

December 2020

Yukon Koyukuk School District Staff Connections

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!

Kerry Boyd, Superintendent

I take this opportunity to wish you a very *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2021!* I hope the holiday season is filled with some good cheer and wonderful family time for each of you. YKSD has been fortunate to have in-person learning for our schools for most of the year and we plan to finish out the second semester with in-person learning. During our student and staff celebrations, the students are recognized for their hard work and for attending school with all of the new mitigation plans in place. We have been fortunate that we have had very few students who have tested positive for COVID-19 and those who have had it have recovered. The community task forces have been vigilant to make sure every plan in place is followed to avoid the spread of the virus.



The YKSD Regional School Board is continuing to advocate for YKSD to have complete infrastructure in place for internet services for its families. Our students need to be able to have access to high quality distance delivered courses, especially during the pandemic. In addition, the District is moving towards a five-year plan to have its own Career Technical Program, (CTE), in Fairbanks for students to learn about a variety of vocational skills. The District received a grant to begin our partnership with EXCEL Alaska, a program many of our high school students are accustomed to using for career development. At the next board meeting near the end of January, the board will be evaluating any extracurricular activities. Due to the pandemic and with the recommendation from the medical community, after school community activities are on hold.

If you haven't had a chance to do so, please be sure to look at the art work your students have been working on throughout the year. Their work is AMAZING! We anticipate even more opportunities for art during the second semester.

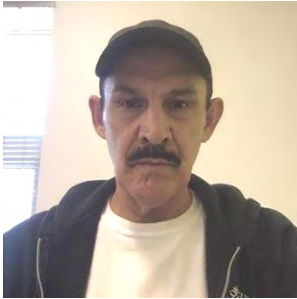
With the concern of ensuring education being the highest priority, YKSD is planning on offering summer school. With the pandemic as it is, we are carefully reviewing what this may look like as we near the end of the year. Your principal will be providing more details in March.

Thank you to all for continuing to support students in YKSD! We have all worked together this year like no other year I have seen! Take time over the holidays to enjoy family!

Board Recognition

Staff Winners

Duane Sipary, Teacher ~ Jimmy Huntington School ~ Huslia



Mr. Sipary is a dedicated teacher who has high standards for his students. He has over two decades of experience teaching in Alaskan villages including last year in Koyukuk. Duane is a home grown teacher who grew up in our villages and does a great job for the Yukon Koyukuk School District. The students of Jimmy Huntington School are lucky to have Mr. Sipary!

Heidi Nickel, Teacher ~ Raven Homeschool ~ Fairbanks

Heidi Nickels shines like a star. She quickly adjusted to the fast lane of enrolling families in the midst of our highest enrollment. She is dedicated, and continues to dedicate, countless hours to calling, emailing, researching curriculum, answering Facebook posts, and troubleshooting to ensure families receive superior customer service. Her attention to detail, level of questions, and commitment to always doing work correct the first time is unmatched.



Student Winners

Kanye "Cooper" Johns ~ Minto School



Kanye "Copper" Johns is an 8th grader who is an all-around great student and young man! Copper works hard at school and at home. He has great attendance and always comes to school ready to learn. He participates in class discussions, completes his assignments at school and at home. He always has a positive attitude and is a great friend to his classmates. Copper deserves to be recognized for the wonderful person that he is!

Conlon Reshel ~ Raven Homeschool ~ Eagle River

Conlon Rishel, a 12th-grade homeschooled student, has repeatedly proven that you can be a pillar in your community no matter your age. His heart for leadership has led him to become the president of the Raven Eagle River Teen Leadership Council and being promoted to the position of 2nd LT. in the Eagle River High School ROTC program. Conlon volunteers his time by spending countless hours helping plan and lead Raven Eagle River Office activities.



Maintenance News

Ben McFarlane,
Maintenance Supervisor



SERRC has completed a comprehensive asbestos inspection and management plan for the Yukon Koyukuk School District. This report is available for your inspection during normal school hours (8:00a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) at the District Office and on line at: <https://www.yksd.com>.

As a result of the inspection performed by SERRC, asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM) were identified and their condition assessed. The areas noted have been encapsulated, or removed by the District. A long range plan for handling the materials has been developed.

An ongoing operations and maintenance program which includes periodic surveillance and re-inspections has been implemented by the District and will remain in effect until all ACBM has been removed from District facilities. Please direct any concerns to Gale Bourne, Director of Facilities, at (907) 374-9404.



Happenings from the Director of State and Federal Programs

Gina Hrisko, Director
of State and Federal Programs

Happy holidays from the Federal Programs department! This semester our department has kept busy working on grants, completing grant reporting, doing our best to support your efforts, and ordering supplies for your classrooms. This has definitely been a challenging first semester, and we appreciate all of your hard work and everything you have done and continue to do for the students and families of YKSD! We hope everyone is enjoying the last few days of school before enjoying a much deserved winter break!

Pre-K Christmas Packets: Please be on the lookout for the Pre-K Christmas packets that were recently sent out to your school site. These packets can be given to the Pre-K students the last day of school before Christmas break if they have not been handed out already.

Upcoming Fun Events: We are working with an art studio to offer a paint nite for district staff during the months of January, February and March. These fun evenings will be conducted virtually. More information will be sent out in the beginning of January. We hope you will take advantage of these fun evenings of painting. All supplies will be sent out to participants prior to the event.



Safe travels to everyone, and we'll see you all in January.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season!



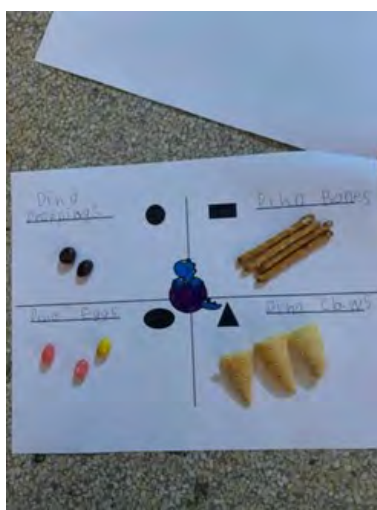
STREAM Kits

**Kristi Burns,
Grants Coordinator**

STREAM kits were sent out to Minto and Rampart. Each family in both sites were given dinosaur themed activities to do at home. Some of the activities were as follows: dinosaur math board game, sorting snacks according to their shape, reading a story and doing a STEM activity with it. The older students created mini volcanoes.

All families at YKSD have now received their first semester STREAM kits. More to come next semester.

May each family have a very Merry Christmas and be safe!



**Minto
STREAM
Kits**



Assessment Department News

Patty White, Assistant Superintendent,
Distance Education and Assessments

This fall has been a busy time for District Assessments. We began the year with all students, grades K-11, taking the Northwest Education Association Measure of Academic Progress (NWEA MAP) assessments, in September. We have completed these assessments 3 times per year for grades 3 – 12 for the past nine years. All MAP testing is completed on the computer and scored immediately, which provides teachers with needed information right away. As an added benefit, the computerized tests give our student experience with testing on a computer, which will be the testing method for the

State of Alaska Test, PEAKS, in the Spring of 2021. To see your school's data, the state had a new website where you can see one school or compare schools, go to <https://education.alaska.gov/compass/>



Upcoming District assessments include: MAP mid-year testing January 19-Feb. 5; ACCESS test for student with Limited English Proficiency in February and March; the annual State of Alaska test, PEAKS – March 29- April 30; and MAP end of year testing April 26–May 13.

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

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

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

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



PEAKS Assessment

By Andrea Nield, Coordinator of Student Support and Testing

In the spring of 2020 COVID-19 hit and schools across Alaska closed, at which time the Alaska Department of Early Development (DEED) submitted a request to the U.S Department of Education to waive the PEAKS Assessment. The waiver was approved and as a result the spring 2020 testing was cancelled. The Alaska spring 2021 PEAKS assessment window is set for March 29-April 30. 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 the computer.

MAPS Assessment

By Andrea Nield, Coordinator of Student Support and Testing

The winter MAP window will take place January 19-February 5, 2021. Students in grades K-2 will take the reading and math assessments. Students in grades 3-11 will take the reading, math and language assessments.



Winter Sports

By Andrea Nield, Coordinator of Student Support and Testing



As winter school sports go underway and many schools remain closed throughout our state as well as continued travel restrictions, the big question across Alaska still remains.... Will there be a basketball season? As of now ASAA has moved the start of season to January 11 however we still have not determined how we will proceed. Currently in each of our villages, including Fort Yukon and Tanana there are still travel restrictions and gym closures in effect. The next Golden Heart Conference meeting will take place January 6, ASAA board meeting January 11 as well as district board meetings. We will continue to follow all district mitigation plans, village and CDC guidelines for travel in order to keep our communities safe.

Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

December 2020

Yukon-Koyukuk School District

Chane Beam, Director of Teaching and Learning

Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ **Earmuffs for Everyone! How Chester Greenwood Became Known as the Inventor of Earmuffs** (Meghan McCarthy)

Chester Greenwood is credited with inventing earmuffs. But he wasn't the first person who designed a product to keep our ears warm. This book shows how inventors often stand on the shoulders of those who came before them.



