



December 2021

## Yukon Koyukuk School District Staff Connections

Dear families,

On behalf of the Yukon Koyukuk School Board and District Staff, I would like to wish each student, family, and community member a Happy Holiday season.

Reflecting upon the first semester and looking forward to the festivities of the holidays before us, I am reminded how fortunate we all are to be part of the YKSD community. Our communities continue to come together to focus on their students and ensure YKSD has the best programs available. Our YKSD Regional School Board has been celebrated as **Alaska's School Board of the Year** demonstrating the hard work and focus of the District. We can all share in that success.

With the upcoming holiday break scheduled from December 20th thru January 7th, I am pleased to announce that the YKSD Regional School Board has approved to resume Open Gym Nights in our communities. We know how important these gatherings and activities are to our communities. Guidelines per the local CSC and school will be available next week to ensure the use of the gyms while maintaining health and safety protocols.

As we welcome the New Year, I am excited to start the second semester. Communities will see our District Office staff traveling to support our schools and to share in the successes of our students and staff. The District has also purchased a 10,000 square foot facility in Fairbanks to house our Career Technology Education program. The facility is scheduled to open for the 2022/2023 school year and will provide our students with hands-on opportunities to explore and advance their skills. We will be sharing more details as plans are finalized.

Over the winter break, I hope that everyone enjoys time with family and friends staying warm while also embracing the Alaskan winter. The holidays are a time for celebrating traditions and creating new memories.

From all of us at the Yukon Koyukuk School District, we wish you a warm, joyous, and heartfelt holiday.

Sincerely,



Kerry Boyd, Superintendent



## ***Congratulations to the YKSD Regional School Board!***

Please help me congratulate the seven members who serve on the YKSD school board: Fred Bifelt, President; Shirley Kruger, Vice President; Ruth Folger, Treasurer; Anne Titus, Secretary; Gloria Patsy; and Wilmer Beetus.

On Saturday, November 6, 2021, the Yukon Koyukuk School District School Board received the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) “2021 Outstanding School Board of the Year” award for contributions to the Yukon Koyukuk School District.



The award was announced during the annual AASB conference in Anchorage, November 4–7, 2021, with school board members and participants in attendance from all over Alaska. Fifty-three school districts serve the great state of Alaska, and competition this year included very engaged school boards from a diverse group of districts.

Several criteria are necessary to receive Outstanding Alaska School Board of the Year. The YKSD school board demonstrates excellence in:

- Community Engagement

- Demonstrated evidence of leadership as measured against AASB School Board Standards

- Evidence of growth in student achievement

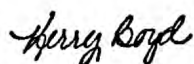
- Commitment to students and community

Thank you for your continued dedication and leadership for the Yukon Koyukuk School District!

Allakaket School, Kaltag School, Minto School, Jimmy Huntington School, Ella B. Vernetti School, Merrelaine A. Kangas School, Rampart School, Johnny Oldman School, Andrew K. Demoski School and Raven Home School.

Congratulations 2021 YKSD School Board of the year for Alaska!

Warmly,



Kerry Boyd, YKSD Superintendent



















# Teaching and Learning

Chelsea Hurst, Instructional Technology Supervisor

As we reflect on the first semester, we are so proud of everything our students have accomplished! While still facing the adversity of COVID-19, our students have made gains across all content areas, read over millions of words, explored robotics and even began traveling to play basketball again. We are excited to see the great things our students will continue to do in the new year.

The teachers and principals continued to learn about John Hattie's research on what practices and programs provide the strongest effect on student learning. Now that we know what makes a good learner, we have spent time digging deeper into the learning dispositions that develop a good learner. Schools have looked at the learning dispositions together as a team and are constructing individual plans to develop specific dispositions for each student. Below, you can see a general list of learning dispositions our students will be working to build.

 <p><b>1. Persisting</b> Stick to it! Persevering in task through to completion; remaining focused. Looking for ways to reach your goal when stuck. Not giving up.</p>	 <p><b>2. Managing Impulsivity</b> Take your time! Thinking before acting; remaining calm, thoughtful and deliberative.</p>	 <p><b>3. Listening with understanding and empathy</b> Understand others! Devoting mental energy to another person's thoughts and ideas; Making an effort to perceive another's point of view and emotions.</p>	 <p><b>4. Thinking flexibly</b> Look at it another way! Being able to change perspectives, generating alternatives, considering options.</p>
 <p><b>5. Thinking about your thinking (Metacognition)</b> Know your knowing! Being aware of your own thoughts, strategies, feelings and actions and their effects on others.</p>	 <p><b>6. Striving for accuracy</b> Check it again! Always doing your best. Setting high standards. Checking and finding ways to improve constantly.</p>	 <p><b>7. Questioning and problem posing</b> How do you know? Having a questioning attitude; knowing what data are needed &amp; developing questioning strategies to produce those data. Finding problems to solve.</p>	 <p><b>8. Applying past knowledge to new situations</b> Use what you learn! Accessing prior knowledge; transferring knowledge beyond the situation in which it was learned.</p>
 <p><b>9. Thinking &amp; communicating with clarity and precision</b> Be clear! Striving for accurate communication in both written and oral form; avoiding over-generalizations, distortions, deletions and exaggerations.</p>	 <p><b>10. Gather data through all senses</b> Use your natural pathways! Paying attention to the world around you. Gathering data through all the senses. taste, touch, smell, hearing and sight.</p>	 <p><b>11. Creating, imagining, and innovating</b> Try a different way! Generating new and novel ideas, fluency, originality</p>	 <p><b>12. Responding with wonderment and awe</b> Have fun figuring it out! Finding the world awesome, mysterious and being intrigued with phenomena and beauty.</p>
 <p><b>13. Taking responsible risks</b> Venture out! Being adventuresome; living on the edge of one's competence. Try new things constantly.</p>	 <p><b>14. Finding humor</b> Laugh a little! Finding the whimsical, incongruous and unexpected. Being able to laugh at one's self.</p>	 <p><b>15. Thinking interdependently</b> Work together! Being able to work in and learn from others in reciprocal situations. Team work.</p>	 <p><b>16. Remaining open to continuous learning</b> Learn from experiences! Having humility and pride when admitting we don't know; resisting complacency.</p>



# Teaching and Learning *continued*

Chelsea Hurst, Instructional  
Technology Supervisor

Mario  
the  
Manager



Izzy  
the  
Innovator



Ollie  
the  
Owner



Penny  
Persistent



Re+  
the  
Reflector



We hope you enjoy your holiday break and look forward to seeing you all again in January.

