

March 2022

Yukon-Koyukuk School District
Staff Connections

From the Desk of Superintendent Kerry Boyd

Dear YKSD Families,

Welcome to Spring!

As Alaska gains more daylight, it really is starting to feel a lot like spring. Our students have just completed their 3rd Quarter and schools are preparing for Parent Teacher Conferences scheduled for the 28th of March. We hope that you will visit your student's school and share in their academic success.

Schools are also celebrating Spring Break this month. We hope everyone can spend well deserved time with family and friends. After their spring break, students in grades 3-9 will be gearing up for the upcoming AK STAR statewide assessment. New this year, the AK STAR- Alaska System of Academic Readiness is described as "a creative approach to balanced statewide assessment that better reflects learning throughout the school year and helps teachers target instruction to students' individual needs. The Alaska System of Academic Readiness (AK STAR) is designed to streamline the assessment experience for grades 3-9 in the areas of English language arts (ELA) and mathematics." Information is being shared by each school, but parents can also find more details and practice tests at the state website: <https://education.alaska.gov/assessments/akstar>

Increasing reading skills continues to be a District priority. We encourage families to spend quality time reading together. We recommend the book Ten Feet Tall and Bulletproof: Alaska Natives Blazing the Iditarod Trail honoring our local Iditarod mushers. The book was a multi-year collaborative effort of our Regional School Board working with our communities. Books are being sent out to each school for each classroom to have a set. We are also planning to send out an Arctic Kit which will include one book for each household.

As we all return safely from Spring Break, let's make the remaining weeks of the spring semester to be most productive and successful. Graduations are being planned and finalized as we look to celebrate another graduating class. Please check with your school regarding dates and times and any needs for your graduating students.

Warm regards,

Kerry Boyd



Board Recognition

The Yukon-Koyukuk Regional School Board recognizes excellence in students and staff members at each meeting. Congratulations to the people listed below! We hope that you will continue to strive to meet your goals and continue to be an excellent role model for your peers.

March 2022

Staff Winners



Joe Bifelt
Teacher
Rampart School



Oscar Dayton
Maintenance
Ella B. Vernetti School
Koyukuk

List of Staff Nominees

Karry Betson ~ Teacher: Allakaket School

Janet Bifelt ~ Cook: Johnny Oldman School (Hughes)

Melissa Captain ~ Teacher Aide: Merrelaine A. Kangas School (Ruby)

Veronica Miller ~ Custodian: Kaltag School

Annette Moses ~ Teacher: Jimmy Huntington School (Huslia)

McKenna Nixon ~ Teacher: Andrew K. Demoski School (Nulato)

Rose Wolfe ~ Teacher: Minto School

Board Recognition

March 2022

Student Winners



Ashlyn Sommers
Andrew K. Demoski School
Nulato

Photo not
Available

Cheyenne Swart-Moisan
Raven Homeschool
Fairbanks

List of Student Nominees

Gabrielle Ambrose ~ Johnny Oldman School (Hughes)

Veronica Burke ~ Raven Homeschool (Wasilla)

Alvin Esmailka ~ Kaltag School

Chase Jimmie ~ Rampart School

Peyton Kuhl ~ Raven Homeschool (Fairbanks)

James Ludwig ~ Raven Homeschool (Eagle River)

Alec Malemute ~ Ella B. Verneti School (Koyukuk)

Shyla Nollner ~ Allakaket School

Hannah Olin ~ Jimmy Huntington School (Huslia)

Liliana Titus ~ Merrelaine A. Kangas School (Ruby)

Domasckus Washburn ~ Minto School

Barrette Whitaker ~ Jimmy Huntington School (Huslia)

Board Recognition

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December 2021

Staff Winner



Robert Pilot
Teacher Aide
Ella B. Verneti School
Koyukuk

List of Staff Nominees

- Lizzie Alexie** ~ Teacher Aide: Kaltag School
Vicki Inferrera ~ Special Education Teacher: Allakaket School
Leah Morgan ~ Cook: Merrelaine A. Kangas School (Ruby)
Dee Washburn ~ Pre-K—Early Literacy Teacher: Minto School

Board Recognition

December 2021

Student Winners



Mercedes Frank
Minto School



Kendall Swart
Raven Homeschool
Fairbanks

List of Student Nominees

- Stuart Bergman** ~ Allakaket School
Calvin "Goo" McGinty ~ Kaltag School
Carter Dayton-Brasket ~ Ella B. Verneti School (Koyukuk)
Gwen L. ~ Raven Homeschool (Juneau)
Anika Linstid ~ Raven Homeschool (Juneau)
Megyn Linstid ~ Raven Homeschool (Juneau)
Levi Williams ~ Merrelaine A. Kangas School (Ruby)

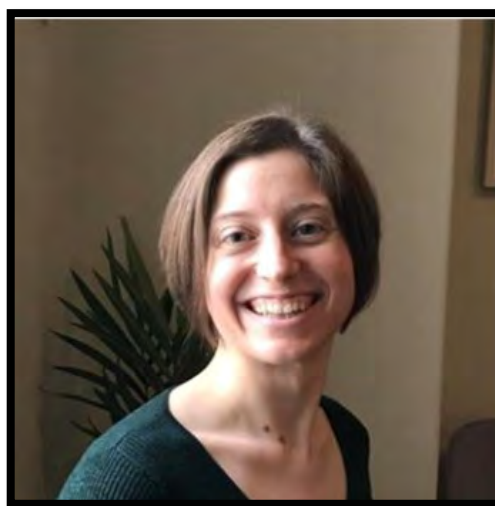
Board Recognition

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October 2021 Staff Winners



Tim Main
Teacher
Rampart School



Holly Shier
Administrative Assistant
Raven Homeschool
Juneau

List of Staff Nominees

Kylee Beatus ~ Pre-K Teacher & Principal Aide: Johnny Oldman School (Hughes)

Heather Bjerke ~ Teacher: Minto School

Anne Elliott ~ Teacher: Andrew K. Demoski School (Nulato)

LaToya Greist ~ Teacher Aide: Allakaket School

Mary Sue Linus ~ Teacher Aide: Allakaket School

Jacqueline Morgan ~ Teacher Aide: Merrelaine A. Kangas School (Ruby)

Paul Morris ~ Bus Driver & Principal Aide: Allakaket School

Hazel Olson ~ Pre-K Teacher & Teacher Aide: Kaltag School

Dorothy Williams ~ Teacher Aide: Jimmy Huntington School (Huslia)

Priscilla Williams ~ Teacher: Ella B. Verneti School (Koyukuk)

Board Recognition

October 2021

Student Winners



Gabriella McCarty
Merrelene A. Kangas School
Ruby



Noelia Toscano-Arteaga
Raven Homeschool
Fairbanks

List of Student Nominees

Henry Beatus ~ Johnny Oldman School (Hughes)

Desyray Cole ~ Allakaket School

Keelan Cunningham ~ Raven Homeschool (Juneau)

Stig Cunningham ~ Raven Homeschool (Juneau)

Harrison Holt ~ Raven Homeschool (Juneau)

Ryan McGuire ~ Raven Homeschool (Fairbanks)

Alexis Moses ~ Ella B. Verneti School (Koyukuk)

Avery Overbay ~ Minto School

Phoenix Overson ~ Raven Homeschool (Juneau)

Bianca Pagel-Miller ~ Raven Homeschool (Anchorage)

Aiden Pietan ~ Raven Homeschool (Juneau)

Saylor Ryan ~ Raven Homeschool (Juneau)

Evan Sam ~ Jimmy Huntington School (Huslia)

AhnaLisa Semaken ~ Kaltag School

Kenneth Stickman ~ Andrew K. Demoski School (Nulato)

Jemima Verebasaga ~ Raven Homeschool (Juneau)

James Zuiderduin ~ Raven Homeschool (Juneau)

Alaska Arts Education Consortium's "2022 Arts Student Champion of Arts in Education"

Kela Gillihan, Itinerant Counselor

Chase L. Jimmie, Rampart School, Yukon-Koyukuk School District

Chase is in his senior year at Rampart School. His work in literary arts exhibits a strong bond to the stories, language, and traditions of his culture and community.