■ **Smashy Town** (Andrea Zimmerman and David Clemesha)

Follow Mr. Gilly on an eventful day of work at a construction site as his machines crush buildings to make room for new ones. Colorful illustrations and onomatopoeias (words like *vroom* and *hiss* that sound like what they describe) make this an exciting story for budding readers.



■ **Outside In** (Deborah Underwood)
Nature isn't just something that's only outside. From houseplants to sunlight streaming through windows, nature is indoors, too. This inspiring story describes how nature can be a friend to people and encourages readers to appreciate it wherever it's found.

■ **Thank You, Omu!** (Oge Mora)

Omu means *queen* in Igbo, the language of the author's parents, and it's the name she called her own grandmother. In this story, Omu can't wait to eat her delicious stew. But when visitors follow their noses to her door, Omu shares every drop. A final knock brings a special surprise. (Also available in Spanish.)



Let's tell stories

Add excitement to story time by making up your very own stories. Not sure where to start? These activities will turn anyone into a storyteller—and build your child's speaking skills and creativity.

Read and tell

What would happen if Wilbur the pig from *Charlotte's Web* met the Three Little Pigs? Read two familiar books with your youngster, and together, make up a story that combines elements of each. Maybe the little pigs will live on Wilbur's farm, safe from the Big Bad Wolf. Your child will stretch her reading comprehension as she thinks of ways to connect the two plots.

Share family tales

Children love to hear stories about when they were "little"—and these tales of her past are nice examples of nonfiction. Ask your youngster to pick a memory (say, her first trip to the beach), and begin a story: "Stella saw the ocean for



the first time when she was five years old." Now take turns adding details. ("She built a big sandcastle.")

Make story dice

Let your child make three giant "dice" out of empty cardboard boxes. Help her write nouns (*cereal*, *house*) on one die, verbs (*fly*, *dance*) on another, and adjectives (*tasty*, *striped*) on the third. Take turns "rolling" the dice and telling a short story using all three words you roll. ("Once upon a time, I got to fly over my house in a striped hot-air balloon.")♥

How to build a snowman

Whether it snows where you live or not, your youngster can build a snowman with this idea for writing instructions.

First, have your child cut snowman parts out of construction paper: three circles for the body and head, plus eyes, nose, mouth, buttons, and hat. Now he can build his snowman by gluing the parts on a big sheet of paper. As he adds each one, help him write an instruction beside it for building a real snowman. ("Step 1: Roll up a big snowball." "Step 2: Put a smaller snowball on top." "Step 3: Add an even smaller snowball for a head.")

Then, if it snows, he could use his instructions to make a snowman outside!♥



All kinds of lists

List making lets your youngster practice writing and recording his thoughts. Here are different types of lists he might create.

Favorites journal. Have your child fill a notebook with lists of his favorite things. He could write a different topic (books, foods, animals, toys) at the top of each page, then add items as he thinks of them. *Idea:* Suggest that he invite a friend or relative to do the same, and they can compare lists to see what they have in common.



Screen-time alternatives. Show your youngster that lists are practical. Listing screen-free activities he likes can help him cut down on using electronics. He might include “Collect acorns and pinecones,” “Make a maze in the hallway with streamers,” and “Read a book to the dog.”

Questions collection. Encourage your child to keep a list of questions he has, like “Why are clouds different shapes?” or “Why do our eyes close when we sneeze?” He could use his list to pick out library books that might have the answers or post his list by the computer so you can research his questions together online.♥

Q&A Virtual read-alouds

Q My daughter's favorite part of school is when her teacher reads books in class or on video chat. Now she wants to watch more online read-alouds. Any suggestions?

A Consider setting up virtual story times for her with grandparents, aunts, and uncles. She'll get to hear different reading voices, and everyone will discover it's a great way to stay in touch!



Also, the internet is full of high-quality read-alouds these days. Your local library may offer online story hours—call or visit the website to find out.

Your child might also watch authors read aloud online. Some children's writers, like Dav Pilkey, Mo Willems, and Susan B. Katz, provide free virtual readings on their websites or social media pages. Help your youngster search for specific book titles or authors followed by “read-aloud.”♥

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Alphabetical order

Send your child on these missions that will encourage her to read words around the house and arrange them in ABC order. *Bonus:* She'll help to keep things organized!

Organize the pantry

Let your youngster sort foods in the kitchen by type of container (boxes, cans, bags, jars), and arrange each section in alphabetical order. When you need an item, ask her to use her ABCs to find it: “I need a can of beans—where would it be?” She might say the *beans* are between the *artichoke* hearts and the *carrots*.

Arrange colors

Ask your child to put crayons or markers in ABC order. She'll need to look beyond the first letter of each color word (*black, blue, brown*). As she puts each crayon in its spot, she can say the first letter and read the color word. (“G is for green.”)♥



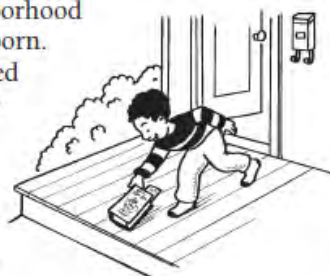
Neighborhood book exchange

One day my son Aiden and I found a book on our porch. A note from our neighbor was attached: “My son just read this and thought Aiden would love it!” And with that, our neighborhood book exchange was born.

Aiden and I emailed neighbors to see who would be interested in lending and borrowing books. Several people replied with book titles they

were willing to share—for children *and* adults—and I helped my son type titles we could lend. Now anyone can request a book from someone else and have it delivered to their porch.

Aiden and I enjoy reading new-to-us books, and it feels good to share with neighbors. Sometimes, before we return a book, my son writes a note to tuck inside. He'll thank the person for the “share” and tell what he liked about the story.♥



Reading Connection

INTERMEDIATE EDITION

Working Together for Learning Success

December 2020

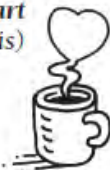
Yukon Koyukuk School District

Chane Beam, Director of Teaching and Learning

Book Picks

■ *The Dragon with a Chocolate Heart* (Stephanie Burgis)

In this magical tale, Aventurine the dragon breaks her family's rules and sneaks away from her cave. When she's offered a sip of hot chocolate, the brave dragon is turned into a human girl. With no dragon powers left, she has to figure out how to survive as a human.



■ *Earth Verse: Haiku from the Ground Up* (Sally M. Walker)

Science and poetry come together in this beautiful book of haiku. Readers will learn about Earth, minerals, rocks, fossils, volcanoes, and more with haiku, illustrations, and a fact-filled section at the end.



■ *The Extraordinary Mark Twain (According to Susy)* (Barbara Kerley)

This biography of author Mark Twain is based on the journal entries of someone who knew him well: his 13-year-old daughter, Susy. The author weaves together Susy's original writings with information about the lives of both father and daughter.

■ *Comeback Catcher* (Jake Maddox)

Meet Eddie Jackson from the Jake Maddox Graphic Novels series. He's in a band and also plays baseball. But baseball becomes tricky for Eddie when he gets nervous every time he's up to bat. Find out how Eddie overcomes his fears. Includes a glossary with baseball terms. (Also available in Spanish.)



Winter reading traditions

Short days and chilly weather make reading a great indoor winter activity. Use these suggestions to encourage your child to snuggle up with good books.

Pajama party

On a weekend night, put pillows and sleeping bags in the living room and share a book of short stories. Pass the book around and take turns reading to each other by flashlight. Or use the cozy time for everyone to read their own books. Tip: Ask a librarian or your child's teacher for book recommendations based on your family's interests.



have each person try to recite the poem from memory. The family member who comes closest to the original chooses the next poem.

Comedy fest

Read jokes for an evening of laughter. Have each family member find a book of jokes or riddles from the library, browse through them, and mark favorites to share. Everyone can vote for the funniest jokes. Idea: Your youngster could write his own jokes and do a stand-up comedy set. ■

Game night

Suggest that your child invent games that involve reading. For example, he might suggest a poetry contest. One person could pick a short poem from a book and give everyone five minutes to memorize it. Then, close the book and

Story ideas: Look here!

Does your family's junk drawer tell a tale? Is there a story behind a lost-and-found notice or a song on the radio? When your youngster has a creative writing assignment or writes just for fun, suggest that she find inspiration in one of these places.

● **The junk drawer.** Let her pick a few random items, such as an old key and a business card. Maybe she'll imagine that the key unlocks a secret room at the address on the card.

● **Online posts.** Show your child posts on neighborhood forums. She might write about a lost dog being reunited with his owner or a girl who starts a successful snow-shoveling business.

● **The radio.** Your youngster can use a line or a verse from a song to make up her own story. For instance, a song about traveling on a plane may prompt a tale of a trip to a desert island. ■



A guide to taking notes

Being able to take notes quickly and accurately is a skill your child needs now. Plus, it'll come in handy in later grades as well as in college and on the job. Share these strategies for your youngster to become a first-rate note taker.

Before. Have your child prepare to take notes on new material by reading the previous day's notes. At the beginning of class, she should label her notes with the date and topic (12/11/20, American Revolution) so it's easier to put them in order for studying.



