

March 2020

# Yukon-Koyukuk School District Staff Connections

*Meet our Certified and Classified Employees of the Year!*

Kerry Boyd, Superintendent

## *Certified Employee of the Year*

***Patty White***

*Director of School Operations & Assessments and  
Principal of Johnny Oldman & Ella B. Verneti Schools*



Patty White is diligent in her work and is rarely absent. She is one of the most respected employees within YKSD. She enjoys working with the students, staff and communities alike. Despite being a director, she serves as the principal of two YKSD schools. She seamlessly runs CSC meetings and does an excellent job with assessment, RTI, district and school report cards. She always avails herself whenever anyone needs support and is always willing to lend a helping hand for jobs both big and small. She is knowledgeable about education and serves as a great mentor to everyone in her department.

## *Classified Employee of the Year*

***Rebecca Linus***

*Cook at Allakaket School*

Rebecca Linus serves as the cook at YKSD's school in Allakaket. She is present every day and ready with both a smile and a willingness to serve students a hot breakfast and lunch. She loves her job as evidenced by the care that she puts into preparing meals for the students. Rebecca helps when a student is in need and is an invaluable resource to the school community. In addition to her role as the cook within the school, Rebecca serves the larger community through teaching beading and sewing during ladies sewing nights and is an asset to Allakaket School.



***Congratulations!***



## The Association of Alaska School Boards Proclaims February as School Board Recognition Month

The Association of Alaska School Boards Proclaims February as School Board Recognition Month, a time to honor school board members and to express appreciation for their contributions. The Yukon-Koyukuk School District is joining with other districts throughout Alaska to recognize the important contributions board members make to their communities.

Alaskans benefit every day from the dedicated energies and countless hours devoted by a group of more than 300 men and women across the state. These public servants are elected to serve by local constituents. These men and women are the local school board members of Alaska. They unselfishly contribute their time and talents toward the advancement of public education. They represent a continuing commitment to local citizen control and decision making in education. Even though we are making a special effort during February to show appreciation to our school board members, we recognize their contributions reflect a year-round effort on their part. They are dedicated individuals who are committed to the continuing success of our schools and students.

Please recognize the YKSD Regional School Board for their ongoing service and commitment.

### **Maurice McGinty, Chairperson**

Kaltag, Koyukuk, Nulato and Ruby

### **Fred Bifelt, Vice Chairperson**

Allakaket, Hughes and Huslia

### **Gloria Patsy, Treasurer**

Kaltag, Koyukuk, Nulato and Ruby

### **Shirley Kruger, Secretary**

Kaltag, Koyukuk, Nulato and Ruby

### **Dian Gurtler**

Manley and Minto

### **Wilmer Beetus**

Allakaket, Hughes and Huslia

### **Ruth Folger**

Manley and Minto



# *Board Recognition*

The Yukon-Koyukuk Regional School Board recognizes excellence in students and staff members at each meeting. Congratulations to the people listed below! The following individuals were honored at Board Meeting 362 (January 2020) and 363 (March 2020). We hope that you will continue to strive to meet your goals and continue to be an excellent role model for your peers.

## *Staff*

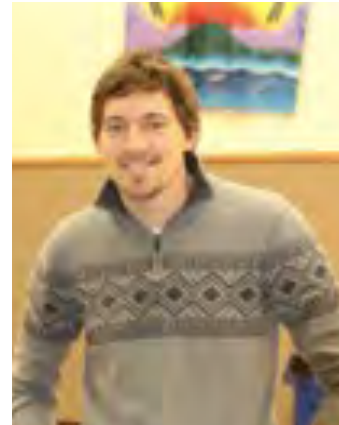
*The following staff members were recognized at Board Meeting 362 for excellent contributions to education:*

### *Certified*



**Cathy Walker**  
Advisory Teacher  
Raven Homeschool ~ Fairbanks  
Board Meeting 362

### *Classified*



**Andrew Bellamy**  
Special Education Paraprofessional  
Johnny Oldman School ~ Hughes  
Board Meeting 362

## *List of Staff Nominees*

### *Board Meeting 362*

#### *Certified:*

**Kelli Biggs** ~ Reading Specialist: Allakaket School

**Noah Graham** ~ Teacher: Kaltag School

**Tim Main** ~ Teacher: Rampart School

#### *Classified:*

**Tom Esmailka** ~ Maintenance: Merriline A. Kangas School (Ruby)

**Johnny Stickman** ~ Bus Driver: Andrew K. Demoski School (Nulato)

# *Board Recognition continued*

## *Staff*

*The following staff members were recognized at Board Meeting 363 for excellent contributions to education:*

### *Certified*



**Jeff Healy**  
Teacher  
Andrew K. Demoski School ~ Nulato  
Board Meeting 363

### *Classified*



**Meagan Mascagno**  
Administrative Assistant  
Raven Homeschool ~ Anchorage  
Board Meeting 363

## *List of Staff Nominees*

### *Board Meeting 363*

#### *Certified:*

**Zonya Harris** ~ Teacher: Kaltag School

#### *Classified:*

**Michelle James** ~ Principal Aide: Rampart School

# *Board Recognition* *continued*

## *Students*

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

### *River School Student Winners*



**Rhea Linus**  
12th Grade  
Allakaket School  
Board Meeting 362



**Nekoya Wiehl**  
7th Grade  
Rampart School  
Board Meeting 363

## *List of All River School Student Nominees*

### *Board Meeting 362*

**Eliotte Lyon** ~ Kindergarten: Jimmy Huntington School (Huslia)  
**Kyron Saunders** ~ Kindergarten: Johnny Oldman School (Hughes)  
**Rayme Lolnitz** ~ Grade 1: Ella B. Verneti School (Koyukuk)  
**Chanaia Ingram** ~ Grade 2: Merriline A. Kangas School (Ruby)  
**Levi Somner** ~ Grade 2: Minto School  
**Ariyah Woods** ~ Grade 2: Rampart School  
**Brayden Nicholas** ~ Grade 4: Kaltag School  
**Kellian Kriska** ~ Grade 6: Andrew K. Demoski School (Nulato)

