

October 2022

Yukon-Koyukuk School District Connections

From the Desk of Superintendent Kerry Boyd

Welcome to another great year with YKSD and now TCSD!

Starting with the 2022/2023 school year, the Yukon Koyukuk School District and Tanana City School District have entered into a Shared Services Agreement. The agreement is supported by both the YKSD Regional School Board and the board of the Tanana City School District. The process will take 1 to 2 years to complete whereas the two districts will officially be combined.

As we work through the process, the leadership team is excited about the opportunity to collaborate and support the staff and students, and the community of Tanana along with the students, staff and communities of YKSD. The partnership so far has been relatively seamless with staff participating in District-wide professional development opportunities and all students having access to the robust educational offerings available this year. The Districts will continue to focus on shared goals and priorities for reading and literacy, foundational math skills, career and technology education, and college and career readiness.

More good news--- YKSD has received three instructional grants to help us provide robust Career Technical opportunities to students including welding, driver's ed, carpentry, computer science, teaching, small engine, construction, healthcare and working on Toyo's and additional short term apprenticeships for students. Please be sure to check in with the school principal for the student opportunities. The students need to sign up to participate.



School Operations

Patty White, Assistant Superintendent and
Chelsea Hurst, Assistant Director

Literacy and Math Focus

The district will continue our focus on literacy this year in all grade levels and all subjects. Reading with and to your child for 20 minutes a day will help foster the love of reading.

This year, we have added a new instructional goal focused on Mathematics Mastery. Our goal is that every student will master foundational math skills by sixth grade. We have hired a new Math Specialist, Simon Huff, to help support this goal. Through the MACSS Grant, we will be able to hire a second Math Specialist to help support our teachers and students.

Yukon-Koyukuk School District Vision and Goals

The Vision for the Yukon Koyukuk School District is:

Every learner will attain excellence and learn with passion in a challenging and culturally enriched environment.

The Instructional Goals for the Yukon Koyukuk School District are:

- **Start Strong:** Every student starts strong with a solid foundation in grades Pre-K-Third
- **Read by Third Grade:** Every student reads by the end of third grade
- **Mathematics Mastery:** Every student masters foundational math skills by sixth grade
- **Graduate Ready:** Every student graduates college and career ready



New Science Curriculum

This year, 6th through 12th grade teachers began teaching from the newly adopted Science Curriculum: McGraw Hill Inspire Science. This science curriculum focuses on more authentic, real world applications while providing more hands-on experiences for students.



The K-5 Science Committee will meet in February to decide the new Science Curriculum for Elementary School.

Assessments News

Andrea Nield,
Assistant Director



2022 AK STAR

The results from the spring 2022 assessment are made public November 10, 2022. Paper reports will be mailed to parents by December 9, 2022.

MAP Testing

All students in grades K-11 will take NWEA Measures of Academic Progress, MAP, assessments in the fall and winter. The spring benchmark will be combined with the statewide AK STAR Assessment. Teachers will analyze their student data and share individual student results with parents at Parent Teacher conferences in October. For students scoring below the average range in Reading and Math on MAP, teachers will

set individual goals for students in Response to Intervention (RTI) plans. School staff will analyze individual student growth reports and RTI plans and School Improvement Plans will be updated accordingly.

Star Early Literacy & Star Reading~Renaissance

YKSD Benchmark assessments grades K-12 Each quarter. Grade K-2 (non-readers) will take Star Early Literacy. Grades 2-12 and K-2 readers will take Star Reading. Reports are available as the student finishes his/her test.

CBM Progress Monitoring

The district is supporting the RTI with the CBM progress monitoring tool for all students in Tier 2 & 3 in Reading and Math. CBM can be found on the Renaissance App, reports are automatically available. Tier 3 students are progress monitored on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month; Tier 2 students are assessed on the last Friday of each month.

Kindergarten Developmental Profile

All Kindergarten and any first graders who were not scored last year will be screened. Teachers observe students for the first 4 weeks of school then go online to enter scores by individual students.

NAPE Testing

NAPE is a national test done in the spring every two years. Schools are randomly selected to participate and test is given to students in grades 4, 8 & 12. NAPE handles all administration, materials, etc. For the spring of 2022 NAPE tested just grades 4 & 8 in Minto, Koyukuk, Hughes and Kaltag. All results are reported on the state level, typically in the fall after the assessment.