## Tech Tuesday Newsletter

### Tech Tuesday PD

Utilizing Search Features in the Google Drive

[CLICK HERE](#)

### Hour of Code

Click the link below to access the Sphero Hour of

[CLICK HERE](#)

### My Favorite Tech Tools

I love using the "sidebar" in my Gmail to access my calendar, notes, tasks, etc from one place. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### Create with Chelsea

Use [this template](#) to create your own Memory game for quick, easy and engaging vocabulary practice. [Click here](#) to learn how to make the template your own.

**CONTACT ME**

churst@yksd.com

Google Chat or Ext 2452

[Click here for the Setting Up Online Tools Presentation](#)

[Click here for the Shared Google Drive](#)



Enjoy your holiday break!  
Students return Monday, January 10th, 2022

# Instructional & Tech Update

Chelsea Hurst, Instructional  
Technology Supervisor

During the month of December, Code.org, a national nonprofit organization, will host a global event: Hour of Code. The purpose of Hour of Code is to promote computer science in classrooms across the globe. Code.org believes that all students should have access to computer science courses in the same capacity as algebra or biology. Not only does coding allow students to engage in a technology driven society, but gain essential problem solving skills necessary for the real world. This year, secondary students will participate in a Battle Bots Challenge using their Sphero robots. Students will learn about the Engineer Design Process, Block Based Coding, and have the opportunity to put their product to the test and compete against their classmates in the Battle Bot Arena.

Yukon Koyukuk School District

## Sphero Battle Bots

HOUR OF CODE- SECONDARY

### Objective

Create a Sphero Battle Bot and pop the balloon on all enemy robots

### Materials

- 15 cm Cardboard Square
- 1 Plastic Cup
- 4 Straws
- 4 Tacks
- 4 Popsicle Sticks
- 1 Balloon
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Sphero Bolt
- iPad/Chromebook

### Procedure

1. Watch the Sphero Battle Bot Introduction Video	5 Minutes
2. Use the Engineering Design Process Handout to create a prototype of your Battle Bot	10 Minutes
3. Build and Test Your Battle Bot	30
4. Compete in the Battle Bot Competition	15 Minutes
5. Debrief Discussion	5 Minutes

### Battle Bot Rules

- You can only use the supplies you are given. You do not have to use all of the supplies, but
  - You must place the Sphero inside the plastic cup
  - You must attach the balloon to the back of your Sphero
  - You may use the rest of the supplies any way you like
- Once you enter the Battle Bot Arena, wait on your teacher's instructions before you start moving your Sphero.
- If your balloon pops, you are eliminated and must remove your Sphero from the Battle Bot Arena.
- If your cup tips over or if your Sphero detaches from its "armor", you may fix your Battle Bot. If it happens a second time, you are eliminated and must remove your Sphero from the Battle Bot Arena.
- Your teacher will decide how to run the competition:
  - All the Battle Bots enter the Arena and compete at the same time
  - Two Battle Bots enter the Arena at a time using a bracket to track the winner.
- The last Sphero left in the Battle Bot Arena, wins!

**Questions? Contact Chelsea Hurst**

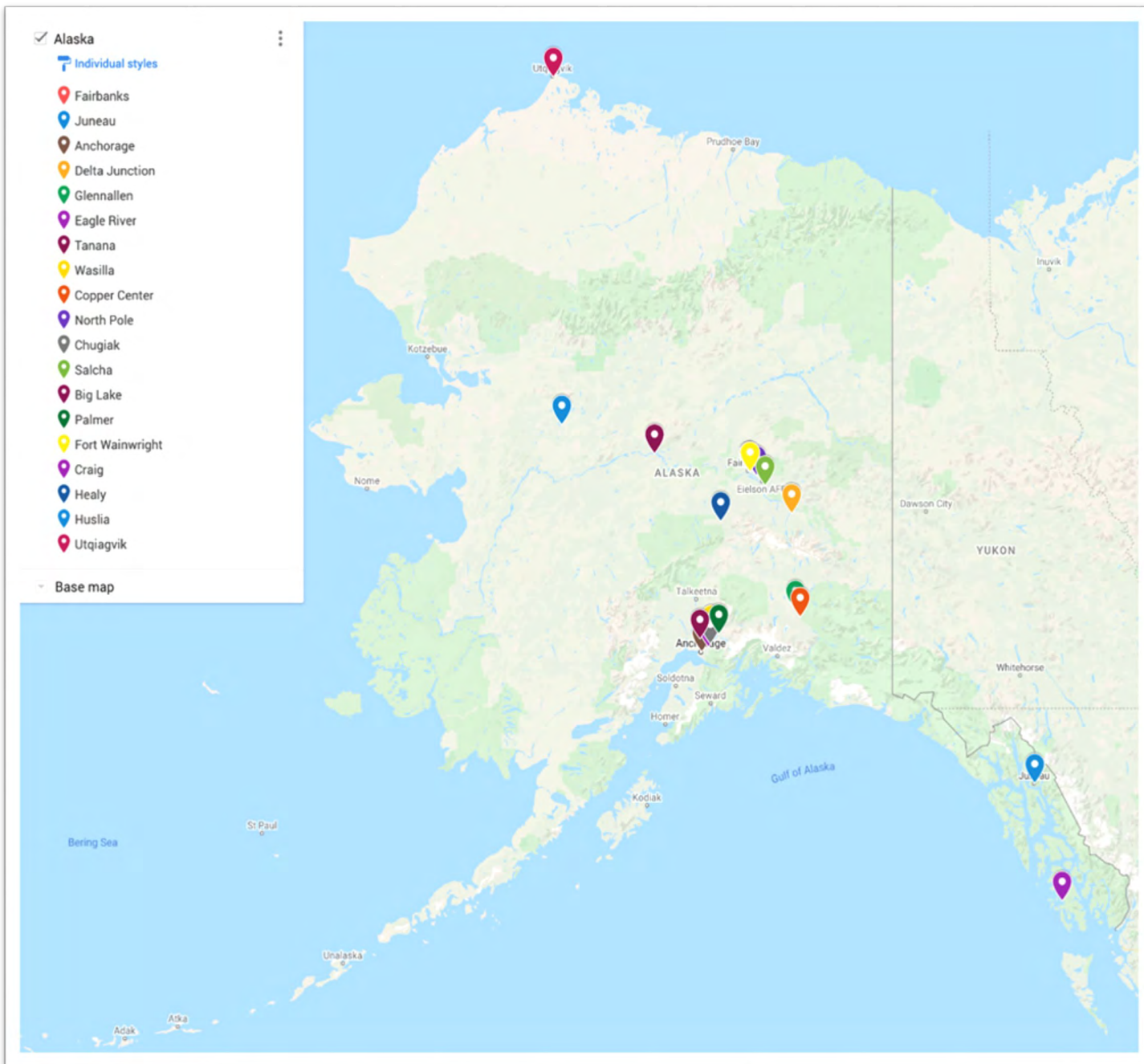
Interested in sharpening your Google or Instructional Technology skills? Check out the Tech Tuesday Google Slide Deck by [clicking here](#). Each month, you can find Sphero or Micro:bit activities and instructional videos to make tech a little bit easier for you. If you have any questions, please email Chelsea Hurst at [churst@yksd.com](mailto:churst@yksd.com).



