

May 2020



Yukon-Koyukuk School District

Staff Connections

Congratulations to our Amazing 2020 Graduates!

Kerry Boyd, Superintendent

Congratulation to our student's continuous journey moving forward into adulthood! Graduation is a big moment for our Yukon Koyukuk Seniors! Keep your eye out in the Fairbanks Daily Newspaper as the graduate's names will be displayed prominently during the third week of May.

- ♦ ***Rhea Linus*** - Allakaket School
- ♦ ***Late JesCynthia David*** - Jimmy Huntington School
- ♦ ***Talia Henry*** - Jimmy Huntington School
- ♦ ***Sandra Sam*** - Jimmy Huntington School
- ♦ ***BRiana Charlie*** - Minto School
- ♦ ***Austin Nollner*** - Minto School
- ♦ ***Latisha Roberts*** - Minto School
- ♦ ***Aviendha Titus-Allmond*** - Minto School
- ♦ ***Seth Turenne*** - Minto School
- ♦ ***Tia Esmailka*** - Andrew K. Demoski School
- ♦ ***Lavin Kriska*** - Andrew K. Demoski School
- ♦ ***Kyle Madros*** - Andrew K. Demoski School
- ♦ ***Brendan Patsy*** - Andrew K. Demoski School
- ♦ ***Leon Semaken*** - Andrew K. Demoski School
- ♦ ***Sadie Wright*** - Andrew K. Demoski School
- ♦ ***Malik Juneby*** - Rampart School

Congratulations

Congratulations to our Pre-K students, Kindergarten and 8th grade students on their promotions! 8th grade students will be our future high school leaders for the 2020-2021 school year!



Thank You to Parents

Kerry Boyd, Superintendent

As we approach the end of this unprecedented school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents for all the support you have given to the students of YKSD throughout the year and for all for the of the support and patience shown these past few months. We had successes and some challenges, yet despite all, we continued the work that has to be done to ensure the safety and educational needs of our students. There are countless people to whom I owe an expression of gratitude and hope that we continue working together in the coming years. You are the reason for our students' success and it is your dedication to the students that makes you so invaluable.

Thank You

School Reopening Plans

Kerry Boyd, Superintendent

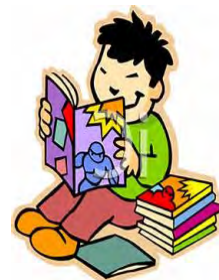
In response to COVID-19, I have been receiving many questions about when schools will reopen and what will it look like. At this juncture, YKSD is planning for school to begin on August 17th, 2020; however, we need to be ready to change our plans if the health mandates through DHHS recommend otherwise. We may need to continue having students complete their work from home. There is also a possibility school will start at a later date. The YKSD School Board and Administration will be working together to plan for next school year. Health and Human Services will be defining the parameters for school risk levels, similar to what they have done for Alaskan businesses. The state has provided draft guidance to plan for three health risk levels: low, medium, and high. As YKSD plans for next year, we will keep you regularly informed as decisions are made during the summer. Our first priority will be to the students, staff and community members. We will not take risks with the health and wellbeing of others by opening schools without proper guidance. The school reopening plans will be developed in accordance with the medical community and approved by the YKSD Regional School board.



Summer School and Summer Reading

Kerry Boyd, Superintendent

To help with the summer slide and to mitigate the school closures, YKSD will offer summer school for students in several communities and will be offering tutoring sessions for math, reading, and writing. If you would like additional information about these options, please contact your school principal. Online reading material can be virtually checked out by visiting our website at www.yksd.com. If you need additional reading material to check out, please notify your principal or your teacher. Federal Programs will be providing traditional books and magazine subscriptions to students.



Celebrating Retirement

Kerry Boyd, Superintendent

This year we have two YKSD employees retiring, Kristen Winters and Theresa Miller. Congratulations to both of them for a life dedicated to serving others!



Theresa Miller joined Juneau Raven Homeschool, in July 2013, bringing with her a plethora of experience. Theresa has resided in Juneau for over 36-years. She is married with two grown children and has a love of gardening!

Having homeschooled her own children, the homeschooling experience, as well as her academic background and work experience, that Theresa brought to Raven was invaluable in helping Raven Homeschool ~ Juneau expand and thrive.

Theresa's passion for learning and for students has been evident during her tenure at Raven Homeschool. During Theresa's seven-years at Raven Homeschool, she has coached Battle of the Books and Lego League, taught the Kids2College program, and used the expertise gleaned from her Reading Masters in Education degree to present a workshop on the Building Blocks of Reading. She also utilized her skills as a reading specialist for many of our students and shared her vast knowledge of homeschool curricula with staff and parents; knowledge based upon her years of homeschooling her sons from preschool through high school.

As we bid adieu to Theresa, we wish you a happy and fruitful retirement and thank you again for your service to the Raven Homeschool community.



Kristen Winters is retiring after a long career in the state of Alaska as a business leader. Kristen joined YKSD two years ago as our CFO and has made a positive impact on the district. Before joining YKSD, Kristen worked for many years with Williams Petroleum before its closure in 2004 and then with the University of Alaska Fairbanks and with Utility Services of Alaska as its Executive Director.

With the time that Kristen has been with the district, she has been a great leader and mentor to the business office team and beyond. She has created a strong, diverse team that provides dependable support to the entire district. Kristen is always there, both personally and professionally, to provide guidance, share a laugh, impart wisdom, or offer advice when needed. Her calm demeanor and solutions orientated leadership style, has been a benefit to YKSD.

Kristen is just a really great leader and empowers people to figure things out on our own and find solutions. She has definitely left her mark on us, and I know we are going to miss her. While we will miss her, retirement will afford her to spend more time with her already retired husband to enjoy trips to Arizona and the family cabin in the Cantwell area. We wish you the best!

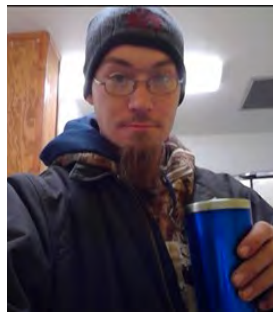
Board Recognition

**Richard Wilkin, Assistant to the
Superintendent & Board Secretary**

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 the April Board Meeting. 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 the April Board Meeting for excellent contributions to education:



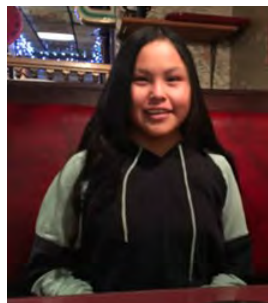
Forest Johnson
Cook
Rampart School



Julie Gillette
Administrative Assistant
Raven Homeschool ~ Fairbanks

Students

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



Jordan David
10th Grade
Jimmy Huntington School ~ Huslia



Ali & Maddie Earls
9th Grade
Raven Homeschool ~ Juneau

Student Nominees

River School Students

Ruby Dixon ~ 6th Grade: Ella B. Vernetti School
Neveah Campbell ~ 5th Grade: Johnny Oldman School

