



Wishing all Yukon Koyukuk School District graduates our sincerest congratulations on your accomplishments. Class of 2022, we are proud of you! Happy Graduation from YKSD.

Kerry Boyd, Superintendent

- ♦ ***Justin Cleaver*** - Merrelaine A. Kangas School
- ♦ ***Jordan Douglas-Vent*** - Jimmy Huntington School
- ♦ ***Mercedes Frank*** - Minto School
- ♦ ***Jared Henry*** - Jimmy Huntington School
- ♦ ***Chase Jimmie*** - Rampart School
- ♦ ***Precious Lestenkof*** - Jimmy Huntington School
- ♦ ***Jayden Madros*** - Kaltag School
- ♦ ***Jamie McGinty*** - Kaltag School
- ♦ ***Molly Penn*** - Jimmy Huntington School
- ♦ ***Tyler Roberts*** - Jimmy Huntington School
- ♦ ***Miranda Smith*** - Minto School
- ♦ ***Ashlyn Sommer*** - Andrew K. Demoski School
- ♦ ***Damian Williams*** - Jimmy Huntington School
- ♦ ***Jackson Wolfe*** - Minto School
- ♦ ***Quentin Woods*** - Minto School
- ♦ ***444 Graduates Statewide*** - Raven Homeschool

Congratulations

8th Grade Promotions and Kindergarten Promotions

8th Grade Promotions

Ruby, Merrelaine A. Kangas

Shawn Donald Duane Honea
Gabiella Lucy Renee McCarty
Sidney McCarty
Steven Ray Morgan
Mavric Denise Marie Smith
Liliana Jane Titus
Emmersyn Lilliana Wiehl
Levi Andrew Williams

Huslia, Jimmy Huntington School

Gage Bifelt
Serenity Maddi Lynn Bifelt
Donovan K Olin
Joshua Leon Donovan Olin
David Charles Sam
Normen Jaden Drew Vent
Adon L Weter
Logan D.T. Weter
Barrett Darwin Whitaker

Nulato, Andrew K. Demoski School

Natasha Lucille Alexie
Kellian DeVaughn Kriska
Vegaas Tyron Kruger
Andrew Lee Madros
Rayana Jade madros

Minto, Minto School

Jewel Patricia-Louise Alexander
Jonathan William David
Maddison Ann Frank-Charlie
Jennafer Faith Smith
Domasckus Zakai Orville Washburn

Kaltag, Kaltag School

Peyton Clarence Madros

Koyukuk, Ella B. Verneti

Evan Leon Jones
Alec Jason Leo Malemute
Christian Kaki Elliot Moses

Allakaket, Allakaket School

Joy Anita Hazel Bergman
Sidney Latrell Bergman
Terrance R Strassburg



Kindergarten Promotions

Allakaket, Allakaket School

Leela Ambrose
Aria Celeste Bergman
Janie Rose Cole
Corbin Lydian Linus
Aurora M Ned
Edda Elizabeth Nollner

Huslia, Jimmy Huntington School

Kambria Dakota Dayton
De' Andre Hudson Jerue Evans
Scarlett Kyro Henry
Renee Olin
Saphira Olin
Gary Vent
Arthur Weter
Cameron Williams

Nulato, Andrew K. Demoski School

Connor Wade Demoski
Aaron James Ekada
Nathan Arthur Healy
Matthias Sommer

Kaltag, Kaltag School

Alvin Esmailka
Bella Grace Huntington
Adam James Madros

Minto, Minto School

Jennell KayJean-Joyce Jimmie
Emery Rose Kanayurak

Ruby Merrelaine A. Kangas

Chanel Adrielle Esmailka
Walker Willy McCarty

YKSD Employees of the Year

Patty Hill, Human Resources Supervisor

Certified



Susan Paskvan

State and Federal Programs
Director & Native Language
Coordinator

Susan Paskvan is irreplaceable! She leads by example, not only for her students but also for her peers. She is the ultimate leader and understands the importance of relationships and intentionally makes time to build those relationships. She is recognized throughout the state as a steward for Alaska Native culture and she holds traditional knowledge that is unmatched.

Susan organizes culture camps, teaches native crafts of sewing, beading, tufting, snowshoeing, and baking. Not only does she gain knowledge, but she understands it is not hers to hold onto. It must be shared and passed onto the next generation.

Susan has always given 100% to our students and staff. She is a passionate expert on Native language and culture. She travels a great deal, all while teaching her regular language classes during the day and holds activities in the evenings; often working until late at night with students, families, and staff. For many years she took on the extra responsibility of taking photographs of all students, staff, and families for the yearbooks and for family keepsakes. She is always positive,

providing encouragement and is a role model for our students.

Susan works tirelessly and has helped capture the elders' voices through audio and through written material. YKSD and beyond will have biographies to share forever mainly due to her ongoing expertise and work.

For the past 6 months, Susan has been the acting Director of State & Federal Programs, managing multiple federal grants awarded to the district. For all her 19 years of tireless service, Susan is most deserving of this recognition!



Classified

Kathy Steckel is one of YKSD's unsung heroes who always gets her job done and does it exceptionally well. Her position as Payroll Technician affects all employees; never missing a deadline and always willing to go the extra mile to help YKSD staff.

Kathy is very dependable. When identifies a need in the business office, she sets her work aside and fills in anywhere she can. She takes the initiative to see when others need help and steps in without being asked.