During. Suggest that your youngster use abbreviations and symbols for faster note taking. Examples: T for the, V for every, > for more. Point out that she should always write down dates, formulas, and definitions exactly as they're given. When the teacher says, "This is an important point," your child could highlight that section in her notes. Finally, she might leave extra lines so she has room to add comments or questions later.

After. Encourage your youngster to go over her notes and underline main points. If the notes are hard to read, it's a good idea to rewrite or type them. Copying them not only makes the notes more legible, it will help her remember the information better.

**Parent
&
Parent**

Editing out loud

My son Lucas used to rush through writing assignments and make a lot of careless mistakes. When I asked his teacher what to do, she suggested that we have Lucas edit his work by reading it aloud. She said hearing his words out loud would help him hear his mistakes.



We started by having Lucas read his writing to me. I pointed out what I liked about it and asked questions about parts I didn't quite understand. And Lucas noticed that he used some of the same words over and over and caught a couple of grammatical errors. Then, he used our feedback to edit his paper.

Now Lucas regularly reads his papers aloud to himself. He seems to be catching more mistakes—and he's getting better grades on his written assignments.

An occasion for reading

Turn gift giving into an opportunity for your child to read. Here are some ideas:

- Book reviews will help her choose novels as gifts for others. Your youngster can look at library book lists or newspaper reviews. Encourage her to check for words and phrases such as "a must-read" or "action-packed."
- Suggest that your child make a craft for someone. She might create finger puppets, a mosaic, or a bracelet. To find possibilities, she could look through craft books (*The Best Craft Book Ever* by Jane Bull) or check online (craftsforkids.com) and then read them as she follows the instructions.
- Young bakers can use cookbooks to prepare homemade treats like cookies and muffins. Let your child select recipes and write a grocery list. Then, remind her to carefully read recipes again before she starts baking.



**Fun
with
Words**

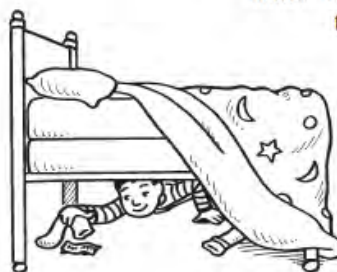
Read the clues, find the treasure

Treasure hunts are fun for all ages. And figuring out the clues will help your youngster learn to infer, or read between the lines.

First, hide a treasure (a new book, a small toy). Then, hide a set of clues that will lead your child to it. The first clue should give instructions for finding the second clue, which should lead to the third, and so on, until your youngster discovers the treasure.

Try to come up with clues that give hints—but make your youngster think. For example, if you want him to look under his bed, you might write, "Find the next clue in a place socks like to hide." Or get him to open an end-table drawer with "Look under the lamp and coasters."

Once your child tracks down the treasure, have him create a treasure hunt for you or a sibling.



OUR PURPOSE

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

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Math+Science Connection

Building Excitement and Success for Young Children

December 2020

Yukon Koyukuk School District

Chane Beam, Director of Teaching and Learning

TOOLS & TIDBITS

1-2-3 puzzle

Your child can turn her artwork into a math jigsaw puzzle. Have her color a picture and write the numbers 1–10 across the bottom. Now let her cut between the numbers, separating the picture into vertical strips, and mix them up. Challenge her to put the puzzle together by arranging the numbers in order.



A box of landforms

Suggest that your youngster make models of landforms he sees in books or in real life. He could line a shoebox lid with green construction paper and add blue yarn for a river, aluminum foil for a lake, and white play dough for a snow-capped mountain.

Book picks

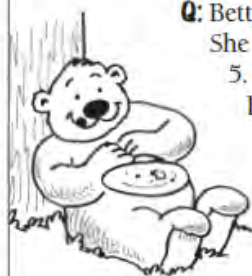
■ *Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13* (Helaine Becker) tells the extraordinary true tale of star mathematician Katherine Johnson, who calculated NASA's first flight paths to the moon.

■ Why do mirrors fog up during a bath? How do boats float? *Science Experiments at Home: Discover the Science in Everyday Life* (Susan Martineau) answers these questions and more.

Just for fun

Q: Betty had 8 cookies. She shared 3 and ate 5. What does she have now?

A: An empty plate—and a full tummy!



Breaking apart numbers

Like buildings made of blocks, numbers can be put together and taken apart in all different ways. Help your child *compose* and *decompose* numbers at home with these activities.

Build block towers

Encourage your youngster to build the number 10 with blocks or Legos. Using two different color blocks, how many different towers of 10 will he make? (Examples: 1 yellow + 9 blue, 2 red + 8 green, 3 blue + 7 red, 4 blue + 6 green, 5 yellow + 5 green.) Can he use combinations of three colors to make 10?

Drop the beads

Ask your child to draw a line dividing a paper plate in half. Have him drop a handful of small objects (beads, pom-poms) so some fall into each section (say, 4 on the left and 3 on the right). He can count the total (7) and write the number sentence ($4 + 3 = 7$) on a sheet



of paper. Now he could drop the beads again and again, writing as many different number sentences as possible.

Hide toys

Let your youngster get 12 toys like cars or bouncy balls. While he looks away, cover some (say, 8) with a blanket. Can he count the toys he sees and figure out how many are hidden? He might think, " $4 + __ = 12$." Or maybe he'll ask himself, "4 plus how many more make 12?" (8) 🐾

Get ready for winter

Bears hibernate. Birds migrate. Squirrels adapt. How does your youngster prepare for winter? Suggest that she write checklists for animals—and people.

● **Animals.** Help your child look up animals in books or online to learn what they do to get ready for winter. For a bear, she might write, "Eat lots of food. Find a cozy place to sleep." A bird's list could include "Invite friends to migrate with me. Fly south in a V shape." And for a squirrel: "Gather nuts. Hang out in my den."

● **People.** Your youngster can think about tasks that help your family prepare for cold weather and then make a checklist. Examples: "Take out winter clothes. Put heavy blankets on beds. Stock up on hot chocolate!" 🐾



'Tis the season for sorting

What do holiday cards and family photos have in common? Besides bringing us joy, they can help your child work on sorting, an important early math skill. Try these ideas.

Separate mail. Save a few days' worth of greeting card envelopes, catalogs, postcards, and advertising circulars. Then, let your youngster sort them in different ways. She might group according to size,



shape, thickness, or color. Or maybe she'll sort by type of sender (friend, relative, store).

Arrange photos. Gather family pictures, and encourage your child to sort them into categories for a photo album. The possibilities are endless! She can sort by occasion (birthday, holiday, wedding, vacation) or season (winter, spring, summer, fall). Let her label the pages with her categories and display the album on your coffee table.

Idea: Take turns sorting mail or photos in various ways and figuring out each other's sorting rule.

MATH CORNER Buttons: Odd and even

This cute-as-a-button activity will build your child's number sense by letting her explore odd and even numbers.

Materials: scissors, construction paper, two dice, 12 buttons

1. Have your youngster cut out a large coat shape from construction paper.
2. Take turns rolling the dice and placing that many buttons on the coat.



3. Say whether the coat has an odd or even number of buttons. (*Hint:* She could try arranging the buttons in pairs. If each button has a "partner," the number is even. If not, it's an odd number.)
4. Let your youngster keep a chart with two columns, labeled "Odd" and "Even" to record the numbers made. Can she figure out a "rule" for knowing whether a number is odd or even? (Even numbers are the ones we use to count by 2s.)

Idea: Your child could check the coats in your closet to see which ones have an even or odd number of buttons.

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SCIENCE LAB

Light, shadows, experiment!

Your child will see how light shines through different materials to create shadows (or not) in this experiment.

You'll need: ceramic coffee mug, plastic milk jug, clear glass, flashlight, paper, pencil

Here's how: Ask your youngster to line up the mug, jug, and glass and predict which ones will have the darkest and lightest shadows. He can shine a flashlight on each one and record and sketch the results he observes.

What happens? The mug has the darkest shadow, the milk jug has a lighter one, and the glass has the lightest shadow.

Why? Light travels through some materials but not others. The solid (opaque) mug blocks all light, resulting in a dark shadow. The translucent milk jug blocks some light, creating a dim shadow. And the clear (transparent) glass lets almost all light through, casting an even dimmer shadow. Can your child find more items in each category?



PARENT TO PARENT

"Are we there yet?"

In the car, my son Ethan always asks, "Are we there yet?" So I decided the car would be a good place for him to practice telling time.

I gave Ethan an old watch so he could see the time on a clock face as well as on the car's digital clock. Before we leave, I give him our estimated arrival time and ask him where the watch hands will be. For instance, I

said we'd be at Grandma's house at 3:30, and he said the little hand would point toward the 3 and the big hand would be on the 6. When we arrived, he checked his watch and saw that he was right.

Now I notice Ethan looking at his watch periodically in the car to see how close the hands are getting to the time we'll arrive—and he rarely asks if we're there yet.



Math+Science Connection

Intermediate Edition

Building Understanding and Excitement for Children

December 2020



INFO BITS

World records

World records offer a fun way for your child to compare numbers. Encourage him to look up records that interest him (the speed of the fastest animals, the length of Olympic-winning long jumps). Then, help him set his own records by timing his speed for running around the block or measuring his jumps.