Raven School Students

Clover Edwards ~ 8th Grade: Wasilla
Esther Edwards ~ 6th Grade: Wasilla
Colon Rishel ~ 11th Grade: Eagle River
Megan Weisensel ~ 11th Grade: Fairbanks
Kade Skidmore ~ 12th Grade: Delta
Makana Kamai ~ 11th Grade: Anchorage

Happenings from the Office of Federal Programs

Gina Hrinko, Director of
State and Federal Programs

Happy ALMOST summer from the Federal Programs department! We all survived the last few months of school. A huge thank you to everyone for all their hard work! It was an enormous task to come together to plan, develop and send out educational work and activities to our students – especially at the last minute like we had to do. No one could have predicted that we would find ourselves in the middle of a world-wide pandemic this spring, but you all worked hard and didn't miss a beat to insure our students' educational needs were met. Reflecting back on our situation this spring, this thought came to mind – we weren't born to "just teach." We were born to inspire others, to change people, and to never give up; even when faced with challenges that seem impossible. Your hard work and dedication to YKSD's students is appreciated! We hope you enjoy these last few days of school. For those of you traveling home for the summer, be safe and we'll see you again in a few months!



Summer Reading Programs for June and July

Kristi Burns,
Grants Coordinator

Happy Summer YKSD! We hope that everyone enjoys their break. We are continuing our reading efforts with Summer Reading Packets. YKSD students are receiving 5 new books with another reading log, more colored pencils, and activity sheets to go along with each book.



PreK students will be receiving summer backpacks with various skill building activities.

Also, you may read various books in our online library. Just download the Sora app. Then, follow the prompts to access hundreds of books. If you need help with logging into the app, please email, kburns@yksd.com.



Maintenance Department

Gale Bourne, Director of
Facilities and Maintenance

The YKSD Maintenance Department would like to say “Thank you” to all our hardworking maintenance staff. Our local maintenance workers 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

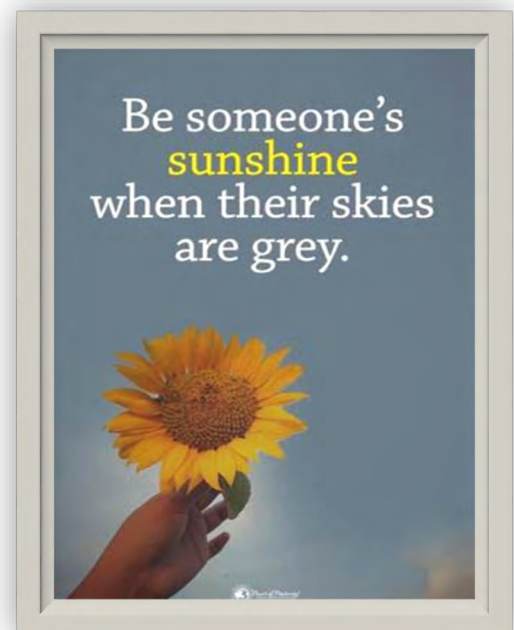
We also want to thank our District Office Maintenance Admin, **Patty Wiehl**! She is a big part of our team and we couldn't do it without her.

Counseling Corner

Patty Woody,
CTE Coordinator

Things to Ponder

1. Hope is the color ...
2. Hope tastes like ...
3. Hope sounds like ...
4. Hope smells like ...
5. Hope looks like ...



*Special Education Department
Celebrates and Supports Autism Awareness
Month in April*

Cristina Welker, Director
of Special Education and
Support Services



Cristina Welker



Richard Andrews



Scott Brucker



Natasha Anderson



Terri Schuetz



Nanette Burks



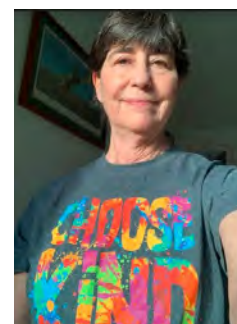
Joan Gianotti



Kristin Bacon



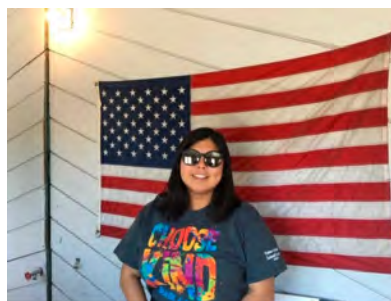
Debbie Hawkins



Leslie Spilman



Marilyn Marshall



Breanna Semaken



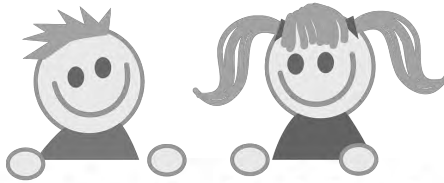
Joann and Josie

*Special THANK YOU to Cynthia Brown for the wonderful idea of the T-Shirt!

*Some staff members not shown



Teaching and Learning Department



Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A"
reads **20 minutes**
each day

3600 minutes in
a school year

1,800,000 words



90th percentile

Student "B"
reads **5 minutes**
each day

900 minutes in
a school year

282,000 words



50th percentile

Student "C"
reads **1 minute**
each day

180 minutes in
a school year

8,000 words



10th percentile

By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

Enjoying the Arts!

Rockwell Near,
Art Teacher



Mallard duck by Damion Pavlick of Huslia

As this school year ends and I reflect on everything that has happened, I realize we are truly blessed. As an art teacher I get to see a different facet of our students lives. I am impressed with how creative, and deep they are. Much of education is focused on academics, and for many students' academics are a painful experience, often reinforcing insecurities and negative comparisons. Our kids are smart and work hard, they push through the hard stuff as we prepare them for life as adults. In the last couple of years, I have learned that our Art classes are more than academic rigor to push through, instead they are a safe place to use the other side of their brain, and relax enough to create. Just as creative writing teachers are allowed into the hearts of their students, I have been privileged to see into the hearts of many of my students, and they are amazing. It is fun to see the drawings of the deep people my students are, and what they want to become. It is rewarding to see the skill level of our students rising exponentially. I look forward to seeing how our students have grown through this strange virus event, and to see the art that they produce to describe it next fall.

Last year I emphasized Measuring, and students work became more realistic. We studied how colors react to each other, and students work became richer, and full of depth. Our student body has some very excellent artists, and I am proud of all of them.

Many of our kids entered this year's Alaska Department of Fish and Game Jr. Duck Stamp contest, and were successful. Damion Pavlick from Huslia took third place in his age bracket. One of our Raven students, Adriel Near, also won an award for her Art in Alaska's Heart through Student Art, with a portrait of herself as an Alaskan Woman. Next year I am hoping to get more of our students Art out into the public, because it is amazing.