Kathy is always accommodating to anyone who calls and asks for her assistance. She's extremely knowledgeable and a wonderful teacher. She has been with YKSD for 13 years and has filled several different positions faithfully. She is kind, helpful, humble, and always has a smile.

Kathy has been active in her church for over 20 years- serving in rehabilitation and recovery programs, in addition she served on her church board, homeowners association board, and is a busy mother and daughter who takes care of her family.

Kathy has a listening ear and is always willing to help work through issues and find solutions. She is a wonderful example of kindness and tolerance to everyone in the business office and to all who interact with her. Kathy is very deserving of this award!



Kathy Steckel

Payroll Technician

Board Recognition

Carla Saunders, Board Secretary

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.

Staff Winners



Sara Titus

Teacher and Reading Specialist
Merrelaine A. Kangas School
Ruby



Julie Szidloski

Administrative Assistant
Raven Homeschool
Delta Junction

Staff Nominees

Kim Bergey ~ Director: Raven Homeschool (Wasilla)

Marie Dayton ~ Principal Aide: Ella B. Verneti School (Koyukuk)

Joseph Dentler ~ Maintenance: Kaltag School

Jeff Healy ~ Teacher: Andrew K. Demoski School (Nulato)

Andy Levesque ~ Controller: Business Office (Fairbanks)

Ruth Ross ~ Teacher: Raven Homeschool (Wasilla)

John Welkener ~ Teacher: Allakaket School

Board Recognition

Carla Saunders, Board Secretary

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.

Student Winners



Christian Moses

Ella B. Verneti School
Koyukuk



Hennessee Burtch

Raven Homeschool
Wasilla

Student Nominees

Daylin Alston ~ Raven Homeschool (Anchorage)

Morrison Beetus ~ Johnny Oldman School (Hughes)

Connor Demoski ~ Andrew K. Demoski School (Nulato)

Genevieve Johnson ~ Rampart School

Pia McCarthy ~ Raven Homeschool (Anchorage)

Ruthie Mitchell ~ Raven Homeschool (Eagle River)

Aurora Ned ~ Allakaket School

Lawrence Nicholas ~ Kaltag School

Mavric Smith ~ Merreline A. Kangas School (Ruby)

Veronica Welter ~ Raven Homeschool (Anchorage)

State and Federal Programs

Susan Paskvan, State & Federal Programs Director

The State and Federal Programs department has been busy preparing kits for students to continue their education this summer through summer schools for grades K-7; summer academy for grades 8-12; and backpacks filled with books and items to explore nature.

Summer Academy

A summer camp for 20-30 students will focus on intensive math and writing sessions with Sylvan Learning Center; Denaakk'e and Benhti Native language classes, and cultural trips. It will be held in conjunction with the PHlight Club and Professional Development for teachers.

ESTEEM Field Trips

Through the ESTEEM grant, which gives the parents choice in their student's educational opportunities, many schools opted to visit towns around Alaska and the Lower 48. Students enriched their career and technical education through visits to universities, places that employed students through fishing and tourism activities, and to technical schools. Kudos to Andrea Nield for implementing the ESTEEM grant by bringing groups such as Dancing with the Spirit and PHlight Club to the schools this last month. Contact Andrea if there is a summer activity you would like your student to participate in.



Students from Yukon-Koyukuk School District and from Kinlani Dormitory in Flagstaff, Arizona poses after their cultural exchange. Students shared traditional songs from their areas. The Gathering of Nations trip was a success as students learned their introductions in Denaakk'e and Benhti, spoke in public, sang their songs, and visited colleges.



Head Start and Kindergarten students at the Jimmy Huntington School in Huslia.



Students promoted from Eighth grade at the Jimmy Huntington School: Barrett W., David S., Normen V., Donovan O., Joshua O., Gage B., Serenity B., Adon W., and Logan W.

State and Federal Programs continued

Susan Paskvan, State & Federal Programs Director



Class of 2022 at the Jimmy Huntington School in Huslia: Tyler R., Molly P., Damian W., Precious L., Jared H., Mia V. (Raven), and Jordan D-V.

Denaakkenaage' Hunek; Denakenaga' Hunik 'Our Language News'

Susan Paskvan, Native Language Coordinator

The last month both classes have been working on Unit 10 Birds. They have been learning bird songs, origin stories, and games. The last week of school students learned phrases for items around the village for a scavenger hunt game. A favorite game at the end of the semester is Jeopardy in Denaakk'e or Benhti. Students compete to say phrases in topics such as Doogh Dzaanh Dohoot'aa? (D) Ye'agu Dokhut'a? (B) "What is the weather?"; Genee gonee? (D); Deya Joni? "What is this? (animals); Do'eent'aa? (D); Do'int'a? (B) "How are you?".

Native Language Program

In June, I will retire after 19 years with YKSD. We have been busy planning the classes for next fall, the work to be done under the AN ELDER II grant and the ESTEEM grant. Holly Wofford, Native Language Assistant, has been stepping up in her role to make the transition smooth.

I would like to thank all of the parents, students, and elders in each of our villages for their support of the Native language program all of these years.

Gathering of Nations

April 25-30, 2022. We brought 11 students and 4 chaperones to Phoenix to visit Apache and Navajo tribes then end the trip in Albuquerque, NM. This will be a language exploration trip funded through the ESTEEM grant. The cultural exchanges were well received by participants at Northern Arizona University, Kinlani Dormitory, University of New Mexico and Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute.

