excitement and Success for Young Children

December 2019

Yukon Koyukuk School District

Chane Beam, Director of Teaching and Learning



TOOLS & TIDBITS

Twice as big

Have your child draw a picture of a favorite object—say, a boat or a dinosaur. Now ask him to draw it again in different sizes, twice as big or half as big. He'll enjoy drawing while he learns about bigger and smaller.

Snack on science

Use fruit to sharpen your youngster's observation skills. Cut grapes, apples, and oranges in half so she



can compare the cross-sections. Which ones contain seeds?

Are the colors the same or different inside and out? Let her draw and label what she sees. Then, make fruit salad and enjoy the sweet snack together.

Book picks

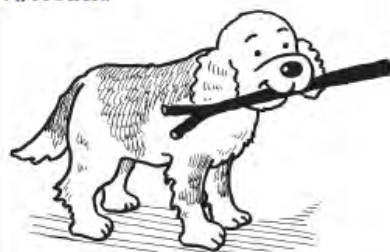
Every second counts in a championship soccer game! *Game Time!* (Stuart J. Murphy) is a soccer story that helps readers tell time.

Where Do Puddles Go? (Fay Robinson) invites youngsters to find out what happens to water after it rains.

Just for fun

Q: What do you call a boomerang that won't come back?

A: A stick.



Winter addition

These winter-themed activities encourage your youngster to add objects, practice addition facts, and find missing numbers—no snow required.

Dig in the snow

Fill a baking dish with sugar, and bury dry beans in the "snow." Your child can use a slotted spoon to dig up two scoops of beans and make them into an addition problem. If the first scoop has 7 beans and the second has 8, she would say " $7 + 8 = 15$." Have her count the beans to check her answer, then scoop up more to create a new problem.

Match the mittens

To work on facts to 10, let your youngster trace around each of her hands 5 times on paper and cut out the 10 "mittens." She should label the left mittens 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, and the right ones 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. Now she should make pairs that equal 10 and say each addition fact (" $5 + 5 = 10$ "). Suggest that she decorate each pair so the mittens match!



Throw the snowballs

Help your child find missing addends (numbers that are added together). Give her 20 cotton balls to throw into a bowl. Can she figure out how many landed in the bowl? If she missed 4, she would think, "Four plus what equals 20?" Then she could count up from 4 to 20 or subtract $20 - 4 = 16$. Finally, she should count the balls in the bowl to check.

An erupting volcano

Your child can watch a "volcano" erupt right before his very eyes with this hands-on model.

1. Go outdoors together, and help your youngster scoop soil (to represent a volcanic mountain) into a small plastic or paper cup.
2. Over newspaper, poke a small hole in the bottom of the cup. Have your child hold the cup in the air and insert an open toothpaste tube into the hole from the bottom. The toothpaste represents magma (melted rock).
3. What happens when your youngster squeezes the tube? (The "magma" swirls up through the "mountain" and eventually erupts as "lava.")

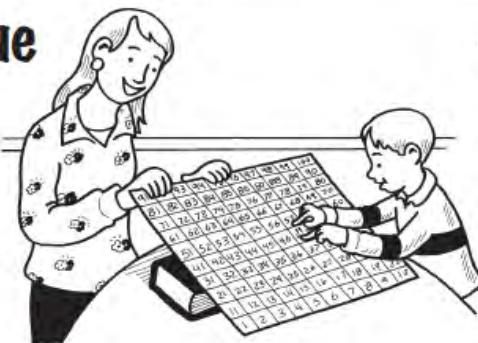


Play with place value

A hundred chart is a great tool for exploring place value. With this topsy-turvy version, your child can look at numbers in a different way! He'll work with numbers that get bigger as they climb up the chart—just as a block tower grows taller from bottom to top.

Draw a 10 x 10 grid. Starting in the bottom left corner, help him write 1–10 across the bottom row. Continue across each row until he writes 100 in the top right corner. Then, try these ideas.

Find my number. Pick a number, and give your youngster clues to find it. For 57, you might say, "My number is 10 more than 47." He would place his finger on 47 and either



count forward by 1s to 57 or move up 1 row to add 1 ten ($47 + 10 = 57$). How are 47 and 57 similar? (They each have 7 ones. Adding 1 ten only changed the number in the tens place.)

Identify the tens and ones. Cover a number (say, 65) with a bingo chip. Encourage your child to use surrounding numbers to figure out how many tens and how many ones the covered one has. Ask him what the other numbers have in common in the same row (6 tens) and column (5 ones). How many tens and ones are in the hidden number? (Answer: 6 tens and 5 ones, or 65.)



Q & A What's that coin?

Q: My daughter is learning how to recognize coins in school. How can she practice at home?

A: Let your child set up a coin station. Give her four bowls—one each for pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters—and put her in charge of sorting spare change.



Suggest that she make coin-rubbing labels for the bowls. She can tape each coin to a table, cover it with white paper, and rub lightly with the side of an unwrapped crayon. Help her write each coin's name ("quarter") and value ("25 cents") on its label.

Then, it's her job to match spare change to the rubbings and sort coins into the correct bowls. Soon, she'll recognize the coins automatically. *Idea:* She could count by 1s, 5s, 10s, and 25s to get the totals.

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote their children's math and science skills.

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SCIENCE LAB

Musical glasses

Why are some musical notes higher or lower than others? This experiment shows your youngster how pitch works.

You'll need: empty glass, pencil, measuring cup, water

Here's how: Ask your child to gently tap the side of the glass with the pencil. What does she think will happen to the sound if you pour water into the glass? Slowly fill the glass with water as she taps repeatedly.

What happens? The sound gets lower in pitch as you add more water.

Why? Striking the glass creates a sound wave that travels from the glass through the water. Water slows down the vibrations—so the more water, the slower the vibrations and the lower the pitch. When there's less water, the vibrations are faster, and the pitch is higher.

Idea: Suggest that your youngster measure different amounts of water ($\frac{1}{4}$ cup, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup, 1 cup) into several identical glasses. She can tap the glasses to play a tune!



MATH CORNER

Gingerbread glyph

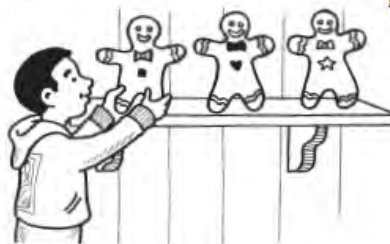
A glyph, or a pictograph, lets your youngster represent and analyze data. Try this family glyph activity to share information about your favorite things.

Materials: brown construction paper or cardboard, pencil, scissors, markers

Together, list survey questions and assign a gingerbread decoration to each possible answer. *Examples:* "Which season do you like best? Winter = round button, spring = square button,

summer = star button, fall = heart button." "Which meal is your favorite? Breakfast = red bowtie, lunch = blue bowtie, dinner = yellow bowtie, brunch = green bowtie."

Have each family member draw and cut out a gingerbread "person" and decorate it to show his favorites. Now compare them. How many people like summer the best? How many more people chose dinner than lunch?



Reading Connection

INTERMEDIATE EDITION

Working Together for Learning Success

December 2019

Yukon Koyukuk School District

Chane Beam, Director of Teaching and Learning

Book Picks

■ *Moo* (Sharon Creech)

City kids Reena and Luke experience culture shock when their family moves and they have to help out on a farm. Told in a blend of poetry and prose, this novel follows the siblings as they make new friends and bond with the animals—even a stubborn cow named Zora.



■ *Money Sense for Kids!*

(Hollis Page Harman)

This book introduces youngsters to basic economics, offers advice for earning and managing money, and explains how banks and stock exchanges work. Readers will also learn the history of U.S. currency. Each chapter includes a practical activity, such as budgeting allowance money.