Family science fair

"Welcome, scientists!" Let your youngster host a science fair where you take turns conducting experiments. She might ask younger siblings to predict which objects will sink or float, then test the items in a sink while everyone watches. *Idea:* Hold a science fair with extended family via video chat.

Book picks

📖 Zookeepers use fractions as they hand-raise two tiny cubs in *Polar Bear Math: Learning About Fractions from Klondike and Snow* (Ann Whitehead Nagda and Cindy Bickel).

📖 With *Science You Can Eat: 20 Activities That Put Food Under the Microscope* (Stefan Gates), your child can make instant ice cream, edible slime, and more.

Just for fun



Q: Why isn't your nose 12 inches long?

A: Because then it would be a foot!

Yukon Koyukuk School District
Chane Beam, Director of Teaching and Learning

Explore number patterns

Find the next number in this pattern: 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64. It's 128, because the "rule" is to double the number each time. Your child can recognize all kinds of patterns and develop her math thinking with these playful ideas.



Keep it going

Have your youngster cover a baking sheet with a thin layer of sugar. Write a simple number pattern (3, 5, 7, 9) in the sugar for her to continue. She'd write 11, 13, 15, and 17, because your rule is add 2. Next, let her smooth out the sugar to erase the numbers and begin a different pattern for you to extend.

Step it up

Think of a pattern rule with at least two steps (multiply by 3, add 1). Write numbers in the pattern on separate sticky notes (3, 10, 31, 94), number the backs to indicate the order (1, 2, 3, 4), and hide the notes around the room. Your child should search for them, arrange them in

order, and figure out the rule they follow. Now it's her turn to hide numbers in a two-step pattern for you.

Predict it

Show your youngster that patterns let her make predictions. Start a pattern with toy vehicles (car, car, truck, train, car, car, truck, train) or beads (red, blue, green, red, red, blue, green, red). Ask her what the 21st toy (car) or bead (red) in the pattern will be—and why. She can continue the pattern, using more objects (or drawing pictures) to check her predictions. 📦

Build a cantilever

A house of cards is quite an engineering feat—but it's not the only thing your youngster can construct with cards. Here's how to make a *cantilever*, a structure that's supported on just one side (like a balcony).

Let him lay down a card with one end lined up at the edge of a table. Ask him to place a card on top that extends slightly over the edge of the table and another that extends over the edge of the card below it. It's a cantilever! How many cards can he add before the cantilever falls?

Why this works: The weight of the overhanging cards is supported by the other cards pressing down on top of them. 📦



Money games

10 quarters + 25 nickels + 8 dimes + 16 pennies = 1 handful of fun (and \$4.71). Help your child make sense of dollars and cents with these activities.

Three in a row. This twist on tic-tac-toe lets your youngster practice adding coin values. Have him stack any combination of coins in each square of a tic-tac-toe board, and give each player a different color crayon.



Take turns removing any pile, counting the coins, and writing the total value in the square. *Example:* Pick up 1 quarter, 3 dimes, and 4 pennies, then write “59 cents.” The game ends when one person gets three in a row. Add up all the coins you’ve removed—the player with the most money wins.

Shopping relay. Place three store flyers or catalogs around the room. Each player gets a \$50 budget and lists three items to “buy” (shoes, shampoo, book). On “Go,” race to each catalog and “shop,” subtracting the price of each item from your budget. The winner is the first person to finish shopping, stay within budget—and get the math right! 📦

MATH CORNER

Geometry “Pictionary”

Illustrating math terms in pictures only—no words or symbols allowed!—can boost your youngster’s understanding of math concepts. Try this game.

• **Set up:** On separate index cards, ask your child to write math vocabulary words he’s learned in school this year. *Examples:* denominator, factor, multiple, trapezoid, parallelogram, pyramid, divide, area, perimeter. He should fold the cards in half and put them in a bowl. Divide players into two equal teams.



• **Play:** Teams take turns picking a card, setting a 2-minute timer, and having one teammate illustrate the word on a whiteboard or paper. The other players on his team try to name the term. Your youngster might sketch a fenced-in field for *perimeter*, and a sliced pie for *divide*.

• **Score:** Earn a point for each vocabulary word your team identifies correctly. 📦

OUR PURPOSE

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

Resources for Educators,
a division of CCH Incorporated
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800-394-5052 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com
www.rfeonline.com

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SCIENCE LAB

Magnetism: Opposites attract

An invisible force field? Sounds like science fiction—but your youngster can observe this very real physical property of magnets in this experiment.

You’ll need: tape, yarn, two magnets, table

Here’s how: Help your child tape one end of the yarn to one magnet and the other end to a tabletop, so that the magnet dangles off the table. Now have her hold the second magnet and move it toward the hanging one. She should move her magnet back and forth so each side, or *pole*, has a chance to attract the hanging magnet.



What happens? The hanging magnet moves toward the one your youngster holds. It turns around (or doesn’t) depending on which pole of her magnet is facing it.

Why? Every magnet has a north and south pole. Opposite poles attract. When two north or two south poles face each other, the poles repel each other—in this case, causing the hanging magnet to turn around. 📦

PARENT TO PARENT

Baking, the metric way

Our family has been baking a lot lately: bread, muffins, cookies, you name it! Recently, my daughter Caitlin found a recipe with standard and metric units. She wondered why 1 cup flour was 120 grams while 1 cup sugar was 200 grams—and frankly, so did I.

I bought an inexpensive food scale, and Caitlin measured the ingredients. She decided sugar must weigh more because it’s denser,

so we looked it up online, and she was right. And she realized something else: Using a scale makes measurements more precise, since it’s hard to eyeball whether you have a level cupful or spoonful.

Now she converts all our recipes to metric units and weighs the ingredients. Not only does she bake delicious cookies, she also gets an extra helping of math practice with the metric system every time we bake. 📦



Patty Woody, CTE Coordinator

Want a Great Career?



Alaskan Employers Expect:

WORK ATTITUDES

RESPONSIBLE/SELF-DISCIPLINED

Is a self-starter, committed to and accountable for work assigned, does not do just the bare minimum to get the job done.

WILLING TO LEARN/PRIDE IN DOING A GOOD JOB

Is flexible, ambitious, shows initiative, efficient. Willing and able to respond to change in work assignments or learn new technology and new ways of doing things. Willing to do the job over until it is done correctly. Able to see long term results of efforts on the job.

SAFETY-CONSCIOUS

Always thinks about safety in every aspect of the job, takes responsibility for one's own actions. Notices and corrects unsafe situations in the workplace. Does not have to be told to use safe procedures, concerned for the safety of others.

MANAGES STRESS AND PERSONAL PROBLEMS

Manages job pressures constructively. Does not allow personal problems to interfere with work.

POSITIVE OUTLOOK

View the good in situations and works constructively to solve problems, has a positive self-image, is self-confident, sets personal goals.

FOLLOWS THE RULES

Performs tasks in the prescribed manner, does not break rules but will help change rules if needed.

WORKING WITH OTHERS

Is able to work as a productive team member, able to share information, credits and praises others, puts the team above personal interests.

RESPECTS OTHERS

Has good manners, shows common courtesy, appreciates multicultural diversity.

TECHNOLOGY USAGE

Smartphones and tablets have changed the workplace in a short amount of time. Respect your employers technology guidelines.

SKILLS/COMPETENCIES

COMMUNICATION

READ: Has the ability to comprehend written material and take appropriate action.

SPEAK: Be able to express ideas clearly and concisely to individuals and in groups, has good customer communication skills, gives clear direction.

WRITE: Spells correctly, writes legibly, expresses ideas clearly and concisely, is able to write a business letter and fill out forms properly.

LISTEN: Can comprehend what is said and take action.

MATH

Able to apply basic and applicable math skills to accomplish tasks.

PROBLEM SOLVING

Has the ability to identify source of problem, demonstrates good common sense, is creative and innovative.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Can use computers to process information, is familiar with common technology applications and tools in the workplace.

KNOWING HOW TO LEARN

Is able to teach oneself new skills, to seek and use new information appropriately.

APPLYING WHAT IS LEARNED

Possess various skills including the more complex kinds of thinking, such as reasoning, analysis, and problem solving.

LOOKING FOR WORK

Is able and confident to identify job opportunities, to complete a job application, to prepare a résumé, dress appropriately and promote oneself during an interview.

WORK ETHIC

HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

Actions are based on a personally held set of values, can be trusted to follow the rules even when supervisors are not present, keeps one's word, is consistent with the company mission and vision.

ACCEPTS ADVICE, SUPERVISION, CRITICISM

Has high self-esteem and does what is asked, accepts criticism and uses it to improve.

DEPENDABLE / FOLLOWS THROUGH

Works diligently to complete tasks, alerts supervisor to problems or delays.

GOOD ATTENDANCE / ON TIME

Can be depended upon to be at work except for very good reasons.

ACCURACY OF WORK / NO WASTE

Is careful and avoids mistakes, corrects errors, takes pride in work well done, holds high standards.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteering shows initiative and a commitment to community.



Alaska Process Industry Careers Consortium
APICC.ORG

OPEN DOORS TO EMPLOYMENT

GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL

A high school diploma is a minimum education requirement for employment.