Nominator Al Sokaitis praises the young artist's dedication to uplifting others. "Chase's pride in his culture, his studies and the way he treats others serve as a tremendous inspiration to young students who hope to one day be the leader Chase is today."

The award's selection panel was particularly impressed by the vibrant connection to community evident in Jimmie's poem "I Am." In describing the piece Sokaitis notes, "Chase wrote an amazing poem describing who he is as a person. The poem was made into a poster and is displayed throughout the village. Every person in Rampart can now read about Chase's life and his reverence for elders and family members who helped form who he is and the pride he has in the community that raised him. His poem is a wonderful inspiration in a time of high stress for many."

The Alaska Arts Education Consortium (AAEC) is pleased to recognize individuals and organizations from across the state who champion the arts in education. AAEC believes these Champions carry the torch for arts education through high-caliber instruction, arts support, and ongoing arts promotion.

This award is a celebratory action, aimed at highlighting the positive impact of the arts on the lives of our children and youth. The efforts of these champions in teaching and supporting arts across the curriculum reflects the mission of AAEC, which is "to promote learning in and through the arts for all Alaska students." Each Champion was nominated by Alaskans who—like the AAEC—believe in the work of these Champions of Arts in Education to positively impact the lives of students and communities. Complete information about the 2022 AAEC Champions of Arts in Education is available on the AAEC website at <http://akartsed.org/>.

As the Arts Student Champion, Chase will have a featured display space within the *Alaska Council of School Administrators Alaska's Heart through Student Art Show*, an annual celebration held in partnership with the Alaska Arts Education Consortium and GCI Education. He also will receive a scholarship from proceeds of the event's art auction.

His poem is printed on page 9.



I Am Somebody



I Am

By Chase L. Jimmie

I Am from beautiful autumn hills,
From fish eggs and dry meat.
I Am from a strong mother and
Even stronger grandmother.
I Am an old bear spirit and
a product of the environment.
I Am from Eenaa'e wolf and
Eetaa'e bear.
I Am from Ramp City Blues,
The native rock and roll blood
Of my forefathers
I Am from strong traditional medicine
Forever opening the third eye.
I Am cold and dark clashing with warm
rising steam from fresh blood in winter.
I Am easy flowing like a Lynx walking on snow
Or like the spirits who dance at night.
I Am ambitious which is sharp and precise
Like eagle eyes and its talons coordination.
I Am sly as a fox and devious as a raven
But as respectful as an owl.
I Am covered in porcupine quills all disguised as vices.
I Am from Mother nature's nurturing balance of hutlaanee.

I Am

RAMPART

Teaching and Learning News

Chelsea Hurst, Instructional Technology Supervisor

We are so glad that everyone is back! So far, we've had a strong start to the second semester. In early January, our teachers, principals and paraprofessionals attended our virtual January Inservice. We continued our work with Visible Learning, Literacy, and simple robotics like micro:bits and Spheros. Later in January, we had over 40 River and Raven staff members attend ASDN's RTI/MTSS Effective Instruction Virtual Conference. We are proud to have so many staff members dedicated to continued learning. As we improve, so do our students.



Teachers began their work developing Place Based Math Lessons through Bobbi Jo Erb's Statewide collaborative. Throughout the year, teachers will continue to develop Place Based Math lessons that are relevant to their community and have the appropriate rigor for all of their students.

Photo taken by: Bobbi Jo Erb (while on an adventure w/John Welkener & his Students 😊); Location: Allakaket

- John walked forty paces south from his house to the slough. He then walked 50 paces east towards his trapline. How many paces is John from his house?



Teaching and Learning News *continued*

Chelsea Hurst, Instructional Technology Supervisor

Photo taken by: Heather Bjerke Location: Minto

- How long is the fish?
- How many eggs are in the fish?
- How much taller are you than the fish?
- How many teeth does the fish have?
- What size fish could this fish eat?
- How many of your hands could fit on the fish?
- If one fish feeds three dogs, how many fish would you need for 19 dogs?
- What size net would you need to catch this fish?
- How much does the fish weigh?
- How tall do you think the partially digested fish was?



Photo taken by: Daniel Tackett; Location: Kaltag

- How many students can fit on this log?
- How much firewood could be cut from this log?
- What would be the easiest way to measure this? (Inches, mm, cm, etc.)
- How much does this weigh? What could we compare it too?
- How much snow would it take to bury the log?



Photo taken by: Bobbi Jo; Location: Huslia

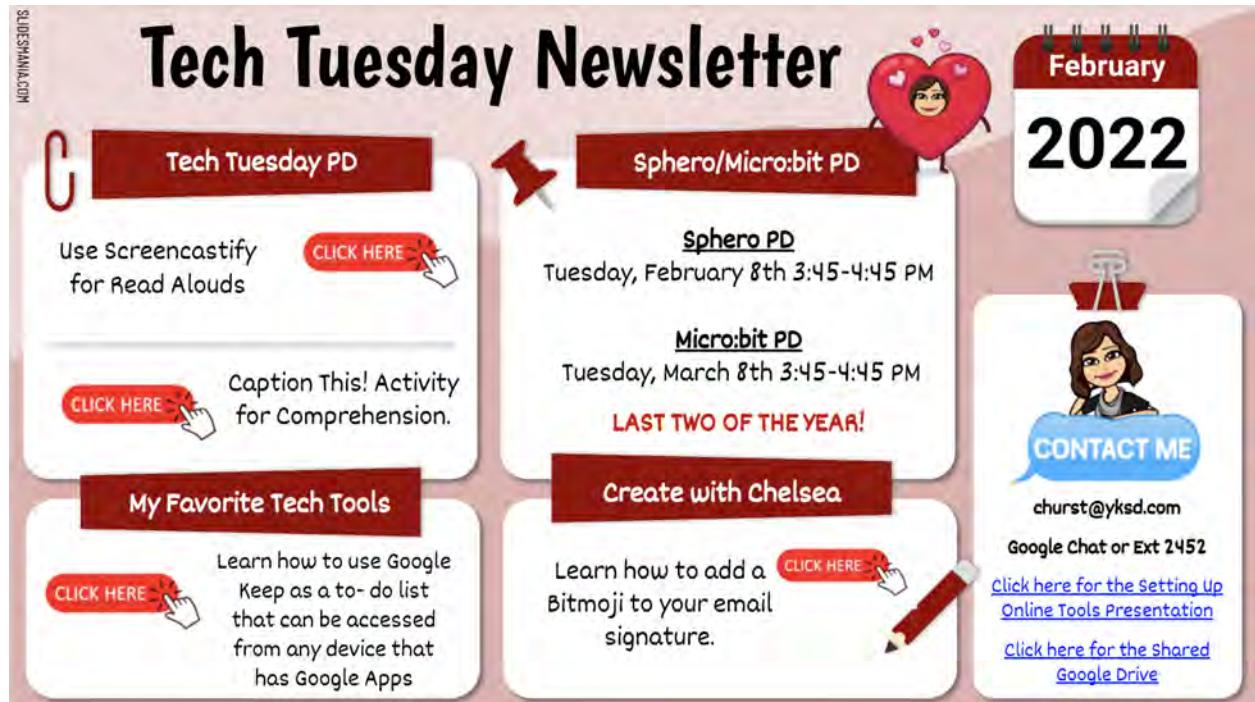
- What patterns do you see in the necklace?
- What shapes do you see?
- How many vertices does the star shape in the middle have?
- How many tassels are there? Are they all the same length? How do you know?
- If you were to "unfold" the circle of pink beads, how long would it be if the diameter of the circle is 1.5 inches?



Instructional Technology Update

Chelsea Hurst, Instructional Technology Supervisor

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.