Huslia

May 13-14, 2022. I was guest speaker for the 2022 Jimmy Huntington School graduation and promotion.

Maintenance Department

Ben McFarlane, Facilities
and Maintenance Supervisor

The YKSD Maintenance Department would like to say “Thank you” to all our hardworking maintenance staff. Our local maintenance workers keep our schools comfortable and safe throughout the school year. They work through the cold winter months, keeping the heat on, the water thawed, vehicles running, and much, much more. They are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We appreciate them tremendously and are proud to have each one of them as part of our team. A huge **YKSD THANK YOU** to:

Clinton Bergman ~ Allakaket School
Trevor Henry ~ Jimmy Huntington School
Kylee Beatus ~ Johnny Oldman School
Oscar Dayton ~ Ella B. Verneti School
Joseph Dentler ~ Kaltag School
Thomas Esmailka ~ Merrelina A. Kangas School
Arland Dick ~ Minto School

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

Business Office News!

Heather Heineken,
CFO

The Business Office Has Moved!

We are now located at

542 4th Avenue Suite 212
Fairbanks, AK 99701



Our Phone numbers have not changed.
Our office hours are Monday—Thursday
8am—4:30pm Friday Summer Hours
will be 8am—12pm or by appointment.

The Business Office has seen a recent increase in attempted Cybercrime. We all play a part in keeping our data and systems safe. Common types of frauds include spoofing and phishing.

Spoofing

Spoofing occurs when a caller disguises the information shown on your caller ID. This gives the caller the ability to disguise or "spoof" the name and/or number to appear as though they are calling as a certain person from a specific location.

Phishing

In phishing, a scammer impersonates a business or a person to trick you into giving out your personal information, such as passwords, credit card numbers, or bank account information. A scammer may use fraudulent emails, texts, or websites to steal this information from you. These emails can look authentic.

If you think you experience either of these types of fraud please contact IT immediately. If you have shared any financial data let the Business Office know right away.

Security and protecting sensitive information is a priority and we must stay vigilant. If you have questions, concerns or ideas about improving our processes or procedures at YKSD please share those with our staff.



A Bite from Food Service



Rachel Spencer,
Food Service Specialist

In March 2022 I was sponsored by the Alaska School Nutrition Association (along with the Anchorage School District) to represent YKSD at the Legislation Action Conference in Washington, DC. During this conference we received training on how our legislative process works, learned the difference between bills and laws, and connected with people from across the country with like-minded goals.

We had the privilege of meeting with our late Don Young (Congressman), Lisa Murkowski (Senator) and Staff, and the staff of Dan Sullivan. What struck me about meeting with our representatives is (1) their love for Alaskans and (2) they are people like you and me. We had great discussions about self-reliance, rural lifestyles, and the importance of educating our future leaders. Most importantly we discussed the need for constant communication between constituents and elected officials, so they know that they are fighting for what is most important.

As a direct result of our meetings, legislation is in the works to ease burdens of supply chain issues on school districts (like ours) and to ensure there is enough funding to continue feeding our students. What I am getting at is the importance of communicating with your elected officials and sharing your story- share what is important to you, what you would like to happen, and your support.

To find your representatives and how to contact them, this [link](#) is a great resource!



CTE Power Tools Class

Patty Woody,
CTE Coordinator

The YKSD-CTE Dept. in partnership with AK Works, Inc. worked with eight Nulato students during the week of April 2-5, 2022. The class covered the safe use of standard power tools in the construction industry. The students practice the use of tools while building a stool and repairing the shop ramp. The following is what was covered:

- *Hand and Power Tool Class
- *Introductions, Class Rules
- *Power Point Big inch
- *Tape Tests
- *Math for Trades
- *Layout continuation
- *Size and types of lumber
- *Types of fasteners
- *Types of hand & power tools
- *Types of molding & router bits
- *Board definitions
- *Marking & cutting lumber
- *Toolbox & tool identification
- *Handsaw & Hammer safety
- *Measurement tape exercise
- *General Safety practices
- *Cutting blocks with hand saw
- *Hammer, saw, & nailing project
- *Build a miter box 90 & 45 degree 1-4" long
- *Coping Saw demo
- *Raise Panel project
- *Radom Orbital & Finish Sander demo & test
- *Types of sandpaper
- *Skill saw safety demo & tests
- *Block cutting with skill saw (3) each
- *Compound miter saw demo and test
- *Hands-on use of compound miter
- *Router demo and test
- *Hands-on with router
- *PowerPoint Kreg jig
- *Kreg jig demo and use
- *Hands-on use of Kreg jig
- *Cordless and Impact driver demo & test
- *PowerPoint Step Stool
- *Step Stool project
- *Jigsaw demo and test
- *Hands-on jigsaw cutting out AK animals
- *Belt sander demo and test
- *PowerPoint foot stool
- *Foot Stool project
- *Drywall Screw gun demo & test
- *Hands-on with drywall gun
- *Drywall router demo & test
- *Hands-on with Drywall router
- *PowerPoint nail guns
- *Air compressor safety, set-up, & use
- *Safety & use of nail guns
- *Table saw demo & test & hands-on



CTE Construction Maintenance Camp

Patty Woody,
CTE Coordinator

On April 4 - 11, 2022 there were nine students who participated in the Construction Maintenance Camp. Students took three UAF 1.0 credit classes and received 1.0 High School CTE credit. The three UAF classes students participated in were: Introduction to Facility Maintenance, Interior Repairs, and Flooring Installation.

