

October 2021

Yukon-Koyukuk School District Staff Connections

From the Desk of Superintendent Kerry Boyd

Student Opportunities and Parent Teacher Conferences

Thank you for helping your student/s successfully complete the first quarter of the school year! We hope that you will join your students for Parent-Teacher Conferences scheduled at each of our schools for November 3rd where students will showcase their hard work. YKSD has a lot to celebrate, and students have been working hard! This year you will see a new type of assessment result report, STAR, which provides very specific information about children's skill levels in reading. Literacy is at the heart of a child's learning. Please help us work toward our goal of having every child read at least 20 minutes at home. If you need more books or other forms of literature for your child, please notify your teacher. The District office is in the process of sending out another round of books and supplies to all students!

COVID-19 Mitigation

Some schools have closed and then reopened due to COVID-19 one or two times already this year. The good news is that the testing administrators YKSD has hired for each school have certainly helped shorten the duration of school closures! The CDC has also updated their guidance about close contacts and quarantine times. For more information about COVID-19 mitigation, please visit the YKSD website.

Staff and Student Recognition

At every YKSD Regional Board meeting, the YKSD Regional Board selects students and staff from the nominations received district-wide and recognizes them for their hard work with a gift certificate and certificate for their outstanding actions. Student and staff names will be placed in the local and district-wide newsletter and celebrated with the local school community. Keep an eye out for the next newsletter to see the names!

Student Activities

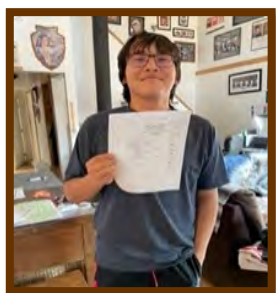
There are many activities taking place at this time of year. Please be sure to check with your child's teacher to learn more. YKSD is following the Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA) guidelines and the aligned mitigation plans, for students who will be traveling for activities.

Student Government meetings will be held monthly using the Video Conferencing. Student Government is a wonderful way for high school students to participate in leadership activities and to serve as role models for the student body.



*Congratulations to the new YKSD Student
Government Leadership Team*

Kerry Boyd, Superintendent



- President- Thomas Patsy, Nulato



- Vice President- Agnes Patsey, Nulato



- Secretary- Emmersyn Wiehl, Ruby



- Treasurer- Cadence Madros, Kaltag

YKSD Regional School Board Results

Kerry Boyd, Superintendent

The YKSD Regional School Board election took place this month. Please join me in congratulating Shirley Kruger from Nulato and Wilmer Beetus from Hughes for being elected to the YKSD Regional School Board again!

Congratulations to the YKSD School Board officers and members are listed below. The YKSD School Board was recently nominated for the School Board of the Year!



Fred Bifelt - Huslia, Board Chair
 Shirley Kruger - Nulato, Vice Chair
 Anne Titus - Ruby, Secretary
 Ruth Folger - Minto, Treasurer
 Gloria Patsy - Nulato
 Dian Gurtler - Manley Hot Springs
 Wilmer Beetus - Hughes

Congratulations

Thank you K'OYITL'OTS'INA LIMITED!

Kerry Boyd, Superintendent

Thank you to K Corp Shareholder Relations for donating \$500.00 per every student in Allakaket, Hughes and Huslia! These funds have been directly deposited into the student activity fund!



Thank you Doyon Limited!

Kerry Boyd, Superintendent

Thank you to Doyon Limited CARES ACT Committee for donating \$500.00 per student to every student in the YKSD schools!



Tanana Chiefs

Kerry Boyd, Superintendent

Tanana Chief's President, PJ Simon, is supporting Yukon Koyukuk's priority to build and expand a career technical program for students in the interior region! Chief Simon presented to the YKSD School Board at its last board meeting about future partnerships to support education! The YKSD School Board is prioritizing student achievement with a strong focus of Career Technical Education.



Teaching & Learning

Patty White,
Assistant Superintendent

Literacy Focus

The district is focusing on Literacy this school year in all grade levels and all subjects. Reading with and to your child for 20 minutes every night will help foster the love of reading!

The teachers and principals have been learning about John Hattie's research on what practices and programs provide the strongest effect on student learning. Part of our professional development is to talk to the students and ask what makes a student a good learner. A lot of the answers we received from students focused on being a good student (raises hand, sits quietly, follows directions, gets good grades, etc.). These are all good things but here is what the research says about what makes someone a good learner.

A good learner is someone who:

- Sets challenging goals
- Tries again if they fail the first time
- Asks questions
- Sees mistakes as a chance to grow
- Doesn't give up when learning is hard
- Seeks feedback

As we continue our professional development, we will be working with students to help them understand what it takes to be a good learner.

Parent/Teacher Conferences: November 3, students will be released after lunch so teachers can meet with parents to review student progress and first quarter report cards.

Parents, be sure to sign up to meet with your child's teacher during Parent/Teacher conferences. Call the school to schedule your time with the teachers.



Instructional & Tech News

Chelsea Hurst, Instructional
Technology Supervisor

Shout out to the Alaska Ecology PLC for providing your students with rich and engaging learning experiences. Activities these teachers have done so far include composting, identifying trees in the community, and learning the why behind the science phenomena that occurs in their local communities.

ALASKA ECOLOGY PLC	
■ Andrew Bellamy	Johnny Oldman School
■ John Welkener	Allakaket School
■ Jeff Healy	Andrew K. Demoski School
■ Claire Hroscikoski	Kaltag School
■ Steve Swatling	Jimmy Huntington School

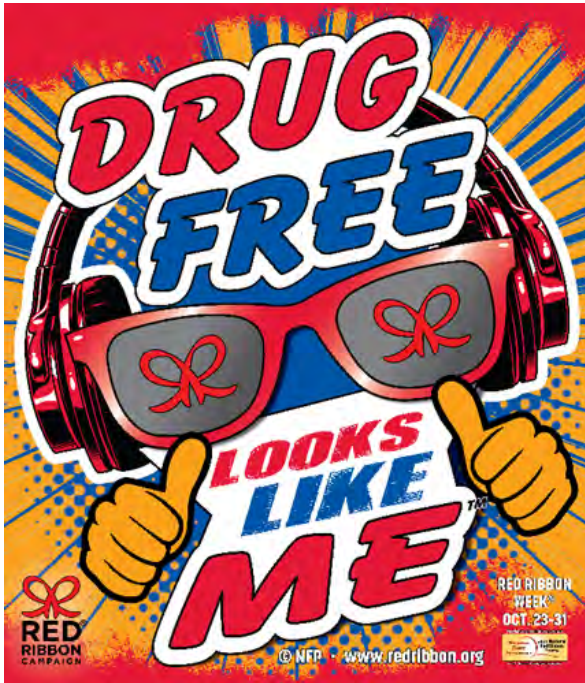
micro:bit

We hope that you enjoyed the Sphero Professional Development in early October. On November 11th, educator, Diane Horvath, will teach us how to use micro:bits as a station and walk us through easy access activities to get you and your students started with micro:bit.