HAVE A VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE

A driver's license is a formal form of ID and demonstrates initiative. Keep a clean driving record as many companies will not hire someone with a DUI.

BE ABLE TO PASS A DRUG SCREENING

Many companies have a zero tolerance for substance abuse. Often it means employees do not show up for work, or can be a safety hazard if they have been using drugs or alcohol in the recent past.

POSSESS BASIC EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

Utilize some of the soft skills programs to help you develop the competencies, attitudes, and values employers are seeking.

FIT FOR DUTY

Be able to pass a medical assessment to be sure an employee can safely do a specific job or task under the working conditions.

HAVE ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

Many services are available for people who speak English as a second language. Employers need workers who are proficient in English, as this can be a matter of safety in emergencies.

GAIN TRAINING/EDUCATION

Some employers say if you have mastered soft skills, they will give you the rest. Others require job specific training or experience.

NARROW GAPS IN EMPLOYMENT

If you have poor work history or you are an ex-offender, utilize resources offering help. Many companies hire ex-offenders. Be honest, present yourself professionally, and rebuild your résumé.

SOCIAL MEDIA

With the ever-increasing use and variety of social media, many employers check social media for potential employees' character and to see if the applicant would be a good fit for the culture of the organization. Use social media wisely.

Denaakkenaage'/ Denakenaga' 'our language'

K'etsoo Susan Paskvan,
Native Language Coordinator

November and December lessons have focused on parts of the body and weather. Students started the month by keeping a log of weather in November. Although we had quite a few schools out on lockdown this past month, we still kept track of the weather. They are getting quite good on automatically replying in Denaakk'e or Benhti.

Shout out to Trinity K. of the Jimmy Huntington School in Huslia for sharing her Denaakk'e lessons with her mother LeAnn Bifelt on social media. LeAnn has been posting videos this fall of Trinity practicing, even though the school was in lockdown.

If other families are interested in language activities, each household should have a language kit that includes cards to play games like concentration and board games.

How many ways can you sing Jingle Bells? There are eight different versions in the two languages. I just think back to when our late elders must've been translating songs along time ago, they were ingenious. I had the fortunate experience of witnessing elders and singers translating Silent Night into Denaakk'e. The number of syllables per verse has to match the tune of the song. That is tricky to do. I'm so excited for our students who are learning Jingle Bells, Silent Night, Little Drummer Boy and Amazing Grace.



Photo by LeAnn Bifelt



14th Annual Virtual Holiday Program

Congratulations teachers, students, and staff on another successful annual Virtual Holiday Program. You have worked so hard to learn songs in Denaakk'e, Benhti, and English in two short weeks. Kudos to you teachers to working with your students on their introduction, on placement of students in front of the camera, and singing as a group. The students' costumes and classroom decorations were superb. It really added to the festivities.

We had several guests today: YKSD board member, Anne Titus; Don Thibedeau with elder guests Eliza Ned and another from Denali Center; Aaron Schutt and Tanya Kaquatosh of Doyon, Limited; and Ann Fears from KRFF radio. Ann broadcast the program over the KRFF radio station. KTVF watched the YouTube live and aired a snippet of the program on channel 11 and 13.

Baasee' to our Native Language Assistant, Holly Wofford; Grinch (Breanna Semaken); Santa (Kela Gillihan); Elf (Patty Hill), Native Language Coordinator, Susan Paskvan; and Mrs. Santa (Kerry Boyd). Also, a big Baasee' to our Technology Director, Brad Kennon, for his assistance with the video-conferencing!



[Link to the You Tube 14th Virtual Holiday Program](#)

[Link to the KTVF News Snippet](#)

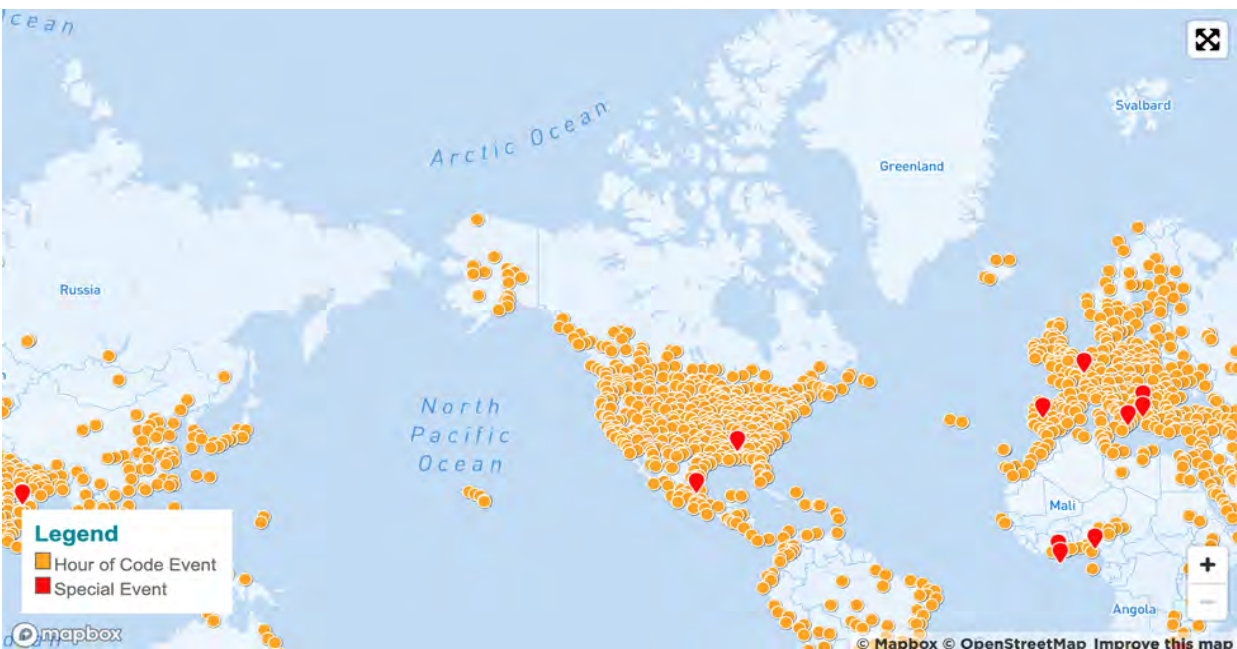
Tech Corner

Chelsea Hurst, Instructional
Technology Supervisor



December 7-11th YKSD students participated in Computer Science Education Week. Computer Science Education Week (#CSEdWeek) is “an annual call to action to inspire K-12 students to learn computer science, advocate for equity in computer science education, and celebrate the contributions of students, teachers, and partners to the field” (<https://www.csedweek.org/>).

YKSD students participated through an Hour of Code Event. Using Code.org activities, students learned that computer science can be fun and easy for anyone to learn! YKSD students joined over a million students worldwide in a global Hour of Code movement. Check out our YKSD schools on the Code.org map: <https://hourofcode.com/us>.



Congratulations!



Congratulations to Judy Madros and her class in Kaltag for being the first group to complete the Hour of Code! They did a fantastic job and I can't wait to join the Hour of Code with other classes across the district!

Morris White, Math Specialist

Number Talks:

Gateway to Sense Making

Support your high school students
in the challenging transition
from memorization to
understanding.

**Kathy L. Sun, Erin E.
Baldinger,
and Cathy Humphreys**

To be successful in mathematics, students need to be able to solve unfamiliar problems, explain their reasoning, and make connections among different strategies (CCSSI 2010). However, many high school students have experienced mathematics as a set of rules that are disconnected from underlying mathematical reasoning (e.g., “flip and multiply” for dividing fractions; “minus a negative is plus” for integer subtraction) (Schoenfeld 1988). This procedural view of mathematics without connections to underlying concepts can lead to gaps in knowledge of basic number operations that can impede understanding of high school content. This view of mathematics also makes it harder for students to solve unfamiliar problems and to make connections among mathematical ideas (Boaler and Staples 2008). Number Talks can address these challenges by supporting engagement in mathematical sense making, or what NCTM (2009) defines as “developing understanding of a concept by connecting it with existing knowledge” (p. 1), and can support future learning of high school content.

WHAT IS A NUMBER TALK?

A Number Talk is a brief activity (10–15 minutes in length) that is designed to support students’ mathematical sense making and promote flexible thinking. During a Number Talk, students engage in mental computations. Number Talks help students do the following:

- Develop number sense focused on making sense of quantity and mathematical relationships.
- Understand that there can be many ways to solve a mathematics problem.
- Learn to trust their own reasoning, which helps build intellectual autonomy (Humphreys and Parker 2015).