Assessments News *continued*

Andrea Nield,
Assistant Director

LEP Testing

Students, whose Parent Language Questionnaire provides information regarding a language other than English spoken in the home, may be designated as “Limited English Proficient” (LEP). The district uses the WIDA ACCESS test (annually) and W-APT placement test for these students. Identified students will be tested **February 1 – March 31**. Each site needs a trained staff member to administer the tests. Results from the spring assessment will be mailed in the fall of 2022.

Alternate Assessment

Students with severe cognitive disabilities will take the Alternate Assessment in place of the annual State of Alaska test. Special Education staff will be trained to administer the assessment to students who qualify per their IEP.

COVID Screening

Districtwide COVID testing has ended due to the state grant ending and a significant decrease in demand. Free at-home COVID tests for students and staff will be available at school front offices while supplies last.



13th Annual Fun Run

Andrea Nield,
Assistant Director

The 13th Annual Fun Run took place on September 23. All students in grades K-12 were welcome to participate. Each site mapped out their route prior to the race and also kept the times. Students who participated were given a t-shirt. 218 students participated districtwide, here are the results of the top 3 runners in each category. This is a family and community event.

Grades K-2, 1/2 mile					Grades 3-7, 1 mile					Grades 8-12, 3 miles				
		Grade		Runner Time			Grade		Runner Time			Grade		Runner Time
1	NUL	2	Greyson Madros	2:14	1	NUL	7	Trevon Madros	5:20	1	NUL	11	Travis Madros	17:34
2	NUL	1	Mathias Sommer	2:16	2	NUL	7	Seth Chapman	5:35	2	NUL	9	Vegaas Kruger	17:50
3	NUL	2	Cylar Sipary	2:22	3	HSL	7	Nala Honea	6:34	3	NUL	11	Thomas Patsy	19:03



ESTEEM Grant

Andrea Nield,
Assistant Director

This is a parent choice grant meaning parents have choice in their child's learning opportunities. We are currently in the process of bidding out services in the area of

1. Cultural/Native Language
2. College and Career Readiness
3. Extended Learning Opportunities
4. Resilience

For all course offerings please visit <https://esteem.yksd.com/>. Parents will need to sign up their student for each course. Some of the contractors scheduling for first semester are:

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

Dancing with the Spirit are week long music camps with 2 staff teaching singing, guitar, fiddle, ukulele, culture, and language with the help of elders. We have a student concert and community dance at the week's end. It's a great way to bring fun, joy, and happiness back to the villages that have suffered so much.

Phlight Club is a youth-centered resilience-building program 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.

Gathering of Nations. Students will take part on a road trip that will give them the opportunity to explore Arizona Petrified Forest, Cultural exchange at Northern Arizona University and SIPI, visit the Grand Canyon and end with attending the Gathering of Nations in Albuquerque, NM.

Cultural Exchanges. Students will have the opportunity to go on educational field trips to explore careers and technical institutes and exchange cultural knowledge.

Anti Bullying and Suicide Prevention Magician Brian Glow

Alaska Basketball Academy

College Prep Hoops

Culture Camps

Life Skills Through Team Sports

November 18-21, 2022 in Fairbanks. Grades 8-12

Coach Sokaitis will take participants through the many forms of life skills that can be achieved by participating in activities. Utilizing the game of basketball but with application to all sports. Coach Sokaitis will demonstrate methods of team building, developing communication skills, sport skill development and physical development to include: persistence, decision making and strength training. In addition, participants will discuss setting team and individual goals, accepting roles and developing positive self esteem.

ESTEEM Grant continued

Andrea Nield,
Assistant Director

Alaska Basketball Academy

October 21-23, Grades 7-16

For those of you who have not had the pleasure of watching Coach Horn work, she is a highly energetic and sought-after clinician who works to develop basketball and life skills throughout the state of Alaska. Each clinic is three hours in duration and much more intensive and demanding than the typical camps. These clinics are designed for boys and girls who take basketball seriously and who are in pursuit of reaching their potential.

Anti-Bullying and Suicide prevention Magic Show with Brian Glow

Brian Glow will be traveling to our villages October 28 through November 17 for a one evening interactive community magic show. Magician, Brian Glow tells his story about being bullied as a child and how he almost turned to suicide. This show lasts 45 minutes to an hour. We typically split the school into groups, K-6 and then 7 -12, depending on the size of each school. Once his shows are done, Brian is available to go into classrooms to interact with the kids, teach some magic and discuss more about mental health and bullying (time permitting), 10-20 minutes each.