Counselor Corner

Cristina Welker, Director of
Special Education & Support Services



Red Ribbon Week is October 23-31 but we celebrate the whole month! Join the counseling department in creating awareness about being drug free. Red Ribbon week is celebrated annually October 23-31 and is the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention awareness program.



October is National Bullying Prevention Month! Your counselors will be working with students of all ages this month on preventing bullying type behaviors, reporting such behaviors and helping friends who may be experiencing bullying.



Student Council has Begun!

Kela Gillihan, Counselor

We are so happy to have had our first Area Wide Student Council meeting for this school year. We were able to elect new officers, as well as bring in lots of new members. Our officers for this year are as follows: Thomas Patsy- President (Nulato), Agnes Pастey- Vice President (Nulato), Emmersyn Wehl- Secretary (Ruby), and Cadence Madros- Treasurer (Kaltag). We also would like to give a huge shout out to all our other members in Huslia, Hughes, Koyukuk, and Minto. We have gotten off to a great start and the students are looking forward to the Districtwide Jamboree in December. Student council is a great way for students to share what is going on in their schools and collaborate with students in other schools.



Business Office News

Shout Out to Monica Alexie!

Rachel Spencer, Food Service

Monica is the head chef at the Kaltag school and has been with YKSD for over 5 years! We appreciate Monica's diligence and creativity in delivering nutritious meals to our students throughout the years.

In a survey taken last school year, students requested ice cream, pizza, and an increase of fresh vegetables! (we were happy to comply with providing more fresh vegetables... 😊)

The pictures are of Chef Monica arriving to work during summer school and a chicken Caesar salad she prepared for the students last week (notice beautifully contrasting colors). We are so grateful to have her on our team!



Meet Theresa Myers, Raven Accounting Technician

Theresa Myers



Theresa Myers moved from West Hazleton, PA to Fairbanks, AK 23 years ago with her two young daughters after meeting her current husband in an internet chatroom. A year after moving here she had her son and a year later married her soulmate. Theresa comes from an "Old School" way of learning since high school where some of her favorite classes were stenography, typing and accounting for which she earned several awards throughout her high school years. Theresa has always worked in an office environment in the positions of Office Manager, Accounts Payable & Accounts Receivable. She considers herself hands-on trained since she never formally went to college to pursue any academic studies. She is happily married for the last 21 years, has 3 grown exceptional children and 3 more exceptional grandchildren; 2 who are homeschooled. Theresa brings with her a great sense of humor, years of experience, morals, values and an eagerness to learn along with a compassion for homeschooling mothers and fathers. Some of her hobbies are reading, baking cakes/cupcakes/breads and crafting.

Business Office News continued

Meet Shannon Scouten, Accounts Payable

Shannon Scouten



I was born and raised in Fairbanks. After graduating from West Valley High School I attended UAF and received a Bachelors of Science in Biological Sciences. I started working at a credit union soon after finishing college and continued working there for almost ten years in various positions. I currently live in North Pole with my husband James and our four cats. I enjoy spending time outdoors, especially during our beautiful summers.

Facilities & Maintenance Department

Gale Bourne, Facilities and Maintenance Director

Annual Asbestos Notification

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 (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) at the District Office and on line at <http://yksd.schoolwires.net/>.

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.



Career and Technical Education

First Aid CPR Training

Patty Woody, Career & Technical Education Coordinator



The Wilderness Emergency Medical Education company will be traveling to all River and Raven sites this winter to provide First Aid CPR training for all our staff members. Participants will receive their Basic First Aid CPR Certification through the American Health & Safety Institute (ASHI). This training will take approximately 3-4 hours. Don't miss out on getting your First Aid CPR Certification. Be watching for your site's training!

State & Federal Programs and Assessments

Helen Clark, Director of
State & Federal Programs
and Assessments



Our school district is taking part in a five-year re-accreditation review. Accreditation is an official recognition that the education provided by Yukon Koyukuk School District meets acceptable levels of quality. Having accreditation is important and signifies to other organizations that the level of education our students receive is of real value.

Our re-accreditation process involves the entire district in ongoing improvement efforts. Your participation and input is important and helps us determine areas of strength as well as areas that need improvement. Look for ways to be involved in our re-accreditation review this year! For questions, don't hesitate to contact Andrea Nield or Helen Clark

YKSD LITERACY

This year, and for years to come, YKSD is doubling down on our focused efforts to support student literacy. It's our goal that 100% of our students read on grade level by 3rd grade and that they continue to read on grade level through graduation. Our students, as a whole, aren't there yet, but they will be with our full district efforts on strong pre-k programs, multi-grade literacy instruction, response to intervention, and community literacy programs.



GRANTS Highlight

Our AN ELDER and AN ELDER II grants have provided tremendous Denaakk'e and Benhti resources for the students, teachers, families and communities of our district. Have you checked out [Susan Paskvan's YouTube Channel](#) yet? If not, you should! What about our [Native Language Program's Bitmoji Classroom](#)? Take a look!



State & Federal Programs and Assessments continued

Andrea Nield, Coordinator

COVID Screening

YKSD Received a one year grant from the State of Alaska to offer covid testing for staff and students. Each of our schools has an onsite tester who has been trained to administer and report to the State. Having the ability to test our students and staff helps to keep our schools open for in person learning, as well as keeping our villages safe. All students and staff will be tested prior to travel. If you'd like to schedule a test at any time for your student, please contact your local school.