## *AK Grad is Everywhere!*

Jennifer Ingman,  
AK Grad Teacher

AK Grad is everywhere! Well almost! As you can see from the map, we have students from all over Alaska. We are expanding and are proud to offer a program that has the ability to reach all areas of our far-flung state! As teachers, we love maps and charts. These pins are in locations we know of so if you are taking classes from us and want your location pin added, contact us at [AKGrad@akgrad.com](mailto:AKGrad@akgrad.com) and let us know your location so we can add you to the map!



*The Business Office would like to wish you and your family a Happy Holiday Season!*



## ***It's Time for a Payroll Check-up!***

**Kathy Steckel,  
Payroll Specialist**

At the beginning of each year it's always a good idea to perform a payroll checkup to make sure you're having the right amount of Federal Withhold Tax deducted from your paychecks. Luckily the IRS has provided a app to walk you through the process. Go to [www.irs.gov/W4app](https://www.irs.gov/W4app) and click the 'Use the Tax Withholding Estimator' button.

Even though the process is fairly easy, you will need to gather the following documents together before you begin:

- ◆ Your most recent paystubs for yourself, and if your married, for your spouse.
- ◆ Information of other sources of income you may have.
- ◆ Your most recent income tax return.

It's also a good idea to double check your Federal Withholding Tax deduction anytime you've had a major life change such as buying a home, marriage or new baby.

*Best wishes for a safe and happy Holiday season!*





## *Counselors Corner*

Cristina Welker, Direct of  
Special Education & Support Services

YKSD COVID & Flu Vaccine Clinic was a huge success! Staff from the district office were offered the Flu Vaccine, COVID Booster, and/or first time COVID Vaccine. Over 20 employees were able to get their vaccines. Thank you to all who participated, and a HUGE thank you to the Public Health Nurses who made this all possible!





## *State and Federal Programs*

Susan Paskvan, Director of  
State & Federal Programs &  
Native Language Coordinator

Susan Paskvan became director of State and Federal Programs in December. Department members are Andrea Nield, Coordinator of State and Federal Programs and Assessment Coordinator; Kristi Burns, Coordinator of Early Childhood Education/Federal Programs Support; Charles Burns, State and Federal Programs Supervisor; Sara Henderson, Literacy Liaison; Holly Wofford, Native Language Program Administrative Assistant; and Susan Erickson, Administrative Assistant.

In September the department began reviewing the goals as part of the Strategic Plan for YKSD. Grant objectives are in line with the district strategic goals of reading by 3rd grade; graduate ready, cultural infusion and career and tech education.

Yukon-Koyukuk School District is fortunate to administer grants which provide opportunities for students, parents and communities. During the transition as a new director, each grant will be reviewed to insure that the goals are met and each planned activity is in line with the stated objectives.

## *Denaakkenaage'/Denakenaga' Native Language News*

Susan Paskvan, Director of  
State & Federal Programs &  
Native Language Coordinator

### *Denaakk'e and Benhti Classes*

In November, students in Denaakk'e and Benhti classes started the units on parts of the body. Activities included vocabulary games; charades using parts of the body; partner share activities to learn the pronoun prefixes for my, yours, his/her; song "This Little Heart of Mine" by late Lorna Vent. In celebration of National Native American Heritage Month, students learned the song "Denaa Oho," which was composed to revitalize our languages in both Denaakk'e and Benhti. On Thanksgiving week, students made cards and sang "I am thankful" using kinship terms.

In December, students started practicing the holiday song for their own site holiday program and the 15th annual virtual holiday program.

### *15th Annual Virtual Holiday Program*

On December 16th students all across the district participated in the 15th annual virtual holiday program. There were seven different version of Jingle Bells; Joy to the World; Silent Night; Amazing Grace and Little Drummer Boy. We hope you were able to join us. The students did a great job!



## ***National Native American Heritage Month***

Susan Paskvan, Director of  
State & Federal Programs &  
Native Language Coordinator

During the month of November, I sent flyers out to the schools advertising events for National Native American Heritage Month. Activities included an Athabascan Values Day with values (sharing, respect, family, help and elder and humor), Rock your Mocs week (wear different regalia) and an Essay Contest. We received 47 essay submissions. Prizes were awarded to first, second, third, honorable mention and participation. Thank you to the teachers and family members who provided cultural opportunities to their students. When students write about their culture, they are able to write about not only themselves, but what they are learning by sewing, hunting, fishing, and working.