Denaakkenaage' Hunek; Denakenaga' Hunik

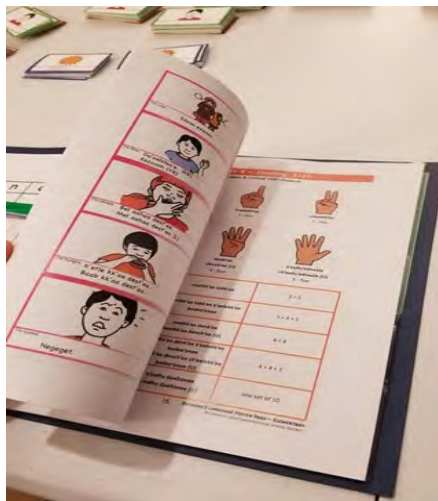
'Our Language News'

Susan Paskvan, Native
Language Coordinator

Homeschool Kits

Language kits were sent to all the households with students who were in Denaakk'e or Benhti classes. The kits have five units: family and introduction; feelings; weather; animals and food. Each kit contained all the materials that families would need to play board games; bingo; competitive vocabulary games; and to make a dog sled. A big shout out to Holly Wofford who had to sort the 100 cards for each kit for each of the 150 families (15,000 cards). This was a tremendous undertaking, but we wanted fun activities so that the whole family could learn Denaakk'e or Benhti together.

A tic-tac-toe choice board was sent to teachers to help generate feedback. For the bird unit, I created a scavenger hunt with different springtime birds. Early elementary will learn the vocabulary. Upper elementary will learn sentences about bird activities.



Feelings and Counting unit in the Denaakk'e Homeschool Packet.



The cards for the five units: family, Feelings, weather, animals and food.

Denaakk'e and Benhti Workbooks

Holly and I submitted final edits for both Benhti and Denaakk'e. We are learning how to edit the Adobe Indesign files so the updates can be done quickly and efficiently. This is new for both of us, so we will have a learning curve with the program.

Native Language Resources

Susan Paskvan, Native
Language Coordinator

The following resources have been uploaded to the Internet for our families. My hope is to make a DVD of all of the lessons, but that will take time.

YKSD

Go to [YKSD.com/departments/Native Language](https://www.yksd.com/departments/Native%20Language). Or use this link: <https://www.yksd.com/Domain/25>

Youtube

Susan Paskvan channel. There are lessons on weather, feelings, family.

VoiceThread

There are lessons where participants can record their voice.

Doyon Languages Online

Ten lessons in conversational style.

Language Games

Holly and I are working with Native Teaching Aids to create board games for the classrooms. Holly is doing some of the layout. The board games will be printed on computer mousepad type material and the cards will be like regular playing cards. The supporting text will be in both Denaakk'e and Benhti.

Adult Denaakk'e Class

I've been teaching a 20-25 minute Denakk'e class for any interested adults. Three YKSD teachers have participated. One teacher expressed his appreciation because it helps him understand the grammar of Denaakk'e.

Iditarod book

A demonstration draft book was printed. I'm doing a review with edits to submit to Judy Ferguson. Next step: research publishing companies and obtain quotes.



A-CHILL Update

Kathy Turco,
A-CHILL Coordinator

MINTO ~ Minto School:

Minto teachers were the first to try out a pilot A-CHILL *Traveling Instructor* program during the coldest temperatures of the winter that limited normal outdoor learning with sled dogs. Fairbanks-based carpenter, Eric Nicolier taught students of all grades a variety of skills including wood shop safety, making wood utensils, and also building mini-benches, gun racks, snow machine boxes and gear cabinets. Students used math to learn applied technical education skills such as construction including building model log cabins and ladders from raw materials. Fairbanks-based Youth Corrections Counselor and dog musher, Barbara Moore traveled to Minto to teach puppy care and dog mushing terms to elementary students. She taught anger management and social-emotional skills to middle and high school students. With all students she discussed self-care in long distance sled dog travel and dog health. In early February, SKIKU visited Minto to teach skiing and goal setting.



NULATO ~ Andrew K. Demoski School:

In the cold and dark at the start of the semester, enthusiastic A-CHILL students dressed warm and cared for a small team of sled dogs in a dog yard nearby the school. They learned to cook for dogs, feed, and how to check their general health. To keep the dogs' spirits up, students took the time to pet and play with them. In the classroom, students learned about the history of sled dogs including their critical role in hunting and trapping. They studied about outdoor survival including the power of traditional knowledge and mindset. As the weather got better, they broke trail with snow machines and learned about safety and machine maintenance. In early February, SKIKU visited Nulato to teach skiing and biathlon skills. In early March students prepared to welcome Iditarod mushers passing by. They learned about origin of the 1,000-mile race and long distance travel by dog teams long ago. They also learned how the dog and its care have changed over time, and the importance of traditional life skills.



A-CHILL continued

Kathy Turco,
A-CHILL Coordinator

RUBY ~ Merrelaine A. Kangas School:

Ruby students had the great opportunity to learn about the Yukon Quest, Iron Dog and Iditarod from the A-CHILL teacher who wrote lessons that were integrated into core classes by utilized satellite tracking, map reading, running distances, dog and musher nutrition, and more. Students participated in many activities including a Yukon Quest and Iron Dog Read-a-thon. Student logged their reading as page per mile with the goal to keep up with a dog musher traveling. Two students read over 1,000 pages to finish the Quest. Students “ran” the Iron Dog as a class and read over 2,500 pages in one week. There were many lessons about the Iditarod including a reenactment of the Serum Run and a Read-a-thon. With this year’s Iditarod passing through Ruby, most students met their favorite musher and conducted interviews about the trail, weather conditions, and their race plan. Older students learned technology skills; one project involved use of camera to capture how they see their village. The cold, dark and snow did not stop students from getting outside and learning photography. Students entered their photos in the *Alaska Society for Technology in Education (ASTE) iDida* Contest. In February, SKIKU visited Ruby to teach skiing and biathlon skills.



ALLAKAKET ~ Allakaket School:

Allakaket students enjoyed an after school program with hands-on learning with two local dog musher teachers. Students learn about sled dog health, personality and their position on a team. Each student was assigned a dog and learned “Check 7” to evaluate dog’s eyes, ears, hydration, fur, mouth, paws and nose. Students studied dog care year-round and especially the hard work in the winter. In learning about dogs, students became aware of their own health. Activities included caring for and free running puppies. Applied technical skills included learning about sleds construction, measuring and making gang lines and all about harness design. With an adult driving a snow machine, students practiced riding a sled in different trail conditions. When strong and confident, they ran a small team. In February, SKIKU visited Allakaket to teach skiing and how to keep fit and safe in cold temperatures.