Assessments

MAP Testing – All students in grades K-11 for math and 3-11 for reading, will take NWEA Measures of Academic Progress, MAP, assessments three times this school year. The fall benchmark window closes September 30. Teachers will analyze their student data and share individual student results with parents at Parent Teacher conferences in October. For students scoring below the average range in Reading and Math on MAP, teachers will set individual goals for students in Response to Intervention (RTI) plans.

STAR Reading - All students in grades K-2 will be doing taking the STAR assessment in reading and also be used for interventions. Kristi Burns trained all staff and will be overseeing the assessment.

Aimsweb Progress Monitoring – The district is supporting the RTI process with the Aimsweb progress monitoring tool for all students in Tier 2 & 3 in Reading. Students will be placed in intervention and then periodically assessed using the AimsWeb Progress Monitoring tools to track student progress. Results will be scored immediately and entered into milepost for graphs and reports. Tier 3 students are progress monitored on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month; Tier 2 students are assessed on the last Friday of each month.

Kindergarten Developmental Profile - All Kindergarten and any first graders who were not scored last year will be screened. Teachers observe students for the first 4 weeks of school then go online to enter scores by individual students. Our Early Literacy Coordinator, Kristi Burns is the contact for the screening.

2021 PEAKS - The results from the spring 2021 assessment mailed to parents prior September 30 for our river schools. Raven did not participate in the Spring 2021 assessment due to the pandemic.

NEW 2022 Spring Statewide Assessment - There will be a new statewide assessment in the spring of 2022 for Alaska students. Not much has been released at this time other than NWEA was awarded the contract for the assessment. DEED is working with NWEA on an innovative approach that incorporates both MAP Growth interim assessment with a new summative assessment into a linked system.



State & Federal Programs and Assessments continued

Andrea Nield, Coordinator

ESTEEM Grant

This is a choice grant, meaning that parents will have the choice on what types of activities they'd like to see for their children. This fall we will have a web page up and running and parents can either select an activity or provide ideas of opportunities they would like to see for their children in the following areas: **Social and Emotional, Career and Technical Education, Culture and Native Language and Credit recovery**. We are also seeking instructors to teach local cultural and language classes. If you'd like to sign up to be an instructor, please contact us. **A few of the offerings we have listed below:**

Activity locations are based on parent, CSC or Principal requests.

If you'd like any ESTEEM activities at your site, please contact

Andrea Nield at anield@yksd.com,

Kristi Burns at kburns@yksd.com

907-374-9400

* *Phlight Club*

Phlight Club is a youth-centered resilience-building club bring together youth and adults from the community to learn important social, emotional, and resiliency skills. Teaches youth how to add caring, connected adults in their lives (Anchors) to create a Web of Support. Youth identify their strengths and work with adults and peers to solve problems while keeping each other safe, focused, respected, and involved. Builds protective factors and important skills for academic, social, emotional, and behavioral success. Decreases youth risk behaviors such as bullying, alcohol & drug use, suicidal ideation, and more.

* *Challenge Life*

Is a program designed to address mental and physical wellness in young adults in communities and schools throughout Alaska. The Challenge Life Program addresses issues ranging from drugs, smoking, alcohol abuse, bullying and suicide to achieving excellence as a lifestyle, school success, job satisfaction, developing your passions from art and music to engineering and civic responsibility. Challenge Life works with the schools, the community and families to present exciting learning opportunities. In addition to the classroom, Challenge Life uses physical activities and sports, like basketball, as a vehicle to interact with students.

* *Team Hollywood*

Will spend one night in a village to do an evening entertainment show. Theme centers around community building and taking care of each other throughout the pandemic.

* *Dancing with the Spirit*

Dancing with the Spirit week long music camps with two staff teaching singing, guitar, fiddle, ukulele, culture, and language with the help of elders. We have a student concert and community dance at the week's end. It's a great way to bring fun, joy, and happiness back to the villages that have suffered so much.



State & Federal Programs and Assessments continued

Andrea Nield, Coordinator

Cultural & Language Instructors Wanted

Share skills & stories

Empower our Youth

for information contact:
Yukon-Koyukuk School District
Andrea Nield 907-374-9424
anield@yksd.com

YUKON-KOYUKUK SCHOOL DISTRICT

beyi xidayi n. instructions
beyi xwnel'ani n. mirror, bin
beyi kaghi'oyi n. dress shoes, ov
vinxwdhet ts'en' adv. angrit
noch'elyayi n.
ch'eneltreli n.
hdleni n. sluice box
yiga' det'ani n.
beyit ch'evia

Have you been blessed with a talent that you would like to pass on to the next generation? If so, consider becoming a Language and Cultural Specialist for YKSD. As an instructor, you can decide to do short lessons in the classroom; online lessons (assistance provided); short-term weekend project; long-term afterschool project or a couple week institute. Possible projects could include survival skills; small engine maintenance; beading; sewing; cooking; sessions that promote the well-being of our students. Our students include both River students in our villages and Raven Homeschool students. Contact Andrea Nield at YKSD 907 374 9424 or anield@yksd.com.



eSports

Is currently in its 4th year as an ASAA sanctioned activity. eSports takes video gaming to a brand new level through organized, competitive game play between teams, governed by a strict, specific rule set. high school eS-ports is already the 10th most popular sport - based on number of schools with a program. Fall season is currently underway and there will also be a spring season which consist of

- Two weeks optional preseason matches
- Safe & Supervised regular season matches
- Postseason tournament



Schools participating are

- Kaltag - Daniel Hackett
- Nulato - Jeff Healey
- Huslia - Steve Swatling



Districtwide Fun Run

Andrea Nield, State & Federal Programs
and Assessments Coordinator



The 12th Annual Fun Run took place October 2. Each year this continues to be a fun time for students and families alike. All students in grades K-12 were welcome to participate. Each site mapped out their route prior to the race and also kept the times. Students who participated were given a tshirt. This year's activity was brought to you by the ESTEEM grant.