In addition, during the 7-day camp, students participated in the following activities.

- *Resume workshop by UAF Business & Security Department
- *Virtual reality job shadow by Tanana Chiefs Conference GO Program
- *Tutoring with North Star tutors
- *PE at UAF Student Recreation Center
- *Meals at UAF Wood Center
- *Dorm living at Fairbanks Pipeline Training Ctr.
- *STEM Lighted Sign activity with Larry Ehner

The students worked collaboratively to tear down walls, take out flooring, and learned how to do it safely. By the end of the class, students had replaced the majority of what had been torn down. Ryan Ford was the class instructor and did an excellent job teaching and the class was a success!



Teaching and Learning Department

Chelsea Hurst, Instructional
Technology Supervisor

Core Course Rotation

As a reminder, Middle School & High School students have a Core Course Rotation for Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science. Please view the Core Course Rotation below to see what our older students will be learning in the upcoming few years.

High School Core Course Rotation			
School Year	Language Arts	Social Studies	Science
2022-2023	Speech & Comm/AK Lit	World Geography	Earth Science
2023-2024	Composition 9th	Alaska History/ Civics & Economics	Biology
2024-2025	World Literature 10th	World History	Physical Science
2025-2026	American Literature 11th	United States History	Alaska Science

Middle School Core Course Rotation			
School Year	Language Arts	Social Studies	Science
2022-2023	Teacher Grade Level choice based on the needs of the students.	World Geography (ML SS)	Earth Science (ML SCI)
2023-2024		Alaska History/ Civics & Economics (ML SS)	Biology (ML SCI)
2024-2025		World History (ML SS)	Physical Science (ML SCI)
2025-2026		United States History (ML SS)	Alaska Science (ML SCI)

Science Curriculum Committees

This year is a Science Curriculum Adoption year. A group of ten K-12 teachers have spent an enormous amount of time reviewing the curriculum from five different publishing companies. A decision will be made by the end of May and the new curriculum will go into effect next school year. Thank you to the following teachers for dedicating their time and careful consideration in choosing our new science curriculum.

K-5 Committee

Sara Titus
Heather Bjerke
Rose Wolfe
Tim Main
Claire Hroscikoski

6-12 Committee

Jeff Healy
David Fields
Steve Swatling
Peggy Bruno
Cynthia Brown

Teaching and Learning continued

Chelsea Hurst, Instructional
Technology Supervisor

Congratulations to everyone for a successful 2021-2022 school year! Thank you for all of your hard work to give our students an outstanding education. We are so proud to have you all on the YKSD Team. We hope you enjoy a well-deserved summer. We look forward to seeing you again at our August Inservice, starting on August 11th, 2022.



Kela Gillihan, Itinerant Counselor

The counseling department has had a whirlwind of a school year, from getting back out to our school sites, having class lessons, meeting with individual students, and having two virtual Healthy Lifestyles and Career fairs. Jolene and I have had numerous classroom lessons with our students to instruct them on social-emotional learning, academic success and being college/career ready. We worked with many of our students on an individual level to meet their needs; as well as met with the seniors numerous times to be prepared for next year. We were so happy that we were able to travel out this year to see our kids and get to know them better as they have all grown so much over the past couple of years.

It has been a busy year, but we could not ask for anything better. We believe this school year was quite successful; with Red Ribbon Week, offering the ACT and Workkeys exam, and especially our Healthy Lifestyles and Career fair. We hope all of the students and staff found them as enjoyable as we did and hope to have even better celebrations next year. We cannot thank the teachers and principles enough for always working with us to help our students be more successful. We hope everyone has had a wonderful school year and we cannot wait to see all of your bright and shining faces next year.



Cristina Welker, Director of
Special Education and
Support Services

June is National Great Outdoors Month! Just a reminder to explore our state and nation's abundant wildlife refuges, parks, and natural beauty. Whether you hike or bike the trails, kayak or canoe the many rivers or pitch a tent in the forest... you are encouraged to just get out and enjoy the beauty of our gorgeous state and take time to relax this summer!



In the know.

Deafblind
Awareness
Week

Deafblind Awareness Week

#DeafblindAwarenessWeek | 27 June – 3 July 2022

Assessments News

Andrea Nield, State and Federal Programs
& Assessments Coordinator

NEW 2022 Spring Statewide Assessment

The Alaska System of Academic Readiness (AK STAR)

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 concluded on Friday, April 29, 2022.
- Reports should be available for download in August and mailed to parents.

Thank you parents for getting your students to school for testing.

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.

- The test window concluded on Friday, April 29, 2022.
- Reports should be available for download in August and mailed to parents.

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 spring assessment window was open 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 Pizza Party—May 18

Andrea Nield, State and Federal Programs
& 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 Murphy's. Over 100 pizzas were sent, and all schools participated this year. Thank you to Federal Programs for putting together the prizes. Students present during testing were entered into drawings. There were two prizes for lower grades and two for upper grades. Below are pictures of the prizes.



- * Summer gift box with water balloons, kite, candy, popsicles
- * S'mores package



Grand Prize winners:

Grades 3-6 Bike: Darryl Brown (Ruby), Sophie Strassburg (Allakaket)
Grades 7-12 AirPods: Clayton Wiehl (Minto), Cierra Sommer (Nulato)

ESTEEM Grant

Andrea Nield, State and Federal Programs
& Assessments Coordinator

This grant has four components: Culture and Language, Social and Emotional, Credit Recovery and Career and Technical Education. This is a choice grant, which means 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: <https://esteem.yksd.com/>. Some of the offerings through the ESTEEM Grant are outlined below.