After School Tutoring

Services are available for those students requesting one on one tutoring. Availability will depend on the tutor and the subject students need help with. For more info on tutoring please see your front office

Culture Camps

This year ESTEEM partnered with the Hughes and Nulato tribe to assist with funding culture camps. If your tribe needs additional funding to conduct a culture camp, please contact Andrea Nield, anield@yskd.com. We would love to partner with you.



ESTEEM Grant continued

Andrea Nield,
Assistant Director

College Prep Hoops

Three to five days. Provides empowering camp experience customizes to your community needs. Health & Wellness, Respect for Self & Others, The basketball Advantage. College Prep Athletics is founded on the idea that the development of athletics in Alaska.

- ◆ Week of Oct. 3- Kaltag
- ◆ Week of Oct. 10- Nulato
- ◆ Week of Oct. 31- Ruby
- ◆ Week of Nov. 7- Allakaket
- ◆ Week of Nov. 14- Huslia



Dancing with the Spirit

A week long music camp with 2 staff teaching singing, guitar, fiddle, ukulele, culture, and language with the help of elders. A student concert and community dance will be held at the week's end. This event is scheduled for the following communities:

- ◆ Kaltag: October 24
- ◆ Ruby: October 25-28
- ◆ Hughes: December 5-9



ESTEEM Grant continued

Andrea Nield,
Assistant Director

YKSD Parent Mentor Workshop

On October 18-21 was the first YKSD Parent Mentor Workshop at Hilton Anchorage deepening the level of connection with our youth, building relationships, caring for those who care about us and making sure we have support systems of our own. Participants also learned about the ESTEEM grant and information to bring back to their villages to share.



Activities

Andrea Nield,
Assistant Director

Middle School Basketball season is well under way and the season will conclude the weekend of November 18. Below is the schedule of tournaments at each of the schools

October	Host/Contact
28 & 29	Tanana Game vs. Huslia Co-ed
29 & 30	Huslia MS Boys at Elevate tournament in Wasilla

November	Host/Contact
3-5	Minto Tournament
3-5	Galena Tournament
10-12	Huslia Tournament
17-19	Nulato Tournament

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding any of the above activities. Thank you! Andrea Nield

State Boarding Home Program

Andrea Nield,
Assistant Director

This program offers housing reimbursement cost to YKSD for students who board in one of our schools and originate from Koyukuk or other villages who do not offer a high school.

YKSD Home Away Program

Andrea Nield,
Assistant Director

Formerly known as the Boarding Home Program. The program is intended to assist families with housing costs, of students in grades 8-12 who transfer into or within YKSD schools, and are not living with their biological parents or legal guardian but living with their extended family. The application for the FY23 school year closed on October 1.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Patty White, Assistant Superintendent and
Chelsea Hurst, Assistant Director

Parent/Teacher Conferences: November 2, students will be released after lunch so teachers can meet with parents to review student progress and first quarter report cards.

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



The CTE Department is Growing!

Patty Woody,
Assistant Director

The YKSD Career & Technical Education department is growing! We have added staff members and have moved into a new building over by Home Depot! We are pleased to be able to offer a variety of career related activities for students. Small Term Intensive Trainings (STITs) are being provided at the schools. The following STITs will be offered this school year:

- Career Explorers
- Introduction to STEM overview
- Introduction to 3D Design & Printing
- Introduction to Basic Electricity
- Introduction to CNC Router
- Introduction to Small Engines
- Introduction to Shop
- Introduction to Food Science
- Introduction to Toyo Repair
- Introduction to Welding & Safety
- Introduction to Wood Working & Construction Safety
- Natural Resource Management I
- STEM Camp for Middle School students
- Wilderness Safety & Survival Training





Kela Gillihan,
Itinerant Counselor

The counseling department has started off the year strong with lots of activities for our students to participate in. We had NED's Mindset Mission on September 30th for grades K-6. This event helped students learn about growth mindset in a fun and interactive way! NED Mindset stands for Never Give Up, Encourage Others, and Do Your Best, which is what we encourage our students to do every day. We also had our first Healthy Lifestyles and Career Fair for the school year and will have our next virtual **Healthy Lifestyles and Career Fair on December 2nd**. We hope to have all classes participating in this event to learn about ways to be healthy and learn more about new careers. This year we are also starting a new program called **ROX** for middle school girls in seventh and eighth grade. We have a small group this year, but we hope to have more girls participate in the following years as the program grows. ROX is a program with a specific curriculum that focuses on building confidence and self-esteem, assertiveness, conflict resolution, body image, and leadership/careers. The mission of ROX is to equip girls with the information and skills to live healthy, independent, and productive lives. It has been a great start to our school year and the counselors will be bringing more events and activities to the students as the year progresses.