Awards for the top three in each category will be mailed to each site and can be included in your next awards ceremony. Have a great weekend!



Minto

Grades K-2, 1 mile

1. Amara Kruger, Nulato
2. Mathias Sommer, Nulato
3. Cylar Leo, Nulato

Grades 3-7, 1 Mile

1. Cameron Cleveland, Huslia
2. Dymond Sam, Hughes
3. Carter Dayton Brasket

Grades 8-12, 3 Miles

1. Jared Henry, Huslia
2. Serenity Bifelt, Huslia
3. Chloe Sam, Huslia



Nulato



Kaltag



Allakaket

YKSD Home Away Program

Andrea Nield, State & Federal Programs
and Assessments Coordinator

Formerly known as the Boarding Home Program, the program offers financial assistance to students in grades 8-12 who meet application requirements and want to remain or transfer into the village. Applications are accepted at the beginning of each school year and the period for the FY22 school year is now closed as of October 2.



YKSD Literacy Website!

Kristi Burns, Coordinator

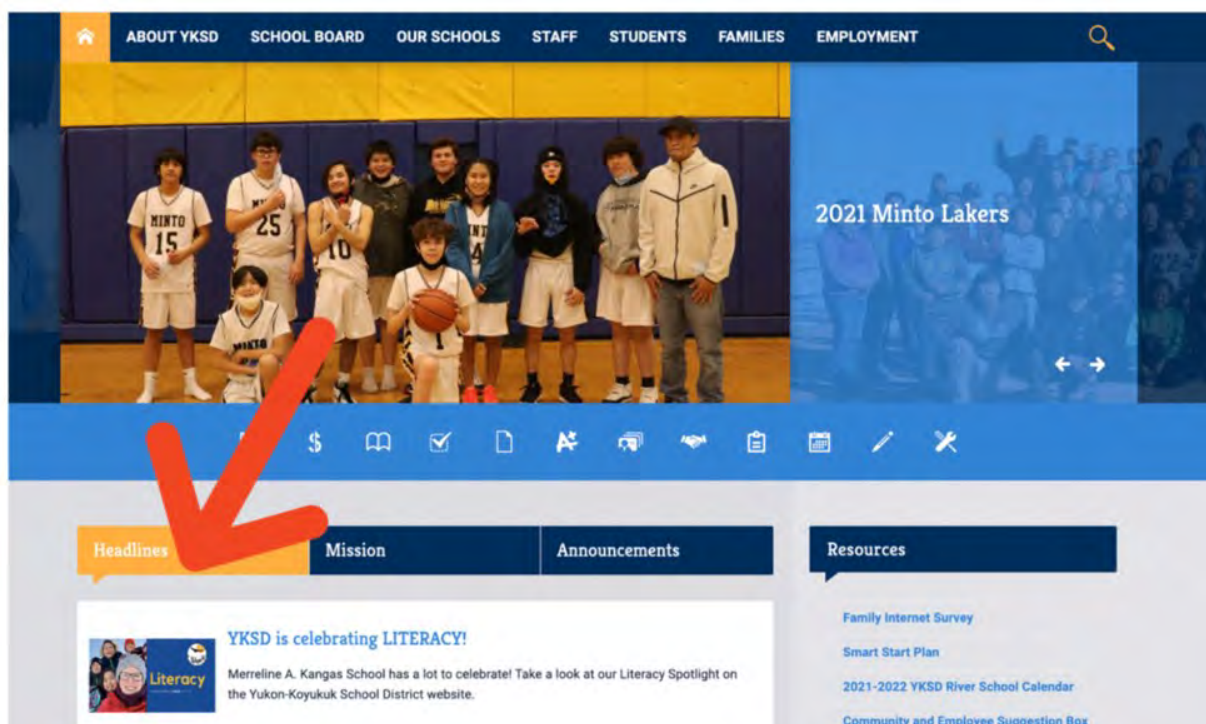
We have just launched our Literacy website! This month our spotlight is on Merrelaine A. Kangas School! Next month we will be focusing on Minto School. Minto, start now taking pictures of students reading!!!

Please go to our website and click on YKSD is celebrating LITERACY! and then scroll through the slides. I hope that you will enjoy our spotlights!

Thank you MAC for all of your help!

Happy Reading!

<https://www.yksd.com/>



Sora

The student reading app

Kristi Burns, Coordinator

Sora is our online library of eBooks. Students can login to their accounts with their school login information or use Classlinks. They are allowed to download up to 3 books to read online or offline. This app is available in the app stores for students to download on their computer, tablet, or phone.

Denaakkenaage' Hunek, Denakenaga' Khunek: Native Language News

Susan Paskvan, Native Language Coordinator

Language Classes

The Denaakk'e and Benhti Kokt'ana Kenaga' classes have really practiced phrases for my family using complete sentences. Compared to previous years, the lessons are taught at a slow down the pace of units so students can learn small language bytes at a time. This allows them time to use the vocabulary and phrases in a variety of different activities.

A new junior high/high school class was launched this fall. The students from Kaltag signed up and it is such a joy to teach them. At that grade level, the students can retain more language phrases and speak with excellent pronunciation. Even though the class is the last hour of the day, the students stay engaged in learning by playing active games that get them up and moving around. They submit assignments on Google Classroom, Voicethread, and Liveworksheets.com.

Language Supplies

Holly Wofford and I worked hard to get supplies to teachers in the 19 classrooms that have Native language classes. The supplies include 4" x 6" cards, posters, new workbooks, and game pieces. We will be writing five new units and would like your input. What do you want your students to be able to say in Denaakk'e or Benhti? We will have a workshop near the end of October.

Language Revitalization

Are you interested in learning Denaakk'e or Benhti? Here are some possible opportunities:

- 1) self-paced using internet: audio, text, and video files are available
- 2) video-conference language bytes: join a 15-minute class at 10 AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- 3) Denaakk'e or Benhti Workbooks. We have extra workbooks from outdated editions.

If any of these interest you, contact the Native Language program at 907-374-9405 or spaskvan@yksd.com.