Business Office News

Heather Heineken,
Chief Financial Officer

YKSD Business Office Monthly Training

**Tune in for a variety of Topics the 3rd
Thursday of Every Month at 2pm**

<https://bluejeans.com/9073749409>

Upcoming Schedule of Training Topics

December 17—P-Card Reconciliation Process

January 21—Raven Reimbursement

February 18—Purchasing Process from Requisition to PO and Why

March 18—Chart of Accounts Review

Business office Training Resources Available online at: <https://www.yksd.com/domain/16>

Food Service Bites

Rachel Spencer, Food Service Specialist

Every school year a student survey is conducted to get an idea of what they want offered in their local cafeteria. Below are the results from this school year; this data is taken into consideration when planning for the next school year's menu:

Top 5 favorite school breakfast items

1. Pancakes
2. Sausage links
3. Biscuits and Gravy
4. Oatmeal
5. Smoothies

Top 5 favorite school lunch items

1. Pizza
2. Chicken Nuggets
3. Tacos
4. Spaghetti
5. Burgers

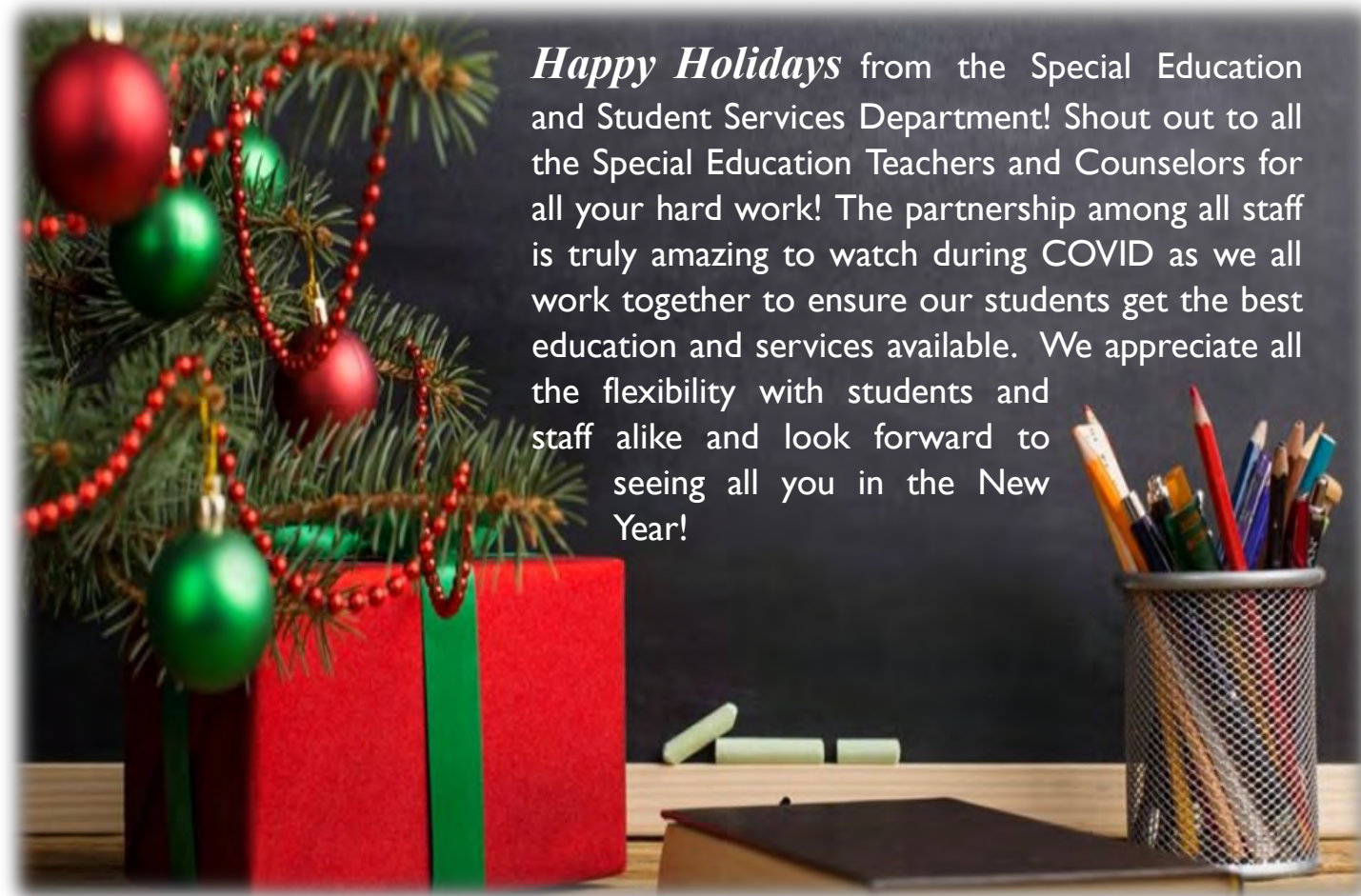
Items requested by students to be included on school menu:

1. Starbucks
2. McDonalds
3. Goulash
4. Moose tongue
5. Donuts



Counselors Corner

Cristina Welker, Direct of Special Education and Support Services



Happy Holidays from the Special Education and Student Services Department! Shout out to all the Special Education Teachers and Counselors for all your hard work! The partnership among all staff is truly amazing to watch during COVID as we all work together to ensure our students get the best education and services available. We appreciate all the flexibility with students and staff alike and look forward to seeing all you in the New Year!

A Time to be Thankful

Jennifer Ingman, AK Grad Teacher

Coronavirus has impacted all of us and put an unprecedented amount of stress on families. We at AK Grad are so proud of the way our students and families have faced these new challenges. Our students are continuing to work so hard and many have already completed their quarter and semester courses and many more are on track to finish before the end of the semester.

This is a year to be thankful for what we have and not what we get. We are so thankful for the families that have chosen to take courses with us. We are thankful for the creators of AK Grad and those who have worked so hard to make the program what it is today. Moreover, we are thankful that we already had a program in place that allows us to support our continuing students and our students who are new to homeschool.

This December, I would like us to focus on keeping our momentum going and finishing the semester strong. Now is a good time to look at the goals you set for yourself at the beginning of the school year and see if you are meeting them. Reflect on how your school year has gone so far and what helps you be successful. Also, be sure to stay in communication with your teachers and ask for help if you need it.



Happy Holidays from the AK Grad Team.



Johnny Oldman School

Patty White, Principal

It has been an exciting month in the Hughes middle school classroom as we have traveled the ancient world! The students immersed themselves in multiple cultures, creating hands-on art projects for each civilization:

- ♦ Popsicle stick fans for Ancient China (with real lettering from Google Translate)
- ♦ Persian rugs for Ancient Persia (marker on canvas with some fringe added)
- ♦ Sundials for Mesoamerica/Aztec Empire (Acrylic paint on cardboard)

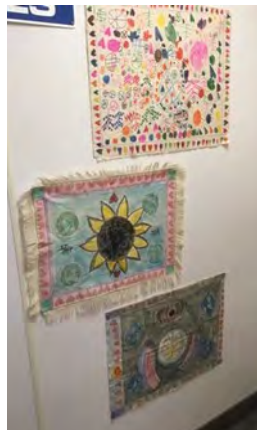


In science, the students have begun to explore energy in its many forms, thermal energy being of particular interest. The students have been allowed to choose any items from our art supply cabinet to create a mock home which will then be tested to observe its energy efficiency. The kids received an introduction to mechanical drafting/design and have been filling out a true test report for the experiment. Which home will hold its heat the longest? Cardboard tubes with foam sheets? Styrofoam containers lined with straw and play dough? Or a cardboard box with bundled paper walls and yarn insulation?



Oh, while talking about science, did we mention that Mr. Bellamy swung a weight from our gym basketball rim towards his own head, like a pendulum? Luckily, energy is neither created nor destroyed, so when the weight swung back, it stayed inches away from breaking his nose!

What is a landform? That was the focus in Mrs. Bellamy's elementary classroom for a few weeks. The students learned about the seven continents and the different types of landforms, both land and water formations. Students created a narrative story with a fictional island located in an ocean near a continent. The children also made and created a salt dough model of their island with at least five landforms. They even wrote a postcard home from their island. We had so many a-ha moments!



For STEM we went on a journey to find the snow depth. Students estimated the height in inches and we went outside with rulers and yardsticks to find the actual measurement. Students were able to measure and record their findings. We were able to find a depth of 17 inches of snow. Wow! Afterwards, we talked about how data can be put into graphs. The students felt a bar graph was the best way to record our data.



We rounded out the month of November with Thanksgiving projects. Our class has been learning about the Mayflower voyage to the New World in 1620. We took a virtual tour of a Mayflower ship reproduction and learned what life was like in the New World. We even made our own homemade candles and the students learned how to hand dip candles too. The students learned why we celebrate Thanksgiving.





Kaltag School

Andrea Nield, Off-Site Principal

Hello from Kaltag School! We would like to wish all of the families a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year. During the month of November our school had to implement our Covid Mitigation Plan and the students moved to digital packets for 2.5 weeks. A majority of our packets were returned and the students earned prizes from Hutletlsen. We would like to thank our amazing staff, families and students for all their hard work and support. This fall we implemented a student of the week program where students receive a voucher for \$7 to be used at the local Co-op store. Here are our students of the week for first semester.

Week of Oct. 19 ~ Avery Pitka & Jude Saunders

Week of Oct 26 ~ Tassie Nickoli & Clayton Neglaskn

Week of Nov. 2 ~ Quinn Alexie & Jonah Semaken

Week of Nov. 23 ~ Tiana Madros & Peyton Madros

Week of Nov 30 ~ Ahnalis Semaken & Aiden Semaken

Week of Dec. 7 ~ Lawrence Nicholas & Kiersten Madros



Kaltag students perform at the YKSD virtual Christmas program .