■ *The Girl Who Drew Butterflies: How Maria Merian's Art Changed Science* (Joyce Sidman)

Maria Merian's unique approach to studying insects led her to create beautiful art and become one of the first scientists to draw the life cycle of butterflies. This biography describes how Maria dedicated her life to entomology, or the science of insects.



■ *The Year of Billy Miller*

(Kevin Henkes)

Billy is a sometimes misunderstood second-grader who spends the year navigating school challenges, friendships, and sibling squabbles. The story of his life is told in four chapters: "Teacher," "Father," "Sister," and "Mother."

A family book nook

A cozy place to curl up with a book or magazine can inspire your child to read more. Use these steps to carve out a special book nook for your family.

1. Create. Even the smallest space can become a reading zone. Together, choose a quiet spot away from distractions. For example, your youngster might suggest a corner of the family room or basement, or a space between two bookcases in the living room. Let her add a comfortable seat (favorite chair, beanbag, big pillows) and a lamp.

2. Organize. Help your child collect containers to hold reading materials. Maybe she'll put magazines in cereal boxes, small paperbacks in shoeboxes, and bigger books in baskets. She can cover the boxes with construction paper and label them ("Science magazines,"

"Mysteries," "Biographies"). *Tip:* Include a special box for library books, and have her add sticky notes with due dates.

3. Enjoy. Make using the book nook part of your family's daily routine. You might read the newspaper there in the morning. Your youngster can use the spot for reading assignments after school. And family members might take turns relaxing there on evenings and weekends to read novels or listen to audiobooks. ■



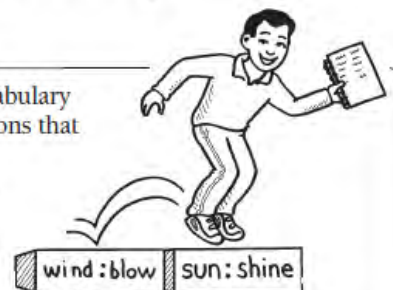
Analogy challenge

Build your youngster's reasoning and vocabulary skills by playing with *analogies*, or comparisons that show how two things are similar.

Analogies encourage your child to think about relationships. Here's an example:

"Top is to bottom as in is to ____." Ask your youngster to think about the relationship between *top* and *bottom* (opposites) to determine the missing word (*out*, the opposite of *in*).

Take turns making up analogies and discussing how to solve them. Say you write, "Wind is to blow as sun is to ____." Your child can think about how *wind* and *blow* are related (the wind blows) and then consider what the sun does (shines, rises). For more practice, have him try analogies at factmonster.com/analogies. ■



Spice up your writing

Encourage your youngster to view creative writing assignments as opportunities to try new ideas. The following tips can improve his stories and make writing even more fun.

Foreshadowing

Authors sometimes drop hints about what's going to happen later in a book. If a big thunderstorm will be important in your child's story, he might mention his character's fear of storms early in his tale.



Titles

Have your youngster consider different titles for his story. One way to create an eye-catching title is to refer to an exciting aspect of an event. Instead of "My Summer Vacation," his title could be "Trapped in the Treehouse."

Flashback

Rather than starting his tale at the beginning, your youngster might begin at the end. Perhaps the main character is finishing his first year at a new school. Your child could write about the character spending time with friends he has made, and then go back and describe his struggle to fit in at first.

Parent & Parent

Math stories

When my son Kieran was struggling with math homework, I remembered a strategy my fifth-grade math teacher taught me. She had me turn equations into stories, and this really helped me visualize and solve the problems.



I mentioned this idea to Kieran and helped him make up a story to go with the first problem, 6×24 . He wrote, "Six buses traveled to the museum. Each bus held 24 students. In all, 144 students went on the trip." Then he decided to connect all the problems into one big story. For 8×45 , he continued: "The museum had 8 exhibits. Each had 45 artifacts. There were 360 artifacts altogether."

When Kieran finished, he read his story to me. He agreed that the activity helped him picture the math and come up with the right answers. I think it also strengthened his storytelling skills!

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Comically speaking

Stretch your child's imagination with this activity that lets her practice writing dialogue—the conversations characters have with each other.

Choose comics. Let your youngster cut some of her favorite comics from the newspaper or print some from the internet. She can put small pieces of masking tape over the conversation bubbles to block out the existing words.



Write new dialogue. Each of you can pick one of the comics, think about what's going on in the pictures, and write lines for the characters on the pieces of tape.

Share your versions. Take turns reading your dialogue aloud. Then, choose new comics and make up conversations for those characters.



Reading and writing gifts—on a budget

Q I'd like to give my daughter gifts that will keep her reading and writing during winter break—and when it's over. My budget is tight. Any suggestions?

A You'll both keep reading when you create coupons good for library visits together. These make great gifts for your child, and they're free! Another idea is a magazine subscription related to her interests (perhaps *National*

Geographic Kids, *Fun for Kidz*, or *Ask*). Many magazines offer deep discounts this time of year.

For a writing-related gift, you could visit a craft shop or dollar store and fill a gift bag with fun writing treats. You can find notepads in different shapes and sizes, colorful pens, and pencils with interesting erasers. Also consider a diary, as well as books of crossword puzzles, word searches, or *Mad Libs*.



Math+Science Connection

Intermediate Edition

Building Understanding and Excitement for Children

December 2019

Yukon Koyukuk School District

Chane Beam, Director of Teaching and Learning

INFO BITS



Math palindromes

A palindromic number reads the same forward and backward, such as 424 or 123,321. Your youngster can stretch her math thinking by creating math problems with palindromes as the answers. *Examples:* $2 \times 212 = 424$, and $1,000,000 - 876,679 = 123,321$.

Welcome, winter!

In the northern hemisphere, December 21 is the winter solstice—the first day of winter and the day with the fewest daylight hours of the year. Have your child look up sunrise and sunset times in the newspaper or online. What does he notice? (We get a little more sunlight each day after the winter solstice.)



Book picks

■ Your youngster will have fun calculating area in *The Original Area Mazes: 100 Addictive Puzzles to Solve with Simple Math—and Clever Logic!* (Naoki Inaba and Ryoichi Murakami).

■ In addition to stunning photographs, *A Drop of Water: A Book of Science and Wonder* (Walter Wick) provides experiments to teach your child about the properties of water.

Just for fun

First snake: I hope I'm not venomous.

Second snake: Why?

First snake: I just bit my tongue!



Word problems? No problem!

A word problem contains a lot of information. Your youngster's job is to zero in on what exactly he's being asked to do. Once he figures that out, solving the problem may be a snap. Share these strategies.

List key details

Have your child read the entire problem and list facts it tells him. Say he needs to figure out how many trophies can be displayed in a school lobby. He could write, "2 display cases, 5 shelves per case, 6 trophies per shelf." Then he can solve: $2 \times 5 \times 6 = 60$ trophies. *Variation:* Encourage him to draw a picture showing what he knows.

Use easier numbers

Suggest that your youngster replace larger numbers with smaller ones. He might use 35 and 7 for 3,540 and 789. Then he can focus on *how* to solve rather than on *harder* calculations. For instance, should he add, subtract, multiply, or divide? Once he understands the



steps involved, he can swap the original numbers back in and solve.

Check for reasonableness

If a car carrier holds 10 cars, how many trips must the driver take to transport 47 cars? Encourage your child to pay close attention to the context of a problem. That will help him decide whether his answer makes sense. He may realize that while $47 \div 10 = 4$, remainder 7, it isn't possible to take 4.7 trips. That means 5 trips are required. 📦

Code a snowman

No computer is required for this wintry coding activity. Your child will learn basic computer programming as the two of you write code for each other to draw a snowman on graph paper.