Wednesday Story Half Hour

Baasee' to guests who shared their life stories with students this fall quarter:

Anna Huntington-Kriska of Koyukuk/Huslia/Washington DC

Miranda Wright of Nulato/Fairbanks

Harold Attla of Hughes/Fairbanks

Students from YKSD schools were active listeners. They drew pictures as the guest told their stories. They then re-told the story using the drawing as a guide. Please consider sharing your story or ask people in your community to share their story.



Ms. Rose's 3-5 class in Minto take the Fall Benhti assessment using the platform VoiceThread. Students answer questions like "Nedats'e netsu be'uzra'?"



Maurice McGinty and Agnes Patsey discuss the Denaakk'e place names in Kaiyuh at the Nulato Culture Camp. Agnes was locating her late grandfather's camp.

Native Language News *continued*

Susan Paskvan, Native Language Coordinator

Biography Project

Yoko Kugo traveled to most of the YKSD villages in June, 2021 to interview elders for a new Elder Biography Project. Baasee'/Maasee'/Basi' to all of the elders in the villages for taking time to share your life stories. Yoko is transcribing the recordings which takes a lot of time to write down every word. These stories are truly a treasure – in the stories they share their challenges and how they overcame them. They all have wise words of advice for the youth.

YKSD Biography Book Series Sale

The YKSD biographies will go on sale on October 15th. For a limited time, parents and community members living in YKSD villages can purchase a set of available biographies for \$75.00. Individually, each biography sells for \$10.00 each. Some issues are not available as we are out of stock.

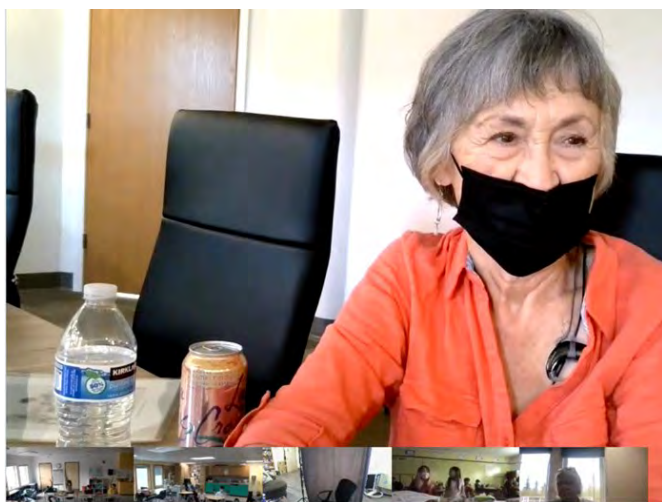
If anyone has photos of the above mentioned elders, please contact Susan Paskvan at spaskvan@yksd.com.

Culture Camp

As part of AN ELDER II grant, YKSD contracted with the Nulato Tribal Council to host a culture camp at Maurice McGinty's camp on Kaiyuh Slough at Too Letluh Denh (green water). 15 students and 10 adults camped and worked on cleaning a moose head; setting up camp; getting wood; learning the Denaakk'e place names for Kaiyuh; looking around; butchering and hanging a moose; and cooking bread over a camp fire.

Language and Culture Instructors Wanted

YKSD will be seeking people who can teach traditional cultural skills, language lessons, and elder stories. When students learn their culture they are engaged in the lessons, learn how to solve problems, become more self-confident, and give back to the community. Contact Andrea Nield for further information.



Miranda Wright of Nulato/Fairbanks share cultural traditions, like sharing first catch, with students, as part of the weekly series: Wednesday Story Hour.



Yoko Kugo, of Northern Densho, interviews elders David and Kitty David of Allakaket as part of the Elder Biography Series.

Allakaket School News

Debie Kaufman, Principal
& Reading Specialist



Our Own DoorDash - delivering quality food to our students!



Meet Chef Paul, otherwise known as "Grandpaul!"

Upcoming October Events:

- **Donuts for Dads** (and Granddads) - October 20
- **Sewing Lessons** begin the October 5, Tuesdays and Thursdays
- **Guitar Weekly Lessons** begin October 7 and meet every Thursday
- **In-School Halloween Carnival and Fun Food Friday** - October 29



Innovative Teaching

During Morning Meeting, a time where we meet as a school and celebrate students and classroom achievements, we are often given the opportunity to have a sneak peek at what is happening in the other classrooms.



Secondary - These students are showing what happens in a compost bin.



PK-2 - This student, in Mrs. Doronila's Class, is showing art created from leaves and sticks gathered from a walk recently.



Grades 3-5: On September 15, 2003, author and illustrator of children's books, Peter H. Reynolds released his book "The Dot." In honor of this author, Mrs. Betson's Class created these "dot" art pieces. She also introduced the students to hermit crabs, their class pet that she had flown in, as well as the joys of coconuts (yes, they actually cut one open and tasted it!)

Rampart School

Written by Students: Chase, Liyana, Darian, and Lanayah

New Staff

This year, a lot of things have changed, along with our new teacher Mr. Joe Bifelt and principal Mr. Charles Burns. We would also like to welcome Janessa who is a long time resident of Rampart as well as Mr. Joe's beloved, and his astonishing dog team. We are happily welcoming them into our Rampart community with open arms and open hearts. We are also looking forward to seeing a lot more of Mr. Burns this year, he really is a fun and outgoing guy, we enjoy his presence here. We think they'll make a great addition to our Rampart family, we'll take good care of them!

Monthly School Dinners

School dinners are a way of bringing the community together and awarding students for their good attendance and hard work. It is also a good time to update the community on the activities we are doing as a class. We will have a potluck dinner in the Rampart School gym on the last Thursday of every month.

A-CHILL

This school year, our new teacher, Joe Bifelt, has taught us a lot about dog sleds and dog mushing culture through Alaska Culture and Dog Mushing class (A part of the A-CHILL program). The A-CHILL class has offered our class new activities and experiences to benefit from, like basic dog yard duties. These duties include getting the food ready and cooked, watering the dogs and giving them time to use their energy up. Our class has learned traditional cultural history of why they used dog mushing before the age of snow machines. The cultural use of sled dogs back then was crucial for important needs like travel, trapping, wood gathering, and supplies in rural areas. The A-CHILL class this year has made our class more active as we are building doors for the dog yard, making a lean-to, building a puppy pen and sawing and splitting wood. Our students are happy as they learn this tradition that's been passed down from generation to generation, and are excited to keep this tradition flourishing.