Tufting

Cultural expert Joyce Roberts went to Nulato to teach the students tufting right before Mother's Day.



ESTEEM Grant continued

Andrea Nield, State and Federal Programs
& Assessments Coordinator

Challenge Life

This spring Al Sokaitis traveled to Nulato, Huslia, Kaltag, Hughes, Rampart, Allakaket, Minto and Ruby this semester.

PHlight Club

YKSD hired Brightways and a trainer, Stephanie Damery, who traveled to Nulato, Huslia, and Allakaket. This spring she traveled to Rampart, Hughes, Ruby and Minto with plans on heading to Kaltag and Koyukuk in May.

Dancing with the Spirit

Dances with the Spirit holds week long music camps with four staff teaching singing, guitar, fiddle, ukulele, culture, and language with the help of elders.

- ◇ 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



ESTEEM Grant continued

Andrea Nield, State and Federal Programs
& Assessments Coordinator

Eskimo Ninja Warrior

The Eskimo Ninja Warrior visited all of the YKSD sites during the weeks of March 21-31. This was a huge hit for the communities.



Kaltag



Rampart

Team Hollywood

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. The theme centered around community building and taking care of each other. They made it to all our villages except for Nulato due to a funeral.



Career Exploration

This spring students had the opportunity to go on educational field trips to explore careers and technical institutes and exchange cultural knowledge. Several of the schools who signed up are outlined below. Brought to you by the ESTEEM Grant.

Fairbanks, AK: Ruby, Minto
Valdez, AK: Minto
Orlando, FL Huslia
Washington DC: Kaltag, Nulato
Anchorage, AK: Minto, Hughes
Seward, AK: Koyukuk, Minto, Nulato
Albuquerque, NM: Nulato, Huslia, Minto,
 Rampart





AS PART OF AN ELDER II & ESTEEM
GRANTS



1ST ANNUAL SUMMER ACADEMY
YUKON-KOYUKUK SCHOOL DISTRICT AND NENANA
SCHOOL DISTRICT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BRIGHTWAYS &
SYLVAN LEARNING

JULY 10TH - JULY 22ND, 2022

@

~ Nenana Dormitory ~



GRADES 8-12TH - APPLY BY MAY 20, 2022!!

Come join us and experience fun & engaging activities that focus on building your academic, social/emotional, cultural, and life resiliency skills! The 2022 Summer Academy is packed with loads of fun times!

To start each day Sylvan learning will provide intensive instruction in writing and math. In the afternoons students will participate in cultural activities, basketball intensives, PHlight Club activities, art and more in the evenings and weekends. All students will walk away with a duffle bag of fun learning resources...Including an iPad!

To print an application go to <https://bit.ly/YKSDSummerApp> or contact Susan Paskvan at spaskvan@yksd.com/908-374-9405



Literacy Information

State & Federal Programs

Kristi Burns, Coordinator

Summer Survival Backpacks

- ♦ The bags are filled with survival guide books, headlamps, insect repellent bands, survival bands, cards, binoculars, magnifying glasses, and more.

Literacy is a Picnic Family Kits

- ♦ Our “*Literacy is a Picnic*” summer kits for families. These will have sets of Scholastic books/activities and for each age group within the family, a picnic blanket for students to use at fish camp or other places, and other activity workbooks along with writing utensils.

PreK Summer Kits

- ♦ YKSD has created PreK kits for our 4-year-olds and 3-year-olds.
 - ◇ There are 16 activities for the 4-year-old PreK families to enjoy this summer.
 - ♦ Nursery Rhymes, Plants, and Insects are the themes for these kits. A suggested schedule is listed on the back of the parent letter. It is based on about 2 activities each week. They may follow this schedule, or they may create their own schedule.
 - ◇ There are 8 activities for the 3-year-old PreK students.
 - ♦ The 3-year-old kits consist of 8 activities which focus on the ABCs and 123s.





Richard Wilkin, AK Grad Teacher

AK Grad is excited to announce new course offerings!

As we continue to grow and expand, the team at AK Grad is constantly seeking to cater to a wider array of student interests within our state. In line with this goal, AK Grad is opening several new course offerings. These courses are offered on three different levels and will provide students with more options for electives as well as for AK DEED required courses. Beginning on July 1, the following courses will be live:

Launch Level:

Basic Math
Chemistry
Composition

Accelerate Level:

Art History
Astronomy
College and Career Awareness
Food Science
Zoology

Beyond:

Cybersecurity
Digital Art
Environmental Science

Help us spread the word and further develop our program!



Allakaket School

Vicki Inferrera, Special Education Teacher



These are from the recent Music Program. Esteem grant. K-2 learning to play instruments for a community performance.



Vicki Inferrera, Debie Kaufman and Kela Gillihan out for an hour walk in beautifully Allakaket.



Daily Airport run thanks Paul Morris, Principal Aide



It took one year to earn a remote control air plane. The student did all his work with passing grades!



The student made cards and had food to celebrate Mary Sue Linus going to Fairbanks to have her baby. A boy baby was born the very next day!



K-2 and Sped had an Easter Party with games and prizes.