Make a key. List commands you'll use, such as \downarrow = move down 1 square, \rightarrow = move right 1 square, \blacksquare = shade in the square, and \bullet = draw a circle.

Write code. Direct each other to draw the outline of a snowman by writing strings of commands from your key. Now add commands for decorating the snowman. *Example:* $\bullet\downarrow\bullet\downarrow\bullet$ means make a column of three round buttons.

Follow. Trade codes and draw. Check each other's snowmen against your codes—do they match? 📦



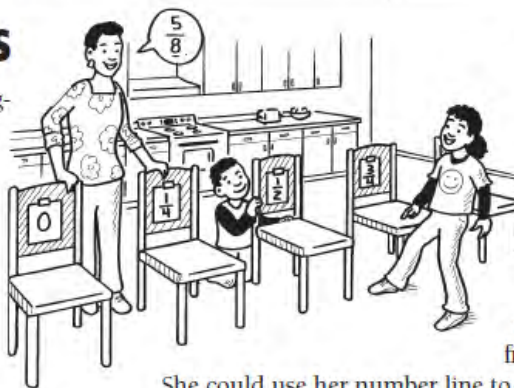
Use fraction benchmarks

What does $\frac{3}{8}$ of a sandwich look like? If your youngster compares it to a familiar fraction (a benchmark), she'll know it's close to $\frac{1}{2}$ of a sandwich. She can try these tips for visualizing benchmarks and using them to solve fraction problems.

Walk to benchmarks. Let your child line up five "benches" (perhaps kitchen chairs) equally spaced along a path. She should label them 0 , $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, and 1 .

Take turns telling each other where to stand.

Example: "Walk $\frac{5}{8}$ of the way down the path." Your youngster would think about which bench $\frac{5}{8}$ is closest to. ("Hmm, $\frac{5}{8}$ is close to $\frac{6}{8}$, which is $\frac{3}{4}$.") Then, she can find the right spot (halfway between $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$).



Estimate with a number line. Have your child draw a number line with benchmarks at 0 , $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, and 1 . Suggest that she fold her paper in half, then in half again. When she unfolds it, she can write the benchmark fractions on the fold lines.

She could use her number line to estimate before she adds fractions so she knows whether her answer is reasonable. Perhaps she is adding $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3}$. She might think, " $\frac{1}{3}$ is a little greater than $\frac{1}{4}$, and $\frac{1}{3}$ is a little less than $\frac{1}{2}$. And $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$, so the answer has to be close to $\frac{1}{2}$."

Q & A Be a persistent problem solver

Q: My son gets frustrated when he can't figure out the answer to a math problem right away, especially if there are multiple steps. How can I help him?

A: Try asking your youngster questions that help him think through the problem to find the solution.

What kinds of questions should you ask him? Try these: "Can you explain what you've done already?" "Where did you get stuck?" "What is the last step you understood?" "What do you think the next step might be?" "Is there another method you could try?"

And here's an idea to help him help himself. Suggest that he write each of those questions on a separate index card. The next time he's stuck, he can pull one out to get moving again.

Finally, let him know that mistakes are part of the learning process—and "sticking with it" will help him in all subjects.



SCIENCE LAB

Brr! Keeping animals warm

Whales and seals survive in very cold climates thanks in part to their layer of blubber (fat). Your child can feel how that natural insulation works with this experiment.

You'll need: 2 quart-size plastic bags, bowl of ice water, tablespoon measure, shortening (or margarine)

Here's how: Have your youngster put his hand in one bag and briefly plunge it into the bowl of ice water. How did it feel? Then, he should measure 8–12 tbsp. shortening into the second bag. Let him stick his bag-covered hand into the shortening-filled bag and squish the shortening around so it surrounds his hand through the plastic. How does his hand feel when he places it in the water this time?

What happens? In the first bag, his hand will feel very cold. But when his hand is protected by shortening, he won't feel much cold at all.

Why? The shortening acts like blubber, providing insulation that retains the heat from your child's hand—keeping his hand warm.



MATH CORNER

The angles in my name

Letters contain lots of angles! Build your youngster's geometry skills with these games where family members find the angles in the letters of their names.

1. Each player uses a ruler and a pencil to write her name in large block capital letters.
Idea: Let your child make one for your pet, too.

2. Now everyone measures each of their angles with a protractor and

labels them. For instance, an I has four 90° (right) angles, and perhaps the top of an A has two 115° angles.

3. Each person adds up the total degrees of all the angles in her name. The person with the highest total wins.

Play again with the names of your favorite sports teams, foods, or colors. Your youngster can even do this activity with her spelling words.



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Denaakkenaage'/ Denakenaga' 'our language'

K'etsoo Susan Paskvan,
Native Language Coordinator

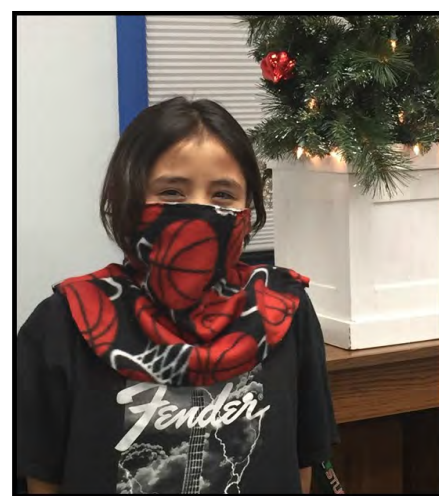
Students completed the following units in Denaakk'e and Benhti: Units one through five in the new workbook. These include lessons on: introduction, family, feelings, parts of the body, counting, and weather. We are now practicing holiday songs. Students learned to ask and answer questions. They have really enjoyed doing the interactive activities in each unit.

As part of the AN ELDER grant, students took the fall assessment, which included portions of the above units. In addition, students sang any type of song and told portions of a story.

This winter Holly Wofford and I traveled to the villages to conduct language assessments and work with the students.



Students, Naveah C., Shyla N., and Tristan N., practice parts of the body and counting through a hands-on cookie and spider making activity. Before they ate their cookie, they had to describe how many eyes, mouth, and teeth it had. For example, Benoghe' tokk'ee boolaanh. It has three eyes. They also had to describe their spider headbands.



Reese G., of Minto School, wears the fleece neck warmer she sewed afterschool in Minto.



Students Angelina and Vivienne W., of Andrew K. Demoski School in Nulato show the mets'egh boolaan shirts they made as part of the AN ELDER grant afterschool program. Their dad, Charlie W. and grandmother Olga S. helped them sew. Andrea Durny and I helped several students, teachers, and families make over a dozen dresses.



Students Levi S., and Nikora S., of Minto School practice for their holiday play, The Mitten. A part of the play is in Benhti Kokht'ana Kenaga'.

13th Annual Virtual Holiday Program

Please join us, at our village schools, Raven offices, district office, or online for our 13th annual Virtual Holiday program. The students have been practicing many songs in Denaakk'e and Benhti Kokh-t'ana Kenaga'.

Wednesday, December 18th from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM



K'etsoo Susan Paskvan,
Native Language Coordinator



Yukon-Koyukuk School District

Thirteenth Annual
Virtual Holiday Program
Wednesday, December 18, 2019
10:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.



Technology Department Updates

Luke Meinert,
Assistant Superintendent

New Instructional Tech

My name is **Chelsea Hurst** and I will be serving as the new Instructional Technology Supervisor. I am originally from Atlanta, Georgia. I attended college at the University of North Georgia and earned my Bachelor's degree in Middle Grades Education with a Math and Science concentration. Currently, I am one spring semester away from earning my Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis on Technology. Upon completing my undergraduate studies, I taught 6th grade Earth Science and coached volleyball for four years in Savannah, Georgia. Roughly every four years, my husband and I move due to his career in the military. Before coming to Alaska, we lived very briefly in Oklahoma where I taught 4th grade Math. My husband and I are extremely excited to be in Alaska. With both of us being from the southeast, Alaska is a brand new adventure that we feel incredibly fortunate to experience. In my free time, I love to go to the gym, partake in any outdoor activity, run with my dog and relax with my husband and friends. I look forward to working with you!