Below are a few snapshots from Alaska Culture and Dog Mushing class



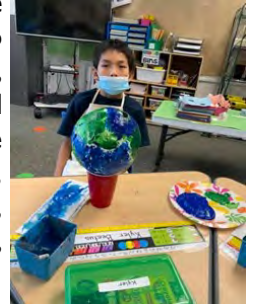
Johnny Oldman School

Andrew Bellamy, Teacher

It has been a busy start to the school year at Johnny Oldman School!



In the Middle School classroom, we've used every opportunity to get out of the classroom and explore the community. For U.S. History, we started the year by connecting the concept of places to moments. Our classroom went on a field trip around Hughes, relating special places and events in the students' lives and connecting their stories with the village and each other. We also went on a nature excursion for our Alaska Ecology class, identifying the trees in our area. White Spruce, Black Spruce, Birch, Alder were found, along with a variety of other items, such as berries, pinecones, and timber conk.



But the "big kids" aren't the only ones exploring. In the elementary classroom, we attended a live, virtual field trip with a New York City Zoo! The students learned about the animal adaptations of a Giant African Millipede, Red Tailed Hawk, North American River Otter, and a Barred Tiger Salamander. Another large project we have been working on this quarter have been our papier mâché globes. Each globe created had all seven continents and five oceans painted and labeled. The students were able to make sense of our world, with one student exclaiming, "Oh no! Australia is too close to Antarctica!"

And as always, the Fun Run took place in late September. This year we incorporated slime and blasters, smothering the students in multi-colored slime as they ran along the route! Congratulations to all the kids for finishing the run!



Pre-K Students

Kylee Beatus, PreK Associate Teacher and Principal Aide

It has been a great start to the school year for the two Pre-K students. They have already shown growth to focus more on their foundations in math, language arts, phonemic awareness, and motor skills. Of course we have fun doing this with dramatic play, learning songs and problem solving! Here are just a few moments of learning that I have captured.



Ella B. Vernetti School

Joshua Hatfield,
Principal & Teacher

Cultural Activities

We tried to take advantage of some the beautiful fall afternoons and got out and picked some of the local High-bush Cranberries. The students had a great experience participating and collecting the berries and of course eating some.

Ms. Marie, our wonderful principal aide and cook taught the student how to turn the berries that we picked into tasty syrup and jam. Starting with cleaning and preparing them, adding additional ingredients such as bananas and strawberries, boiling them to extract the juice from the berries and then adding the sugar and pectin.

Once ready, the students filled the jars and made them ready for final stages. The jars are placed in boiling water to get them to properly seal. During this time, it allowed for an opportunity for observation and storytelling.



Kaltag School

Kevin Matthews,
Principal & Teacher



The School year is off to an exciting start here in Kaltag. The new staff is getting it done thanks to the help of our paras. Ms. Hazel and Ms. Lizzie have done a great job and helped us get things ready for the first day of school. Since school started the rest of the team has done a great job taking care of our students, including Ms. Monica, Ms. Loreena, Ms. Jaylene, Ms. Veronica, and Joseph. It takes a great team to get it done. The new staff includes Ms. Hrosckikoski, Mr. Tackett, and Mr. Matthews.

Ms. Hrosckikoski is working with our Middle & High School Students and seems to have a knack for science. In the picture, her class is getting the worm farms set up, which is one of the projects they are working on this fall. They have also been out studying the plants and animals in the area. They have set up some cameras to capture the nocturnal activities of the local wildlife. Finally, they recently participated in a Culture Camp along with other schools in the district.

Mr. Tackett is working hard to make things interesting for the intermediate students which include our 3-6th grade students. The students are focused on literacy but also take time to explore outside and to work on art projects. Mr. Tackett has collaborated with Ms. Hazel and Ms. Hrosckikoski on a variety of projects, including Native Languages. It isn't uncommon to find him and his students in the other classrooms working with them to make learning fun and interesting.

Ms. Hazel has done a great job working with our pre-K and K-2 students. She has poured her heart into the kids and is excited to see the growth in their



literacy skills. Like the others, she has taken the students on nature walks to explore the natural world around them in Kaltag. Along with Mr. Matthews, Ms. Hazel and our "littles" study literacy, math, social studies, and science. They are also working hard to learn new skills using their Chromebooks. They also work hard to develop the writing skills they will need throughout their school years. Finally, nothing makes Ms. Hazel happier than seeing our young readers take off.

The Kaltag Team is working hard and looking forward to a great year.

Minto School

Peggy Bruno, Teacher

This semester my 18 middle school students and I are participating in The Stock Market Game, an education simulation of “real world” stock market sponsored by the SIFMA Foundation. The SMG Program is supported by curriculum and is designed to enhance skills in math, social studies, language arts, as well as computer skills. Because the students manage their stock portfolios in teams, they are learning decision-making and cooperative learning skills.



The SMG Program facilitates student learning about securities markets and their role in the American economy system. It broadens knowledge of terms heard daily “Wall Street”, “stock exchange”, “Dow Jones Industrial Average,” etc. The program also increases awareness of current events and how those events affect our economy.

All teams completed their first transaction today (October 7) purchasing 10 shares of stock from companies researched, allowing teams to be ranked locally, regionally and nationally. Teams began their sessions with \$100,000 and monitor purchased and sales of stocks, bonds and municipal funds through April, 2022. What a blast!

Working Hard

Rose Wolfe, Teacher



We have been rockin' and rollin' this year. First, we knocked out our MAPS and STAR testing. Then, students got to spend time with their families hunting or gathering during Subsistence Days. We spent time with Bobbi Jo Erb who did a hands-on math lesson with us, during her visit. On Friday, September 16th, we had our school Fun Run and had some good finishing times. We got to visit with Jolene and Andrea, who showed the kids some basketball drills during PE. Students have been working super hard and are glad to be back at school!