### *Board Meeting 363*

**Yvonne Chickalusion** ~ Grade 2: Johnny Oldman School (Hughes)  
**Sasha Dayton** ~ Grade 2: Ella B. Verneti School (Koyukuk)  
**Carson Williams** ~ Grade 2: Jimmy Huntington School (Huslia)  
**Curtis Bigfoot** ~ Grade 4: Minto School  
**Gerald Semaken** ~ Grade 5: Andrew K. Demoski School (Nulato)  
**Sidney McCarty** ~ Grade 6: Merriline A. Kangas (Ruby)  
**Keirsten Madros** ~ Grade 7: Kaltag School

## *Students continued*

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

### *Raven Homeschool Student Winners*



**Kainalu Kaio**  
7th Grade  
Raven Homeschool ~ Delta  
Board Meeting 362



**Maddelyn "Maddy" Crim**  
4th Grade  
Raven Homeschool ~ Wasilla  
Board Meeting 363

### *List of All Raven Homeschool Student Nominees*

#### *Board Meeting 362*

**Isaac Zielinski** ~ Grade 2: Raven Homeschool - Anchorage  
**Amelia Knavel** ~ Grade 10: Raven Homeschool - Fairbanks  
**Micah Horning** ~ Grade 10: Raven Homeschool - Wasilla

#### *Board Meeting 363*

**Sunny Dompier** ~ KG: Raven Homeschool - Eagle River  
**Aurora Knavel** ~ Grade 5: Raven Homeschool - Fairbanks  
**Bryce Herda** ~ Grade 7: Raven Homeschool - Anchorage

### *Happenings from the State & Federal Programs Department*

Gina Hrinko, Director of  
State and Federal Programs

Happy ALMOST spring from the Federal Programs department! We all survived the first semester, and are enjoying the first few months of second semester. Thanks to everyone for all their hard work! We hope you all are enjoying the last few days of school before our nice spring break!

#### *Program Highlight*

**Federal Programs Monitor:** We completed our five-year federal programs monitor a couple of weeks ago. A HUGE thank you to the schools that were selected to be interviewed by the EED. You all did a great job showcasing our district, and the Department of ED expressed that they are continually impressed with everything that our district is doing.



STREAM Nights...

are successful because of students,  
parents, and staff of YKSD!

Minto  
Huslia

Kristi Burns,  
Grants Coordinator



## *Fraud Awareness and Why it is Important*

**Kristen Winters,**  
**Chief Financial Officer**

Imposter fraud is on the rise and protecting our School District employees, students and assets is taken very seriously. In 2018 consumers reported losing \$488 million to all types of imposter scams.

Everyone can play a part in protecting sensitive data and information and it is important to know how scammers are getting this information. Examples of imposter fraud currently on the rise include spoofing and phishing.


## Spoofting

Spoofing occurs when a caller disguises the information shown on your caller ID. This gives the caller the ability to disguise or "spoof" the name and/or number to appear as though they are calling as a certain person from a specific location.

## Phishing

In phishing, a scammer impersonates a business or a person to trick you into giving out your personal information, such as passwords, credit card numbers, or bank account information. A scammer may use fraudulent emails, texts, or websites to steal this information from you. These emails can look authentic.

*What can we do? Some of the steps to protect vital information include:*

1. Inform.
    - a. It is important that **EVERYONE** know about imposter fraud and steps they can take to help prevent it from happening.
  2. Stop and verify.
    - a. When adding a new vendor to pay, and especially when a known vendor wants to change anything about their payments, do not use one source of contact to process the change. Contact another person at the vendor site making sure to use a phone number or email already known and on file for that vendor.
    - b. Changes to employee sensitive information must be done through the secure YKSD employee web portal. A follow-up telephone call or email sent to contact information already on file will be done prior to making changes.
    - c. Be alert. Make sure you know who is asking for or getting your personal information.
  3. Remove internal change forms on the Internet that may be accessible to the public.
    - a. Two forms recently moved to the secure employee portal include the deposit change form and address change form.
  4. Keep your personal information secure.
    - a. Lock your financial documents and records in a safe place at home.
    - b. Shred receipts, credit offers, checks, bank statements, insurance forms and other similar documents.
    - c. Do not provide personal or financial information on the phone, through mail or the Internet unless you've initiated contact or know who you are dealing with.
    - d. Do not click on links in an email. Instead, type the company name into your web browser or call the customer service number listed on your account statement.
    - e. Keep passwords private.
- 

**Security and protecting sensitive information is a priority and we must stay vigilant.** If you have questions, concerns or ideas about improving our processes or procedures at YKSD, please speak up and feel free to contact me.