Ella B. Vernetti School

Joshua Hatfield, Principal & Teacher

Things have been very busy in Koyukuk the last few weeks and we are LOVING IT! “First, Dancing with the Sprint” came out and spent a week teaching our students how to play different instruments and a few new songs to sing. They also spent time to help them count and learn things in OUR LANGUAGE - Denaakk’e. The concert was a HUGE hit with the community. We were also fortunate to have an elder come and spend some time with us and share their wonderful knowledge. That same week, we had three of our students participate in the ANSEP program in Anchorage. Learning what college life might be like, plus they got to build their own computers. Pretty Cool! Our 4th-8th graders just got back from their field trip to Anchorage and Seward where we got to do some pretty cool activities; the Alaska Zoo, the Alaska Native Heritage Center, the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, the Alaska SeaLife Center and Spring Wildlife Cruise.



Johnny Oldman School

Submitted by JOS Staff

The school year may be winding down, but we are busier than ever here at Johnny Oldman School. We have had numerous events and projects ongoing at the school, but perhaps no other occasion excites the kids as much as our annual sleepover! This year's sleepover included an under-the-sea theme, a variety of crafts, "Just Dance" on the Nintendo Switch, karaoke, hide-and-seek in the dark, endless cupcakes and pizza rolls, and a big screen showing of the movie "Sing 2". The kids had a wonderful time and, as always, are already excited about next year's sleepover!



In Mrs. Bellamy's elementary classroom, the students began April by celebrating the Upper Koyukuk dog sled races here in Hughes. We designed our own sleds on paper and then created them out of various art materials, with the goal being to transport pom-poms across the gym without losing any. The students have been using their creativity artistically, as well, taking part in an artist study on Pablo Picasso and painting their own Picasso-inspired self-portraits. "The process is as important as the final product." Additionally, the students have been working on their sewing skills by threading a DIY stuffed animal llama, and we celebrated Earth Day by taking a stroll through our community and picking up trash that we found along the roadways and paths. The students then took some of this trash and repurposed/recycled it for other projects!



In Mr. Bellamy's middle school classroom, a major focus was on World War I and World War II. Our World War I themed week included intercepting and deciphering German codes (math), designing U-Boat periscopes (science), playing "Trench" dodgeball (PE), and free-writing about conflict resolution (ELA). World War II saw the students creating shoe-box dioramas regarding the major WWII events of D-Day, Pearl Harbor, the Battle of Stalingrad, the North African Campaign, and the Holocaust (Auschwitz). Other activities in our classroom included a unit focus on poetry, learning about animal adaptations and behaviors via Alaska Ecology activities, and also practicing with air pellet rifles in gym class by shooting at targets.

We would also like to extend a big "Thank You" to the school district for providing multiple opportunities for our school, including the many guests we have had in the last two months. PHlight Club, Eskimo Ninja Warrior, and Dancing with the Spirit all provided wonderful events for the students and community, allowing for the kids to learn life skills and create new memories. Also, the CTE department was able to send Leonard "Mr. Electric" Coursey out to our school for a two-day program that included a field trip to the local power plant and in-class projects, such as wiring a residential light and switch. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn practical life skills!



The Pre-K class big project was planting, transplanting and growing cosmos in planter containers that the Pre-K painted for their Mother's Day gifts! We also spent time in the playground using our senses to fill out a circle diagram on what we heard, smelled, touched, and saw. These kids are doing great in reading as well and can read the words: I, a, can, see, we, and the! For math they are learning all about patterns such as sound, color, shape and movement patterns which they seemed to enjoy the most.



Rampart School

Patty White, Principal



We are so proud of our high school graduate, Chase Jimmie! We wish him well in his future endeavors! Congratulations Chase!

The students and staff in Rampart have learned so much this school year. They have shown great improvement in Reading and Math. They have also enjoyed PHlight Club and the Eskimo Ninja Warrior visits to the school.

We hope everyone has a great summer and we are looking forward to seeing you all in the fall! Don't forget to read and practice some math over the break!



Kaltag School

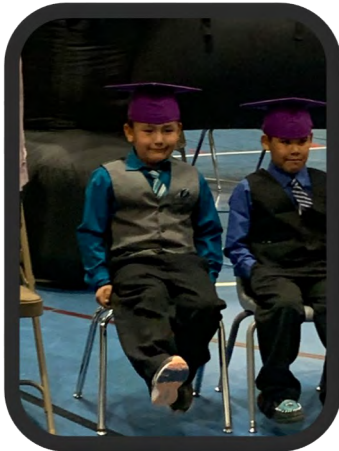
Kevin Matthews,
Principal & Teacher

Graduation and Promotion Day!



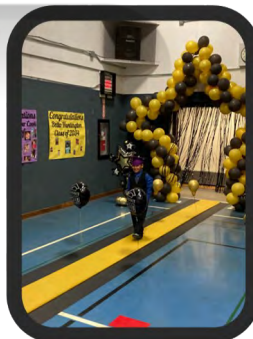
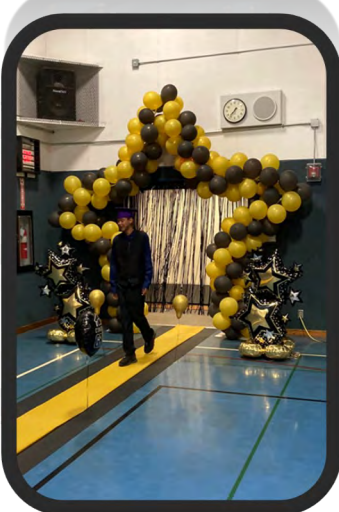
Kaltag 2022 Graduates

Jayden Madros and Jamie McGinty



Kaltag Class of 2022

River Cook - Pre-K
Bella Huntington - Kindergarten
Alvin Esmailka - Kindergarten
Adam Madros - Kindergarten
Peyton Madros - 8th Grade



Andrew K. Demoski School

Shane Nixon, Principal

As the 2021-2022 school year comes to a close, we look back and celebrate some great times and great memories.