Jimmy Huntington School

Casey Weter, Principal

Jimmy Huntington School students went on a field trip to observe local wetlands. Students recorded observations of the plants and animals in Peatlands and Riparian Wetlands. They used various scientific tools to collect data for their journals.



Merrelaine A. Kangas School

Mike Day,
Principal & Teacher

We are excited to welcome Ms. Pearson to our school this year. She will be teaching the pre-school and Kindergarten class.

Ms. Pearson's Class

PreK - 1st grade have been learning how to learn at school by listening, making good choices, and always trying. You wouldn't believe how many AR books and quizzes we've done already. PreK especially like RAZ-Plus, but MyOn is great too. Every day starts with circle time and calendar. You can hear us sing and clap to Days of the Week and See It, Say It, Sign It Letters of the Alphabet. Counting numbers to 100 leaves us out of breath. Oh, and don't forget about "The Bear Hunt" yoga and dancing with the Trolls to "Can't Stop the Feeling." Writing practice and hearing letter sounds is hard, but getting easier with practice. Community is important, and so are we. There is so much we can do. Working and playing together is the best, and we definitely keep up with the big kids.



Mrs. Titus' Class

Mrs. Sara's 2nd-5th grade class has finally been getting into normal routines (whatever "normal" means these days...). The 2nd graders have really stepped up in our classroom this year and are catching onto our expectations. Some of our favorite parts of the day include...

- ♦ IXL, where we continue to compete for the Top 3 standings by the end of the week
- ♦ MyOn, where we are already gaining AR points for the books we can read online
- ♦ CodeSpark - the kids are obsessed!

Our favorite subject this month has been Social Studies where we learned the importance of maps. We took the unit one step further and dove into Google Maps online. Each student created their own map, locating their homes, favorite places to eat, famous landmarks, and more. It was a huge project and a great success!



Merrelaine A. Kangas School continued

Mike Day,
Principal & Teacher

Mrs. Brown's North Stars... Shining

started off the school year with a bang! They have jumped right into a novel study, "All the Lovely Ones"



Learning new math group rotations...

and getting ready to have a yearbook this school year with our photo journalism class.



Social and emotional learning can be creative and fun.

Mr. Day's Class

It has been a wonderful 1st quarter here in Ruby. The first week of school we had some wonderful social and emotional activities that we did as a school. The students had a blast.

My students are learning all about Alaska Ecology and US History. They will be conducting a debate with one of the local/national issues that our country is facing.

In the woodshop this year we are making longbows and then the students will make their own wooden arrows. When they finish their bows they are taught how to make their own Flemish bowstring jig and their Flemish bowstrings.



We also have six students who are participating in the National Archery School Program. We have high hopes that many of them will qualify for the state competition, and be selected to attend the Western National Competition that will be held in the lower 48.



Andrew K. Demoski School

Shaine Nixon, Principal



Cassidy Ekada embraces the ewwy gooey inside of a pumpkin. Students are decorating pumpkins for Halloween. They will have a Halloween party and wear their costumes to school.



Josephine Semaken works with students to create a favorite, Fish Icecream. Students all participated in putting the ingredients together and then they enjoyed the fruits or their labor. Or in this case some tasty ice cream. It looks like Ms. Josie has some good help with Joe Bower, Ryan Pitka, Kyrie Demoski, Matthias Sommer, and Cyler Sipary.



Roll out the dough. This is how you put some muscles into your work. Cyler Sipary rolls out the dough as Josephine Semaken and Ryan Pitka critique his style. All of the students had an opportunity to roll out the dough.



Students will be super busy the next few days and weeks. Tonight ABC Fashion Show as students show off their beautifully decorated ABC vests created to help them learn their ABC's.

Upcoming Events:



- ◆ Students will enjoy hotdogs, popcorn, and nachos as they read and receive books from our STREAM NIGHT, Saturday the 23rd.
- ◆ On October 28 and 29 AL SOKAITIS will be in Nulato working with students through the Challenge Life Program.
- ◆ We are looking forward to Basketball in Galena and at home as we move closer to THANKSGIVING.

Raven Homeschool

Kim Bergey, Raven Homeschool Director

I hope you enjoyed a wonderful summer and fall. We welcome and value your contributions, energy and dedication to excellence. This year our numbers have continued to grow beyond our expectations. We know that with this additional workload we have needed to hire some new staff.

We would like to welcome our new team members:

Anna Stiller, Eagle River Advisory Teacher
Bridget Henry, Wasilla Advisory Teacher
Julia Moore, Wasilla Advisory Teacher
Brandy Henderson, Fairbanks Advisory Teacher
Kimberly Troxel, Fairbanks Advisory Teacher
Sashi League, Juneau Clerk
Amber Onink, Fairbanks Family Liaison
Christy Kelley, Anchorage Family Liaison

We have a fabulous group of Raven families to work this year and we are focused to ensure that

- every homeschool family, every day is finding a way to feel **connected**,
- every homeschool family, every day is being **challenged** to encourage their child(ren) with new learning and experiences, and
- every homeschool family, every day knows they have a **champion** Raven team they can turn to for assistance.

We are excited to have a counselor and a graduation coach this year due to our high numbers of seniors. We are already preparing and looking ahead to graduation.

We are thankful for the contractors that support Raven families and would like to welcome them as well!

Raven Homeschool—Anchorage

Our school year has started with a whirl of meetings, activities and workshops! We love seeing students and families back in our office and are looking forward to hosting more workshops throughout the year! We brought back some of our favorite workshops from years prior, but we've also introduced a handful of new activities, read below for some updates on our awesome clubs.



Workshop
Wednesday: Leaf
Crafts



Workshop
Wednesday:
Parent Workshop



PreK Clubhouse



Raven Homeschool—Delta Junction

Welcome Back! We hope you had a wonderful summer. It was definitely busy for our office. It began with the Kindergarten graduation, Father's Day Craft and End of Year Celebration, to moving the office in July and then the Grand Opening/Back to Homeschool Celebration! There were a couple field trips to Delta Meat and Sausage in July and the Dorshorst's in September to learn about processing honey. Terrific Tuesdays began in September. The Lego teams are busy learning about their challenges.