# YKSD April Menu

Rachel Spencer,  
Food Service Specialist



## April

### Breakfast & Lunch Menu Calendar

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer

\*Menu Subject to Change\*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>30-Mar</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	<b>1-Apr</b>	<b>2-Apr</b>	<b>3-Apr</b>
Cinnamon Rolls Strawberries & Cream Peaches 1% & FF Milk	Pancake Sausage Wrap Hash browns Fruit Juice, Pears 1% & FF Milk	Blueberry Pancakes Sausage Applesauce 1% & FF Milk	Breakfast Burrito Mixed Fruit Strawberry & 1% Milk	Banana Bread Smoothies Mixed Fruit 1% & FF Milk
Honey Lemon Salmon Bouillon Rice, Green Beans Mandarin Oranges 1% & FF Milk	Beef Tacos Beans Mixed Fruit 1% & FF Milk	Moose Stew, Breadsticks Baby Carrots Froyo, Peaches 1% & FF Milk	Chicken Alfredo Breadsticks, Corn Pears Chocolate & 1% Milk	Pizza, Salad Baby Carrots Mandarin Oranges 1% & FF Milk
<b>6-Apr</b>	<b>7-Apr</b>	<b>8-Apr</b>	<b>9-Apr</b>	<b>10-Apr</b>
Cinnamon Rolls Strawberries & Cream Sausage Links, Fruit Juice 1% & FF Milk	Pumpkin Pancakes Mandarin Oranges Hashbrowns 1% & FF Milk	Strawberry Oatmeal Sausage Juice 1% & FF Milk	Blueberry Oat Muffin Froyo Pears Chocolate & 1% Milk	Breakfast Burrito Mixed Fruit 1% & FF Milk
Spaghetti, Breadsticks Garden Salad Applesauce 1% & FF Milk	Beef Tacos Beans Peaches 1% & FF Milk	Cheeseburger Baby Carrots Mixed Fruit 1% & FF Milk	Chicken Teriyaki, Rice Mixed Veggies Mandarin Oranges Strawberry & 1% Milk	Chicken Salad Sandwich Corn, Blueberry Cobbler Peaches 1% & FF Milk
<b>13-Apr</b>	<b>14-Apr</b>	<b>15-Apr</b>	<b>16-Apr</b>	<b>17-Apr</b>
Carrot Muffin Sausage, Eggs Applesauce 1% & FF Milk	Banana Bread Smoothies 1% & FF Milk	Pancake Sausage Wrap Mandarin Oranges Hashbrowns 1% & FF Milk	Strawberry Oatmeal Sausage Fruit Juice Strawberry & FF Milk	Blueberry Pancakes Apple Sauce 1% & FF Milk
Cheeseburger Cucumber Peaches 1% & FF Milk	Spaghetti, Breadsticks Corn Mixed Fruit 1% & FF Milk	Chicken Burrito Cucumber Mixed Berry Crisp, Juice 1% & FF Milk	Moose Stew, Breadsticks Baby Carrots Froyo, Blueberries Chocolate & 1% Milk	Pizza, Salad Baby Carrots Mandarin Oranges 1% & FF Milk
<b>20-Apr</b>	<b>21-Apr</b>	<b>22-Apr</b>	<b>23-Apr</b>	<b>24-Apr</b>
Cinnamon Rolls Strawberries & Cream Peaches 1% & FF Milk	Pancake Sausage Wrap Hash browns Fruit Juice, Pears 1% & FF Milk	Blueberry Pancakes Sausage Applesauce 1% & FF Milk	Breakfast Burrito Mixed Fruit Strawberry & 1% Milk	Banana Bread Smoothies Mixed Fruit 1% & FF Milk
Honey Lemon Salmon Bouillon Rice, Green Beans Mandarin Oranges 1% & FF Milk	Beef Tacos Beans Mixed Fruit 1% & FF Milk	Moose Stew, Breadsticks Baby Carrots Froyo, Peaches 1% & FF Milk	Chicken Alfredo Breadsticks, Corn Pears Chocolate & 1% Milk	Pizza, Salad Baby Carrots Mandarin Oranges 1% & FF Milk
<b>27-Apr</b>	<b>28-Apr</b>	<b>29-Apr</b>	<b>30-Apr</b>	<b>1-May</b>
Cinnamon Rolls Strawberries & Cream Sausage Links, Fruit Juice 1% & FF Milk	Pumpkin Pancakes Mandarin Oranges Hashbrowns 1% & FF Milk	Strawberry Oatmeal Sausage Juice 1% & FF Milk	Blueberry Oat Muffin Froyo Pears Chocolate & 1% Milk	Breakfast Burrito Mixed Fruit 1% & FF Milk
Spaghetti, Breadsticks Garden Salad Applesauce 1% & FF Milk	Beef Tacos Beans Peaches 1% & FF Milk	Cheeseburger Baby Carrots Mixed Fruit 1% & FF Milk	Chicken Teriyaki, Rice Mixed Veggies Mandarin Oranges Strawberry & 1% Milk	Chicken Salad Sandwich Corn, Blueberry Cobbler Peaches 1% & FF Milk

\*1 % and Fat free Milk Offered With Every Breakfast & Lunch Meal \*

## *Counseling Corner*

Cristina Welker, Director of Special Education & Support Services

### **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.



### *Healthy Lifestyles & Career Fairs 2020 ~*

#### *Coming to a site near you!!*

**Hughes – March 26**

**Nulato - April 3**

**Allakaket April – 7**

**Ruby – April 17**

**Minto – April 24**

**Huslia - May 6-7**

**\*Please see your site counselor for agendas!**

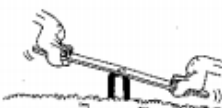


# Home & School

## CONNECTION®

Working Together for School Success

Yukon-Koyukuk School District  
Chane Beam



### SHORT NOTES

#### Excellent attendance

Being in school every day means your child won't miss out on learning. Try to schedule appointments and family trips outside of school hours. If he asks to stay home "just because," remind him of what he'll miss, such as his reading group or PE class. Explain that he can be absent only if he's sick or if there's a family emergency.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Children who regularly eat meals with their families tend to do better in school and avoid risky behavior. Eating dinner together is great, but other meals count, too. If you work at night, maybe you could make time for a family breakfast. Or on a weekend, try a picnic lunch.

#### Celebrate progress

Suggest that your youngster create a fun reminder of all the things she has accomplished. Let her cover a box with construction paper and label it "I did it!" Then, she can write each success ("I learned to add fractions") on a slip of paper and put it in the box. If she's feeling discouraged, have her read the slips.

#### Worth quoting

"The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up!"  
Mark Twain

### JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** Can a kangaroo jump higher than the Empire State Building?

**A:** Of course. The Empire State Building can't jump!



## Conversations about school

When you think of parent involvement, do you picture moms and dads volunteering in classrooms? That's one way to help—but research shows that supporting your child's education at home is even more important. Here are conversation starters that will help you stay involved.