Area Wide Student Council (AWSC)

Kela Gillihan,
Itinerant Counselor

Area-wide student council has begun for the 22-23 school year. We were able to elect new officer positions for the new school year, with Alexis Moses as president, Chad Roberts as vice-president, Agnes Patsey as secretary, and Tristan Linus as treasurer. We have multiple students from the different school sites participating this year in the student council. These leaders are very involved this school year and decided upon dress up days for Red Ribbon Week to promote students pledging to be drug free! We hope that every student and staff member will participate in Red Ribbon Week. This year's theme is Celebrate Life. Live Drug Free! The Area-Wide Student Council wants to encourage each student to celebrate their life by living it drug free!



Red Ribbon Week

**Celebrate Life.
Live Drug Free! ©**

October 24th-28th, 2022

Dress-Up Days

Monday - Pajama Day

Dream Big & Aim for the Stars!

Wear appropriate sleepwear & slippers.

Tuesday - Sports Day

Team Up Against Drugs & Bullying!

Wear your favorite sports jersey, sports shirt or team colors

Wednesday - Native Regalia

Too Cultural to Care about Drugs & Violence!

Wear your native shirt/dress or vest or slippers!

Thursday - School Pride

Our School Chooses to be Drug Free!

Wear your school/community shirt or school colors

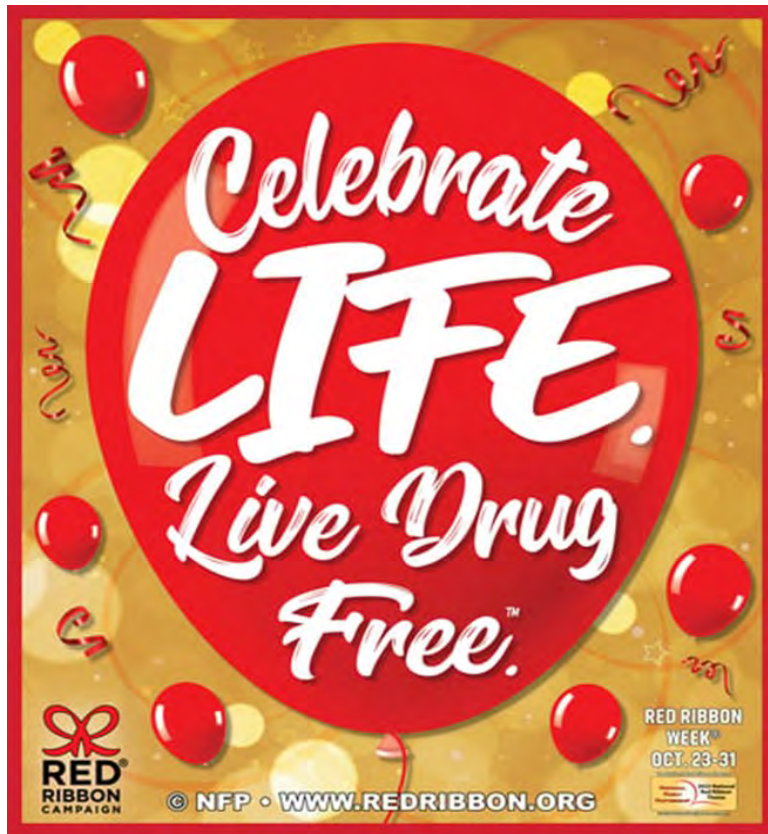
Friday - Wear Red Day

Red"-y to Be Drug-Free!

Wear red to celebrate the end of Red Ribbon Week!