Tech Tuesday Newsletter

February 2022

Tech Tuesday PD
Use Screencastify for Read Alouds [CLICK HERE](#)

Sphero/Micro:bit PD
Sphero PD
Tuesday, February 8th 3:45-4:45 PM
Micro:bit PD
Tuesday, March 8th 3:45-4:45 PM
LAST TWO OF THE YEAR!

My Favorite Tech Tools
[CLICK HERE](#) Learn how to use Google Keep as a to-do list that can be accessed from any device that has Google Apps

Create with Chelsea
Learn how to add a Bitmoji to your email signature. [CLICK HERE](#)

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](#)

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



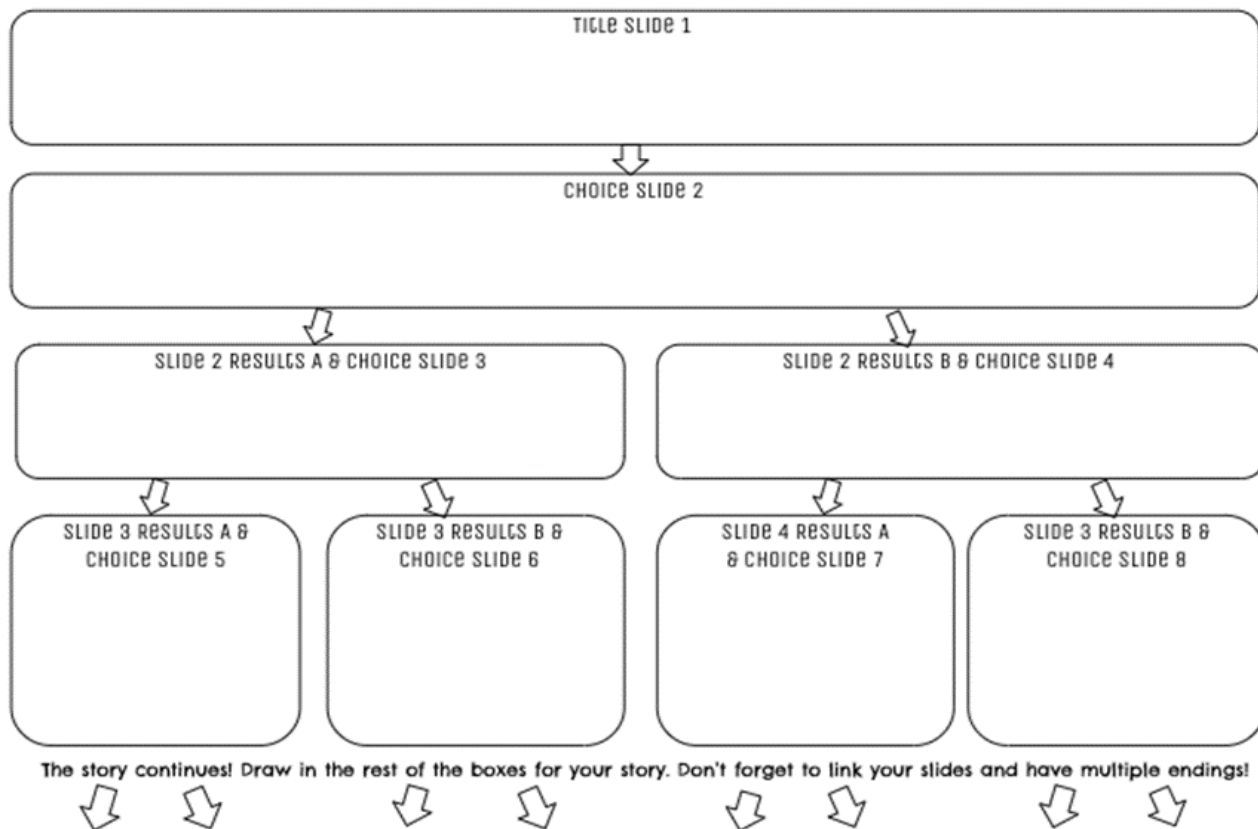
Instructional Technology Update

Chelsea Hurst, Instructional
Technology Supervisor

Choose Your Own Adventure

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Directions: Use the graphic organizer to plan your Google Slides Choose Your Own Adventure



As we near the end of the school year its time to make sure you have all you need to finish the year and prepare for another great school year that is just around the corner. Remember for any general funds that need to be spent on items for this school year should follow these guidelines:

March 31 - Purchase requisitions for all out-of-state ordering for this school year using general fund money must be done. It is important to know that these items must be physically received by June 30 or else they will be considered a purchase for next year and part of your next year's budget.

Purchasing Deadlines

for spring activities such as graduation.

These deadlines are for general fund purchases needed through the end of this school year. If you need things for next year, those items can be purchased starting July 1. If you would like to get things ordered before coming back, let the Business Office know and we will work on getting those orders entered and processed when the system is available.

April 30 - The last day to submit purchase requisitions for your school site or department using general fund money. The exceptions are normal operation & maintenance, ongoing maintenance projects, approved staff and student travel and small incidental purchases



SCHOOL ERP (Formerly IVisions)

orders, Check account balances, PCard Processes and Travel Procedures. If you need support or training please contact any member of the Business Office and we will help you find what you need.

The Business Office has updated many of the Procedures on the [Business office website](#). You will find information on how to create requisitions, attach PDF's in School ERP, Approve Requisitions, Receive

State & Federal Programs Department

Susan Paskvan, Director of
State and Federal Programs

The YKSD State and Federal Programs department has been busy planning spring and summer activities for students, staff and communities.

320 ESTEEM Grant

This Alaska Native Education discretionary grant provides students and parents **choice** in their student's education. Andrea Nield is working with the service providers on scheduling events for the schools, such as Challenge Life, Team Hollywood, Dancing with the Spirit and Eskimo Ninja. We wrote a letter to parents, tribal members, and put out a notice to potential service providers. We have received 40 responses from parents and staff. The website for the ES-TEEM grant <https://esteem.yksd.com> is published. Parents, staff and students may select from courses. We held a Facebook Live meeting to let the parents, tribes and community members know of the opportunities available.

Upcoming events include school field trips, a trip for high school students to attend Gathering of Nations and career and technical education opportunities.



Gena J arrives at the finish line of the Junior North American Championship in the four dog race.

352 AN ELDER II Grant

This coming summer we will host a summer language camp in July which may include a trip into Denali National Park and combined camp with Phlight Club. We will also be publishing some Native teaching aids games and online language applications. Each school will receive copies of the Ten Feet Tall and Bulletproof: Alaska Natives Blazing the Iditarod Trail book. Language co-teachers may attend a professional development conference, Co-Lang, in Missoula, MT.



Gena L. of Rampart sewing a pillowcase.



Revé B-H., Kambria D., Ariana L, Mia C-W., and Kayleigh A., adding baking soda to a marten skin after it has been washed.

State & Federal Programs Department

Susan Paskvan, Director of
State and Federal Programs

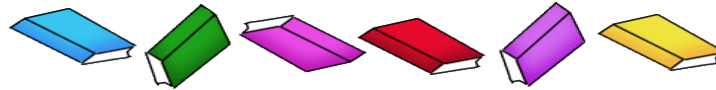
Language Classes

The Denaakk'e and Benhti Kook'tana Kenaga' classes for Spring 2021 are the same schedule as fall except for no junior high/high school class. In January students worked on counting animals and for some counting people. Early elementary were required to learn to count 1 to 5 and speak in full sentences. Some even mastered counting to 10. Students in upper elementary were required to count to 10.

The Spring 2022 assessment is currently being administered. This measures students' progress in learning their language and increases in proficiency.

Ten Feet Tall and Bulletproof: Alaska Natives Blazing the Iditarod Trail

Epicenter Press published Ten Feet Tall and Bulletproof: Alaska Natives Blazing the Iditarod Trail book. This book shares the experiences of twelve Alaska Native mushers who raced in the Iditarod. The regional school board had these inspirational stories written so students would have role models that tell of challenges they faced, persevered, and achieved a great goal. In addition, family trees for each musher is provided. The mushers highlighted include: Henry Beatus, Warner Vent, Jerry Riley, Rudy Demoski, Ramy Brooks, Roxy Wright, Wes Henry (on mushing program), Dean Painter, Don Honea, Emmitt Peters, Ken Chase, Rose Albert, and Gary Attla.