### **Place Grades K-2**

- 1st Kyron S., 2nd grade, Johnny Oldman School. Essay on fishing for pike with his dad.
- 2nd Charles F., Kindergarten, Johnny Oldman School. Essay on fixing a tent and fishing.
- 3rd Kyrie D., 2nd grade, Andrew K. Demoski School, essay on riding with his dad

#### Honorable Mention:

- 1st grade Cylar Sipary, Andrew K. Demoski School, essay on packing wood
- 2nd grade: Shaylee Dayton, Ella B. Verneti School, essay on potlatch food

### **Place Grades 3-5**

- 1st Alice S., Grade 3, Allakaket School. Essay on learning to sew and bead
- 2nd tie Owen B., 4th grade, Johnny Oldman School. Essay about Blackfoot nation in Canada and Montana
- 2nd tie Sophie S., 3rd grade, Allakaket School. Essay on goose hunting with her dad.
- 3rd Jazlyn J., 5th grade, Andrew K. Demoski School. Essay about culture - Stickdance, singing, fishing and trapping.

#### Honorable Mention:

- 4th grade: Caleb Bergman, Allakaket School. Essay on picking salmon berries.
- 5th grade: Nia A., Andrew K. Demoski School. Essay on fishing, hunting, and camping

### **Place Grades 6-8**

- 1st Payton B., grade 7, Johnny Oldman School. Essay on moose hunting .
- 2nd Ethan B., grade 7, Johnny Oldman School. Essay on culture in rural Alaska.
- 3rd Gabrielle A., grade 7, Johnny Oldman School. Essay on cultural events - potlatches and spring carnival

#### Honorable Mention:

- 7th grade: Alexis M., Ella B. Verneti School. Essay on cultural activities with her grandparents.
- 8th grade: Alec M., Ella B. Verneti School. Essay on hunting and fishing with his family at camp.

### **Place Grades 9-12**

- 1st tie Cierra S., grade 10, Andrew K. Demoski School. Essay about Stickdance.
- 1st tie Manuelito C., grade 10, Andrew K. Demoski School. Essay about moose hunting.
- 2nd Agnes Patsey, grade 11, Andrew K. Demoski School. Essay about culture camp.
- 3rd tie Ashlyn S., grade 12, Andrew K. Demoski School. Essay about cultural activities with her family.
- 3rd tie Cody K., grade 10, Andrew K. Demoski School. Essay about Stickdance and Alaska Native cultures.

#### Honorable Mention:

- Lewis W., grade 10, Johnny Oldman School. Essay about getting wood and potlatch.





## *Accreditation*

Andrea Nield, State & Federal  
Programs and Assessments  
Coordinator

YKSD is currently in the process of accreditation with Cognia. Part of the process is getting feedback from students and parents on the overall performance, communications, academics of the school. Thank you to all the parents who submitted their surveys. Any parent who completed the survey was entered into a drawing for the YKSD Biography Series. The books were sent to each of the sites, and the drawings conducted locally.

## *Assessments News*

Andrea Nield, State & Federal  
Programs and Assessments  
Coordinator

***NEW 2022 Spring Statewide Assessment*** - There will be a new statewide assessment in the spring of 2022 for Alaska students. The new assessment is called the Alaska System of Academic Readiness or AK STAR for students, grades 3-11. Practice tests and item type samplers will be available for AK STAR in January 2022. The test will be administered in the month of April 2022.

***MAP Testing*** - All students grades K-11 are given benchmark assessment three times a year to make sure they are progressing along academically. The winter window will be January 10-28, 2022. The assessments are outlined below.

Grades K-2: STAR Early Literacy Assessment in reading

Grades K-2: MAP Assessment in Math

Grades 3-11: MAP assessment in Reading, Math and Language Usage

Parents can get a copy of their students' report from their teacher during parent teacher conferences.



## *COVID Screening*

Andrea Nield, State & Federal  
Programs and Assessments  
Coordinator

In an effort to keep our schools open for in person learning, each of our schools has a local tester who can administer COVID test. All tests administered are reported to the state database. If you'd like to schedule a COVID test for your student, please contact your front office. Any students or staff traveling will need to take a COVID test.

## *Middle School Basketball*

**Andrea Nield, State & Federal  
Programs and Assessments  
Coordinator**

The middle school basketball season for YKSD is coming to a close. The following sites had teams: Minto Boys and Girls, Nulato co-ed, Allakaket Co-ed, Huslia 1 and Huslia 2. We would like to thank the schools, coaches for all their coordination efforts and HUGE shoutout to Wrights Air for getting the kids to and from the games. This season, on the Yukon/Koyukuk, would never have happened without their support. I hope the communities enjoyed the games. Teams were able to travel to the following tournaments.

Oct. 15&16: Northway Tournament (Minto)  
Oct. 22&23: Tok Tournament (Minto)  
Nov. 5&6: Galena Tournament (Nulato & Huslia)  
Nov. 12&13: Nenana Ice Cream Classic (Minto)  
Nov. 15&17: Huslia Tournament (Nulato, Allakaket, Galena & Tanana)  
Nov. 20: Minto @ Fairbanks  
Nov. 29-Dec.1: Nulato Tournament (Huslia & Galena)  
Dec. 17&18: Huslia @ Tanana



Minto Boys



2021 Huslia Middle School Tournament (Above) Nulato Tournament (Below)



## *YKSD Shootout*

YKSD Basketball Shootout will take place in Huslia, AK, January 20-22.

- ◆ Grades 8-12
- ◆ Minimum 2.0GPA at semester
- ◆ Current physical
- ◆ Have 5 practices prior to event





## *Esteem Grant*

Andrea Nield, State & Federal  
Programs and Assessments  
Coordinator

This grant has 4 components: Culture and Language, Social and Emotional, Credit Recovery and CTE. This is a choice grant meaning, parents are the initiators and have choice of the activities offered to their children. The website for this grant is currently being developed and should be live by January 2022 where parents can make those selections. We are unable to send any contractors to sites unless they are requested. We were able to sign on a couple of contractors who have made a few rounds to our schools. Below are two offerings under the Social and Emotional component.