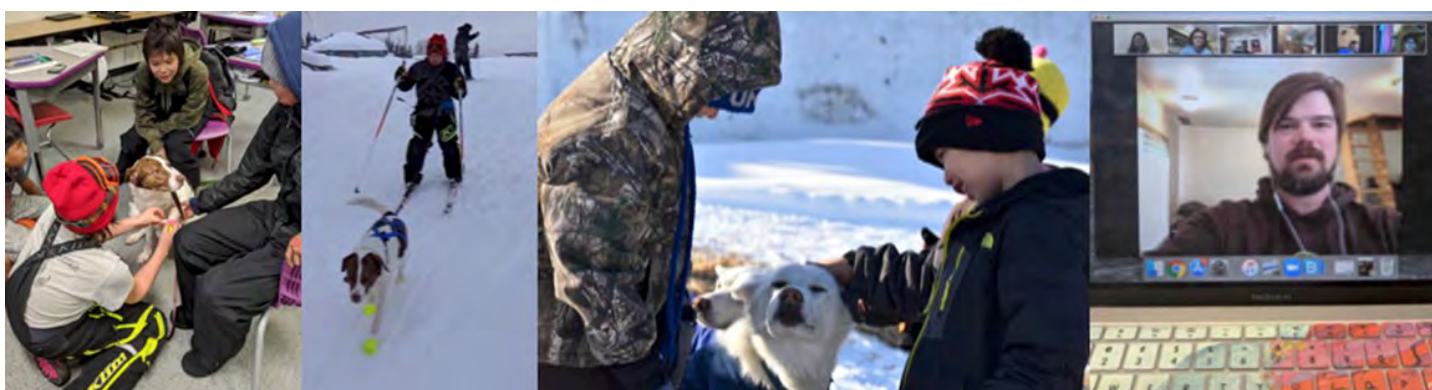


A-CHILL continued

Kathy Turco,
A-CHILL Coordinator

KALTAG ~ Kaltag School:

Kaltag teachers teamed up to start an A-CHILL After-School Program with students of mixed grades. Students who had worked on trails last fall were excited to improve their skiing skills. They especially enjoyed SKIKU instructors, who visited Kaltag to help students improve skiing techniques and learn biathlon skills. Students learned a tremendous amount about dressing to exercise in cold temperatures, and how to stay safe. With pet dogs, students continued to learn about dog care and health including checking paws, cutting nails, brushing dogs, deworming and year-round nutrition. In caring for dogs, students also learned about their own health. Teachers helped teach students dog behavior so to feel more confident skiing. Many students worked hard to improve skiing. Teachers have used the afterschool program to share outdoor activities with students to build relationships and encourage team work. The Iditarod passed through Kaltag and students were excited to see dogs and mushers, and learn more about the race from Elders and locals. Working by ZOOM, media instructor Ira Hardy guided teachers on how to help students and parents share their views about their village for a community web page.



HUGHES ~ Johnny Oldman School:

The A-CHILL teacher continued to dedicate every Wednesday afternoon to A-CHILL activities. With cold temperatures limiting outdoor activities, Local Culture Experts stepped up to teach students how to make mukluks including cutting and sewing hide and fur. They also taught students to bead and embroider. While students kept busy using their hands, fluent Athabascan speakers taught the language and told stories. When temperatures warmed, the local dog musher teacher taught dog care at his dog yard including dog health checks, feeding, walking dogs, yard maintenance, and more. The dog musher teacher shared stories about traditional life including survival long ago, and also how to stay healthy today. In February, SKIKU visited Hughes to help students improve skiing, biathlon skills and also teach the importance of exercise and good health.



A-CHILL continued

Kathy Turco,
A-CHILL Coordinator

HUSLIA ~ Jimmy Huntington School:

Two Huslia dog musher teachers shared teaching the A-CHILL In-Kennel classes to 5th and 6th graders. During the cold temperatures of January, one dog musher teacher taught students about snowshoes including the different kinds and their purposes, and also how to tie on, take care of, and repair. Students learned about sleds including how to wax runners for different conditions for easy travel and also for racing. Dog musher teachers lead student-dog team activities such as students pulling a plastic sled to learn about team positions, speed, and distance. When weather warmed, students learned to ride a sled, and run a small team. They learned how to read a dog. Another dog musher teacher taught students how to cut meat and feed dogs plus about dog care including socializing and walking puppies.



MANLEY ~ Raven Homeschool:

Homeschool students enrolled in A-CHILL took In-Kennel classes from a local dog musher teacher 1-2 times a week. A Local Culture Expert Elder-Dog Musher joined nearly every class to share knowledge. Students learned how to set up a dog yard, make chains, and about yard up-keep. They studied dog health with lessons on feeding including how to cook for and how much to feed dogs, and the importance of hydration, and checking feet, teeth, and fur. Students learned about dog behavior including puppy socialization. They walked puppies and ran adult dogs to learn about running positions.

Community Supported Junior North American Race for A-CHILL Students

In early March, an A-CHILL staff and dog musher teacher from Allakaket, and an A-CHILL dog musher teacher and family members from Huslia volunteered to help students to compete in the Junior North American Championship in North Pole. Making it a goal to race outside of the village, three students spent the winter caring for and training sled dogs after school. To pay for travel and town expenses, they applied for scholarships and obtained funding from their village council, Native artists willing to make and sell items for them, and other interested individuals and businesses.

A-CHILL continued

Kathy Turco,
A-CHILL Coordinator

Junior North American continued

Two Allakaket A-CHILL students raced the 3-dog and 4-dog class with the special opportunity to use sled dogs owned by a dog musher in town. Each had two student-dog handlers and help from their parents and many community members in town. The Four-Dog Class racer finished in 5th place and Three-Dog Class racer finished in 2nd place. One Huslia student raced in the Six-Dog Class using his family's dogs. He had one-student dog handler and help from a family member, parents, and grand-parents. The Six-Dog Class racer finished in 2nd place. Besides racing, the students participated in other activities such as the race drawing, visiting competitors and the public at the race, and also attending the awards banquet. One student wrote an essay about their experience and others wrote thank you notes to helpers and funders. The JNAC proved to be a life experience with students learning from their peers, adult dog mushers, and race officials.



A-CHILL - IDITAROD Teacher Professional Development Training

A-CHILL collaborated with IDITAROD EDU to offer teacher professional development training during the week after the Fur Rondy OWC, and before the start of the Iditarod. By participating in the conference, teachers had an option to earn 500-level education credits through UAA. A-CHILL teachers and staff including dog musher teachers, had a day with instructors Mari Hoe-Raitto and Roni Noonan-Agre to learn student hands-on lessons and activities about dog care, health, behavior, handling, and compassion. From a professional ski instructor, teachers learned tips on skiing and how to skijor. There were evening discussions about teaching sled dog history, and a lecture about dog care by the local veterinarian who taught students about dog conditioning.

For two days, A-CHILL teachers and staff joined lower-48 teachers to learn classroom curriculum. The IDITAROD EDU conference theme was *Integrate the Last Great Race on Earth into Your Existing Curriculum*. In classroom sessions, speakers experienced in delivering Iditarod instructional materials to students gave examples of lessons and activities applicable to common core and content standards. A focus on authentic learning techniques, technology, and STEM instruction were key elements.