Rampart January 31 – February 2, 2022. In the classroom, I worked with students on making a bar graph using Denaakk'e phrases. Mr. Main has a routine in the morning in which he asks students the weather, how they are feeling, and he uses classroom communication commands. Mr. Bifelt works with his students on the songs of the Rampart/Tanana area. I was able to give the language assessment to students in Mr. Main's class. Afterschool, as part of the AN ELDER II grant, students stayed and made pillow cases. All the students participated. I held a parent night and one parent attended.

Huslia February 8 - 10, 2022. In the classroom, I worked with students on the Spring 2022 language assessment and visit a couple of the elementary classes. The assessment took longer than I anticipated for the K-1 class, so my classroom time was limited. Due to the size of the school, I should've stayed four days. After-school, I taught students how to tan a marten skin. I worked with Leona Starr and Alberta Vent at the Resources Building on cutting out the pattern and fabric. We needed an extra day here to finish the project. Leona will work with local seamstresses on finishing the project.

2022 National ESEA Conference. February 18-21, 2022. I went to New Orleans, LA to attend the National ESEA Conference with Andrea Nield and Holly Wofford. The conference had four strands: instructional; leadership; policy; and Keynote. I attended the sessions that taught me about the State & Federal Program policies; instructional sessions, especially on social & emotional learning; and effective leadership sessions. I brought back many fliers and supply samples to share with the staff at YKSD.

Assessments

Andrea Nield, State & Federal
Programs and Assessments
Coordinator

NEW 2022 Spring Statewide Assessment.

Alaska's Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) has partnered with NWEA to implement a creative approach to balanced statewide assessment that better reflects learning throughout the school year and helps educators target instruction to students' individual needs. The Alaska System of Academic Readiness (AK STAR) is designed to streamline the testing experience for grades 3–9 in the areas of English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. For more information please visit <https://education.alaska.gov/assessments/akstar/student-readiness>

- ♦ The test window will be Monday, March 28, 2022 and ending on Friday, April 29, 2022.
- ♦ Schools have been taking the practice test.
- ♦ [Why should my child take the statewide summative assessment?](#)

The Alaska Science Assessment

Is a summative assessment designed to measure a student's students (in grades 5, 8, and 10) knowledge of the [K-12 Science Standards for Alaska](#), adopted in June 2019. The [K-12 Science Standards for Alaska](#) provide a new foundation for defining what students should know and be able to do in terms of scientific knowledge and skills.

The K-12 Science Standards for Alaska support learning and understanding through sense making and investigations associated with scientific phenomena in life science, physical science, earth and space science, and engineering and technology. Crosscutting concepts, an organizational framework for connecting knowledge from the diverse science disciplines into a coherent and scientifically based view of the world, are included in the standards. Science and engineering practices, [Alaska Standards for Culturally Responsive Schools](#), and evidence-based reasoning are also included.

For resources on preparing students to take the science assessment, please view [Student Readiness](#).

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 winter benchmark window closed January 28 and the spring assessment window opens April 28-May 13, 2022. 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. Results have been shared at parent teacher conference.



12th Annual Virtual Pizza Party - May 17th

Andrea Nield, State & Federal Programs and Assessments Coordinator

Do your best to pass the test! This is a fun way to celebrate AK STAR/MAPS testing as well as the efforts of students and staff all year long. Each year the party continues to be a huge hit and pizzas are sent to each site from Papa Murphys. Students present during testing will be entered into drawings for prizes such as...

Over 80 prizes are given out each year.

Grand Prize:
Grades 3-6: Bikes
Grades 7-12: air pods



ESTEEM Grant

Andrea Nield, State & Federal Programs and Assessments Coordinator

This grant has four 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. Parents must sign up and can see the full list of courses for each category at the following web address: www.esteem.ylscd.com. Some of the offerings through the ESTEEM Grant are outlined below.

Challenge Life made it to 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. Al will continue his travel in second semester for two more rounds.



Nulato



Koyukuk



Huslia



Minto



Rampart



Allakaket

ESTEEM Grant continued

Andrea Nield, State & Federal Programs and Assessments Coordinator

Phlight Club is a youth-centered resilience-building project that brings 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. We have hired Brighways who was written into the grant and will heading to Nulato, Huslia, and Hughes.



Huslia



Nulato

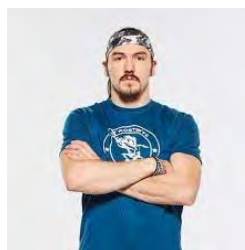


Kaltag

Dancing with the Spirit is a week long music camp with two staff teaching singing, guitar, fiddle, ukulele, culture, and language with the help of elders. There will be 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. Below are the list of site signed up through Esteem.

Week of March 28- Kaltag
 Week of April 4- Nulato
 Week of April 11-Koyukuk
 Week of April 25- Hughes & Allakaket
 Week of May 2- Minto
 Week of May 16- Huslia

Eskimo Ninja Warrior will be coming to YKSD this spring. February dates have been postponed due to Nicks travels to World competitions in Italy.



Mon. Mar. 21- Kaltag
 Tues. Mar. 22- Nulato
 Wed. Mar. 23- Koyukuk
 Thurs. Mar. 24- Huslia
 Fri. Mar. 25- Ruby
 Mon, Mar. 28- Minto
 Tues, Mar. 29- Rampart
 Wed. Mar. 30- Allakaket
 Thurs. Mar 31- Hughes

Team Hollywood The March Spring YKSD Tour was well received by our villages. They brought a family fun evening entertainment filled with a lot of laughter and engagement for the community. Theme centered around community building and taking care of each other.



Kaltag



Huslia



Allakaket

1A Golden Heart Regional Basketball Championships

Andrea Nield, State & Federal Programs
and Assessments Coordinator

The 1A Golden Heart Regional Basketball Championships were held at the UAF Patty Center March 2-5, 2022, hosted by Tri Valley. Here are the following awards for the YKSD Schools.



Boys Runner-Up- Huslia Huslers



Girls Runner up- Nulato Lady Wolves



Sportsmanship Award- Allakaket Blazers



Girls All-Academic Team: Agnes Patsy- Nulato; Cierra Vent- Huslia; Cierra Sommer-Nulato



*Boys Academic Team Vegaas Kruger
and Thomas Patsy- Nulato*



*Boys Freethrow Champion- Cash Bergman
Girls Three-Point Champion- Molly Penn, Huslia*

1A Golden Heart Regional Basketball Championships continued

Andrea Nield, State & Federal Programs
and Assessments Coordinator



Boys All-Tournament Team: Andrew David-Minto; Tyler Roberts- Huslia; Clayton Wiehl- Minto; Damian Williams- Huslia



Girls All-Tournament Team: Ashlyn Sommer- Nulato; Precious Lestenkoff- Huslia; Molly Penn- Huslia

1A Golden Heart Regional Basketball Championships *continued*

Susan Paskvan, Director of
State and Federal Programs



Andrew K. Demoski, Nulato Wolves: Vegaas K., Lito Cook, Kellien K., Larry W., Travis M., Thomas P. Coach Cletus Sipary.



Minto Lakers: Quentin W., Jackson W., Andrew D., Isaiah A., Robbie D., Coach Jay David, Gregory O. Jr., and Jonathan D., Jr.



Andrew K. Demoski, Lady Wolves: Cierra S., Agnes P., Ashton S., Rayana M., Chloe S.. Coach Cletus Sipary



Minto Lakers & Jimmy Huntington School Lady Huslers: Miranda S., Alissa R., Precious L., Molly P., Jewel A., Jennafer S., Ciera V., Maddison F-C., and Chloe S. Coach Greg Alexander

great
job

Family Literacy Movie Kits!