***Plight Club*** is a youth-centered resilience-building 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.



Huslia Phlight Club

We have hired Brightways, who was written into the grant, and will heading to Nulato, Huslia, Hughes and Allakaket.

Andrea Nield and Jolene McGinty have visited Kaltag and Koyukuk





## *Esteem Grant continued*

Andrea Nield, State & Federal  
Programs and Assessments  
Coordinator

**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. AL Sokaitis was able to make it to Nulato, Huslia, Kaltag, Hughes, Rampart, Allakaket, Minto and Ruby this semester.



Allakaket



Minto



Nulato



Rampart



**Dancing with the Spirit** - week long music camps with 2 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. They will begin scheduling in January 2022.

**Team Hollywood** - Will spend one night in the village to do an evening entertainment show. Theme centers around community building and taking care of each other throughout the pandemic. They will be traveling to as many sites as possible who sign up the week of March 3-11, 2022.



## eSports

Andrea Nield, State & Federal  
Programs and Assessments  
Coordinator

eSports is currently in its 4th year as a recognized ASAA sanctioned activity for students in high school. Esports takes video gaming to a brand new level through organized, competitive gameplay between teams, governed by a strict, specific rule set. High school eSports is already the 10th most popular sport\* - based on the number of schools with a program. Spring registration is now open and students compete in the following games: Rocket League, League of Legends, and Super Smash Bros Ultimate league for just the ASAA, in addition to Splatoon 2 and Madden 22 as part of the regional leagues (with more to come!). ASAA is excited to announce that Mario Kart 8 Deluxe will be available for the first time this Spring. Registration is currently open for Spring season.

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

YKSD Schools participating in ESports are:

Nulato- Jeff Healy

Huslia- Steve Swatling





## Johnny Oldman School

Kristina Bellamy, Teacher  
Andrew Bellamy, Teacher

The excitement never ends at Johnny Oldman School! We wrapped up October with a Halloween carnival celebration, completed a student fundraiser, had fun dressing up during Spirit week. For November, we have celebrated National Native American Heritage month, completed a Toyostove repair class, enjoyed green eggs and ham during our Dr. Seuss STREAM afternoon, and got ready for Thanksgiving with a gym-time favorite: "Stuff the Turkey"!

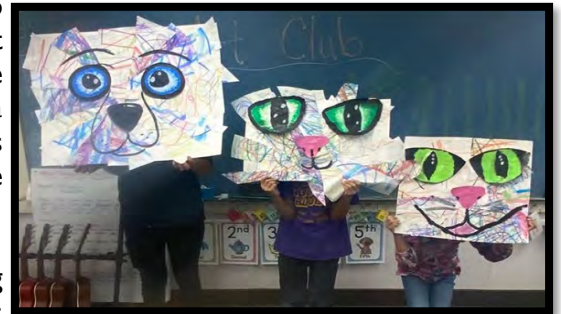
In Mrs. Bellamy's elementary classroom, the students have been working hands-on in a variety of ways, exploring math and reading concepts through real world activities. Recently, the students baked their own bread, reading the recipe instructions, measuring the components required, kneading the dough, and baking it before taking their "yummy" creations home! Other projects included making "ghosts" float using balloons, static electricity and other materials, and also planting and measuring the growth of the plants in our green house.

The elementary students also get the opportunity to practice their ukulele skills every week with *Dancing with the Spirit* (and will be showing off their skills with "Jingle Bells" later this month).

In the middle school classroom, we finished a two-month long project focused on Fictional storytelling and plot devices. From developing plot (rising action, climax, resolution) to implementing conflict, suspense, and exposition, the students wrote their own 4-to-6-page stories. After a classroom vote, Ethan Bellamy's story was chosen to turn into a short feature film. The students drafted storyboards to plan the film, and then wrote dialog and scenes for the complete script. The final product was an eight-minute short, filmed on-location at the school, utilizing a green screen (check out the picture of Payton falling from a rocket ship!)

Also in the middle school classroom, the students had the opportunity to dissect and inspect owl pellets for rodent bones. Some students found complete skulls in the owl "leftovers", while another student discovered parasites in their sample.

Lastly, our art club has been working diligently on animal face creations. The students splattered and decorated paper using paints and pencils, before cutting these sections out in triangular shapes to create backgrounds. With animal templates, the students then painted on the eyes, nose, and mouth on their works of art!





## *Allakaket School*

Vicki Inferrera,  
Special Ed Teacher



*School Bus Allakaket, Bus Driver  
Paul Morris*



*Halloween Cake Walk*



*The Cake Walk was fun.*



*A lynx at minus 35 on River  
Road.*



## *Jimmy Huntington School*

Casey Weter, Principal

Jimmy Huntington School hosted it's annual Jr. High tournament November 22 and 23, 2021. We hosted Galena, Allakaket, and Tanana. Parents and student enjoyed the games it has been a couple years since we have had a tournament.





## Kaltag School

Kevin Matthews,  
Principal & Teacher

It is hard to believe that we are nearly halfway through this school year and what a year it has been. We currently have 20 students, including two seniors who have come home to finish school in Kaltag. More on that next semester.

The “Littles” as I call them are doing great. Ahna Lisa and Bella are using their Chromebooks to read on MyOn. They have taken to it very well. The “Littles” are learning to read and that makes Ms. Hazel very happy. It makes my day when she brings them into the office to read to me. As a principal, it makes me proud. We have Ms. Roach back with us to help



with the “Littles” and to help with some of the needs our students have. She is working a few of our “Littles” and some of our “Middles.”



Speaking of the “Middles,” they are doing great as well. Mr. Tackett has done a great job. One of their projects allowed them to have a video meeting with a meteorologist and they learned a lot about the weather. They are also staying focused on literacy and have done a great job working on their AR Reading. All grade levels have completed their second round of Star Testing. The “Middles” decided it would be a good idea for them to compete against the “Bigs” in AR Reading and they did a great job.