Counseling Corner continued

Cristina Welker, Director of
Special Education & Support Services



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



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

State & Federal Programs

Jason Kopp, Director of
State & Federal Programs
and Assessments

Happy fall/early winter everyone! We are excited to start a new year with some new faces. Our department has welcomed a new Director, Jason Kopp, who has 26 years of experience in education and was most recently with the Galena City District. We also have a new Admin Assistant, Melissa Davis, joining our office and several Reading Interventionists who will be active at the river schools facilitating STREAM nights and supporting literacy learning. Familiar faces have taken on new roles. Holly Wofford has become our Native Language Teacher. She is hard at work with virtual classrooms and a weekly story hour. Kristi Burns continues to support our department and district with her many talents particularly with implementing literacy and early childhood education. Finally, Sara Henderson has been working hard to send out materials to our sites and assemble literacy kits to support our students. She will be traveling to Huslia in November to help with the first quarter's STREAM Night.

We are looking forward to the exciting things happening this school year supported by our State and Federal grants. If you have ideas or a need for an activity, event, or project please contact us. We are always looking for ways to better support our students' learning journey and the staff guiding them along the way.

Reading Interventionists

State and Federal Programs is happy to welcome five new Reading Interventionists! Nine river schools are serviced by our team of seven Reading Interventionists virtually and in-person. They facilitate STREAM nights, support literacy instruction in the classroom, and conduct individual or small group intervention sessions with students. Our Interventionists are also a resource for RTI plans, RenaissanceLearning, and creating Alaska Cultural Tales (ACT), formally Book Slam books.

STREAM Nights

STREAM Night literacy kits are being assembled to go out to our river school sites, expect them soon. The first quarter theme is School Spirit and Superheroes will be in the second quarter. Hotdogs and activities will be provided for STREAM night and each family will take home a School Spirit family literacy kit including dice activities, health and nutrition project, and designable pennant.

First Quarter Dates:

October 25th - Hughes and Koyukuk

October 27th - Allakaket, Ruby, Kaltag, and Minto

November 1st - Huslia, Nulato, and Rampart

Migrant Education Recruiting

Our team will be calling and recruiting families that may qualify for Migrant Education. New this year we are setting up literacy subscriptions to mail directly to students in Migrant Ed. The Migrant Education Program provides grant funds for school districts to help improve educational opportunities for migratory students. To qualify for the program a family within the district must make an economic move for at least 7 nights and 8 days. Also, families must travel over 20 miles and participate in fishing, berry picking, or logging. If you have questions please email mdavis@yksd.com.

Sora (Online Library)

Books and audiobooks are available for all students and staff through the Sora app. Just download the Sora app. Then, follow the prompts to access hundreds of books. If you need help with logging into the app, please email, kburns@yksd.com. <http://www.yksd.com/Domain/188>



Denaakkenaage' Hunek, Denakenaga' *Khunek: Native Language News*

Holly Wofford, Native
Language Teacher

Language Classes

Denaakk'e classes for 2022-23 have gotten off to a great start. We've had 13 different teachers K-8 sign up for Native Language classes this school year. With Susan Paskvan's retirement we've had to make changes and transition into a new routine. This was a big change and I want to personally thank all the on-site Native Language co-teachers. Each of you help make the lessons run smoothly and your work and professionalism has been appreciated as I've started my new role as the Native Language Teacher. Baasee'.

Classwork Update:

Each unit within our workbook begins by introducing vocabulary specific to the theme of that unit. We have been putting a lot of emphasis on the vocabulary/phrases which allows students enough time to learn the content while they are actively participating in a variety of different lessons and activities which are relevant to the unit being taught. A lot of the onsite co-teachers have been utilizing the VoiceThread accounts and classroom manipulatives and it shows when your students come on ready to jump in and share with me what they've learned in between classes. It's a good thing to see and hear! Hoozoonh!!

Students have completed **Unit One: Nedaats'e Ne'ooze' (What's Your Name?)** which is our Introduction and Family unit and are currently working on **Unit Two: Do'eent'aa (How Are You?)** the Feelings unit.

Independent Native Language Classes:

Huslia, Rampart, and Minto sites all have classrooms that have started working on Native Language on their own. With a Denaakk'e Central (KR) class being taught by Annette Moses in Huslia, Denaakk'e (U) dialect in Rampart being taught by Tim Main, and the Benhti Kott'ana Kenaga' language being taught by Bertina Titus in Minto. See their updates below:

Ts'aateyhdenaadekk'onh Denh: Annette Moses in Huslia says:

The students are on unit 5, Weather unit. I am teaching Kindergarten~1st grade this year. I can ask them questions in Athabaskan such as: what is your name? what is the weather? how are you? the names of animals, counting to 10, and give basic commands and they are replying with ease. They brought the Native Language workbooks home to share with their families and now they are teaching their families how to say the Athabaskan words. Next week we will be working on basic body parts. I am teaching the units mixed up and what I feel is easier for them to learn.