Kristi Burns, State & Federal
Programs Coordinator



Family Literacy Movie Kits have been sent to all of YKSD's families! Enjoy reading with your family, snuggling under a blanket, eating popcorn/candy, and then watching the movie.

We hope that you will take 20 minutes a day to spend time reading. Just think how much fun could be spent reading aloud to the entire family! You could discuss the book after an important part, the 20 minute time period, or even after a chapter. This could also prompt other discussions about your experiences or stories of the past.



Just remember: *Time spent with family is time well spent!*

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Brandy Henderson, Teacher
& Kim Christensen Special
Education Teacher

Raven Homeschool had the pleasure of having Charlotte Weatherby from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) come and talk to our families who have students with disabilities. DVR is a wonderful program that helps hundreds of Alaskans with disabilities prepare for, get, and keep good jobs. Miss Weatherby provided examples, ideas, and gave out applications for parents and students while offering to help anyway possible for summer internships and after a student graduates.



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

A big thank you to Brandy Henderson & Kim Christensen for all of their work putting the DVR event together!

Thank You!

Career Technical Education News

Patty Woody,
CTE Coordinator

The YKSD Career & Technical Education (CTE) Department is growing! We are excited to welcome the following new people to our team! We look forward to hearing and seeing what great things students are learning!

Sally Endestad

Sally Endestad is our new CTE Counselor. Sally will be working one day of week until the end of the school year. In the fall she will be full time. As a CTE Counselor Sally will be helping students learn about careers, make plans for a career, and successfully transition to life after high school.

Sally Endestad was born and raised in New Hampshire. Sally moved to Carbondale, Illinois to attend SIU-C earning her B.S. in Elementary Education while competing in cross-country running, indoor and outdoor track & field. While recovering from a torn plantar fascia, she discovered bicycle training and thus began a 10-year career as a professional bike racer. She competed in both the 1988 Seoul South Korea & 1992 Barcelona, Spain Olympic Games along with 5 World Championships Teams. However, her greatest claim to fame is marrying her Norwegian born husband Audun and starting a family in Fairbanks. She thoroughly enjoyed homeschooling her two children with Raven Correspondence School for 12 years. Her daughter Anja earned a BA in Violin Performance & Pedagogy at the Cleveland Institute of Music while son Ari, is pursuing degrees in CIS & Business at Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage. Sally will be a full-time CTE Counselor for YKSD for the 2022-23 school year after working for IDEA as an IDEA and iGrad Contact Teacher for 5 years. Sally is passionate about assisting families in balancing core subjects with career and technical class options to offer students a well-rounded education. Sally enjoys exploring new outdoor adventures with her husband and two loveable fur babies, Jack & Leo.



Chelsey Ayen



Chelsey Ayen has joined the YKSD CTE Department this spring as a full time CTE Facilitator. In this role Chelsey will work closely with students, instructors, and community to help facilitate instruction and provide support for a broad range of CTE activities.

Chelsey moved to Fairbanks in 2004 with her family from Cherokee, North Carolina. She is happily indigenous and loves living here. She has been here for about 14 years now. She is married with one daughter and a wild lab/husky dog to keep them moving. She has worked with the Fairbanks North Star School District, Fairbanks Native Association Head Start, and Tanana Chiefs Conference. She has been able to gather many useful skills and experience from each. She plans to get her bachelor's in education. She is happy to be in the YKSD family.

Career Technical Education News continued

Patty Woody,
CTE Coordinator

Len Coursey

Len Coursey is a contractor who will be teaching students about electricity. He will start by providing two day workshops for middle and high school students. Len will be traveling in April and possibly May and then in the fall to all of our schools.

Len arrived in Fairbanks in August 1973, to begin his Alaskan teaching career at Nordale Elementary School. He previously taught 5th grade for 4 years in East Los Angeles. For the next 21 years he worked with 5th and 6th graders, for a total of 25 years in the teaching profession.

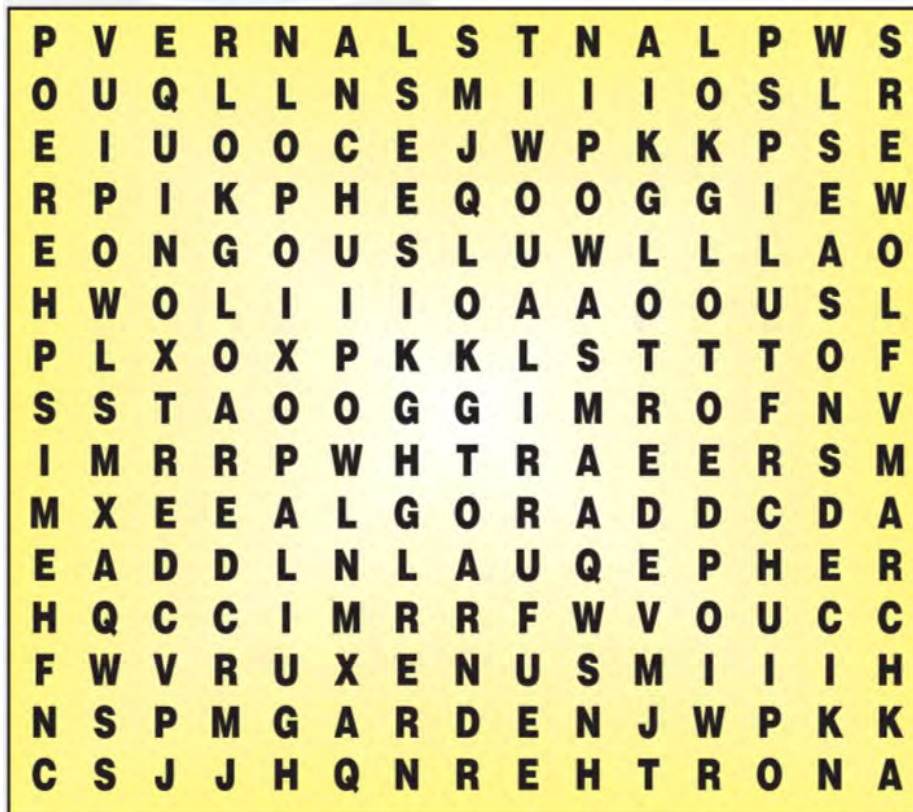
While teaching school, during his summer vacations, he had a contracting business constructing single family housing. When he retired 1994 he assumed he would go back into the residential contracting business. Instead he was presented with an opportunity to work as an electrician and own my own electrical contracting business, starting out as "Mr Electric" and finishing my business career as "The Electrician."

For over 10 years he has been working part time for YKSD as a Master Electrician and has had the opportunity to visit each of the District's remote sites. Now in addition to doing electrical work, he have a new part time position with the District's Career Training Center instructing students in basic electricity.

It seems that his career path has come full circle. He looks forward to working with students again in the classroom and hopefully can be a positive influence and help them create options for a successful future.



WORD SEARCH



SPRING

VERNAL

EQUINOX

MARCH

SEASON

EQUAL

NORTHERN

HEMISPHERE

EQUATOR

SUN

EARTH

AXIS

FLOWERS

PLANTS

GARDEN

TULIPS

Counseling Corner

Cristina Welker, Director of Special Education & Support Services

FYI! Accommodations for students with Disabilities on an IEP or 504 Plan

It's that time of year again! AK STAR!

Accommodations: are changes in practices and procedures that provide equitable access to grade level content during instruction and assessment that do not alter the validity of the assessment, score interpretation, reliability, or security of the assessment.

Accommodations are intended to reduce or even eliminate the effects of a student's disability; **they do not** reduce learning expectations. The accommodations provided to a student should generally be the same for classroom instruction and for assessments. It is critical to note that although some accommodations may be appropriate for instructional use, they may not be appropriate for use on a standardized assessment. Because of the close link between assessment and instruction, the IEP or 504 plan must describe how the accommodations for assessment are provided routinely for classroom instruction. The IEP or 504 team should select appropriate accommodations based on the student's need, and must provide documentation and the rationale for the accommodations in the IEP or 504 plan.