E-Rate

The technology department is in the process of seeking bids for a new Internet service provider contract. A request for proposal has been filed, and we are working with potential bidders. We hope to see competitive bids from service providers to ensure our schools and offices have the best and most robust service and network topology available. Our intent is to have reviewed potential bids by the end of this calendar year. We have several pre-bid meetings with vendors the week of December 9th.

Congratulations AK Grad Students

Christina Hum, AK Grad
Coordinator & Teacher

A journey of a
1,000 miles
begins with 1
step.

AK Grad is off to an amazing 1st semester, with an increased completion rate of courses from our students. In fact, there are many students who have already finished quarter and semester classes, well before the end of the semester. Congratulations to all of the students who have worked hard to finish ahead of time or on time. We are so very proud of their hard work! The Chinese Proverb is very true for AK Grad students, sometimes just taking a step at a time is enough to get the job done. Logging in every-day, completing 1-2 lessons will mean success!

Many students are finding that the goal setting components of our courses is helping them to get started and stay on track, In particular one student shared with us:

"I'm getting back on target for the goal I set for myself. I got a bit distracted because I was working more but I have been trying to discipline myself a little more to take time before

and after work and to do some quizzes everyday, so I am starting to feel more on track by pushing myself to make more time to do it and get it done."

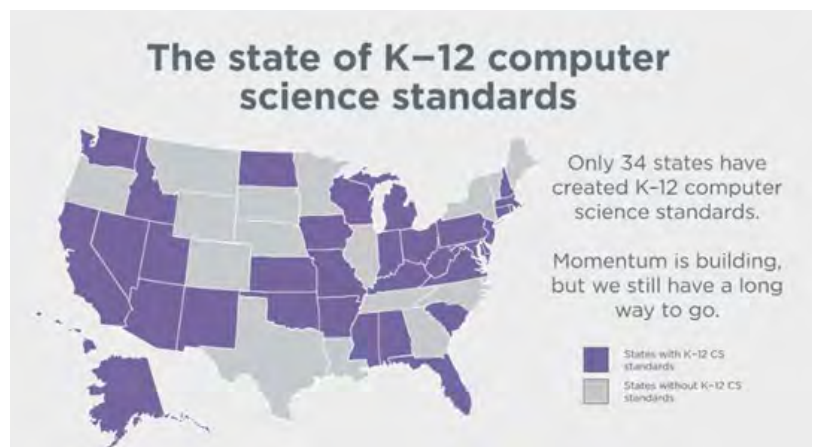
Computer Science in Alaska: YKSD Helping to Lead the Way

Christina Hum, AK Grad
Coordinator & Teacher

Did you know that Alaska has adopted computer science standards for our students? They can be accessed on the Alaska State Department of Education website.

<https://education.alaska.gov/standards/computer-science>

But did you also know that our YKSD students have already begun learning these Computer Science Standards?



Computer Science in Alaska continued

Christina Hum, AK Grad Coordinator & Teacher



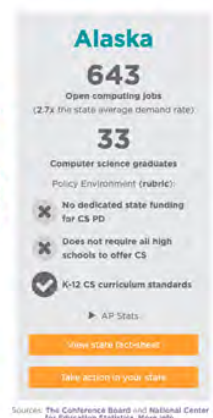
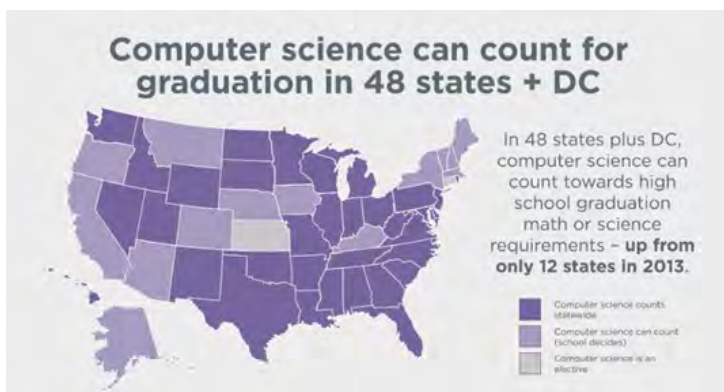
Students from Nulato, Huslia, Rampart, Hughes, Kaltag, Ruby and Minto have students participating in Code.Org courses learning basic coding and how to think, collaborate and create like computer scientists, the core components of Alaska State Computer Science Standards. Teachers have been meeting through Videoconference to learn how to help their students as they learn, often learning right

along-side them. Code.org curriculum encourages students and teachers to get interested in Computer Science, while teaching valuable problem solving, collaboration, communication and creativity required in all subject areas and definitely needed for future employment.



Code.Org shares that 500,000 current job openings are computer science jobs, and of those there are currently 643 available positions, and only 33 computer science graduates. I want to take a moment to celebrate our amazing teachers and students who have jumped in to begin this learning journey: Judy Madros, Christi Nixon, Annette Moses, Tim Main, Hannah Graham, Noah Graham, Sara Titus, and Peggy Bruno. Our next steps are to include a computer science course as part of our high school course electives. Many states in the US have already begun to count Computer Science towards graduation.

Choose a State

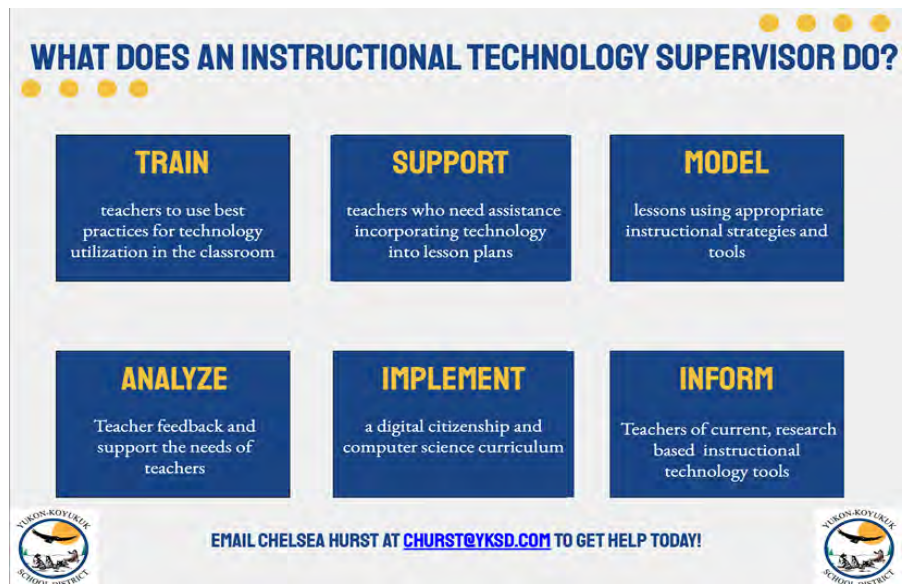


Happy Holidays

What Does an Instructional Supervisor Do?

Chelsea Hurst, Instructional Technology Supervisor

Welcome Chelsea Hurst, the new Instructional Technology Supervisor at the district office. The primary role of this position is to provide personalized support to teachers in their instructional planning endeavors. Reference the picture below to determine how you can best utilize the new Instructional Technology Supervisor.