#### "Let's see what you brought home."

Look at completed work to find out what your youngster is learning and how well she's doing. You could comment on her math work or social studies project, for instance. ("You know a lot about our state's history!") Also, respond to notes from her teacher, and sign her weekly folder or daily planner if required.

#### "Show me what you have for homework."

It's your child's job to do her homework, but you play a role, too. Make sure she knows what she's supposed to do by having her explain the assignments to you. After she finishes her homework, glance over the work to see that it's complete.

#### "Describe a book you enjoyed today."

This gives you an idea of what your youngster prefers to read. Then, build a daily reading habit by asking what she'd like to read tonight. Encourage her reading and listening skills by reading aloud to her and letting her read to you.

#### "Tell me what you learned that you'd like to know more about."

Use her interests as jumping-off points for activities to share. If she likes geometry, you might hunt for



shapes together. If she's fascinated by how animals adapt to winter, take her to the library to research the subject or to the zoo to see live animals.♥

### After-school questions

Asking "How was school today?" might not get you far. Instead, ask questions like these for a better picture of your youngster's day:

- "What's the coolest thing that happened today?"
- "Pretend you're the teacher. How would you describe the day?"
- "What made you laugh?"
- "What was the most creative thing you did?"
- "How were you kind or helpful today? How was someone kind or helpful to you?" ♥



## What does respect look like?

Your youngster's daily dealings with adults and kids alike will be more pleasant if he speaks and acts respectfully. Try these tips for helping him learn about respect.

**Respectful replies.** Think about something that you and your youngster disagree on (say, whether his video game time should be limited). Model having a respectful discussion about it. You might say that his brain and body are growing and that he needs to run and play to stay healthy. Then, suggest a respectful response, such



as, "I want to be healthy, but I love video games."

Have him brainstorm other situations where people have different opinions but still speak to each other with respect.

**Everyday acts.** When you mow the lawn or clean up after your dog, you can teach your child about respect for neighbors.

Explain that keeping your neighborhood clean and neat makes it nice for everyone. Ask him to think of other respectful things neighbors should do. If you share an apartment laundry room, he might say that you respect neighbors' time by removing your clothes when they're done so others get to use the washers and dryers.♥

## A reading challenge

By reading more complex books, your child can learn new words, facts, and ideas. He'll also be exposed to more complicated plots and will grow as a reader. Share these suggestions:

- Knowing something about the topic or setting makes a tougher book easier to comprehend. If your youngster is reading a novel set in China, he could talk to someone who has been there or look up the country online (try a children's site like [kids.nationalgeographic.com](http://kids.nationalgeographic.com)).



- Encourage your child to look at a simpler book on the same subject. A picture-book biography about Harriet Tubman may help your youngster better understand a textbook chapter on the civil rights movement, for instance.

- Suggest that your child read complicated material with pencil and paper in hand. He can jot down questions, words to look up, or facts he wants to learn more about.♥

### OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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## Strong study habits

**Q:** My third grader has to spend more time studying this year. How can I make sure she studies effectively?

**A:** Set your daughter up for success by helping her find a distraction-free study spot. Also, have her come up with a study routine. For instance, she could reserve time each evening to review her textbook and notes in the days leading up to a test.

Also, many students find it helpful to jot down a purpose each time they study. Your child might write: "I will learn the definitions of all the boldfaced words in chapter 7, section 1."

Finally, encourage her to experiment with study strategies to find what works best. She could close her eyes and imagine how a word is spelled or draw a grid with 9 squares to solve 3 x 3. Or she might find it helpful to spell or recite math facts aloud in rhythm or to a familiar tune.♥



## PARENT TO PARENT

### Talking to kids about money

My children were always asking to buy things like dress-up shoes or new games. They didn't seem to understand that these items weren't in our budget.

I wanted them to learn about how we spend our money—and that it is limited. So I got a spiral notebook and labeled it "Family Spending Journal." I explained that for two weeks, everyone would keep a record of what they spent money on. I listed items like my

subway fare, the electric bill, and food at the grocery store. The children wrote down expenses such as school lunch, soccer cleats, and field trip fees.

After a few days, they were surprised by how many things we needed money for. Our kids had no idea, for example, that we paid for taxes on our income, several types of insurance, and membership in our homeowners' association. Sometimes they still ask to buy too many things at the store, but when I say no, at least they understand why.♥



## *Educators Rising State Conference*

Patty Woody,  
CTE Coordinator

On March 1-3, 2020, four students from across our district participated in the Educators Rising State Conference. Educators Rising is a student organization focused on helping students learn more about being an educator.

One student from Minto, one student from Juneau, and two students from Huslia took part in this conference. During the conference students participated in workshops focused on helping them learn about being an educator, toured the UAF campus, and learned from educational leaders from our state including the Alaska Teacher of the Year!



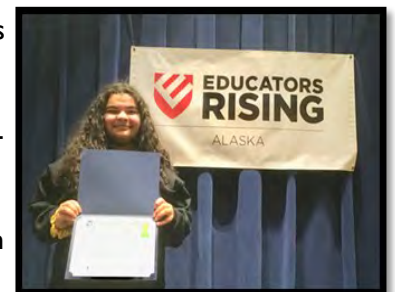
Additionally, students had the opportunity to take part in competitions focused on developing skills necessary for the classroom. Two of the students competed in Children's Literature for kindergarten to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. For this competition the students wrote and illustrated an original book for children in kindergarten to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. The participants then read the book to students, read the book to the judges, and shared their experience with the judges. Both students created amazing books! One of the students participated in Lesson Planning for Arts and the other one participated in Lesson Planning for STEM. With both of the Lesson Planning competitions, students created a lesson plan, which included objectives and goals, assessments, step-by-step directions, materials, and alignment to standards. Following the lesson plan the students went into a classroom and taught the lesson, while being videotaped. A 10-minute video overview of the lesson was provided to the judges as the students presented what they learned from the experience, what went well, and what they would change.