Student Spotlight:

Cassidy is 5 and excited to be a big kindergartener at Raven Homeschool this year. Her favorite subject is science and she's especially interested in learning about space. She loves to play in the snow with her dog and little sister in the wintertime and in the summertime she's a big fan of hiking, camping, and swimming, especially at the lake. Cassidy is a proud member of the Fire Cats LEGO Team and an avid LEGO builder in her free time too. Cassidy is a kind hearted, fun-loving, nature enthusiast who loves making new friends with both animals and kids alike.



Father's Day
Activity



Student Spotlight:
Cassidy



Grand Opening



Raven Homeschool—Eagle River

We hit the ground running in August with our back-to-school party and we haven't slowed down since. All of our clubs also started back up in August, with offerings like book clubs (for littles and teens), geography, cooking, and Lego clubs. Raven teacher Cortney Fogarty leads three sessions of writing workshops most Mondays. Our Pre-K students even have their own little group that meets twice per month! We have a great group of teens that have created TLC (Teen Leadership Council) and spend their time with community service projects, fundraisers, and having fun! Off-site, our families enjoy recess and outdoor clubs. And of course we can't forget our favorite - science with Deb Fancher! It's so nice to see homeschool families having fun and connecting with one another.

On Tuesday, September 7th, Ruthie Mitchell (TLC President) & Megan Rosendall (Raven Graduation Coach) were invited to attend a volunteers Recognition Dinner hosted by the GERGC. After dinner Raven Homeschool Eagle River was singled out and recognized for "outstanding contribution as a volunteer on the Eagle River Forgotten Gardens."

Eowyn had her Eagle Ceremony on September 26th. Although she has earned her Eagle, she continues to learn and expand her skill sets. She wants to give back to her Troop and support new scouts as they learn skills that will help them in life.



Book Club



Eowyn D.

Raven Homeschool—Fairbanks

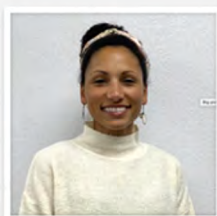
In August, we held our Back to School barbeque at Pioneer Park and with over 150 people in attendance, it was a huge success! Everyone was so happy to attend an in-person activity. We served hamburgers and hot dogs, offered lots of games, but the highlight of the day was face painting. The kids enjoyed topping the day off with snow cones and cotton candy. A huge thank you to everyone who helped organize the event, especially Tami.

New Family Liaison:

Amber Onink is this year's Family Liaison, and she hit the ground running. She coordinated our first field trip to the Museum of the North. She organized two Halloween crafts days and she is leading the charge planning our Halloween trick or treating event. We are blessed to have her. Look for her announcements in our Smores and on our Facebook page.

Family Spotlight - The Osborn Family & the Great Outdoors:

Annalynn and Owen learned about hunting and field dressing grouse. They learned how to identify and differentiate between a rough grouse and spruce hen and tried their hand at some tasty game meat recipes combining science and their cooking class.



New Family
Liaison - Amber
Onink



Osborn Family



Halloween
Activity



Raven Homeschool—Wasilla

The Wasilla office welcomed Bridget Henry and Julia Moore to the teaching staff and Sonia Padgett to the administrative staff. We are excited about our growth! We started the 21-22 school year with non-stop ILP meetings. Our goal was to get families going just as quickly as we could! In August we had our back to school picnic. Families were able to enjoy getting to know each other, play yard games, climb a rock wall or play in a bouncy house. In September we added a bowling club, games club, outdoor club, and interactive math. We are also excited for our ASL club and a handwriting bootcamp!

Student Spotlight:

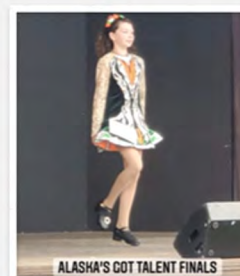
Our very own Elle C. took 2nd place for her Irish Dance at the America's Got Talent contest at the fair, winning \$750! She also took first place in the cookie contest sponsored by Vagabond Blues, earning \$100!



Club Time with
Friends



Prize



Irish Dance

Raven Homeschool—Juneau

This first quarter of the 21-22 school year has already been a busy one in our Juneau Raven office. We also celebrated getting to be back to in person activities again with our “Together Again” Open House where we had a scavenger hunt through the office to do activities, to get to know the office resources available, and to win prizes. We also got to virtually tour Whiskeytown Rocks National Park and enjoyed lunch together at our annual Fall Picnic at Sandy Beach. October began with Terrific Tidepool Travels with the Alaska SeaLife Center where we learned all about the different intertidal zones and which creatures live in each zone. Marvelous Mondays started with the Oct theme of scarecrows, scavenger hunts, and stories. We even got to enjoy a visit from our High School Counselor, Ryan Tilbury where he met with students, helped them apply for college, and toured the UAS Career and Technical Education Center.

Student Spotlight:

National Honors Society - May-Sept Project - The Juneau Raven Homeschool chapter of National Honor Society completed their first service project which spanned multiple months from May-Sept 2021. NHS member Aiden Pietan proposed last spring to use land at his grandmother’s farm, Swampy Acres, to plant potatoes which would be taken to the Southeast Alaska Food Bank in the fall. NHS members Phoenix Overson, Keelan & Stig Cunningham, Jemima Verebasaga, Saylor Ryan, James Zuiderduin, Harrison Holt, and Aiden Pietan participated in the event which began on Saturday, May 22 with a planting party, continued on Saturday, September 11 for a very wet harvesting party, and finally concluded on Monday, September 27 with delivery of the bags of potatoes to the Southeast Alaska Food Bank in Juneau. The potato harvest weighed in at 74 pounds and the potatoes were separated into individual burlap bags for distribution. The harvesting event was also assisted by Juneau Civil Air Patrol, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and the Thunder Mountain High School Robotics team, “Happy Dave.”



Fall Picnic at
Sandy Beach



NHS Service
Project



Marvelous
Mondays



Halloween Word Search



BOO
GAMES
HALLOWEEN
PARTY
SPOOKY
WITCH

CANDY
GHOSTS
MASK
PUMPKINS
TRICK

COSTUMES
GOBLIN
MUMMY
SKELETON
TREAT