Finally, the “Bigs.” The Middle School and High School students are doing great. So, we have had two Seniors join this group and they have been our AR Ringers. They were able to help the other “Bigs” to get more AR Points. It really is exciting to see the kids reading. Ms. Hroscikoski has done a great job and by the way, the worms are doing great. The “Bigs” started raising worms last fall as part of the science class. Big thanks to the CTE staff. The Toyo Stove class was a huge success, as was the Wilderness Safety Training.

We are looking forward to getting our school pictures back. Thank you Ms. Paskvan for doing this for our students. We would also like to thank Ms. Nield and Ms. McGinty for coming out and working with our students. The kids had a great time.

***Happy Holidays from Mr. Matthews, the students, and the staff at Kaltag School!***







## *Ella B. Vernetti School*

Joshua Hatfield,  
Principal & Teacher

Our students recently spend some time learning how to make banana bread. This was a really cool way to reinforce the importance of following steps and instructions. During this activity, the students also worked on some of their math skills. Such as measuring of the ingredients and then multiplication, with sometimes doubling the recipe. Oven temperature and time management were also a part of the process. The first batch, each student got to take a loaf home for their families to enjoy. They had so much fun and wanted to do more, so we decide to bake another batch. But this time we wanted to pass it out to our Elders, so after it was done the students made thank you cards and proceed with passing out to the Elders.



## *Andrew K. Demoski School*

Shaine Nixon,  
Principal & Teacher

### **National Native American Heritage Essay Contest**

The Nulato High Schoolers were very active in the National Native American Heritage Essay Contest this year! We had seven students participate by writing about a range of Native Alaskan topics: moose-hunting, Stick Dance, fall harvest, and potlatch. We also had great success with many contest wins! First place was a tie between Cierra Sommer and Lito Cook, second place went to Agnes Patsy, and third was another tie between Cody Kriska and Ashlyn Sommer. We are very proud of their writing talents and creativity!





## *Minto School*

Dee Washburn,  
Pre-K Teacher

The students in Mrs. Washburn's Pre-k class are growing quickly. They love to have fun while learning. They are learning how to cook (measurements). They have worked on all the letters in the alphabet and counting up to ten. They know most of the colors and shapes. They know that if they make a mistake, it is okay because mistakes show us what we need to know. They read every day!

We had a great Thanksgiving and we are learning Christmas songs for our program.

*Merry Christmas everyone and Happy New Year!*

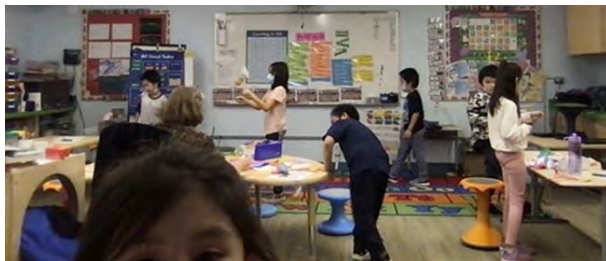




## Merrelaine A. Kangas School

Mike Day,  
Principal and Teacher

**Ms. Pearson's Class** has been learning about Holidays Around the World through reading, watching videos, writing and creating. In these pictures students created a Chinese Dragon puppet. Students have studied about 16 other countries and the holidays they celebrate during this season.



**Mrs. Sara's Class** as had a very busy 2nd Quarter! In October, we had an entire Halloween STEM week. We had oozing pumpkins, growing body parts, ghost eyeballs, crafts, and slime SLIME! The students had a blast and were engaged the entire week. It was awesome to watch their eager faces coming into school and wanting to know what they were going to learn next.

In November, we held our Dr. Seuss STREAM Night, which was a total success. Kids of all ages brought their families for our first in-school community event. They made Horton ears, Yertle the Turtle tongue twisters, Cat in the Hat snacks, and Thing 1 & 2 rhymes. Almost everyone was bold enough to try our green eggs and ham dinner, too!



**Mrs. Brown's Class** working with Mrs. Titus's class. In December, we've been able to sneak in a few holiday crafts in between our lessons. Our students have proven to be very creative and resourceful with limited craft supplies. A few even made sleighs out of popsicle sticks. This past week, we've had an elder, Annie Honea, come into our school to teach beading and sewing with a few middle schoolers. However, our class was eager to learn, too, and some of them have already picked up the techniques for beading their own ornaments! Next week our class will join her to sew aprons as wonderful holiday gifts.



## *Merrelaine A. Kangas School continued*

Mike Day,  
Principal and Teacher

***Mr. Day's and Mrs. Brown's Class.*** The MAK MS/HS students in woodshop class built longbows and arrows in class. They went through a multilayered process to make their bows out of bamboo and fiberglass. They also learned how to make Finish longbow jigs to make their bow strings. The arrows were made from cedar shafts. They learned how to fletch the arrows and place the nocks and practice points on the arrows. All of the students enjoyed the process. Not only did the students work many hours to learn how to make their longbows, they also were very successful in making their arrows.







## *Raven Homeschool*

Kim Bergey,  
Raven Homeschool Director

All Raven offices have been having a fantastic fall with lots of in person and virtual activities. Here are a few of the highlights.

### *Anchorage Office*

The Anchorage Office has had a tremendous turnout for our Art Club, so much so that we added a second class for December! We painted whimsical Birch Tree Forests in November, and painted individualized Snow people in December.

This month, we have built structures, such as cranes and race cars, with motors and gears in Jr. Lego League. We have learned how to program Lego robots to complete missions, as well as jumping into programming Ozobots and choreographing with coding in Dance Party. It has been a fun season!



Health club is for grades k-8 and students were given the task each week to do acts of kindness for others and have reported back to the group about their good deeds.

Poetry Club has written and learned about quatrain, couplet, diamante, limerick, and cinquain poems! It has been fun and wonderful to see all the creativity and have some of our Eagle River families join us.