### *Congratulations!*

**Jemima Verebasaga** from Raven Juneau for placing 5<sup>th</sup> in state for Children's Literature K-3.

**Molly Penn** from Jimmy Huntington School for placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in state for Lesson Planning for Arts.

**Jordan David** from Jimmy Huntington School for placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in state for Lesson Planning for STEM.



These three students qualify to attend and participate in the competitions at the National Educators Rising Conference in Washington D.C. on June 17-20, 2020!



## Technology Corner

Chelsea Hurst, Instructional Technology Supervisor

In January, several teachers across the district participated in the Code.org sessions at the RTI/MTSS Conference in Anchorage. During the Code.org sessions, teachers learned how to successfully deliver an entire Code.org lesson with no coding experience required! Teachers enjoyed playing the part of a student to experience unplugged and plugged Code.org lessons. Teachers will continue to be exposed to Code.org to bring Computer Science to every classroom across YKSD.



February 2020

# TECH TUESDAY

Yukon-Koyukuk School District

### TRENDING THIS WEEK

Hyped about HyperDocs! Try these activities with your class today.

**Fractions Game Board**  
What's in a Name?

Want something else? [Click here to find more Hyperdocs](#)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, February 10:**  
New year, New Gmail: Organization Tip! (3:45-4:15)

**Tuesday, February 25th**  
Iditarod Google Slides Activity  
(Pre-Recorded-Teachers who sign up will receive the video)

### ASDNI WEBINARS

YKSD Teachers can attend ASDNI webinar series for FREE! Does a topic interest you? Click on the title of the webinar and you will be taken to a link to find out more information.

- Evidence-Based Practices to Enhance Student Learning W320
- Evidence-Based Strategies for Improving Early Literacy
- Building Resilience in Students Impacted by Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Combating Learned Helplessness in the Math Classroom

### IN THE SPOTLIGHT...

Judith-Hope Bates' 3rd-8th grade students in Hughes practicing Denoak's food vocabulary, teamwork and sportsmanship with Quizlet Live!

### CONTACT ME

Email:  
[churst@yksd.com](mailto:churst@yksd.com)

Digital Feedback Box:  
<https://forms.gle/c1rBfEZ61nm9Kg17>

Good Idea

So far, I have enjoyed presenting at PLCs, Inservices and at my own Tech Tuesday video conferences. On the first Tuesday of each month, I send a Tech Tuesday Newsletter with quick tips to enhance technology in your classroom and two Tech Tuesday workshop dates. If you're interested in receiving more information or have a workshop topic suggestion, please feel free to reach out to me!

With the Iditarod quickly approaching, have your students engage in The Great Serum Race Choose Your Own Adventure using Google Slides. In Present Mode, your students will make important decisions to deliver serum the Nome. Will they be successful? [See the link below](#) to access the Google Slideshow. If your students enjoyed this activity, have them create their own Google Slides Choose Your Own Adventure using the graphic organizer [using the link below](#).

Slide Show

Graphic Organizer

## The Great Serum Race

Choose Your Own Adventure Slideshow

# Distance Education

Nicholas Graves,  
AK Grad Teacher

## HOW TO HELP A STUDENT WHO'S STRUGGLING WITH THEIR ONLINE COURSE



### STEP 1: CHECK IN

- Ask the student how they feel the class is going. Compare their answer with their completion rate and grades.
- Check that they're making daily progress in their course(s).
- Ask if they need any help with content, technology, pacing, or any support.

### STEP 2: GIVE HELP AND ENCOURAGEMENT

- Encourage the student that even small amounts of progress are better than none.
- Create a pacing guide so the student has an achievable goal.
- Reach out for additional support if you can't provide the needed help.



### STEP 3: FOLLOW UP

- Make daily check-ins with the student and reference their pacing guide.
- Provide timely feedback and support as needed.
- Reach out to other staff members for help on making consistent check-ins.

### STEP 4: KEEP ON GOING

- Repeat Steps 1 through 3 as much as needed (and in whatever order is needed).
- Set calendar reminders to check-in specific students and remind them what needs to be done.
- Keep being a positive motivator for your students! Students will often feed off their instructor's energy, so make good use of this power.



## *Facilities & Maintenance*

Ben McFarlane,  
Maintenance Supervisor

### *Heating Safety Tips*

It may not come as a surprise that heating equipment is the leading cause of residential fires in Alaska. While I am certain everyone is anxious for warmer weather, I am afraid we are going to have to keep the heaters on for a while longer. If you use a wood stove in your home, check out the following safety tips from the Rural Fire Association of River Walls Wisconsin.

- Don't place the stove in an area of high traffic.
- Keep anything that can catch fire at least 36" from the stove.
- Don't dry clothing over the stove- clothes that can fall and ignite.
- Install your stove in accordance with local regulations and those suggested by the manufacturer.
- Ensure proper ventilation in the house.
- Avoid placing ashes near combustible materials before you are certain all burning embers are out.
- Inspect and clean the stove, chimney connector, and chimney at least once a year.
- Check twice monthly for creosote buildup in your chimney connector and chimney.
- Never use or store flammable liquids, especially gasoline, in the vicinity of the stove.



Electric heaters account for a surprisingly large share of home heating fires. According to the National Fire Protection Association, between 2011 and 2015 portable and stationary space heaters were responsible for 43% of home heating fires and 85% of home heating fire deaths. If you use space heaters, make sure to check out the following graphic for safety tips from the Electrical Safety Foundation International.