Research shows that an unfamiliar test accommodation given to a student with a disability may negatively impact performance. Accordingly, an IEP or 504 team should be cautious about adding an accommodation shortly before an assessment. In general, a good practice is to make sure an accommodation has been used in the student's regular or special education classes for instruction and classroom assessments for at least three months or 90 days before testing. This will ensure that the student has experience with the accommodation and that the accommodation is appropriate for the student. When accommodations are provided as part of a computer-based assessment, the IEP team must take care to ensure that students have opportunities to become familiar with the technological aspects of the accommodations. In addition to using the accommodation in instruction, students should have the opportunity to use the computer-based practice tests to be familiar with how accommodations will be made available on computer-based as-



Healthy Lifestyles & Career Fair

Kela Gillihan, Itinerant Counselor

The counseling department was excited to host the first virtual Healthy Lifestyles and Career Fair on January 27th & 28th. We had many different speakers present to our students; that included a Pilot, Geologist, speakers from the UA system, speakers from TCC, the Operators Union, and many more. We appreciate all of the classes who participated and hope that the students were able to learn about some different careers and the steps they can take to become successful! This event also had some presentations focused towards our older students regarding healthy relationships and Anti-vaping. It was a very successful first event, and due to your incredible feedback, we will be hosting this event once every quarter during a predetermined afternoon. We hope that by inviting more adults from our communities to speak about their careers it will give our students more knowledge about the choices they have going into adulthood. Further, we hope that by including healthy lifestyle topics it will improve our students' overall health and success in school. Our next virtual event will be on April 1st from 1:30pm to 3:30pm. Please be on the lookout for an invitation and agenda! Again, we encourage all classes to attend and hope to see all of our wonderful students engaging in our next event!

Merrelaine A. Kangas School

Mike Day,
Principal-Teacher

Sara's class has learned to be flexible over the last quarter with a few COVID related closures. Despite this, our students have shown resilience in getting their work completed. "We've read a few books that have captured us and want us wanting more, including Fantastic Mr. Fox, 13-Story Treehouse, Notebook of Doom, and Ben Franklin's in my Bathroom. We even joined forces with Katy's primary students and have a blended classroom for language arts and math. We are looking forward to the Iditarod coming through this week and a well-deserved spring break!"

The MS/HS students have been busily working this quarter. They have finished their novel study on The Scorch Trials. After reading the book we watched the movie. Now the students are currently using the Rainbow Paragraph graphic organizer to write their draft paper to compare and contrast the two. The journalism students took school and class pictures for the yearbook, while the Archery students competed in their local tournament and had a parent/student shoot off. We are eagerly awaiting our first dog team from the Iditarod. We are looking forward to the final quarter, state testing, and our school trip.



Ella B. Vernetti School

Joshua Hatfield,
Principal-Teacher

Our students have spent a lot of time preparing for different test; they have recently taken the STAR Reading test, the MAPS Test, and our 8th graders just completed the NAEP Test (National Assessment of Educational Progress). Strengthening our knowledge and building up our skill level for the AK - STAR test, students have started to get ready by taking practice test. They are working hard and want to do their best.

Valentines is always a fun time!



First, the students had a Bake Sale Raffle to raise money. Learning how to bake and decorate, both cupcakes and cookies for the community to enjoy and of course Marie's famous bread! Students were also very excited to hand out their Valentines' cards and candy to all their classmates and teachers.

Students are excited to have the opportunity for "Open Gym", they love playing basketball and kickball and just being able to hangout.



Jimmy Huntington School

Casey Weter, Principal

Jimmy Huntington School has been busy with weekly activities for our students. High School Basketball is in full swing our boys and girls have been traveling weekly for tournaments and games. We hosted Nulato boys and girls February 15 and 16.



We also hosted Challenge Life with Al Sokaitis, he handed out t-shirts to the K-I, 6th grade and a few high school students.

Al Sokaitis held a 3 on 3 tournament while he was in Huslia, the kids and adults had fun playing.



Jimmy Huntington School continued

Casey Weter, Principal

March 3, 2022, Steve Swatling, Keelin O'Connell, and Trevor Henry took 6-12 grade students out camping for two nights to teach them how to set beaver sets and other traps on Westly Henry's trapline.



Steve Swatling's high school science class dissected owl pellets as an experiment to see what bones and other undigested items they could find.



When Susan Paskvan was out to Huslia; she worked with the students on tanning martin skins.



Keelin O'Connell and her 6th grade students are working on bird houses and wood burning.



A huge thank you to YKSD office and school board for sending out Chinese food and ice cream Sundays to all students.



Jimmy Huntington School would like to recognize and acknowledge Fred Lee Bifelt for his years of hard work and dedication to YKSD and our students.

Minto School

Vicky Charlie, Principal

It was nice to get back to a normal basketball season for our teams although we had a bumpy start with COVID and had to cancel the first couple of weekends. Thank you to Jay David who coached the boys team and Greg Alexander who coached the girls team.

On January 31st we held an Accelerated Reader Assembly, many students were awarded for meeting their reading goals!

Congratulations to Heather Bjerke and Dee Washburn who were recently recognized by the YKSD Board for their outstanding service to our school and students! Our PreK student, Avery Oberbay, was also recognized for student excellence.

Thank you to Federal Programs for bringing Challenge Life and Team Hollywood to Minto! The students, staff and community enjoyed the visits!

Minto students in Pre-K through 5th grade had a blast celebrating National Read Across America Day (Dr. Seuss's birthday!). They rotated through five stations where they got to read a Dr. Seuss book, eat a themed snack, and participate in a book-related activity! We even had a special furry visitor! Students got to pick out their very own Dr. Seuss book to take home! Happy National Read Across America Day!! This same week two movie nights were held to coincide with the start of the Iditarod where *Togo* and *Icebound* were shown.

The middle school class held a fundraiser by showing the movie *Alaska Nets* on March 9th. The event was very well attended and everyone enjoyed the movie!

The K-2 enjoyed their field trip to Scott's dog yard! They have been learning about dog mushing, the Iditarod, the 1925 Serum Run, and dog care! They have even been taking care of little sock puppies.

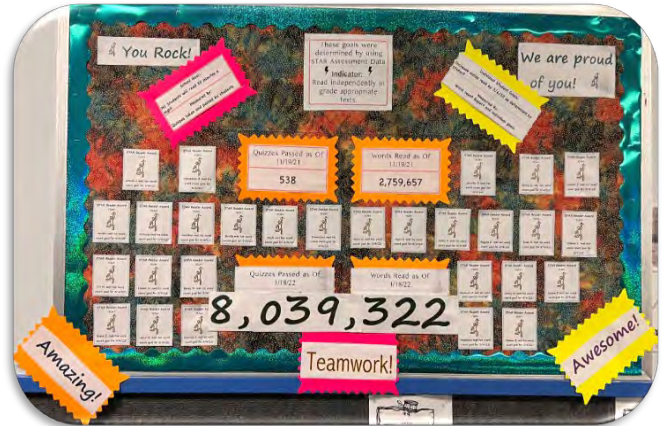
On March 10th the K-2 class invited parents and family to their Persuasive Writing Publishing Celebration. They did an excellent job and the event was well attended!



Minto School continued

Deirdre Washburn, Teacher

Here is a Minto Laker reading update. At the start of the 2021-2022 school year the STAR assessment indicated that sound spellings were a deficit as a group. We implemented sound spellings in most of the classrooms at that time. After the second STAR assessment the indicator changed from sound spellings to independent reading. So, in November we added individual word count goals and all students were on 20 minutes a night reading schedule. We were able to track these goals by reading logs and Renaissance word count data. In November, when we started, we had passed 538 quizzes as a school and read 2,759,657 words. Today we have passed 1,372 quizzes and have read 8,120,031 words. We have 30 students who met their word count goals for this quarter. Of the three that did not make the goal, one did not read or assess, one was around 2,000 words away from her 80,000-word count goal...meaning that she read around 78,000 words, the third student missed it by about 8,000 words. She read over around 30,000 words. We had 14 students make it to a new point club. Amazing! I had a middle school student give me a high five as he told me that he "finally passed a math test." He may be baffled by the reason for passing...I am not. When one is given the power of reading self-confidence as well as ability grows. This young man has read over 400,000 words this year. We will be setting new word count goals when we return from Spring Break. I can't wait to see where they go from here.