Rampart School

David Filby, Principal-Teacher

Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow! Rampart Students enjoy the cold and the outdoors as the secondary students cross-country ski, and the elementary students sled on the many rises and hills in and around Rampart.



Students were helpful setting up and getting acquainted with the new powerful technology at Rampart. Students have access to eSports computers including software applications that relate to their learning objectives. In addition, students will orient themselves to potentially participate in eSports in the near future.



In addition to the computer technology, Rampart students anticipate the addition of 3D Printing to the school's technology with the addition of Makerbot Sketch printers. Rampart School looks forward to this technology opening up many creative and technical opportunities for students.

Rampart school moves confidently into the Holidays, and looking forward to a 'Rampart Reboot' as we enter into 2021!!!

Rampart School and students wish
*Happy Holidays and
Happy New Year*
to everyone else in
Yukon-Koyukuk School District!!!





Merrelaine A. Kangas School

Michael Day,
Principal & Teacher

This past month we have had many of our students who have been home due to family members being in quarantine because of travel. We have been very fortunate to not have had to do any distance classes for our students. The Tribal Task Force ensures that our community is safe so our students can attend school. At the beginning of the school year we had representatives from Inuk Bags come to our school and donate 35 backpacks that the students can color. On the 18th of this month we will be holding a contest on what the students have done. Everyone is very excited about this.

Mrs. Washburn's 2020-2021 Class

The pre-k through 2nd grade Ruby Ravens have been working very hard on improving reading fluency and comprehension, working on number recognition, matching, and math facts. We all made it to our point goal in Accelerated Reading! The time is going by so fast that we celebrated fall and carved pumpkins, spent some time thinking about what we were thankful for: our families, being safe, friends, and cousins and we are now beading gifts for Christmas! Wow! 2020 is going by quickly.



Mrs. Titus's Class

Mrs. Titus's has been doing a fantastic job with her class. They are learning in leaps and bounds. She is also doing a wonderful job as our reading specialist. She feels that we will see significant improvements in the reading scores this year. She is also doing the Accelerated Reader program for our school and the students are reading up a storm.

Mrs. Brown's and Mr. Day's Middle and High School Classes

Our high and middle school students have been working hard. Mrs. Brown's class will be doing an egg drop for physical science in the next few weeks and the students are extremely excited about this project. They have been working with coding and the students are really enjoying themselves. While Mrs. Titus is doing her Reading Specialist program, Mrs. Brown works with Mrs. Titus's class. During this time period, the middle/high school students are taking Art with Rocky and they are enjoying it very much. They are producing some wonderful drawings.



Merrelaine A. Kangas School continued

Michael Day,
Principal & Teacher



Hour of Coding ice cream party (thank you Kerry Boyd) and volcanoes

In Mr. Day's geometry class is doing very well and the students are learning so much more than they expected. In his woodworking class the students have been working on building model houses, this is very time consuming, but they are sticking with it. They are also making coffee grinders, turning wooden bowls and salt and pepper shakers.



Charles is ripping a board with the help of Levi so he can start his coffee grinder.



Emmersyn is running a board through the thickness planner so she can start her coffee grinder.



Ryan is starting his bowl, the wood that he is using is Oak, Maple, and Walnut.



Lilly is unboxing her model house kit and getting ready to start.



Sharae is sanding the base of her coffee grinder.



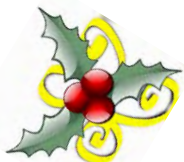
Ryan almost finished with turquoise beads that he inlaid



Ella B. Vernetti School

Brandy Henderson,
Principal & Teacher

Koyukuk students love to learn. They have been working hard and getting into the Christmas spirit. Kindergarten through third grades students participated in an Hour of Code. Fourth through eighth grade students have been busy decorating the school. They helped put up our tree and made hand-made ornaments to decorate with.

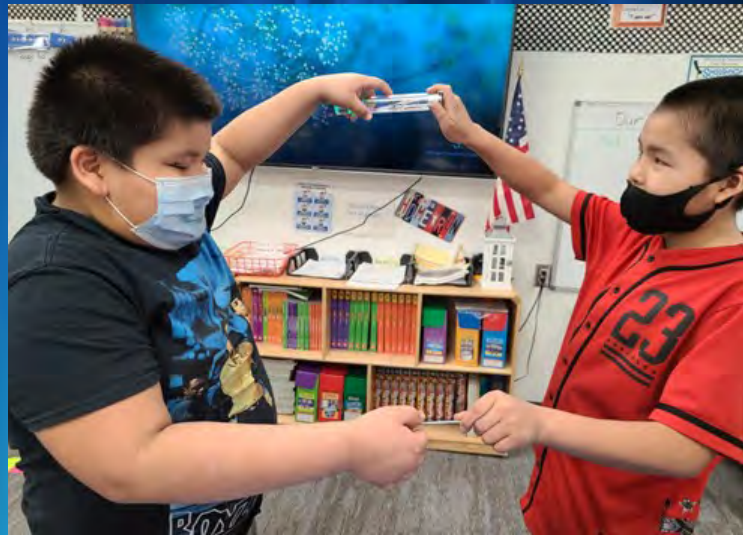




Allakaket School

Judith Withers, Teacher

Students were learning how electricity works. In the photos below, they were investigating to find out which materials are conductors or insulators. They were so fascinated to find out that even their own bodies, water, and play doughs can be conductors!





Andrew K. Demoski School

Shaine Nixon, Principal

Students have been working hard in Mr. Healy's science class building replicas to scale of ancient catapults. Students used models to work from but put their own twist on certain aspects as well as painted their projects for battle. This week they plan on holding a competition to see who has the most powerful catapult and who can project an object the furthest. (Pictured) Vegas Kruger's finished catapult. "The Santa Slayer". If he's not on the Naughty list, he will be.



Ms. Nixon's K-3 class worked with Mr. Morris White from the District Office on the Basketball Court Math project. Students learned to measure distance using the court and yard sticks. It was a very interesting activity. Mr. Nixon had to assist with Mrs. Nixon nursing a broken foot.

Ms. McKenna Nixon and her 4th and 5th grade students have decorated for Christmas. They have been learning "Jingle Bells" in Athabaskan. Wednesday they will participate in singing Christmas carols to the AKD Jr. and High School students. They have also made Christmas cards for their parents. I know they are looking forward to their Christmas party.



Merry Christmas from Nulato



Nulato Cookie Decorating!

Josephine McGinty,
Principal aide



Minto School

Vicky Charlie, Principal

Students stayed after school on December 7th and 8th to make Christmas cards for the Minto elders who are living in nursing homes and for the homeless in Fairbanks. Thank you to Miss Rose for leading the activity!





Jimmy Huntington School

Casey Weter, Principal

The Jimmy Huntington Huslia Huslers recently received their jerseys for League of Legends. We are a young team that has been playing eSports for two-years. With daily practice, we continue to hone our game knowledge and skills to compete in our state league. Due to COVID this year and state competitions being shut down, we are participating in a regional tournament that includes teams from Alaska and Hawaii. eSports provides a great opportunity for students to participate in competitive sports that offer the same fun and exciting atmosphere as traditional sports. Our gaming room is full of energy as players make all sorts of sounds of excitement and frustration as they complete or lose game objectives.





Raven Homeschool

Kimberly Bergey,
Director

Raven continues to grow. We are welcoming late enrolling students daily.

Raven staff and our many parent volunteers have been busy hosting and supporting student learning through the many activities that have been and continue to be offered this school year. Here is just a sampling of what we have been able to offer even in times of COVID-19

Parents

- * Coffee Time
- * Homeschooling & Curriculum Discussion
- * Recess Club
- * Parent Training - Allotment Reimbursement 101
- * Raven Webinar
- * Parent Training - Progress Reports 101
- * Parent Training - Orientation
- * Parent Training - Acellus 101
- * Raven Enrollment Question & Answer

Students

- * Quarantweenies Chat
- * Virtual Story Time
- * Field Trips
- * Lego K-1 2-5 and 4th - 8th grade
- * Book Club's (Littles, Middles, Teens)
- * Lego Club
- * Recess Club
- * Virtual Show-N-Told
- * Geography Club - US
- * Geography Club - World
- * Outdoor Club
- * Teen Study Breaks
- * Show and Tell
- * Battle of the Books
- * Teen Chats
- * Math Tutoring
- * Military Recruiters
- * Union Apprenticeship Information



Family Financial Portal is Coming Soon

Raven staff have been working on the development of the Family Financial Portal and we are happy to say it is nearing completion. We should be able to share it with families very soon. A big shout out to **Andie Levesque** for all the time and work she has put into this project! We are so very thankful for her expertise.

Happy Holidays

Raven Staff Recognition

Kimberly Bergey,
Director

Heidi Nickels ~ Fairbanks Advisory Teacher



Heidi Nickels shines like a star. She quickly adjusted to the fast lane of enrolling families in the midst of our highest enrollment. She is dedicated, and continues to dedicate, countless hours to calling, emailing, researching curriculum, answering Facebook posts, and troubleshooting to ensure families receive superior customer service. Her attention to detail, level of questions, and commitment to always doing work correct the first time is unmatched.