Hour of Code

Chelsea Hurst, Instructional Technology Supervisor



During the month of December, Code.org, a national nonprofit organization, will host a global event: Hour of Code. The purpose of Hour of Code is to promote computer science in classrooms across the globe. Code.org believes that all students should have access to computer science courses in the same capacity as algebra or biology. Not only does coding allow students to engage in a technology driven society, but gain essential problem solving skills necessary for the real world. On December 13th, YKSD will host a District Wide Hour of Code. During the Hour of Code, students will put their creativity and problem solving ability to the test while designing their own mobile app!

YKSD Goose Chase

Chelsea Hurst, Instructional Technology Supervisor

The holidays are here and it's time to spread some district wide cheer! You work hard every day and now it's time to relax and play. Join us for a holiday Goose Chase and there may be special bragging rights for first place!

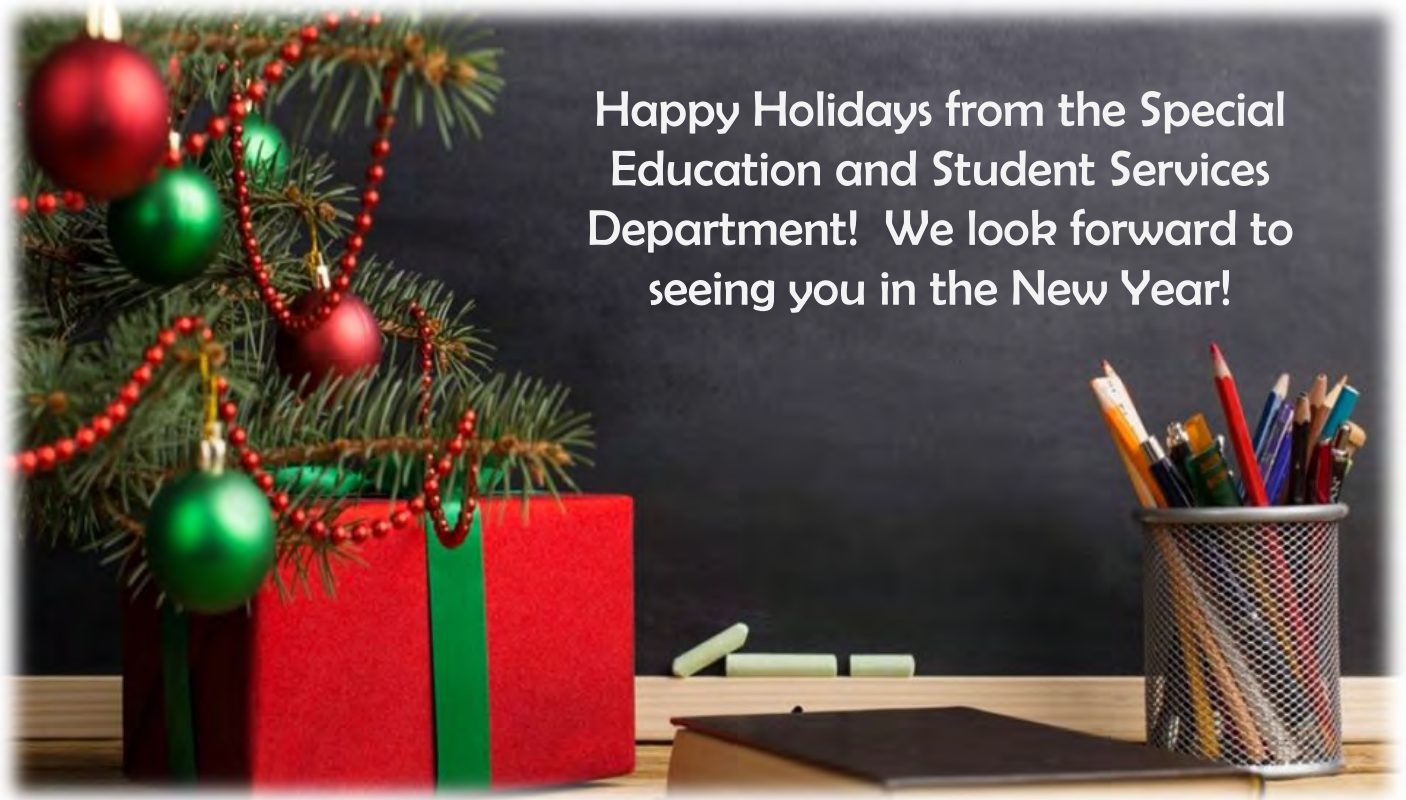
The holiday Goose Chase will run from December 16th through January 10th.

More information on how to play will be sent via email.



Counselors Corner

Cristina Welker, Special Education and
Support Services Director



Happy Holidays from the Special
Education and Student Services
Department! We look forward to
seeing you in the New Year!

Red Ribbon Week

Jolene McGinty,
Counselor



Happy Holidays All! How is the first semester over already? Everyone must be keeping busy and working hard. Special shout out to Ruby, Koyukuk, Nulato and Kaltag staff and students! Our students have been working hard not only on their regular classroom studies but also on Counseling Department curriculum. The Elementary students have been doing Second Step lessons and the middle and high school students are continuing with the 4th R curriculum.

During October, we celebrated the National campaign, **RED RIBBON WEEK** by doing lessons on anti-substance abuse as well as anti-bullying in our schools. Each school got a box of red ribbon week bling to wear and play with. Some of the noise makers in the gift bags were not so easily won over by our staff, but it was all in good fun for the kids.

Wishing everyone a safe and great Holiday Season ❄️

A Beautiful, Wonderful, Opportunity to Help and Serve

Philip Ransbottom,
Counselor



A First Year in Alaska, A Newbie to the Village Cultures, A Lot of Firsts!

So, I find myself facing an entirely new and different way of life. As an educator and school counselor for the better part of 18 years, all of which were spent in my home town of Ormond Beach Florida, I had this desire to experience something “out of the box” if you will in my profession. I had a longtime friend tell me of the opportunities for educators up here in Alaska and after a few years of contemplation, I realized that yes this is just the “out of the box” experience and opportunity I was looking for. So this Florida boy packed up his truck and a trailer and trekked across the country and through Canada all the way to Fairbanks Alaska for the amazing opportunity to be an itinerant school counselor for three village schools in the Yukon-Koyukuk School District.

So a lot of firsts with a very steep learning curve. First small plane trip (of my life) out to my first village of Huslia to ride in the back of a pick-up from the air strip to my first day on the job at the Jimmy Huntington School. What an amazing experience introducing myself to the classes and students and realizing that, even in this different culture, kids are really still kids. Seeing and displaying the connections these students have with each other and their teachers through my puzzle activity with the little ones and my paper airplane introduction activity with the older kiddos. I attempted to take a walk around to soak in all I could about village life, that walk lasted approximately 18 seconds. Who knew that mosquitos here in Alaska are the size of hummingbirds and the gnats swarm in millions in search of fresh Florida boy blood. I learned and was able to borrow a “net” hoodie jacket (didn’t know this apparel existed) from my wonderfully gracious principal and made that stroll around the village the next day. These and other lessons learned made my next two visits to my other two schools a little more efficient as I gained knowledge about “totes”, “extra weight”, “noise cancelling headphones” and how to pack lighter for my stay at the schools. Everyone here in the district office have been extremely helpful and encouraging that I will survive and can do this!!! I am just very excited about building these relationships with all of my wonderful students and colleagues.

By the way, “winterizing” your vehicle is an expensive necessity and a “remote” start is a luxury well worth the price!!!



ALICE Certification

Cristina Welker, Special Education &
Support Services Director

CONGRATULATIONS
to ALL YKSD STAFF
for participating in the ALICE training
and ensuring our success with our
Organizational Certification!