Dlel Hutaaneets: Tim Main in Rampart.

Tim has been incorporating Native Language into his daily classroom routines for the past few years. They have had a busy start to the year so are just now starting on their introductions.

Menok'oget: Bertina Titus in Minto says:

Her students are currently working through Units One & Two. Bertina is spending a lot of time on the vocabulary and phrases and making sure the students are grasping how to ask questions and how to respond with the content being taught.



Native Language News continued

Holly Wofford, Native Language Teacher

Language Supplies

So far new workbooks have been sent out to each site along with replacement headphones for the students. Headphones with built in microphones are important for our Native Language assessments. It helps me to hear their answers/pronunciation with no background noise. So, if you notice one needing to be replaced. Please reach out to me. Assessments took place on **October 10-14th, 2022.**

I've also sent supplies for a few sites for cultural afterschool activities and project materials for culture camp. **(NL Co-teachers if you would like supplies for afterschool projects or native sewing/beading for your school sites please contact me)**

Curriculum News:

We are closing in on some big projects with Native Teaching Aids, which I believe is going to really upgrade our workbook/online resources and give the students some great additional hands-on materials and games! We are also developing five new units for the workbooks which should be ready for the next workbook edition next year.

Culture Camp

This year the Nulato Tribal Council hosted another culture camp at Maurice McGinty's camp in Kaiyuh. Both Kaltag and Koyukuk students were also invited again, along with chaperones. Altogether there was 47 people (students & chaperones) that participated in the culture camp! That's double the amount of people that attended last years' camp. Students along with supervision worked on setting up the camp, getting wood, learning the Denaakk'e names for animals on the land, journaling, listening to stories, skinning & hanging a moose, and working on moose head, etc.



2022 Culture Camp – Too Letluh Denh (Green Water) in Kaiyuh at Maurice McGinty's camp in Kaiyuh.



Wednesday Story Hour

Native Language story hours have been a hit this Fall. We see a lot of classes signing on and the students are eager to share their drawings afterwards. I have been alternating weekly between reading from the Catherine Attla book, *As My Grandfather Told It*, and sharing videos from TCC's video collection *Legacy of Our Elders*. I will also be inviting people to sign on and share stories with our students once a month. The students seem to really enjoy this weekly story hour. You can tell by their drawings that they are listening intently to the traditional stories, life stories, and personal experiences shared in all the forms of storytelling that we've been partaking in.

Our first special guest to sign on was Tristan Madros, Tribal Administrator of Nulato Tribal Council via Bluejeans on 9/14/22.

Districtwide Math Competitions

Simon Huff,
Math Specialist

One of the focuses in math instruction this year is the inclusion of district wide competitions that encourage play and flexibility with mathematical concepts, support fluency in foundational skills, and serve to build a community of learners across the Yukon-Koyukuk region. This fall, students have engaged with and competed against each other on the video platform Flip, responding to weekly challenges that stress higher order, strategic thinking. So far, students have contributed more than 50 videos that have been viewed more than 500 times by other students across the district.

More challenges are planned throughout the school year. At the end of the quarter, there will be a competition on Blooket, which is a new gaming platform the district has introduced this year. In this challenge, students will have the opportunity to show what they've learned so far this school year!

Maintenance Department

Gale Bourne, Director of
Facilities and Maintenance

Annual Asbestos Notification

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

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

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



Is it time for a Payroll Checkup?

Kathy Steckel,
Payroll

At the beginning of each year or anytime you've had a change in your income, it's always a good idea to perform a payroll checkup to make sure you're having the right amount of Federal Withhold Tax deducted from your paychecks. Luckily the IRS has provided a app to walk you through the process. Go to www.irs.gov/W4app and click the 'Use the Tax Withholding Estimator' button.

You'll need:

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

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

A Bite from Food Service

Rachel Spencer,
Food Service Specialist

We always want to serve the highest quality meals to our students, including serving traditional foods such as moose in our lunch program. We want to express our gratitude to the community of Koyukuk for providing a moose to our students!

A special "THANK YOU!" to all who helped process and package this gift, we know it is a lot of work.