### *Delta Junction*



Terrific Tuesdays has seen the younger students enjoy reading with Ms. Heidi before playing board games. Ms. Katya led students and families on a tour of the Fire Station. Seniors have been meeting the last Tuesday of the month to get to know each other and begin planning for graduation and beyond.

November brought school picture day, a card making workshop with Ms. Shelly and Book Fair. Students created placemats showing what they are grateful for in celebration of Thanksgiving. Five students were able to save Tom Turkey from being Thanksgiving dinner.

In December, Ms. Ashley presented a workshop on the Human Body with students learning about the lungs, heart and body! Ms. Katya set up a wonderful round of crafts for the holiday making snowflakes, spiral Christmas trees, and more! We are looking forward to our Holiday Celebration.



### *Juneau Office*

It has been exciting to share the virtual activities that we organize with the other Raven Offices so we can bring together Raven students from all across the state to participate and get to know each other. Our Facebook Group is a very active forum for parents to connect with each other, share ideas, and get info/updates about fun activities and events to participate in practically every day of the week, plus monthly PAC meetings give parents an avenue for hearing about upcoming news and sharing feedback.

## *Raven Homeschool continued*



### *Fairbanks Office*



Raven hosted a pumpkin carving and STEM activity at our office. Students participated in building a sturdy tower out of candy pumpkins. They experimented with the formation of different shapes to see which one was the strongest for building.

Our students visited Expressions in Glass, a locally owned glass gift shop and gallery. Here the students were able to create Christmas ornaments out of different colored glass pieces. They learned about the temperature and supplies needed to adhere their decorations to the glass base.

In October our students had the opportunity to take art classes with Master Fairbanks Artist Randall Compton! During a special class, the students were able to see and sketch Randall's pet falcon.

We went on a field trip to the University of Alaska's Museum of the North. We ended our trip in The Place Where You Go to Listen, an ever-evolving musical composition and light installation composed by John Luther Adams. Visitors hear the changing rhythms of sunlight and darkness, the phases of the moon, the seismic vibrations of the Earth and fluctuations in the Earth's magnetic field.

### *Wasilla Office*

Math Mondays is helpful for all our students needing math support. Our little readers are making great gains in reading and bowling has been a blast along with game club. There are so many great activities to choose from not only at Raven but in our wonderful Mat-Su Valley community.

Planning is underway in all offices for spring activities!



### *Eagle River Office*

The Eagle River office is in full swing this year with clubs, activities, field trips, and parties. These activities wouldn't happen without our parents and we want to say thank you!

We have been having so much fun with our families! In the past couple months, we took a bowling field trip, hosted Halloween and Thanksgiving parties, and next week is our holiday party! So many families make our parties a part of their family's celebration for the holidays and our parents go above and beyond in planning and helping us take care of all the details that so many students come to enjoy.

Our parents take precious time to plan, shop for, and lead these clubs and in the process enrich our students' educations with hands-on learning: Lego Club, Outdoor Club, Cooking Club, Recess Club, Geography Club, Book Clubs for littles and teens, and many more. Our parents are truly amazing and with our small staff, we wouldn't be able to provide such an engaging variety of learning opportunities without you!

And lastly as a community, we would like to recognize and thank Jolie McKay. For the past three years, she has taken the lead in building this special community of homeschoolers and parents. Her hard work and dedication to homeschooling will have a lasting impact on our community.





## *Raven Homeschool continued*

### *Eagle River Office: Thank you Jamie Ruble*

Kayla Guerrero,  
Special Ed Teacher

We would like to recognize Jamie as she is the grease in our office machine. Every day that she comes to work, she makes sure to humbly strive for excellence and is known for being friendly, compassionate, and hospitable with our families. Jamie's attention to detail does not go unnoticed, making her a valuable asset to our team! Her reliability is exemplary and we all strive to be more like Jamie. Here are what some of our wonderful families have to say about Jamie:

"Jamie is one of the best parts of the Raven ER Office! She always greets you with a friendly face when coming into the office. One of my favorite things about her is how she has invested in my children's lives and converses with them as people and not just as "little kids". Jamie is always quick to answer questions via email, phone, or in-person. When she's not there, there is a noticeable void in the office. J - is for JOY and JAMIE!!"

"I love coming into Raven and being greeted by Jamie. She has a warm smile and a genuine personality. She is organized and orderly with office matters and I know when I hand in papers they will be taken care of promptly. Whenever I call into the office, Jamie is knowledgeable about the events going on at Raven and if she doesn't know, she will find out from a person that does. I love having Jamie be a part of Raven. I have great confidence in her ability to do her job and connect with everyone."

"Homeschooling has been a difficult transition for my family and I. When we started homeschooling we were new not only to homeschooling but to Alaska as well. I needed support to get through this transition period for our family and I found that support in Jamie Ruble. She is a breath of fresh air every time I see her. She is calm, kind, welcoming, and always willing to help. Countless times I have wanted to give up on homeschooling until I walk into Raven and sit down with Jamie. She makes me believe in myself. She has become more than a staff member to me, she has become my friend.

Raven is so blessed to have an employee like Jamie working for them. She cares about families. She is always willing to help out at any of the parties or activities we are having at Raven. She really is the glue that holds the Eagle River office together. She is wonderful at getting information out to families, communicating needs between families and staff, and creating a warm and safe environment for families and staff alike. I admire, adore, and love Jamie Ruble!!!"