Recognizing Emotions

Elementary students in Rampart and Minto learned about emotions and have been practicing identifying the different emotions. Older students colored, cut out, and created a dice with a different emotion on each side of the die. Students then paired up and rolled the die to identify the emotion. To make things more difficult students had to identify a time when they felt that way and how they addressed this emotion. The younger students identified feelings on pumpkin pie faces and then created their own pumpkin pie faces with their emotion!



Patty Woody,
CTE Coordinator

Business Office

Kristen Winters,
Chief Financial Officer



Merry Christmas

from the Business Office

Business Office team: Back row: Victoria Patsy, Andie Levesque, Kyle Crane, Rachel Spencer, Kathy Steckel, Susan Erickson. Front row: Patty Hill and Kristen Winters

Food Service

Rachel Spencer,
Food Service Specialist

LET'S EAT MORE of ALASKA'S TRADITIONAL FOODS!

You can donate hunted and gathered foods to food service programs, senior meals, food banks, schools, hospitals, etc.

Help keep Alaskans healthy by sharing our local foods!

HOW TO DONATE:

- **Meats:** whole, quartered, or roasts
- **Fish:** gutted and gilled, with or without heads
- **Plants:** whole, fresh or frozen



DONATE THESE:

- Most wild game meat
- Fish
- Seafood (excluding molluscan shellfish)
- Marine mammal meat and fat (maktak and seal meat).
- Plants, including fiddlehead and sourdock
- Berries
- Mushrooms
- Eggs (whole, intact, and raw)



NOT THESE:

- Fox, polar bear, bear, and walrus meat
- Seal oil or whale oil, with or without meat
- Fermented game meat (beaver tail, whale flipper, seal flipper, maktak, and walrus)
- Homemade canned or vacuum sealed foods
- Smoked or dried seafood products, unless those products are prepared in a seafood processing facility permitted under 18 AAC 34
- Fermented seafood products (salmon eggs, fish heads, and other)
- Molluscan shellfish



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT:

http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/fss/food/traditional_foods.html
<http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/elders/traditionalfoods>



This project was supported, in part by grant number, 90010004/03 from the U.S. ACL/Administration on Aging, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201.

LET'S EAT MORE of ALASKA'S TRADITIONAL FOODS!

ACCEPTING DONATIONS

- **Meats:** whole, quartered, or roasts
- **Fish:** gutted and gilled, with or without heads
- **Plants:** whole, fresh or frozen

The hunter/fisher and food service program must confirm that:

- The animal was not diseased
- The food was butchered, dressed, transported, and stored to prevent contamination, undesirable microbial growth, or deterioration
- The food will not cause a significant health hazard or potential for human illness

When donating game meat, a transfer of possession form is required from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/wildliferegulations/pdfs/transfer.pdf>. If you have questions about the safety of donated game/fish/seafood, contact Fish and Game or the Department of Environmental Conservation.

PREPARATION

- Donated meat, fish, berries, and plants can be further prepared on site to incorporate into existing recipes, such as grinding moose to make spaghetti or cutting caribou into smaller pieces for a stew
- Donated meats can be prepared using the same equipment and area as other raw meats such as beef or poultry
- Wild mushrooms must be identified with the common and usual name of the mushroom and the statement "Wild mushrooms; not an inspected product" when served

FOOD STORAGE

- Label donated seafood and game meat with the name of the food and date
- Store donated foods separately from other food using a separate compartment, container, or shelf in the freezer or refrigerator
- Vacuum packaging and quickly freezing received donations on site is permitted
- Including the provider's name, date, and food name on the food label is recommended

PROCESSING

- Process donated meats similar to other raw meats or poultry
- To prevent cross-contamination, prepare or process raw foods at a different time than meal preparation or in a separate space.
- Clean and sanitize food-contact surfaces of equipment and utensils after processing the food, just as you would with poultry
- If the facility wishes to can foods or process prohibited foods such as seal oil, apply for a variance through the [Alaska DEC](http://dec.alaska.gov). Keep the website link.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT:
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<http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/elders/traditionalfoods>



FOOD BANK
of ALASKA



ALASKA
CHILD
NUTRITION PROGRAMS



NIMS



ALASKA NATIVE
TRIBAL HEALTH
CONSORTIUM



UAA
National Resource Center
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE



Department of
Health Sciences
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE



UAA Institute for
Circumpolar Health Studies
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

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Johnny Oldman School

Patty White, Principal



Johnny Oldman School has had a busy November. We hosted the first ever Basketball Game in Hughes. We had a huge community turnout and a wonderful time with the Allakaket team. Then the students performed a traditional Athabascan Folktale based on the story of the Porcupine as a play for the community. Finally, we are thankful this season for our brand new keyboards

and electric drum set that we were able to purchase due to a grant from Doyan.



Starting last year, every Tuesday after school we hold Technology Club, wherein the focus is on Engineering and computer coding. So far this year, the students have built their own website using HTML and CSS fundamentals, and have also dabbled in JavaScript with an online program called CodeCombat. Recently, YKSD purchased a few Piper Computer Kits for the students. With these kits, the students must build their own computer with the provided supplies (Mechanical Engineering), wire/configure their own inputs/outputs for the computer board (Electrical Engineering), and can learn basic programming/sequencing with the included software. It is a tremendously engaging activity that has the students' collective excitement off the charts! Thanks to all who

helped make these opportunities for our students!





Rampart School

Matthew Dawson,
Principal and Teacher

This month, the middle school and high school students have been working on making snowshoes. Different stages include weaving, varnishing, and attaching the bindings.

We'll have them complete in time for the new year.





Minto School

Peggy Bruno, Teacher

I believe most people learn more by doing things rather than by just reading, watching or hearing about it. Because of this belief, I, provide hands-on learning activities particularly in teaching science. I support the experts who believe in a total student learning experience. These experiences enhance critical thinking, reliance on evidence, and encourages independent thinking. I also believe hands-on science increases students' motivation to learn and builds perception, creativity, and logic. You can't dismiss the curiosity.

Following a spider lesson from Wonders, the students wanted to learn more. We decided to dissect a few tarantula molts.



Keeping Busy in Minto

Vicky Charlie, Principal

"Math is hard for many students. In Minto students have been taking their education in math more seriously over the last few weeks in preparation for finals. I appreciate my students, thank you guys for rising to the occasion, especially the seniors." Kassi Saiki, Math/Science Teacher

We have been very busy at Minto School, not only with academics, but many after school activities. Students have been fundraising for field trips by selling desserts and dinners. We held a Pastries for Parents at the end of November, we also served pancakes and eggs. It was wonderful to see over 20 parents come eat breakfast with their child. Our middle school basketball season concluded in November, we have two 8th grade boys who will participate in high school basketball. The high school students started practice in early December. They will be traveling to Dillingham in January for a tournament. In December we are hosting a Bazaar, the premiere of Attla, Spirit Week, an Alumni basketball game and our school Christmas Program to end the semester.



Minto School continued

Mickey Kenny, Teacher

We had one of our local elders and LCE (Local Cultural Expert), Lloyd Charlie, come into class and help kids cut up, season, and smoke some moose meat with our middle and high school students. As you can see, the kids were all smiles.



Jewel Alexander



Robbie David



Chad Roberts



Ella B. Vernetti School

Patty White, Principal

Ella B. Vernetti School hosted a community Halloween Carnival on October 31. Students and community members enjoyed games, a cake walk, and a costume contest! Students also enjoyed a fun night of learning at the STREAM Pirate Night on November 5. We had great participation from students and families. A big thank you to Sarah Henderson who coordinated the event!

Middle school students flew to Nulato for a Basketball tournament on November 15 and some Nulato students came to Koyukuk on November 20 to play again. A great time was had by all! A big thank you to Andrea Durny, Arnold Huntington and all who helped to make the basketball games possible.