During the month of April, 3rd grade through 8th grade participated in a wonderful field trip to the Anchorage Zoo. While there, the students actually participated in a behind the scenes, hands on, interaction with the wolves and the tigers. Their trip continued down to Seward to the Alaska SeaLife Center. While there, students were able to spend time learning about individual animals who make the ocean their home.

Finally, students went out onto the ocean on Major Marine Tours to watch for whales and other sea life. They saw mountain goats feeding on the hillside, sea otters floating on their backs, Bald Eagles, the elusive tufted puffin and sea lions. A wonderful time was had by all. Especially with the viewing of several Humpback Whales.

Upon returning to school, students completed their STAR state testing and MAPS testing. With tests out of the way, several students spent the week working with Training Coordinator William from Alaska Works Partnership Inc.

On Friday, May 13, we held graduation ceremonies for our Ashlyn Sommer. Also, we held 8th graduation ceremonies for promotion. It was a beautiful gym decorated by so many people.



Joyce Roberts came to AKD school and taught tufting, which is sewing with caribou hair. Students and adults attended the two days and nights and created their own projects.

The basketball team will be traveling to Healy this summer for an extensive basketball camp. The boys team will travel for a full week followed by the Lady Wolves the next week. Everyone is excited about this opportunity.

Finally, Mrs. Nixon (grades 3,4,5) and myself would like to thank everyone for the kindness, support, and friendship that has been shown throughout our four years at Andrew K. Demoski School and the Yukon-Koyukuk School District. We will miss you all. It is my hope that we played some small part in the success of the district and in the lives of our students. Mrs. Nixon and I will be following, watching, and expecting great things and success from you, the student body. We would like to wish the YKSD district and the Andrew K. Demoski School staff blessings and success as they move forward. Thank you again for all you have done and all you have given to help support our students.



Jimmy Huntington School

Casey Weter, Principal

Hunter Education in Huslia

Sixth through twelfth grade students from Jimmy Huntington School participated in a hunter education course. The course began with eight engaging units on the Hunter education web-site where students learned about how different firearms work, ammo, shooting skills, game knowledge, safety, responsibility, survival skills, and wildlife.



Upon completing all 8 Units and the field day qualifier exam with at least an 80%, students were invited to a field day with Trooper Nunley and Jeremy Havener with ADF&G. During the field day, students got hands on with the action types of various guns. They practiced loading and unloading, safe handling, safe to shoot or no shoot situations and accuracy.



We are happy to announce that all 15 participants passed the field day exercises and earned their hunter education certification. Way to go students!



Minto School

Vicky Charlie, Principal

Between testing and visitors to our school over the past few months we have been very, very busy at Minto School! Listed below are some highlights:

- ♦ The high school students had a successful field trip to Anchorage. They visited the Anchorage Museum, Alaska Zoo, Alaska Native Heritage Center and the Alaska Natural History Museum to name a few.
- ♦ We had four students successfully complete ANSEP in Anchorage where they each built their own computer!
- ♦ Our students have now read 11,500,000 words! We had an AR Celebration on May 23rd.
- ♦ Four high school students attended the Gathering of Nations with other students from YKSD. They reported back that they had a great trip!
- ♦ The K-5 classes had a great day trip to Fairbanks on April 29th. They went to the Fairbanks Children's Museum, had a tour of the fire station and swam at Hamme Pool.
- ♦ Twelve students attended the Prom in Fairbanks on May 7th that was hosted by Walter Northway School. The students reported back that they danced the entire time!
- ♦ Graduation and Promotion was a success! Thank you to Francine Wiehl for her outstanding lead on decorating.
- ♦ The middle school had a fabulous trip to Valdez where they caught over 400 pounds of halibut and other fish on their fishing charter. They went kayaking and took a wildlife cruise. They also got to utilize the Rec Center, swimming, open gym, archery and the climbing wall.
- ♦ The classes of 2020, 2021, and 2022 (nine students) had a wonderful trip to New Jersey and New York. They learned to navigate public transportation on the Light Rail, subway and ferry. They saw landmarks such as the Statue of Liberty, 9/11 Memorial, Times Square and went up to a high rise. Thank you to the Board for allowing the past graduates to participate in this life learning opportunity.



Classes of 2020, 2021 & 2022 at the 9/11 Memorial.



Minto students at the Prom.

Merrelaine A. Kangas School

Mike Day,
Principal & Teacher

WORKING IN THE SHOP



Charles just needs to put his shelves in.



Charles is working on his computer desk.



Gabriella just needs to put her drawer pulls on.



A few more drawers and Steven is done.



Levi just needs to put his drawers in and he's done.

ARCHERY TRIP



Raven Homeschool

Kim Bergey, Director

Anchorage

The most exciting part of the second semester was the production of “The Play”! A group of Anchorage Raven students created four mini plays from start to finish; they wrote the script, designed and constructed the set, developed the costumes and acted in the plays. We had over 100 people in the audience watching their work and everyone was amazed!