For hands-on sled dog experience, teachers visited Iditarod Headquarters in Wasilla, where they observed a team of Iditarod veterinarians determining if race dogs were fit for the trail by conducting physical exams, reviewing recorded data, and visiting with mushers. Teachers were encouraged to ask questions and take photos and videos to share with students. Lower-48 teachers visited a nearby kennel while A-CHILL teachers visited a nearby sled dog rehabilitation and re-homing center. In the afternoon and evening, all teachers gathered at the *Chugiak Dog Mushing Association Clubhouse* to learn sled dog handling and behavior from Mari and Roni. Teachers practiced skiing and took a sled ride with Mari. The evening ended with presentations by local dog mushers and playing the documentary film, *ATTLA*.

***A-CHILL** continued*

Kathy Turco,
A-CHILL Coordinator

A-CHILL - IDITAROD Teacher Professional Development Photos



Rondy Education Weekend Student Field Trip: Chugiak and Anchorage

At the end of February, an A-CHILL RONDY EDU weekend field trip provided students a unique learning experience by shadowing race veterinarians and officials at the Fur Rondy Open-Class World Championship (OWC) Race in Anchorage. A total of ten students from Alaska Gateway and Yukon Koyukuk Schools participated; they came from Hughes, Nulato, Kaltag, Allakaket, Tetlin, and Tok. Ten adults, including four certified and/or guest teachers, three dog musher teachers, three chaperones/volunteers, traveled to Anchorage for the two days of the Fur Rondy OWC. A-CHILL school teachers and the dog musher teachers arranged logistics, coordinated the student participation, taught dog care and handling, and supported guest instructors.

On Saturday, ACHILL students met KING CAREER CENTER Veterinary science students in their classroom while conducting a public dog grooming service. On Sunday, five of the students joined ten A-CHILL students at the Fur Rondy OWC. On both days of the race, students were split into groups to shadow professionals in the fields of veterinary care, and race management including timing the race. The first group of students shadowed a veterinarian at the start/finish line to learn about sprint dogs including conditioning, health, and behaviors. Students met dog mushers, past champions, and race officials. The second group of students shadowed race timers in a special room with computers and monitors. The third group of students shadowed race judges at the first road intersection. The fourth group shadowed a veterinarian explaining the dogs' conditioning and dog mushers' ability on Cordova Hill. The fourth and last group of students were at a tunnel with a vet technician and also a timer to learn about race obstacles, timing and trail guarding. On Saturday after the race and back at the camp, students experienced hands-on sled dog activities and games, had a group discussion about the race, and watched the ATTLA documentary.

A-CHILL *continued*

Kathy Turco,
A-CHILL Coordinator

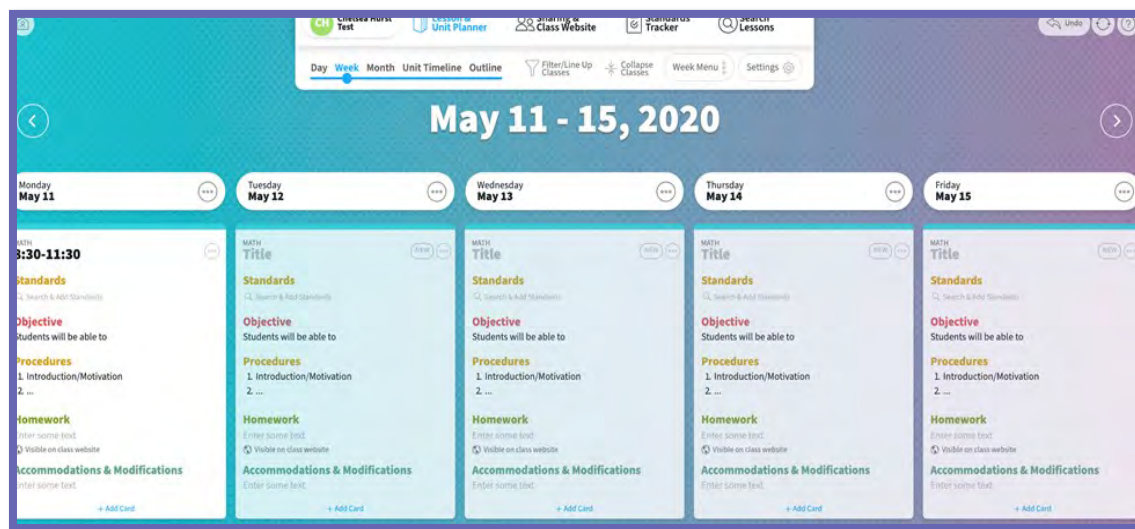
Rondy Education Weekend Photos



Tech Corner

Chelsea Hurst, Instructional
Technology Supervisor

This month, the Lesson Plan Committee decided on a new lesson planning platform for the district ~ Common Curriculum! Common Curriculum will replace Classbright. Teachers from across the district (Philip Peterson, Steve Swatling, Judith-Hope Bates, Judy Madros, Christi Nixon, Dee Washburn and Sarah Bailey) spent the spring semester reviewing lesson planning platforms and ultimately chose Common Curriculum for the district. In the month of May, teachers will attend Common Curriculum Professional Development to learn how to use the software and begin planning for next school year.



Assessment Department News

Patty White, Director of
School Operations & Assessments

The Statewide assessment, Performance Evaluation for Alaska Schools (PEAKS), from DRC was cancelled this Spring due to COVID 19. MAP testing which is typically completed in Spring was also cancelled and will resume in the Fall. Although these assessments are critically important, they cannot be taken at home due to test administration and standardization procedures. We anticipate the schedule will resume as normal in the fall.



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

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

https://education.alaska.gov/tls/Assessments/Peaks/FAQ_AlaskasAssessment.pdf

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



Phlight Club

Andrea Durny, Activities &
Student Support Coordinator

Due to Covid-19 the spring Phlight Club in Huslia has been cancelled. We are planning to reschedule this event in late fall unless something comes up. We will be following all health guidelines set forth by the Governor as well as our communities in planning this event. We would like to wish all our families well wishes during this time and remember to connect with your webs of support via phone calls or other meaningful modes of connection. Bake a cake for a loved one, send a card, send some old pictures, remind those that you care for them and also take time to be easy on yourself as you maneuver through this pandemic. You matter and we will get through this.

Area Wide Student Council

Andrea Durny, Activities &
Student Support Coordinator

It has been a wonderful school year with the Area Wide Student Council. The AWSC is made up of one to two student representatives from each site to represent their school and act as voting members. Each month throughout the school year the council met over video conference, conducted Roberts Rules of Order and gave their site reports. I am humbled by the student's growth, leadership and public speaking abilities that continue to blossom by their participation on the council. Each month the students showed up to the meetings and shared their ideas with one another. We would like to thank our outgoing Senior members; President, Rhea Linus, Allakaket and Vice President, Talia Henry of Huslia for their years of service to the AWSC and their perspective schools. You will be missed and we wish you best of luck in all your future endeavors. We will be voting on new members in the fall and it is open to all students in grades 8-12. The AWSC is comprised of the following members.