Joy Shier ~ Wasilla & Juneau Assistant Principal

Joy Shier's leadership and collaborative efforts have been invaluable this year! Her work with new teachers demonstrates her genuine care for each of the Raven employees she interacts with and supports on a daily basis. Joy's efforts have directly contributed to the cooperative working environment that exists in the Wasilla office.

Joy takes the time to listen and address individual concerns brought to her. She serves as a role-model for other employees, sharing the benefit of her experience and leading by example. Her excellence in training, her manner, and thoroughness have made a significant difference in how quickly and how well new staff members have integrated into their office community. Her dedication to supporting staff is a great part of Raven's success through this time of immense growth!



Raven Student Recognition

Bionka Bolger ~ Anchorage

Bionka Bolger is a 12th grader who has joined our Raven family this year after dropping out of school in the 9th grade. Although her family life has been very challenging, she has brought a positive, can-do attitude to her schooling this year that has gone well beyond our expectations. She has worked consistently and has surpassed her completion goals. When she has questions, she promptly contacts her advisory teacher for clarification, help or advice. Her grades are excellent. She is discussing her future and is looking into different possibilities. She would also like to try a college-level class next year.

Further, Bionka is a kind and respectful young woman. She lives with her grandmother and spends a lot of time helping her out in many ways. Her grandmother cannot say enough wonderful things about her and how she has blessed her life.

We are very impressed with Bionka Bolger as a beautiful example of a Raven student who is taking control of her education and giving herself a renewed chance of success after a season of failure and hardship.

Raven Student Recognition

Conlon Rischel ~ Eagle River



Conlon Rishel, a 12th-grade homeschooled student, has repeatedly proven that you can be a pillar in your community no matter your age. His heart for leadership has led him to become the president of the Raven Eagle River Teen Leadership Council and being promoted to the position of 2nd LT. in the Eagle River High School ROTC program. Conlon volunteers his time by spending countless hours helping plan and lead Raven Eagle River Office activities.

Aubrey Stacy ~ Fairbanks



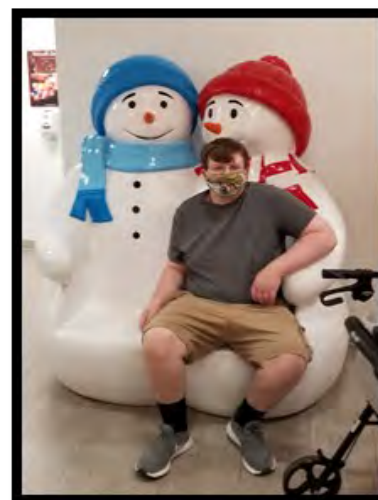
Aubrey Stacy has signed her letter and is heading to Northern Arizona University to play for the Lumberjacks. They play in the Division I level in the Big Sky Conference. Stacy has been one of the top soccer players in the state, showing tough around the net to get many scoring opportunities.

Stig Cunningham ~ Juneau



Stig Cunningham won the first dive meet in September, then he broke his foot while diving and had to be in a boot for 6 weeks.

Tate Colvin ~ Wasilla



Tate Colvin is a senior; this is his 3rd year with Raven. Tate has been able to keep an A average in all of his classes. He has managed to make a schedule for his school work and still be able to hold a part time job. He is the closing grill cook, at his job, and works between 30-38 hours a week. Tate's future plans are to go to college for a History degree and work in the same field once he graduates.

Raven Homeschool ~ Fairbanks

Tracy Kurzenberger,
Family Liaison

This holiday season, as families embrace the challenge of social distancing, Raven Homeschool Fairbanks continues to provide interaction and fun activities for families to enjoy. The Raven Christmas Extravaganza Event is our link to families. As our doors closed, our hearts opened up in different ways to help kids keep their creative bug alive. This extravaganza is a 9-day event from 9-17 December, where kids participate in daily activities. The results of their activities are being posted on our FaceBook page for their friends and other families to delight in.

We kicked off our extravaganza with a Santa Beard countdown. With this activity, kids were encouraged to fill Santa's beard as they counted down the days to Christmas. Day 2 was the Moosetoe book reading and recreation of Poppa Moose as a Christmas tree. Day 3 was BINGO night and prizes when out to the winners. Day 4 kids experimented with Borax and pipe cleaners to create crystal candy cane ornaments. This was an awesome activity that taught a bit of science too. Day 5 we explored tessellations and how shapes perfectly intertwined to create larger shapes. Day 6 goes back to science exploration to trap a snowstorm in a jar. Day 7 we will be creating fluffy snow slime with shaving cream colors and glitter. Day 8 we fill our tree with salt dough ornaments to cherish throughout the years. And finally, we bring ourselves to day 9 where we will be hosting a talent show via Bluejeans so we can see our friends and families enjoy each other's company, smiles and laughter separately but together.



Santa Claus

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

beard

Blitzen

boots

cherry nose

chimney

coal

Comet

cookies

Cupid

Dancer

Dasher

Donner

elves

hat

Ho ho ho

jolly

kindness

letters

list

magic bag

milk

Mrs. Claus

naughty

nice

night

North Pole

Prancer

presents

red suit

reindeer

rooftop

Rudolph

Santa

sleigh

stockings

toymaker

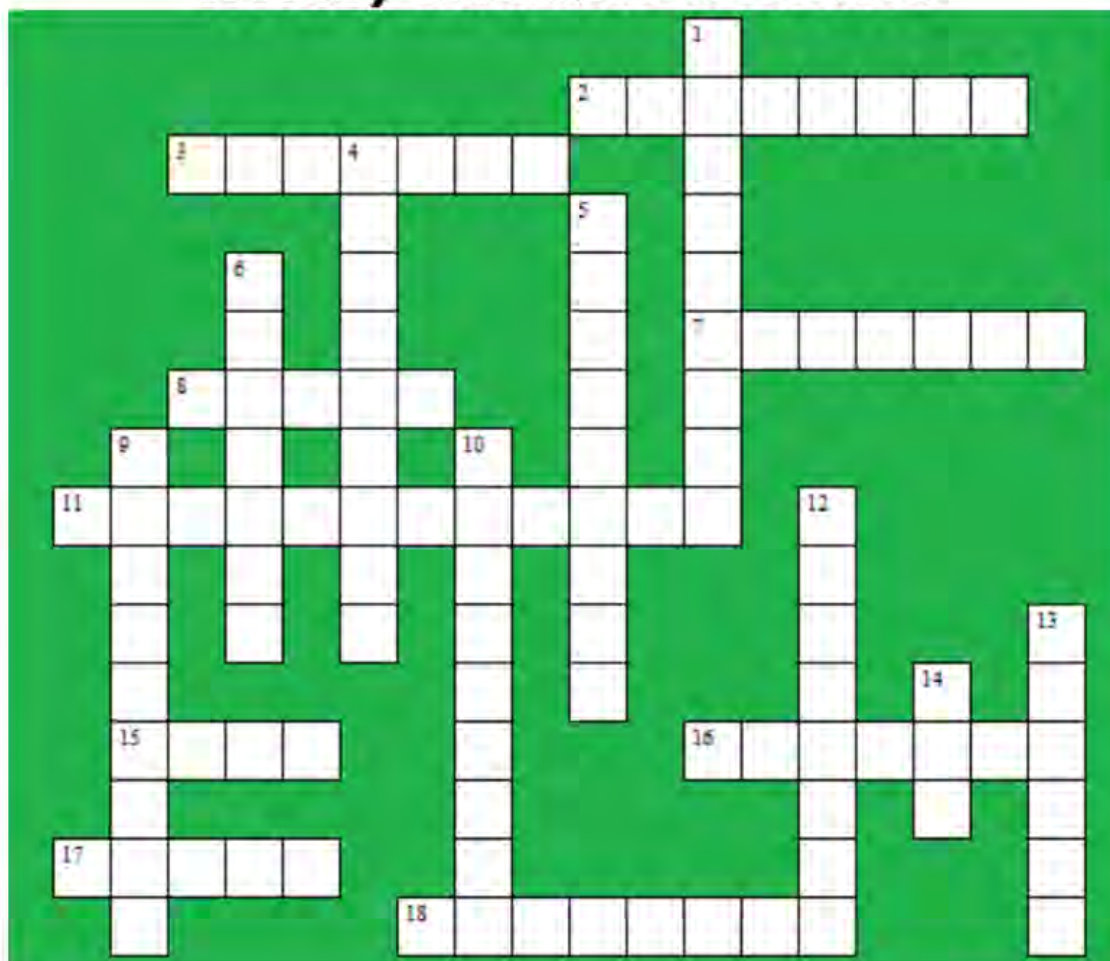
Vixen

workshop



Name: _____

A Merry Christmas Crossword



ACROSS

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

DOWN

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

Answers:

Across	Down
2 stockings	1 North Pole
3 chimney	4 mistletoe
7 Prancer	5 ornaments
8 holly	6 cookies
11 Christmas Eve	9 Christmas
15 toys	10 candy cane
16 Rudolph	12 reindeer
17 Santa	13 ho ho ho
18 December	14 elf

Super Teacher Worksheets

<http://www.superteacherworksheets.com>