Jimmy Huntington School

Casey Weter, Principal



Jimmy Huntington School had out annual Thanksgiving program on November 27, 2019. All the students shared something they are thankful for and the staff presented the YKSD sweaters to the students from the school board.



Jimmy Huntington School hosted a Jr. High Tournament, we had teams from Allakaket, Hughes, Galena, and Nulato.





Merrelaine A. Kangas School

Pre-K to 2nd Grade

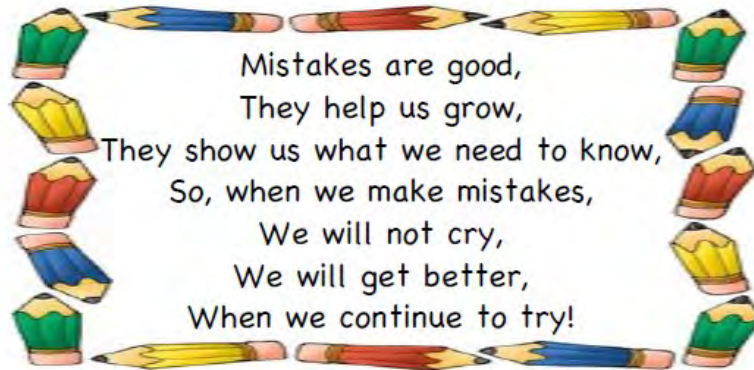
Dee Washburn, Teacher

New Baby

Congratulations lil' Vic! The class, with the help of Miss Jae, made a beautiful blanket and pillow for his lil' sis.



Mistakes



Class Rules

Treat others the way we would want others to treat us and take care of our stuff.



Friends working and playing together!

Merrelaine A. Kangas School continued

Dee Washburn, Teacher

Reading

Wow! We are learning the letters and the letter sounds quickly. We will be reading before you know it.

Fieldtrip

We were able to go watch as Mr. Day's class dissected a starfish. The students can't wait to be in Mr. Day's class! It was a little stinky but working with our big brother was really cool. It was also interesting to watch.



Growing



We are really getting good at listening when Mrs. Washburn is teaching!



It is getting easier to jumprope, cut on the lines, and hit a ball!

Merrelaine A. Kangas School continued

Dee Washburn, Teacher

A-CHILL

We are participating in the A-CHILL, Alaska- Care and Husbandry Instruction for Lifelong Living, a program started by George Attla. We had a visitor from A-CHILL, Mari hoe-Raitto, come to the school. We had a great time while she was here.



We learned a few mushing commands, made neck warmers, and learned about dog care.

Elders

I am looking for experts in beading, basket making, kuspik makers, and anything else that you believe might add to the rich culture our students come from. I would like to bring you into our classroom!

Homework

Please make sure your child is reading, writing, and working with numbers for 30 minutes a night. I like to break this time up with 10 minutes of reading, 10 minutes of writing, and 10 minutes of number work.

Remember, math is just patterns. There are 10 digits, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. Everything else is just a pattern.



Merrelaine A. Kangas School continued

Michael Day,
Principal and Teacher

3rd to 5th Grade ~ Mrs. Titus



Mrs. Titus's class has been continued working with STEM, this is still the biggest highlight of their week. This quarter was all about water polymer! The kids played with "snow" and water gel. We even tore open diapers and found the secret to those leak-proof babies. The secret of superabsorbent, disposable diapers are the tiny crystals that are actually in the lining of the diaper. They are made out of a safe, nontoxic polymer that absorbs moisture away from the baby's skin. This amazing polymer changed the way parents care for their babies, and scientists continue to find new uses for these superabsorbent polymers.

Her class then moved into slime and discovered that polymer is the hidden agent that makes slime a success. The kids can't decide if they like string slime or super slime better - but why do we have to decide when we can play with both?



Her class has also been enjoying art with Rocky this quarter. They made fantastic oil pastels to auction at our community art night. We're now creating paper confetti everyday as we make endless snowflakes.

Her students have also been buddy reading with the primary grade students. This continues to be a fun activity with both her class and Mrs. Washburn's class.

6th to 10th Grade ~ Mrs. Brown

Mrs. Brown's class had a lot of fun this semester learning about their culture and how to use technology. At the beginning of the semester the students cleaned a moose hide in preparation for tanning this spring. Shortly after, moose and caribou meat were donated, and we were able to work the hindquarters as a class for our school. They had amazing clay classes with Mr. Sarten, learning about clay and how to use it to make beautiful clay pots and Knick Knacks. Also, they have been out taking photos of their village, how they see their village. It was a cold dark snowy morning, the students loaded up with cameras around their neck. They headed out to take photos. They had a blast and we all learned a lot from each other. The next step is to have students enter their photos into the Idida contest. Finally, we are getting ready for our Christmas play... "The Polar Express" to be held on December 17, 2019. We are looking forward to the new year and a new semester of fun learning.





Merrelaine A. Kangas School continued

Michael Day,
Principal and Teacher

6th to 10th Grade ~ Mr. Day

This past quarter the students are working hard in math, biology, and wood shop. At the end of each unit the students are able to dissect various organisms. They have so far dissected a frog and a starfish. They keep asking when they can dissect the “large” rat. I keep telling them that we won’t do the rat until the first of May. (It’s kind of like dangling a carrot in front of a horse the keep him going.) The wood shop is slowly coming together. We took a break from cleaning up the shop and during the month of October they worked on their Adirondack Chairs. They were very excited when they finally got to bring them home. After that it was back to organizing the shop. One of the main issues was where were the students going to be able to do some of the smaller projects. We decided to start working on their worktables. I foresee the students finishing them up just before Christmas break or as soon as we return. Below are the pictures of the students doing the frog dissection and workbenches. Mrs Washburn’s class joined our students in this project. It allowed the older students to show the younger ones what we are doing. One of the Kindergarten students stated that he can’t wait to be in biology so he can dissect stuff also.

We are looking forward to the next semester.



School happenings

November 11th

The students honored all the community Veterans by hosting our yearly veteran’s luncheon. We had a wonderful turnout, and everyone had a fantastic time together.

November 22nd

The students decided to have a fund raiser and raffled off two complete Thanksgiving dinners with a Turkey and all the fixings.

December 17th

Community dinner and School Play. The students will present to community “The Polar Express.” We are very excited for this to take place. The students have been working very hard on the play.

After school activities

Archery Club

We meet every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday after school. We have 6 students who have decided to participate in the club. We have earned approximately \$2500 dollars so far and have a total of \$6500 in the student account.

Inspirational thought

When an adult decides to be a role model for a child, they are inspiring that child to become successful in whatever they decide to do.

Andrew K. Demoski School

Shaine Nixon, Principal

The past month at Andrew K Demoski has been a whirlwind. Students have been busy participating in **electronic gaming** competitions with students from Alaska, Hawaii, and Colorado. Go Wolves! Eight students traveled to the shootout for some great **basketball** moments. We are looking forward to high school basketball and the Regional Tournament. **ACHILL** students have turned the corner with their dog mushing team and the intros of a new lead dog. MUSH! **November** saw Thanksgiving Lunch with elders and the community which was a great event this year. Finally, we celebrated **Christmas** and saw students singing, dancing, and putting on skits. Thank you to all the volunteers and participants who help make learning a wonderful experience at Andrew K Demoski.

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!



Hard Workers!

Josephine McGinty,
Principal Aide

Mrs. Judy Madros' class working diligently working to become readers, writers, artists (with the help of rocky). All students improving math, reading, writing skills. Students are: Ruth Ann Attla, Felicity Alexie, Ryan Pitka, Vivienne Wofford, Cassidy Ekada, Bode Patsy.