## *2020 Golden Heart Conference Tournament* **Andrea Durny, Activities & Student Support Coordinator**

The 2020 Golden Heart Conference Tournament was hosted by Nulato at the UAF Alaska Airlines Center featuring players from Nulato, Kaltag, Huslia, Tanana, Minto, Fort Yukon, Tri Valley and Northway. Congratulations to the Conference Champions Fort Yukon Eagles and the Minto/Tanana/Huslia girls. 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  
Northway Girls Runner Up

#### **Boys All Tournament Team**

Seth Turenne, 12th grade, Minto  
Joe Brendan Patsy, 12th grade, Nulato  
Damion Williams, 10th grade, Huslia  
Clayton Wiehl, 10th grade, Minto

#### **Girls All Conference Team**

Taviandah Allmond-Titus, 12th Grade, Minto- MVP  
Latisha Roberts, 12th grade, Minto  
Cierra Sommer, 8th grade, Nulato  
Mercedes Frank, 10th grade, Minto  
Shaylie Stickman-Pilot, 8th grade, Nulato

#### **Boys Academic Team**

Jackson Wolfe- Minto  
Brendan Patsy- Nulato  
Tyler Roberts- Huslia

#### **Boys 3pt Champion**

Kenneth Stickman- Nulato

#### **Girls Academic Team**

Talia Henry, Huslia  
Jordan David, Huslia

### **Nulato Boys & girls - Sportsmanship Award**



*Minto Girls*



*Nulato*



*Minto Boys*





April 24-26, 2020  
Husila, Alaska

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

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- Build your web of support
- Leadership



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[adurny@yksd.com](mailto:adurny@yksd.com)  
907-374-9424

## Assessment Department News

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. 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. Students and parents can take a practice test from this link using a Chrome browser: <https://wbte.drcedirect.com/AK/portals/ak>



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 30 – May 1; and MAP end of year testing April 27 – May 14.

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.

### *Ella B. Vernetti School*

Patty White, Principal

Third quarter has been full of academics and fun for students at Ella B. Vernetti School. Students competed in the District Battle of the Books. Students did very well and enjoyed the competition. Two Skiku coaches were at the school the week of February 17. Students enjoyed learning how to be better skiers and had fun being outdoors. Students have continued skiing with the additional sunlight after school. Students also enjoyed a fun night of learning at the STREAM Super Hero Night on February 25. We had great participation from students and families. A big thank you to Sara Henderson who coordinated the event!

Students are working on their story for the Book Slam that will be coming up right after Spring Break on March 18.



## *Allakaket School*

Sarah Bailey,  
Teacher

Allakaket has been busy this winter! We enjoyed Dancing With the Spirit coming out to visit early this January. Many of our kids enjoyed playing their Ukulele, guitar, or fiddle. We ended the event with a huge community dance and concert.

We followed up that event with Skiku. Despite our frigid temperatures, we thoroughly enjoyed going out daily to ski.

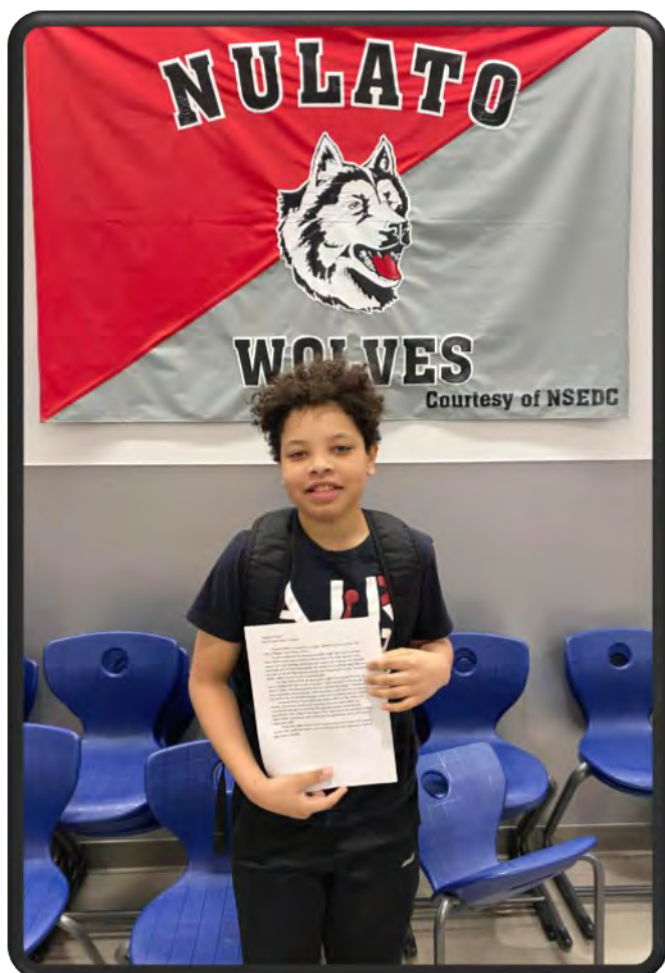
Since we have been making up school days due to a late start with school construction, we decided to have some fun on our last make up day, March 21. We are holding our first school wide Spelling Bee! We will have three groups and the winner of each group will win a new bike!

We currently have two girls, middle and high school, that are competing in the Junior Dog Race in North Pole with the Fox Family for the ACHILL. Good Luck to them!



## *Andrew K. Demoski School*

Victoria Deacon,  
Teacher



The Alaska Conference of Mayors and the Alaska Municipal League (AML) posted an essay contest in January asking 6th graders to answer the question "If I Were Mayor, I Would..." with a maximum of 250 words.

There were ten winners selected from each of AML's ten director districts and one grand prize winner chosen out of the ten. Nulato's own Vegaas Kruger was chosen as the grand prize winner! He will be traveling to Juneau in the middle of March to attend the AML Winter Legislative Conference and various other legislative sessions.