We’ve had several weekly workshops continue on through May to include Technology Club, Spanish Lessons, Handwriting Workshops, Sewing School, and Study Hall. We’ve also studied plants, bugs and turtles during our science workshops with Deb Fancher. A YKSD alumni will be in our office to teach Athabascan Beading workshops and we’re all very excited for those! We had a very fun and hands-on field trip to the Museum of Science and Nature where we all learned about dinosaurs that used to roam throughout the state.



Graduation prep is underway and we cannot wait to celebrate our seniors! We’re also currently planning a kindergarten graduation ceremony that will coincide with our end-of-year party at a lovely park in Anchorage.

Delta Junction

It has been a busy time for us. We celebrated Read Across America/Dr. Seuss Day with our local Community Library, celebrated Pi Day, made Leprechaun Traps and hiked to the Castner Glacier Ice Cave in March. In April, after we completed State testing, we took a field trip to the local Courthouse to see behind the scenes. We also had a Spring craft day to celebrate the end of winter even though we still had a lot of snow outside! Parents of graduating seniors met to plan graduation activities. May has been fun with a Mother’s Day craft, a parent workshop to help with struggling students and the much anticipated walk to the Drive In for ice cream. We had a great turnout for the walk despite the chilly, snowy weather! For the remainder of May we are finishing up plans for our end of year celebration, Kindergarten graduation and High School graduation as well as gearing up for the 22-23 school year.



Raven Homeschool continued

Kim Bergey, Director

Fairbanks

We have been busy! Over the past few months, we have hosted several events and field trips to include Bird Watching at Creamer's Field, a tour of Risse Greenhouse, a field trip to our Central Recycling Center, and a Raven Community Clean Up Day.

Local artist Randall Compton has been in-house three times a week for a 4-week class to teach art lessons to our students. When the weather cooperates, the group takes class outdoors for fresh air and a new view. We are also hosting a month-long recurring beading class with Blanche Sam. Teacher Nick Popp has been teaching basic automotive classes over the past few months. Students have learned to change tires, check engine oil and other basic auto skills.



Our graduating seniors enjoyed a Cinco de Mayo event with a taco and enchilada bar, movie, bonfire and s'mores. It was a great turnout, and the students enjoyed their time together as a graduating class.

To finish out May, our Kindergarten graduation ceremony is May 25th. Our Senior graduation ceremony is May 26th at the Hering auditorium. We have nearly 150 high school graduates and almost 70 of those will walk in the ceremony!

We have several activities planned over the summer months to keep our Raven families active and engaged. Raven Fairbanks is finishing strong for the 21/22 school year and looking forward to what next year brings.

Wasilla

We here in Wasilla are happy to welcome warmer weather and are anticipating a strong finish to the school year! This last quarter Bowling Club members have had personal bests, culinary cook off / bake offs participants have brought in delicious foods, and game club learned some new to them games. There was a lot of excitement among the elementary school parents about the Handwriting and Cursive Boot Camps, as parents were happy to have the support in instruction and practice for their students. Our Alice in Wonderland Tea Party theme was attended by all ages, some dressed in costume and others dressed up. The babysitting class, where students earned their first aid and CPR cards, was well attended. This workshop will definitely be offered again next year. We are looking forward to an amazing class of 2022 graduation on May 24th with thirty-seven students walking! This is the largest group participating in graduation to date! We will finish up the school year with our end of year picnic and a BBQ sauce competition!



Raven Homeschool continued

Kim Bergey, Director

Eagle River

Springtime has brought a flurry of activity to the Eagle River office. While most of our clubs held their last meetings in May, several events have popped up in their places and are keeping us on our toes. We started a new, wildly popular club called Explorers' Club, which is closely related to scouting and will continue all the way through summer and into the next school year. Gardening Club has also started again since winter has left us, and will also be held all summer. We are looking forward to our first ever independent high school graduation ceremony; it'll be small, but super special to the graduates who will be joining us. And we can't forget our youngest students! We will also be holding a Kindergarten graduation as well. Our end-of-year picnic will be bittersweet - the joy of getting to spend time with our wonderful families, but having to say goodbye to many who are moving out of state this summer.

And as this school year is ending, we already have a strong start to the 22/23 school year! We nearly have a whole year's worth of clubs, workshops, and field trips already on the calendar. Some new clubs we are looking forward to include History Club: Fabulous Figures, Parent Book Club, Music Club, and Lego League. A few field trips that our family liaison has been working hard to get scheduled include a wildlife cruise, an overnight trip to the Alaska SeaLife Center, and a trip to the Alaska Native Heritage Center.



Juneau

We have been thoroughly enjoying our new office space and putting it to good use for activities and events. March included an Open House of our new location, the IditaRead race, and a visit from Ryan to meet with high school students. April was mostly testing, but we had fun continuing Marvelous Monday events as well as doing a Mother's Day Pottery Class where the kids created wonderful gifts for their moms. We also were able to get back to some more normalcy and took two field trips to the community this quarter - one to Safeway where families got a wonderful tour of the store and samples from multiple departments, the other to the Capitol Building where students were able to meet Senators and Legislators as well as touring the site. May is filled with graduation and other year-end events that we look forward to finishing off this school year well.





Summer

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

AUGUST	FARM	GRASS	OCEAN	SUNFLOWER
BUCKET	FLOWERS	HAT	PARK	SWIM
CAMPING	FRISBEE	HEAT	PICNIC	WAVES
CARNIVAL	GAMES	HIKING	SEASHORE	
COOLER	GARDEN	ICE CREAM	SHOVEL	