To help with achieving goals and to have some place-based education going on we have incorporated the mushing races to our fun. We started with the Yukon Quest, which followed the gold rush route. We had many of our students finish this race. We then followed with the Iditarod race, we finished it early due to Spring Break.

We had 14 students complete the race before we left for break! This means that they each read 1,049 pages. The Iditarod follows the Serum Run of 1925...loosely. It actually starts to travel the same route at Ruby. Many of the YKSD schools are checkpoints in the race. We also have

many students whose great grandfathers ran in the serum run. This is rich history that should be taught and celebrated... In my opinion.



This is the 3- and 4-year-olds dog team. They did all the work and it turned out amazing! We counted dogs, ears, paws, measured, painted, colored... They loved working on it. When they were finished many of them thought that they were the musher on the back... maybe we will all be watching them run from village to village in the future as they try to reach Nome at the front of the pack. I can only hope.

I am very proud of the Minto Lakers and their hard work! They are a great group of students who are working hard.

Rampart School

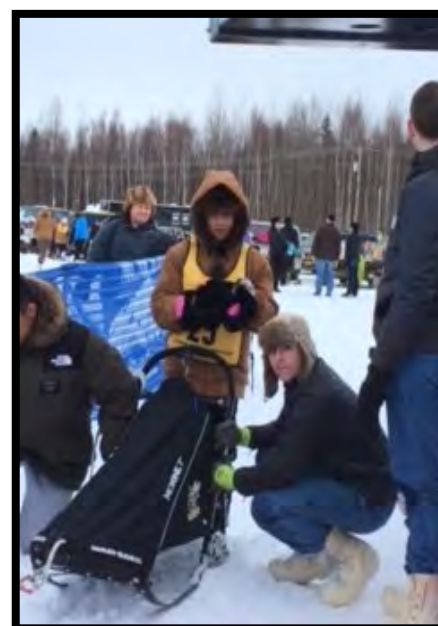
Submitted by Rampart Staff

The students and staff in Rampart are proud to announce: The 2022 AAEC Arts Student Champion of Arts in Education award was presented to Chase L. Jimmie, a senior at Rampart School. Chase wrote a poem entitled "I Am" describing who he is as a person and his reverence for the elders and family who have influenced his life. The poem was made into a poster and is displayed throughout the village. Chase and his mom, Michelle, will be traveling to Juneau at the end of this month to receive the award.



Academically, Rampart students are excelling in all subject areas. Students are focused and work hard to keep their grades and attendance up throughout the year. The students showed significant improvement on the Winter MAP

assessments in all subject areas. In addition to their school work, many students have been working with Mr. Bifelt after school to learn how to care for the dogs and have begun dog sled racing. Middle School/High School teacher, Joe Bifelt, brought his dog team to Rampart last summer and sparked the students' interest in dog mushing. Four students, Genevieve Johnson, Randy Joseph, Liyana Newman-Woods, and Ariyah



Woods, met the requirements to enter the Junior North American Championships Dog Sled Races in North Pole on March 2-5. All four finished their races on all three days! This was the first time to race for all of them. They did an excellent job and represented their school and community in a remarkable way! We look forward to watching their progress!



Kaltag School

Kevin Matthews,
Principal-Teacher

The third quarter is nearly over and spring break is around the corner. There have been many challenges since we returned to school. There has been COVID in the village, along with some colds and flu but we are pushing forward. The winter MAPs testing is done and we continue to see growth in our students.

The “littles” had a lot of fun getting ready for Valentine's Day. Also, we want to Welcome Ms. Lina to our team. She is doing a great job. Our students also had a good time with Coach Al. We do appreciate the opportunities provided by the Esteem Grant. Thanks for supporting our students.



The State of Alaska has provided us with a great opportunity to provide archery to our students. Allen and Tianna had a great time as did the rest of Mr. Tackett's class. Our staff has been provided training so that we can teach our students how to safely handle the archery equipment. The program also provided the funding to purchase several thousand dollars worth of equipment, including targets. Students will have the opportunity to participate in competitions.



The Middle School and High School students are doing well. Again, the MAPs testing is done. Ms. Hroscikoski works hard to make learning fun. They recently went outside to work on some experiments.

Kaltag School continued

Kevin Matthews,
Principal-Teacher

It has been a busy year. We are currently up to 21 students, including our two seniors. Jamie and Jayden are excited about getting things ready for graduation. They have started making plans and ordering supplies. They had fun getting out the caps and gowns and went around to the lower grades trying on the caps and gowns with the other students who will be moving up.



Finally, the Iron Dog came through Kaltag. This is always big in Kaltag.

A good time to get out and get some fresh air... field trip...

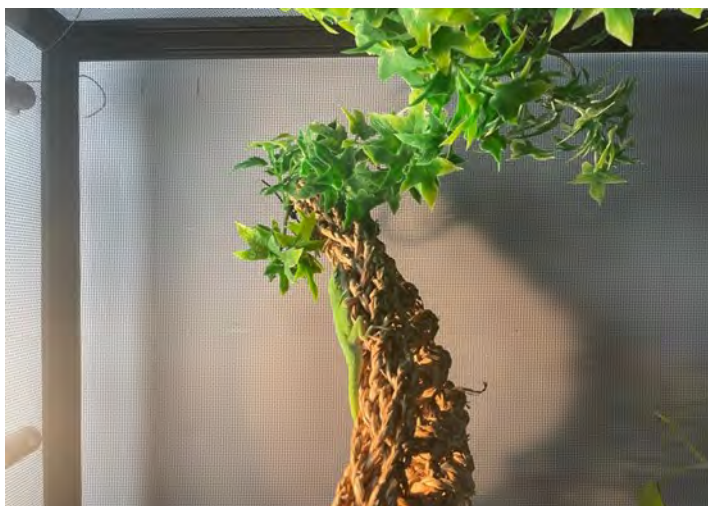


Allakaket School

Debie Kaufman, Principal
& Reading Specialist



Allakaket's 8th grade and high school students were given the opportunity to attend the Regional Basketball games in March. We were proud to receive the "Sportsmanship" award for the tournament! It was such an honor receiving this award.



Upper elementary students are enjoying their class pets as they learn to care for them.



The upper elementary students are learning all sorts of facts about the Iditarod.



PK-2 Artwork, background design by Gabriel Dewilde, grade 2



Pictured (left): Rebecca Linus and baby Ezekiel

Our families are enjoying Open Gym once again! It's so great seeing families coming together to play basketball, play with Legos, or just visit.



Cash Bergman won the free throw contest, hitting 18/20 shots!

Andrew K. Demoski School

Shaine Nixon,
Principal-Teacher

It was a great year for the Nulato Lady Wolves. They began the season on a long twelve day road trip that gave them so much confidence in their abilities. They traveled to Fairbanks for West Valley, a tournament in North Pole, Tri-Valley, and another tournament in Minto. They returned home for one day and then traveled to the tournament in Tok. The team members included 8th graders **Natasha Alexie**, Rayana Madros; Sophmores Chloe Sipary, Shaylie Stickman-Pilot, Cierra Sommer; Junior Agnes Patsey, and Senior Ashlyn Sommer. The ladies would travel with only five players to the Golden Heart Regional Conference in Fairbanks. They fought hard but were unable to win their first game against Tri-Valley. That loss gave them a lot of determination and they would go on to win all of their next games making it back into the Finals against Tri-Valley. They even pulled out a win with three players, as Ashlyn Sommer and sister Cierra Sommer fouled out early in the fourth quarter. Again, the Lady Wolves fought valiantly and as they say in sports "left it all on the court." It was a tough tournament and the Lady Wolves showed determination, grit, and sportsmanship throughout the games. Congratulations to the Nulato Lady Wolves on a wonderful year. Now you know what it takes to make it to the finals and I'm sure we will see you there again over the next few years with many young players on the team. Congratulations also goes to Coach Cletus Sipary for his hard work and dedication to these young ladies.