Rhea Linus (Allakaket) - **AWSC President**
Chad Roberts (Minto) - **AWSC Vice President**
Cierra Sommer (Nulato) - **AWSC Secretary**
Talia Henry (Huslia) - **AWSC Treasurer**
Calvin McGinty (Kaltag) - Member
Chloe Sipary (Nulato) - Member
Cierra Sommer (Nulato) - Member
Ryan Greenway (Ruby) - Member
Morgan Malamute (Koyukuk) - Member
Crystalee Sam (Hughes) - Member
Lewis Williams (Hughes) - Member
Rampart: Vacant

YKSD Boarding Home Program

Andrea Durny, Activities &
Student Support Coordinator

The FY21 program is for incoming 8th thru 12th grade students transferring into or within YKSD and who meet eligibility requirements. Together with our communities and families, this program is intended to assist those students within our district who may need additional tangible supports in reaching their academic goals, and don't want to leave the cultural/family setting. For more information please contact Andrea Durny, adurny@yksd.com, 907-374-9424 beginning in August. The deadline to apply for funding with the program and have student enrolled to their school is October 1, 2020.



Business Office Money Matters

Kristen Winters,
Chief Financial Officer

Looking back, the business office has had a very busy year and as we navigate these unprecedented times we are reminded daily of our resilience and the importance of working together. The business office staff continues to work very hard to provide excellent service to YOU, our fellow employees, families and students. As fiscal year 2020 draws to a close we remind everyone to review any outstanding purchase orders or forgotten invoices that need to be processed. And don't forget your P-Card log and statement! It is important to get all of this in to us before you leave for your well-deserved summer break.

Have a wonderful summer and we will see you in August, hopefully in person!

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

A Bite from Food Service

Rachel Spencer,
Food Service Specialist

During these times of social distancing our food service staff has worked tirelessly to provide to-go meals in our communities. We are so grateful to all our staff who assisted in preparing, packaging, and delivering these meals to our students and their families! In the month of April alone almost 19,000 meals were served across our district!

*Thank
You!*



Andrew K. Demoski School

Shaine Nixon,
Principal & Teacher

Graduation is finally upon us for our six seniors here at Andrew K Demoski School. This class of 2020 will be forever aligned with “the virus” that has kept us all on edge, unable to go about our daily lives, travel, and not to mention attend school. However, Graduation must go on, as it is a stepping stone to the future, a rite of passage and one of the most important days in a student’s education. They have looked forward to this day for weeks, months, and even years. Most will remember Graduation as the culmination of twelve years of school with one focus in mind, “Graduation!” Our seniors have worked so hard and deserve to be recognized on “Their Day.” This is just one small life lesson in many that they will continue to learn from as they make their way into the “real world.” Life is not always fair, and we must be able to change direction, adapt, and overcome when required to achieve success, complete tasks, or survive in times of hardship.

Congratulations to our seniors on their success in never giving up, overcoming, and striving to reach their goals. Congratulations also to their parents for helping them reach this milestone. I hereby certify that the following students have successfully completed the course of study necessary to receive their diploma: **Tia Esmailka, Lavin Kriska, Kyle Madros, Brendan Patsy, Leon Semaken, and Sadie Wright.** Catch the Wind. Set your Sails. Explore. Dream. Discover. Never stop believing in yourself or what you can achieve.



Tia Esmailka & Leon Semaken



Lavin Kriska



Brendan Patsy & Kyle Madros



Sadie Wright

Thank you Parents!

Judy Madros,
Teacher

Teachers at Andrew K. Demoski School, would like to send a shout out to all the parents for patiently and diligently helping their child/children with their distance learning packets.

You're all so WONDERFUL!



Bode completing his birdhouse.

Minto School

Vicky Charlie,
Principal

GRADUATION: Across the nation, graduations will look different this year, but we are trying to make graduation as special as possible for our five graduating seniors. On May 5th we did video recordings of the graduates receiving their diplomas from their families with the beautiful Minto Flats as our backdrop. On Monday, May 18th, we will be doing a graduation parade, immediately following, the graduates will officially receive their diplomas. A virtual graduation will be put out by YKSD in the near future.

LITERACY: Our elementary teachers have been very busy with training and preparing for an exciting year of literacy in 2020-2021. They have been reorganizing their classrooms and already preparing materials and lessons. Thank you to Francine, Kia and Shonda for working on our school libraries to get all books coded for Accelerated Reader. We are very excited to make this a school wide program next school year!

STAFF LUNCHES: For the past five weeks our staff has been gathering for lunch each Friday. It has been a great time to step back from work and to show each other friendship and to be supportive during this time. Our village was on lockdown for close to two months so being there for one another was much needed!



Kaltag School

Charles Burns,
Principal

Greetings from Kaltag!

We are rapidly approaching the end of another exciting school year! We had four eighth graders who were promoted and one kinder who graduated. On Friday May 15th the students participated in a community parade to celebrate their successful year. In addition to Kaltag's four eighth graders and our kinder, two graduates from Andrew K. Demoski School also participated.

Our teachers have been working diligently to create work packets to send homework for our students. They have also been providing feedback for the completed assignments. The students have been participating well with the distance learning.

We look forward to the start of next school year! Our top notch teaching team are all returning to continue to help the students of Kaltag to grow!



Ella B. Vernetti School

Patty White,
Principal

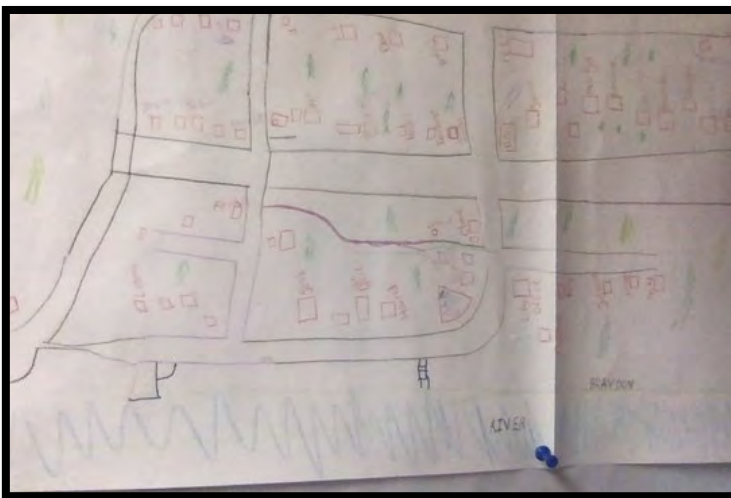


Greetings from Koyukuk! During Spring break, students enjoyed a few more days of skiing! But now, thanks to our spectacular weather, the snow is melting (rapidly), the roads are drying (fast), and the river has been overflowing. This morning we heard the ice is beginning to shift as close as Galena. The river ice here in Koyukuk should go out in the very near future. We wish everyone an exciting & safe breakup this year.

Along with the rest of the school sites, since school closure, Ella B. Vernetti has been distance delivering lesson packets. We are happy & proud to share that our efforts have and continue to be met with a strong student return. Our students are working their assignments at home to the best of their ability and returning these on a daily basis. We are also very proud of the parental involvement clearly evident in the students' work. Nice job, Koyukuk parents.