**Congratulations, Vegaas!**

# Merrelaine A. Kangas School

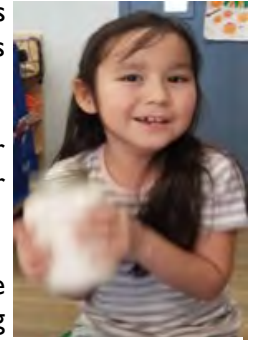
Mike Day,  
Principal-Teacher

## In the Classrooms

In **Mrs. Washburn's class** they made butter! They also looked at and tasted blood oranges and compared them to regular oranges. Along with that, they have read thousands of pages while participating in the Yukon Quest and Iron Dog races.

Where does our food come from? Well, we learned from doing a whole lot of sharing. Butter is made from cream and creams is part milk and milk comes from cows and goats, ...and butter is good!

We followed the Yukon Quest across 1,000 miles, give or take a few miles. We read a page per mile through the trails and felt the flu ourselves as it took out a few of the teams running the Yukon Quest. It was fun to have the higher classmen come down a read to us.



*Shaking the Cream.*

As a class we are traveling through Alaska with the Iron Dogs, we are not quite back to Ruby on our trek to Anchorage. We decided to run the Fairbanks to Kotzebue to Kiana to Nome to Anchorage, Iron Dog Race as a team. That is a lot of reading for one student, 2,398 pages, but together all things are possible! As a class we are reading down the miles right along with the Iron Dogs.



*Fresh Butter!*



*Butter and biscuits, YUM!*



*Thanks Dizzy!*

In **Mrs. Brown's class** every student in Junior High at Merrelaine A Kangas entered at least one picture into the IDIDA contest. The students worked diligently to complete the requirements to enter a photo into the contest. Every picture had to have a description written. The Junior High students have been working hard on developing their writing skills. They have been adding details, expanding ideas, and polishing off on their grammar.

For Valentine's day, the entire school of Ruby had a card making party. The Junior High students set the expectation by scattering around and helping all others with making their cards. That evening the school got together and had their Valentine's Day Dance.



*Heading Home.*

## *Merrelaine A. Kangas School continued*

Mike Day,  
Principal-Teacher

In **Mr. Day's class** the students are learning all about the plants circle of life. Once the unit is finished the students look forward to the dissection phase of biology. This past quarter they learned about the crayfish, where it is found and the anatomy of it. After they finished the dissection they began working on their short online books from the website "Book Creator"

In our **wood shop class**, the students are building model bridges. The process was learning what a "scale model" was, then they had to draw their bridge design on graph paper. Once that was completed, they began the actual building of their bridge. Everyone is having a wonderful time and learning so much in woodshop.



## *After School Activities*

**Archery Competition:** Six of our students competed in the Alaska State Archery Tournament. We are anxiously waiting for the results to be published. At that time, we will find out how many of our students qualified for the National Competition that will be held in Salt Lake City this coming April.

Following the student's competition, they challenged one of their parents to a "shoot off." Everyone had a great time, and as expected the students won. The best part of this was to watch the students instruct their parents on how to shoot.



## *Valentine Day Community Dance*



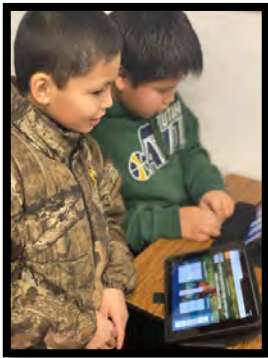
## *Johnny Oldman School*

Patty White, Principal

Johnny Oldman School has had a busy third quarter. Students participated in the Battle of the Books and did very well. They had fun and learned a lot from the books and the experience. Two Skiku coaches were at the school for the week of February 17. Students loved skiing and being outdoors in the afternoons. Thank you to Skiku for this incredible week! Students completed the Book Slam with a book on the Spring Carnival in Hughes. Thanks to Cheryl Bobo for all her efforts to complete the process and to digitalize the book!



Students also made and decorated sugar cookies focusing on learning how to multiply fractions. Additionally, students have been working on their collaboration skills and vocabulary by using Quizlet Live.



Students in the K-2 class welcomed a new class pet, a guinea pig! Students are learning how to feed and care for a pet.

Students are engaged in the Technology Club held every Tuesday after school, where 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. Thanks to all who helped make these opportunities for our students!



# SPRING

## *Kaltag School*

Charles Burns, Principal

Greetings from Kaltag!

We are having a fabulous second semester! Eighth graders Trinidy Madros and Bethany Madros have been playing on the Nulato girls high school team. They have competed in the Nulato and Galena tournaments and are also travelling to Huslia and then on to regionals!

Our winter MAPS session went very well. Out of our twenty-two test takers nineteen showed high growth in either Reading or Math! Several showed high growths in both! We had one student score in the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile in reading and another score in the 81<sup>st</sup> percentile!

We held a school wide pizza party to celebrate student growth and achievement. Students received certificates and water bottles for their efforts.

We have multiple students travelling for EXCEL and A-CHILL activities. The Grahams have continued to build a ski-joring program for our school.

The older students were able to meet some of the Iron Dog competitors and we are looking forward to the Iditarod!

Thanks to our great community support our attendance is remaining strong and student commitment to learning is at an all-time high!



## Jimmy Huntington School

Casey Weter, Principal



Patty Woody, the YKSD CTE Coordinator, worked with the sixth grade students on a Meanness/Kindness lesson. Pictured are Adon Weter, Gage Bifelt and Serenity Bifelt erasing mean words and replacing them with kind and caring words. We left this on the wall and students continued to erase and add words until all the mean words were gone and only kind and caring words were left.

## Minto School

Kasandra Saiki, Teacher

In Minto we have been working hard in the wood shop! We have been practicing our painting skills and the work is gorgeous!



## *Raven Homeschool*

Luke Meinert,  
Assistant Superintendent

Here is a compilation of highlights from our Raven Homeschool offices. Articles and pictures were created and submitted by our awesome Raven administrative assistants!