Kaltag School

Charles Burns, Principal

Greetings from Kaltag! It has been an exciting and fruitful second quarter! Our student attendance is still fantastic! We have a 96% attendance rate so far this year; our students are great at showing up and working hard.

Our Halloween carnival was a huge success. Many community members participated and everyone had a good time.

Our e-sports team has participated in four matches. They are learning cooperation and teamwork while competing with opponents that are older students from larger schools.

Mari Hoe-Raitto from A-CHILL visited our school and worked with our students and with Noah and Hannah Graham to lay the foundation of a skijoring program. The Graham's dogs, Tori and Penny, are the perfect size and temperament.

Several of our students have participated in basketball and have demonstrated their solid skills and sportsmanship!

The community Thanksgiving dinner went very well and many delicious dishes were shared!

We will be holding a community arts and crafts night Wednesday, December 18th to create wonderful holiday decorations for the home.



Allakaket School

Larry Parker,
Principal



YKSD and Allakaket Staff would like to extend a warm welcome to two new staff members, Mrs. Judith Withers and Ms. Terri Schuetz. Mrs. Withers traveled from Pasco, Washington and is our 3-5 grade teacher. This is her first-year teaching. Ms. Schuetz traveled from Copperopolis, California and is the Special Education/classroom teacher. She has been in the education field for 18 years.



Mrs. Withers



Ms. Schuetz

Rebecca Linus started a ladies' sewing group inviting ladies in the community and school staff members. This year, the group is making aprons for the Elder female community members and beaded keychains for the Elder men as gifts to present for Allakaket Elders' Day Celebration.



YKSD and Allakaket School are excited about the major renovations happening at Allakaket. All classrooms have new SmartTVs installed and the elementary classrooms have bathrooms in their classrooms.



New insulation being installed in the gym.



The K-2 classroom has a Pre-K classroom/Breakout Room which has been a great addition to the classroom.



The first week of school, the upper elementary students created a Venn Diagram discussing the old and new classroom furniture, lights, carpet, cabinetry, and windows. They were allowed to open the cabinets and closet to become familiar with their new surroundings.

Allakaket School continued

Larry Parker,
Principal



Allakaket School renovation is coming along very well. Students, parents, staff, and community members are very excited about getting the new facilities. Phase one should be complete around Christmas. We all are looking forward to the completion of the new classroom, office, commons area, and kitchen.

Due to delay of the arrival of renovation materials, we had to postpone the start date of school for one week. We had our first successful Saturday make-up day on November 2nd.

On November 8th-9th, Coach Bailey and chaperone Terri Schuetz, traveled with six of our middle school students (four boys and two girls) to Huslia for a basketball tournament. Both coach and chaperone mentioned the students had a good experience and represented the school well. Thank you to Huslia for hosting the tournament and taking care of the students.

On November 22nd-23rd, Coach Bailey traveled with our middle school basketball team to Hughes. The Hughes teachers and the community were excellent hosts. A great time was had by all in attendance.

We had our Holiday Community Dinner on Tuesday, November 26th. It was a success! We had around 70 adults plus several students attend. Staff members pitched in by cooking the turkeys, rolls, mashed potatoes, gravy, fruit salad, and dessert. There was plenty for seconds and community members were leaving with leftovers. I received many compliments from community members about the dinner and the school. A huge thank you to the staff for pulling together and making this dinner happen despite the construction zone!

We should be able to have "Open Gym" (half court) for the community during Christmas break and will continue once school is back in session.

Allakaket Happenings

Sarah Bailey, Teacher

Allakaket School has been quite excited to be able to participate in Basketball this season, despite the renovations. Sterling Bailey and Brad Fox have graciously been working with our students. They were able to attend games at Huslia and Hughes, and are also headed to Minto for the shoot-out tournament. We have gotten quite a bit of snow here, three feet to be precise. We were able to host our annual Thanksgiving feast the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, and we are looking forward to our Christmas Program. The inside renovations should be completed by the first of the year, which means that our cook, principal, secretary, reading specialist, and special education will all finally get their new spaces!





Raven Homeschool

Luke Meinert,
Assistant Superintendent

Enrollments

Enrollment counts for Raven are holding strong at above 1700 students. Wasilla is our largest office with over 400 students, closely followed by our Fairbanks and Anchorage offices. Our Delta office has seen our largest increase, and our teacher Heidi Richards is doing incredibly well given how many students and families she has!

Anchorage, Delta and Fairbanks Highlights

Despite being early in the school year, the Raven staff and students in the Anchorage, Delta and Fairbanks offices are looking toward the future. The counselor and grad coach have been instrumental in creating workshops focused on FAFSA, SAT/ACT prep, trade and union opportunities, mock interview sessions and resume building.

The focus in all the offices is the holiday seasons. There are many great ideas on ways to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas with our Raven families.

November: The Delta office created an interactive Thankfulness Tree where visitors reflected on things they are thankful for and they had an opportunity to read entries from other families. All offices tried to help save Tom the Turkey from being eaten on Thanksgiving by helping Tom go undercover by creating a disguise. Children creatively dressed up their coloring sheet turkey and submitted a picture or deliver the turkey to each office where staff voted on the best submission. Anchorage and Fairbank's offices got into the spirit of giving by holding a Reverse Advent Calendar Food Drive to support their local foodbanks which help many families in need.

December: The Fairbanks office is hosting Christmas Around the World with a holiday door decoration contest, activities/crafts, and food relating to a global theme. Delta will host a holiday open house meet and greet filled with holiday craft decorating, potluck and Christmas storytelling. The Grinch is scheduled to make an appearance in Anchorage where students will watch a movie starring "The Grinch" while enjoying holiday treats and activities. Anchorage and Fairbanks First Lego League teams are working hard preparing for their upcoming competitions in December.

Raven's partnership with the Fairbanks Ice Dogs and UAF Nanooks hockey teams have provided the Fairbanks Raven office with complementary tickets to each home game. The tickets are used as incentives, rewards, and recognition. Families have made a concentrated effort to review the local office Facebook page and weekly Smores to determine ways to get tickets, which has boosted our social media presence.



The offices continue to offer activities for all ages: Lego League, Battle of the Books practice, Sewing Club, Year-book club, Lunch and Learn as well as engaging workshops to provide successful tips to help families thrive.



Raven Homeschool continued

Luke Meinert,
Assistant Superintendent

Wasilla, Eagle River and Juneau Highlights

In **Wasilla** we are thankful that our community has shown their trust in us to provide quality services for their families as demonstrated by our increased enrollment. As staff we are thankful for the increased participation from families in all the expanded activities, we are now able to offer because of our new space. Our families are thankful for the additional administrative assistant support and learning activities that we are now able to offer.

Eagle River is thankful for their involved parents, the prospect of new space, and the opportunity for their students to participate in the Teen Leadership Club and Battle of the Books. Our families and staff are thrilled with the Geography Club as it is cooperative education at its very finest! This could be an exemplar for all of Raven and homeschool in general.

Juneau is thankful for their increased parental involvement in PAC as a result of Raven allowing those dates to be flexible. They are thankful for how their new calendar process is working as it is resulting in increased parental involvement in all offered activities. They are very proud of their yearbook and the success they are having with its second-year implementation. The artwork that was submitted this year has been fabulous.

Raven Photos!



Santa Claus

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

beard
Blitzen
boots
cherry nose
chimney
coal
Comet
cookies

Cupid
Dancer
Dasher
Donner
elves
hat
Ho ho ho
jolly

kindness
letters
list
magic bag
milk
Mrs. Claus
naughty
nice

night
North Pole
Prancer
presents
red suit
reindeer
rooftop
Rudolph

Santa
sleigh
stockings
toymaker
Vixen
workshop