Needless to say, distance delivering has been both fun and challenging. In the Upper Elementary, we used common curriculum resources heavily spiced with "off the beaten path" ideas from other teachers around the district, our own staff and internet resources.

Some of these lessons that students seemed to especially enjoy include the following. We did a detailed map of the village, including all public buildings, public facilities, the surrounding natural landmarks, wooded areas & the cemetery. We also did a quarantine experience writing piece illustrated with comic strips. The pieces were all interesting and included experiences from quiet times to sheer frustration. In addition, one reading assignment required the students to write a one scene play. The results were impressive, they had their casts of characters, their settings, stage directions, and dialogue. Keep up the good work students.



Johnny Oldman School

Patty White,
Principal

The weather is warmer and the river is breaking up. While the students may not be inside the classroom they have still been busy. Students were guided through the process of building a Tiny House. Some students also wrote a script and made a movie about a time period of their choice. Finally, a few students choose to learn how to sew. We use the radio to read stories and continue to connect with our students. We have served lots of meals and are happy to see the smiling faces when they pick them up. We miss being at school with our kiddos every day but are thankful we still get to see them in the community. We wish them all a healthy and happy summer break!



Jimmy Huntington School

Casey Weter,
Principal



This is Elias, a kindergarten student at JHS in Huslia. He is showing off the birdhouse he built with his family as part of his at home learning. The district purchased birdhouse kits and teachers designed lessons in science, reading, writing, and math for students to work. This project was designed to help students and families engage in learning while having fun and spending time together. Kindergarten Teacher, Brandy Henderson.

Merrelaine A. Kangas School

Mike Day,
Principal & Teacher

What is happening in our school?

The fourth quarter has been one of the most “interesting” quarters that we have ever experienced. As everyone is aware that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have redefined ways to ensure our students were getting the best possible education that was available to them.

I want to first state how impressed the staff has been in regards to the way each and every one of our student's parents have stepped up to the plate and made sure their child's education was on the top of the list. Listed below are some of the comments and activities that the parents were doing with their children.

The Merrelaine A. Kangas School Staff would like to give the parents and community members a special thank you for all the work that they have done over the last nine weeks.

- ♦ A parent stated that her son was having a hard time doing his school work, so she came home and gave him a “very special pen.” In fact, that pen was a magical pen, and whoever used it would allow him to do a wonderful job on his homework. And he did!
- ♦ Another parent had a contest with her daughter on who could find the correct answer for her math assignments.
- ♦ Several parents have told us that they have a better understanding of the educational process.

We would also like to congratulate Ryan Greenway with his graduation from the 8th grade and being accepted to the Charter School in Galena next year.

Mrs. Washburn's class had the opportunity to have her students build snowmen and replicas to see how much one holds by melting the replica inside the house.



We have built birdhouses and bird feeders and have been watching them as the birds have been visiting them.

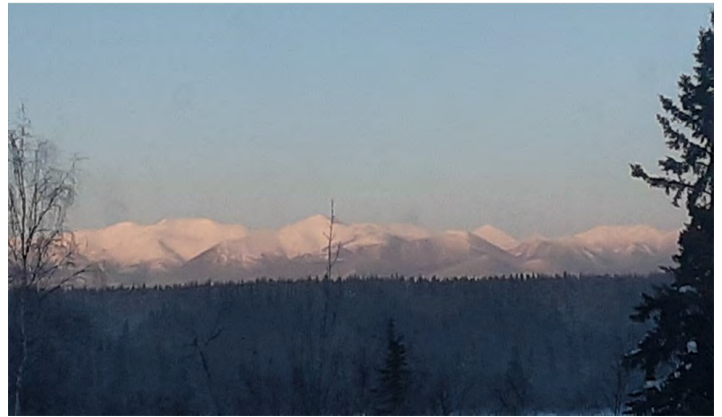
We have wished winter good-bye and welcomed spring.



Rampart School

David Filby,
Principal & Teacher

Rampart is thawing out with the coming of the warm weather. The river ice has broken, the wildlife abounds, and the beautiful scenery and setting of Rampart are ripe for summer. Recently, Chief Mike Wiehl and others harvested a Black Bear and several Geese during a trip by boat up the Yukon River.



Rampart School is currently preparing for the summer while still supporting students with home-based instruction and meals. The team effort and breaking weather has everyone feeling positive about moving forward as we close the Quarter 4 of this school year.

Raven Homeschool—Wasilla

Monique Ratzlaff,
Administrative Assistant

This quarter the Wasilla Raven office has embraced more virtual activities, as many offices and schools have. As continuing to provide support to our families is of the utmost importance, middle school and high school students continued to meet virtually for math help.

YKSD teacher Rocky Near has offered online art classes for students of all ages. Families look forward to these workshops and we have a good participation rate.

Wasilla students have joined Raven students from all the Raven offices for Teen Chats (9th-12th), Quaratweenies Chat (5th-8th grade), LEGO Connections (all thing LEGO), and Animal Studies. Some families have joined in on the Raven-wide GooseChase Scavenger Hunt Games, and turned in some fantastic submissions! It is a neat experience to participate with the other offices and make friends!



Wasilla has just started a "Coffee Connections" time for parents. This is a virtual event where they can login and chat with other parents about a myriad of things- tips & tricks, get ideas, or adult conversation.

Raven Homeschool—Anchorage

Natasha Anderson,
Assistant Principal & Teacher

While the world has slowed down considerably in the past two months, we at the Anchorage office are staying quite busy! In lieu of our usual in-person activities, we have been enjoying several virtual events. Terri has been leading the Lego group where kids meet online to create and discuss their latest creations, Rocky has been continuing his weekly art classes, and Megan has been hosting Quarantweenies Chat with the middle-schoolers. We have also joined the Eagle River office in their animal studies and the Juneau office in their Goosechase challenges. We look forward to seeing our families in person, but will keep looking for ways to stay connected until that time.

Raven Homeschool—Delta

Natasha Anderson,
Assistant Principal & Teacher

Delta has been preparing for the 2020 graduation, which is going to be a wonderful experience for our graduates! This year we had the opportunity to give each graduate a yard sign funded by Title I. Raven staff, families, and especially students are truly appreciative of the yard sign, as the graduates are able to get the well-deserved attention from community members. We are focused and working hard toward increasing enrollment numbers; although, we are faced with social distancing. Our students are thoroughly enjoying Art with Rocky. The students like the opportunity to meet students from other sites and learn creative artwork. The Delta team is full of energy and feels--- rejuvenated by attending the daily workout sessions. Huge Thank You to Chelsea, Christina, and Theresa for helping our office stay fit by providing great workout routines.