### *Anchorage*



Anchorage office kicked off 2020 with tons of workshops and fun! Terri's Quilting Club is continuing to meet monthly, and the quilts her students are working on are looking amazing! Sewing School also started in January and students have been busy practicing sewing basics before beginning their projects. Danae's Civil Air Patrol students have been working hard on mastering different aeronautical challenges each month. Carmen's Spanish and Spelling Bee students met a few different times. Kids2College started off with two hands-on meetings. Jamie and several families enjoyed a fun filled ice skating field trip.



### *Fairbanks*



Raven families were treated to a private reading from the Alaska Ice Dogs. The event kicked off with questions and answers to the four special guests about their studies, future plans and the importance of higher education. The day continued with the first reading of, "Goodnight Hockey" by Michael Dahl then, "My Magic Hockey Stick" by Peter Maloney. The books inspired the kids to pick up hockey sticks and learn a few moves from the professionals.

### *Juneau*

National School Choice Week and the Great Kindness Challenge are both great reminders of how thankful we are for all of our families who have chosen to homeschool with Raven and their contributions to our community.



## *Raven Homeschool continued*

Luke Meinert,  
Assistant Superintendent

### *Delta*



Terrific Tuesdays have been fun; playing board games and other group activities. Detective Raby and Detective Sergeant Albarron presented a really fun workshop on fingerprinting. The scenario was, "Who stole the cookies from the cookie jar?" Students learned how to dust for prints and how to lift prints from different objects/surfaces. Parents were able to get cards with their student's prints to have in case of an emergency. Detective Raby kept all, parents and students, enthralled with his stories! Our Jr. First Lego League team, Wreck It Ravens, gave a presentation showing all they learned in their Boomtown Challenge.



### *Wasilla*



With several days of below-zero temps in Wasilla our Raven students have persevered in their studies. The students are fully taking advantage of warm indoor activities and are continuing arts and crafts activities as well as rocket readers classes.

### *Eagle River*

We've had an engaging PAC meeting, Kids2College workshop, and Geography club to a new STEM club, we have seen our office filled with kids and parents eager to learn.





# 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



# CODEBREAKER (or CODEWORD, or CODE CRACKER) WORD PUZZLE

The number in each square corresponds to a letter. The same number represents the same letter.  
Crack the code and fill the grid by determining which letter relates to which number.  
To help you get started three word entries have picture clues, and four letters are already in place.

The crossword puzzle grid is 24 squares wide and 18 squares high. The pre-filled words are:

- GREEN** (Vertical, starting at row 1, column 13)
- GRASS** (Horizontal, starting at row 10, column 1)
- POT** (Horizontal, starting at row 10, column 16)

Clue numbers and their corresponding grid squares:

- 1** (Orange circle): Row 2, Column 10
- 2** (Purple circle): Row 10, Column 13
- 3** (Blue circle): Row 1, Column 10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
G	R	E	N																				

ANSWER: 1-G, 2-R, 3-E, 4-N, 5-S, 6-M, 7-B, 8-T, 9-L, 10-O, 11-W, 12-D, 13-Y, 14-C, 15-A, 16-P, 17-V, 18-L, 19-U, 20-F, 21-P, 22-Z, 23-J, 24-K.

# COVID-19 Health Mandate

Kerry Boyd, Superintendent YKSD

March 17th, Governor Dunleavy released the COVID-19 Health Mandate below. Please observe the mandate and contact your direct supervisor if you have traveled outside of Alaska within the last two weeks. If your significant other or anyone in your household has traveled outside of the country or outside of Alaska, please adhere to the mandate.

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001  
907-465-3500



550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1700  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
907-269-7450

Governor Michael J. Dunleavy  
STATE OF ALASKA

## \*\*COVID-19 HEALTH MANDATE\*\*

Issued: March 17, 2020

By: Governor Mike Dunleavy  
Commissioner Adam Crum, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services  
Dr. Anne Zink, Chief Medical Officer, State of Alaska

To prevent or slow the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the State of Alaska is issuing its fourth health mandate.

**Higher Risk:** If you have traveled from an area with *widespread, ongoing community spread* such as Europe, China, and other countries (i.e., a [CDC Level 3 Travel Health Notice Area](#)) and are entering Alaska within the past 14 days **you must:**

- Stay home and avoid contact with other household members.
- Contact your employer and **do not go to work or school** for this 14-day period after you return.
- [CDC Level 3 Travel Health Notice Area](#) China, Iran, South Korea, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Monaco, San Marino, Vatican City.

**Medium Risk:** If you have traveled anywhere outside of Alaska, (including the rest of the United States) within the past 14 days you must:

- Keep your distance from others (about six feet or two meters)
- This may mean not going to work or school if you cannot safely be distanced from others – especially if you traveled in a location where community transmission is occurring – **contact your employer.**
- **You must** avoid crowded places (such as shopping centers and movie theaters) and limit your activities in public.

### Health Guidance for Returning Travelers in the Higher and Medium Risk Groups

1. Take your temperature with a thermometer two times a day and monitor for fever. Also watch for cough or trouble breathing.
  2. If you get sick with fever (>100.3°F), cough, or shortness of breath, please call your health care provider.
  3. Do not take mass transportation during the time you are practicing social distancing.
  4. Avoid crowded places (such as shopping centers and movie theaters) and limit your activities in public.
  5. Keep your distance from others (about 6 feet or 2 meters).
  6. If you seek medical care for other reasons, such as dialysis, call ahead to your doctor and tell them about your recent travel.
- All Alaskans should follow previous guidance including regular hand washing, cleaning surfaces and avoiding large gatherings ([March 13 COVID-19 Health Alert: Recommendations for Keeping Communities Safe](#)).

For the latest information on COVID-19, visit [coronavirus.alaska.gov](https://coronavirus.alaska.gov)

State of Alaska COVID-19 Mandate 004

Printable version of this mandate is available at:

<https://gov.alaska.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/03172020-SOA-COVID-19-Health-Mandate-004.pdf>