Johnny Oldman School

Submitted by JOS Staff



First, we'd like to wish a warm welcome to TaShona Hayes, the new Special Education Teacher here in Hughes, serving our school along with Kaltag and Rampart. Miss Hayes brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience; we are thrilled to have her on board as a part of our team!

As we make our way towards warmth and sunshine, the students at Johnny Oldman School are making the most of these Winter months, beginning with the 2022 Johnny Oldman School Winter Olympics. From Frisbee curling and hockey to scooter bobsleds and cross-country skiing, the students gave it their all for gold, glory, and a never-ending loop of the Olympic theme.

The students have really taken a liking to various new activities this school year; having been introduced to both archery (with real bows and arrows) and chess. By the end of our archery unit, most of our students had been able to hit the yellow, center circle, and as for chess, the students enjoy it so much, now, that they ask to play it during breakfast each morning!

In Mrs. Bellamy's class, the students celebrated the 100th day of school with their annual tradition of making home-made ice cream with vanilla, sugar, and half & half, shaken up in a bag surrounded by snow and kosher salt. They also attempted to build the tallest tower they could out of 100 cups without it tumbling down! The elementary students followed this up in February by celebrating "Twosday", Tuesday 02-22-2022 and creating birch tree art in connection with learning the Native Language names for animals.

In Mr. Bellamy's class, the word of the month has been "Fire!" Using our Alaska ecology curriculum, the students have had an opportunity to burn "tinker trees" (wire trees with newspaper leaves) to understand tree susceptibility to fire, and matchstick forests to understand the scope and spread of forest fires. Ask any of these kids what a fire needs to survive and they'll be sure to say "heat, fuel, and oxygen".



Johnny Oldman School continued

Submitted by JOS Staff

And did we mention our first-ever Valentine's Day dance? Both classrooms helped to decorate the gym before an evening of dancing and snacks. Families were invited to the event and the turnout was great!

Our Pre-K students are learning quite a lot this year! They thoroughly enjoy going to the gym with the older students to learn new sports and games. This is a much needed break between their math, Heggerty, Learning Dynamics, calendar time and Denaakk'e lessons every day. We make time once or twice a week for art, science and pretend play as well. As long as we keep plugging away with their lessons then they will be ready for Kindergarten in Mrs. Bellamy's class next year!



Raven Homeschool

Kim Bergey, Director

Anchorage

We celebrated the winter holidays with a sledding and crafting party at the Kincaid Chalet. Kaladi Brothers kindly donated carafes of hot cocoa for everyone to enjoy! While at the party, students and parents made ornaments with beads, decorated placemats to donate to a local fire station, got their faces painted, played a "Find a Friend" game and went sledding in the fresh snow!

Poetry, Health Club, Spanish Lessons and Sewing School continued weekly. Our play production will be on April 26th and our students have been hard at working rehearsing and memorizing their lines, and created the entire set from scratch! Students have had the opportunity to dissect turtles! They also learned all about winter science, the aurora borealis, bugs and insects and all about lotions and potions.

Our family liaison led families on some fun hands-on field trips. Students learned how to make holiday wreaths and centerpieces at a local greenhouse. We went bowling and ice skating.

We would like to give a big shout out to the Anchorage Battle of the Books High School - Raven Rock Stars, and the Middle School - BoB Squad teams. The High School team for the Anchorage office was Bianca Pagel-Miller & Ashley Abbott. The team for the Middle School was Xienna Solberg & Tucker Edwardsen. Both teams did absolutely fabulous taking home 2nd place. Congratulations to both teams - Raven Rockstars & The BoB Squad.



Delta Junction



We had a fabulous Lego season and celebrated with pizza! Seniors met with Ryan and discussed future plans and local scholarships. Students exchanged Valentine cards and had a friendship party. All the girls had a wonderful time at our Girl's Only Tea Party. We decorated the office, dressed up, used fancy porcelain teacups and had delicious treats along with games and music.



Eagle River



Our clubs are popular with our families, and thanks to the amazing parents who lead them, they are always well-organized and super fun! In addition to the regular clubs, like Lego, Geography, Cooking, Recess, Book, and Outdoor, we usually offer something a little extra. This week we offered a "still life" painting class where kids painted rain boots with spring flowers and bugs. What a hit! In Geography Club kids learned all about the U.S. territories. Afterward, they enjoyed foods from those regions. We also had Cooking Club where Jeanette taught the kids how to make homemade waffles AND blueberry/lemon syrup. We have a new club that has a beautiful purpose. Crochet Club is creating a baby blanket for Cortney, who will be welcoming her baby any day now.

Raven Homeschool continued

Kim Bergey, Director

Fairbanks

It is exciting to see our Raven families in person, enjoying all that Raven has to offer students. We have had several activities over the past few months.

Raven hosted a Valentine's Day party which was well attended. There were arts and crafts and a Valentines exchange. Raven students visited the Great Harvest Bread Company for a field trip. Students learned the process of making bread and each student was able to bake a loaf of bread to take home. Dr. Seuss Day was a success. The students enjoyed lunch and activities at our Raven offices.



Our seniors have been meeting to help plan for graduation. It's an exciting time at Raven with the largest graduating class to date. NHS volunteered at the Food Bank this past week. It's wonderful to see our students and staff involved in the community.

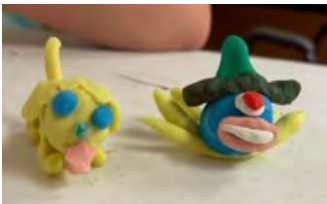
Juneau

The Juneau Office has been busy preparing for and completing our move to a new location. Amid the move, our Battle of the Books teams did wonderful in the district battles and our Middle School team even went on to the state battle to represent our district. We had a fabulous turnout for our Valentines Exchange, and we have 43 students participating in our IditaRead race this year. Everyone who has visited our new office has expressed their excitement about the additional space that we have and how nice the office looks even though we are still working on unpacking. We are looking forward with enthusiasm to all the events we will be able to host here now that we have more room.



Wasilla

We would like to recognize Ana and Veronica Burke. Ana is in 11th grade and Veronica is in 9th grade. Both girls are excellent students and have straight A's, are involved in community service, and have a love of archery. Most recently, they competed in a national and international competition in Las Vegas! Ana placed 40th out of 95 girls, and Veronica placed 25th out of 94 girls. We are very proud of our students; they have what it takes to perhaps represent Alaska, and the United States, at the Olympics!



The families in Wasilla enjoy a number of different activities, among them, the friendly competitive Culinary Cook Off! The Chili Cook Off, always a favorite, brought in many tasty variations of chili, with enthusiastic "cooks" excited to share their favorites!



Other much appreciated workshops include:

***Handwriting and Cursive Bootcamps**- these have been well received with students improving their handwriting and loving their instructors, Steve and Athaliah Duby.

***Games Club** is a place where students are stretched to try new games, follow directions, and meet new people. Advisory teacher Ruth Ross makes class fun!

***Crafternoon and ARTiculate** are back, taught by Family Liaison Daphne Ward, with students of all ages tapping into their creative side.



Spring Word Search



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

SPRING
MAY
GREEN
WARM
UMBRELLA



MARCH
FLOWERS
GRASS
SHOWERS
EASTER



APRIL
BASEBALL
SUNSHINE
RAIN
BIRDS



CODEBREAKER (or CODEWORD, or CODE CRACKER) WORD PUZZLE

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

The crossword puzzle grid is 24 squares wide and 24 squares high. The grid contains numbers and pre-filled letters. The words 'GREEN' and 'RAINBOW' are already in place. The words 'CLOVER' and 'POT' are also in place. The words 'CLOVER' and 'POT' are also in place. The words 'CLOVER' and 'POT' are also in place.

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

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