Raven Homeschool—Fairbanks

Natasha Anderson,
Assistant Principal & Teacher

The Fairbanks team has been busy with providing virtual activities to our students. The latest virtual activity has been Show & Tell, which has been a huge success for students of all ages. Students join the bi-weekly Show and Tell and present their favorite item. Students have the opportunity to spend up to two minutes sharing what makes their item special. nlookers/peers are given 30 seconds to ask specific questions to the presenter about their item. Each week students bring very interesting items that are out of the box interesting. Last week, students were able to see a live chicken and rabbit shown by an elementary student and was that a sight to see! We look forward to continuing the virtual Show and Tell, as it has grown in attendance and creativity!



Raven Homeschool—Juneau

Holly Shier,
Administrative Assistant

Raven-wide GooseChase Scavenger Hunt Games: Since going virtual, we have been organizing scavenger hunt games for Raven students all across the state to participate in. We have had dozens of families playing, hundreds of missions completed, and tens of thousands of points earned during our three games so far this spring. Each game has week-long missions which can be worked on any time during the challenge and other special event missions only available for one day. The families have been having a great time playing and competing with each other virtually even though we can't be together in person during this time. It has been an awesome opportunity to be socially connected though distant.



Friday - Raven spirit



Stormy days



Just Keep Swimming!



Kitchen Math



Tuesday - Crazy Sock Day



Safety First



Easter Art



I, Robot



Puzzling Shapes

Kids2College Class: Theresa Miller taught this 6-week class for students in grades 5-9 over BlueJeans this spring and had wonderful participation from the students joining us not only from Juneau, but from around the state due to the virtual element. The students learned about both education and career options, the cost of going to college and funding options, as well as connecting college and careers together. Several community members formed a career panel to speak to the students about their careers, what it took to get there, pros and cons to their respective career paths, and tips for those interested in pursuing those careers. The students also got the opportunity to research their own personal career interests and do a presentation to their fellow classmates in unique, creative ways. It was a very valuable class and exciting to see the students' presentations at the end.



Raven Homeschool—Eagle River

Natalie Shier,
Administrative Assistant

Virtual Activities: Eagle River went online! We planned as many virtual activities as we were able. Animal studies where, each week, students present on different animals of a particular category. Teen chat and Quarantweenie chat where the different ages can “hang out” online under the guidance of Megan Rosen-dall. These and a few other virtual classes have enabled us to stay in contact with some of our families, and we are happy that things have gone relatively smoothly with the new process for classes.



Eagle River Office Move: Raven Homeschool - Eagle River is getting close to moving day! We are very excited to get into our new space. Due to current circumstances, we have had to stagger our solo trips to the office, but that has not slowed us down. We have been steadily packing and are close to being done, preparing all the items from our old place. We are sad to leave the memories our families have made with us in that office, but we are excited to grow into our new space and create new memories.





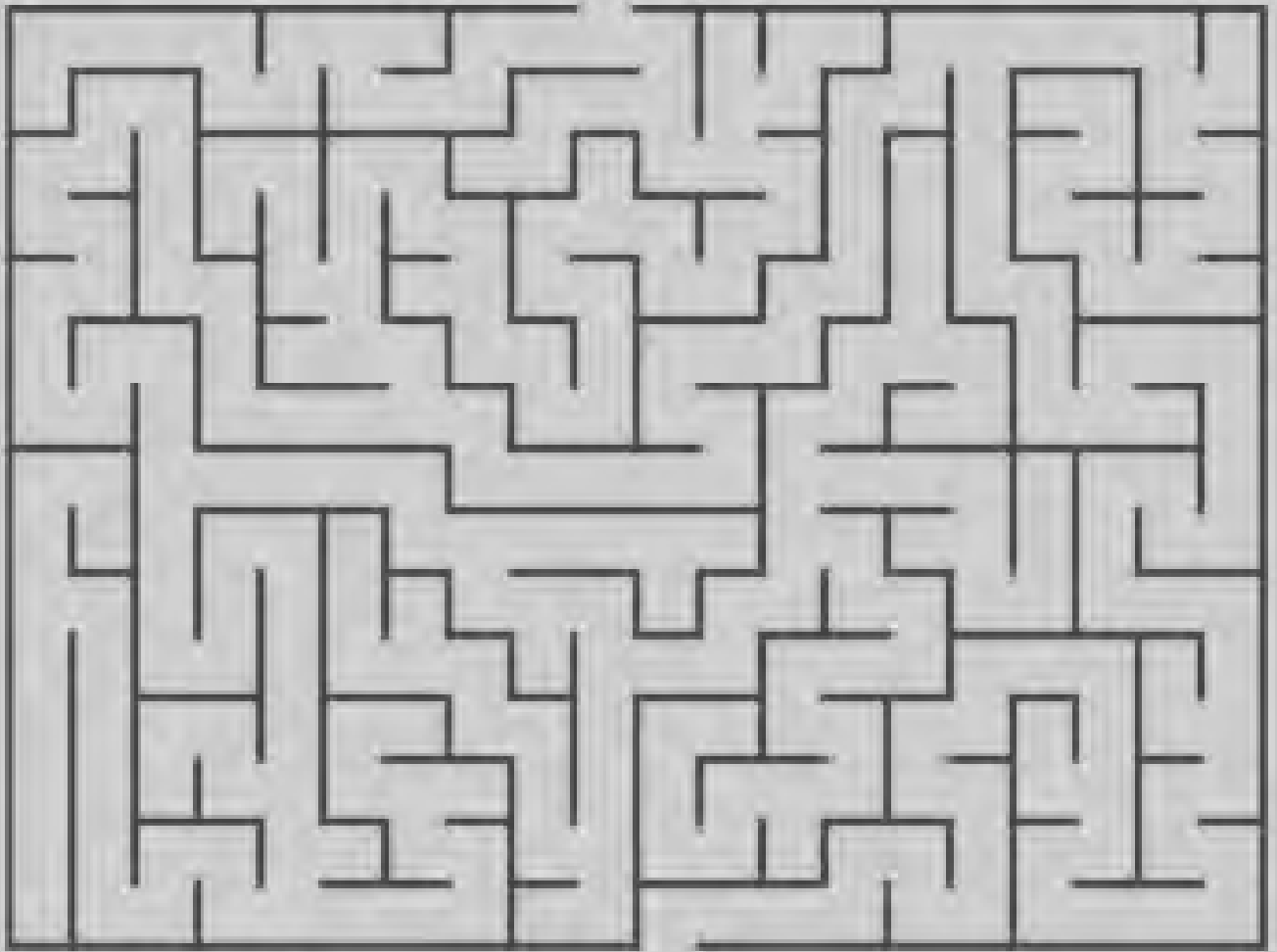
Summer

Z J R E W O L F N U S C U V
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AUGUST	FARM	GRASS	OCEAN	SUNFLOWER
BUCKET	FLOWERS	HAT	PARK	SWIM
CAMPING	FRISBEE	HEAT	PICNIC	WAVES
CARNIVAL	GAMES	HIKING	SEASHORE	
COOLER	GARDEN	ICE CREAM	SHOVEL	



HAVE AN
A-MAZE-ING
SUMMER!



NAME _____