H A P P Y

*Holidays*

# Santa Claus

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 reindeer  
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 Rudolph

Santa  
 sleigh  
 stockings  
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# 2021-2022 YKSD SCHOOL CALENDAR

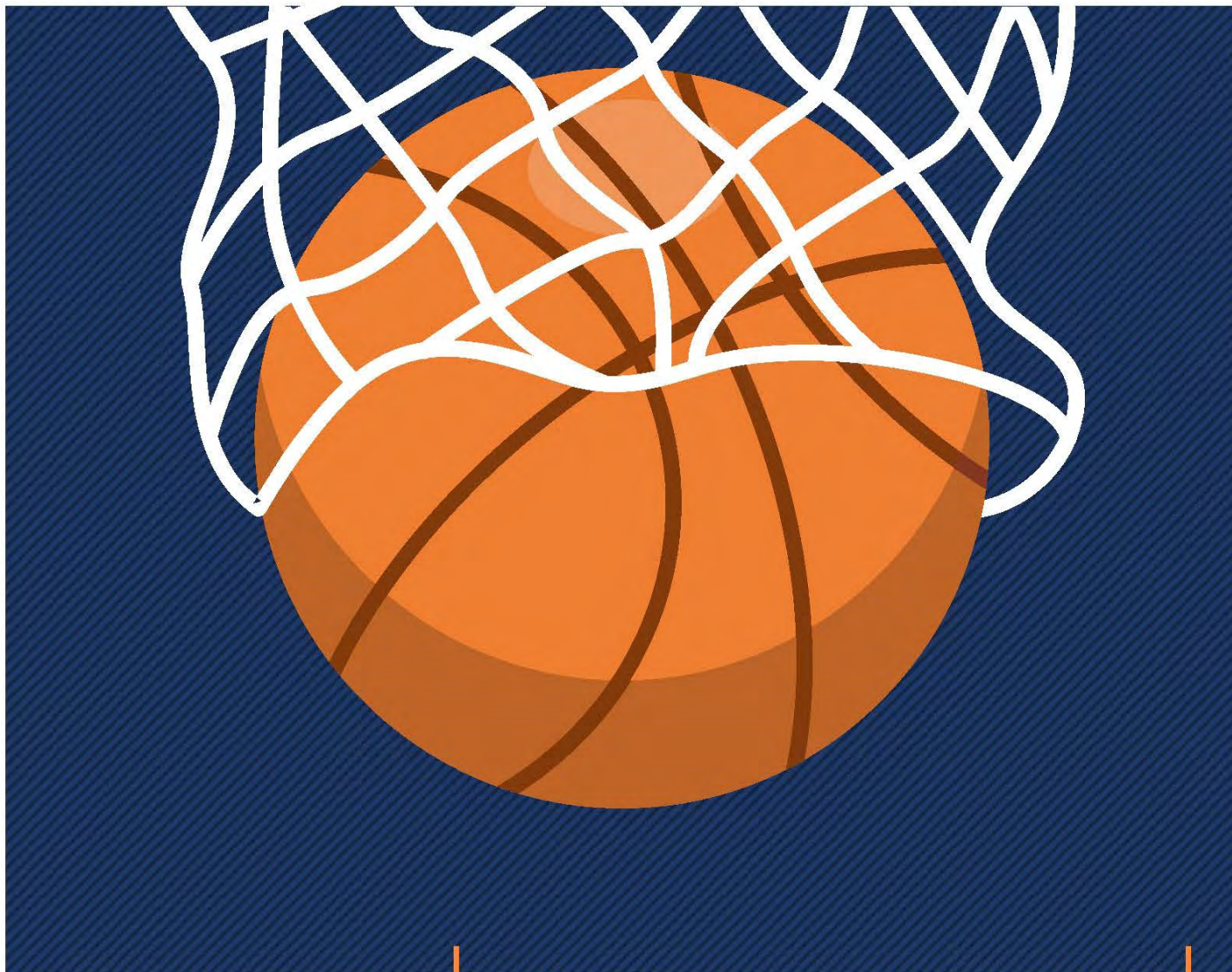
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2021	
<b>AUGUST</b>	2 Coordinators return to work 9-10 Principals at District Office 12-13 New Teachers at District Office 16-17 Teacher Workday at site 18-24 In-service at site 25 First Day of School
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	3 Subsistence day (Students & Teachers) 6 Labor Day Holiday 10 Subsistence day (Students & Teachers) 18 Principal Workday 24 Mid-term Progress Reports
<b>OCTOBER</b>	22 End of 1st Quarter/Early Dismissal for Students/Report Cards 23-24 Principal Workday
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	3 Parent Teacher Conferences/Early Dismissal for Students 13 Principal Workday 19 Mid-term Progress Reports 24 Early Dismissal for Students & Staff 25-26 Thanksgiving Holiday
<b>DECEMBER</b>	4 Principal Workday (Fairbanks) 17 End of Semester/Early Dismissal for Students/Report Cards 20-31 Holiday Break-No School
2022	
<b>JANUARY</b>	3 Holiday Break-No School 4-7 Teacher Inservice - No School 10 Students back to school 22-23 Principal Workday
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	5 Principal Workday 7 Mid-term Progress Reports 21 President's Day - No School for Students or Teachers
<b>MARCH</b>	11 End of Quarter/Early Dismissal for Students/Report Cards 14-18 Spring Break (varies by school) 26 Principal Workday 28 Testing Window Begins 28 Parent Teacher Conferences/Early Dismissal for Students
<b>APRIL</b>	16 Principal Workday 22 Mid-term Progress Reports 29 Testing Window Ends
<b>MAY</b>	26 Last Day of School for Students/Report Cards 27 Teacher Workday 28 Principal Workdays 30 Memorial Holiday 31 Principal Workdays (5/31-6/3)

<b>C</b>	Last Day of School/Report Cards
<b>E</b>	End of Quarter-Early Dismissal for Students/Report Cards
<b>H</b>	Legal Holiday
<b>I</b>	Inservice Day
<b>M</b>	Parent-Teacher Conf-Early Dismissal for Students
<b>MD</b>	Minimum Day
<b>MT</b>	Mid-Term Progress Reports
<b>NT</b>	New Teacher Workday
<b>O</b>	First Day of School for Students
<b>P</b>	Principal Workday (tentative dates)
<b>S</b>	Subsistence Days for Students & Teachers
<b>T</b>	Testing
<b>V</b>	Vacation Day (Students, Teachers, Principals)
<b>W</b>	Teacher Workday (no students)
<b>○</b>	Regional School Board Meetings

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**20-22**  
JAN., 2022

**6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
YKSD  
SHOOTOUT**

Location: Jimmy Huntington School in Huslia, Alaska