Pictured below are the students and staff of Ella B Verneti School, lead by Marie Dayton, in undertaking such a huge task.



Maudrey J. Sommer School

Therese Ashton, Principal

The last two months has been a blur of activities and changes for the Tanana students and staff. It is an exciting time to see Maudrey J. Sommer School as it begins its journey to join the Yukon-Koyukuk School District. Though not officially in the YKSD district the staff is merging curriculum, handbooks, procedures and plans to mirror what is already being done in YKSD. With the help of YKSD staffers the process is moving right along. Though there are bumps in the road there are very positive changes occurring.

This week the MJSS high school students are learning how to weld with CTE instructor, Anthony Cavan. Simultaneously Anthony is working with MJSS teacher Arnold Marks, Jr learn how to continue welding activities when Anthony is not onsite. Arnold, a former student of MJSS, had welding experience as a student here in Tanana. Now he is able to help his students gain these skills. This is a hands-on activity that can lead to a career for some of our students. We are very excited to participate in the YKSD CTE program.

We have been visited by some of the Maintenance crew from YKSD. They continue to help get our teacher housing up to good standards. At the same time, our many maintenance issues in the school itself are being addressed. Unfortunately, we do not have a dedicated maintenance manager here on site. With the help of the YKSD maintenance department we are able to keep things running safely.

Our K-5 students participated in the YKSD Sticker Contest to celebrate and acknowledge Indigenous Peoples Day. We had two winners. Carrie Agnes and Charles Roberts who both got 1st place.



Another CTE opportunity that one of our students were able to participate in is the Career Explorers Program. Senior, Joe Roberts, went through an application process. In his application he focused on how the program can "Give me a vision of what I can do in the future." After spending his week in Fairbanks, Joe had met new friends and other adults who could mentor him during his senior year. He has one more trip to join the other participants in the spring. He looks forward to the possibilities ahead.



Allakaket School

Joshua Hatfield,
Principal & Teacher

We have had a great start to our school year! August and September were wonderful for Allakaket School, first we had a visit from Patty Wood from the C.T.E. department working with our secondary students on different career options that they might be interested in.

What do you call a bad electrician? A shock absorber. Next, we had a 'shockingly' great visit from Len Coursey who gave an exciting and informative three days of instruction on electricity.

Finally, we saw another successful Fun Run for all our pre-k through ninth grade students. We wanted to tell you one of our running jokes, but it somehow ran away. The Blazers were no joke as they blazed along the village roads and had a lot of fun competing for their best time possible.

We would like to welcome our new teachers Beth Doronilla, Special Education and Matt Nichols, Secondary. They are very excited to be a part of the Allakaket Staff.



Johnny Oldman School

JOS Teachers

Hello YKSD families and staff! At Johnny Oldman School, we have had a very exciting start to our school year, with the highlight being our Fall Culture Camp at Henry Beatus's camp. Student activities included picking berries, net fishing, learning to cut fish with Ella Sam, sewing beaver fur gloves, beadwork, a nature hike/scavenger hunt, native language class, and astronomy time with a telescope. The middle school students were able to go on a boat ride looking for moose and did see a few cow moose along the way. There were elder stories, camp journaling, s'mores, a lunch where the kids grilled their own pizza sandwiches, and plenty of opportunities to start a campfire. Finally, Mrs. Bellamy provided a leaf-imprint art activity for the students wherein the plant dye is transplanted onto canvas with a hammer. Johnny Oldman School would like to thank Hughes Tribe, TCC, those who assisted in ordering/sending food, our numerous boat drivers, cooks, and more for partnering with us.

Our color Fun Run also took place in September. The students always enjoy getting doused with the colorful powder ... and also returning the favor by blasting the teachers! Many of the students beat their times from last year and everyone gave a great, solid effort.



Minto School

Mike Day, Principal

Principal's Corner:

It is so exciting to be in Minto! What a wonderful opportunity to work with the finest staff in the district, wonderful students, and a community that is invested in their children's education.

So here are the exciting events that have taken place at our school this year.

Mrs. Washburn's PreK class



Minto School Fun Run was a blast!



We made it to 1,000,000 words and celebrated with a \$1,000,000 chocolate bar!

Way to go team Minto!



We are learning to love to read in preschool! We especially love to read about ourselves.



Minto School continued

Mike Day, Principal

Ms. Bjerke's K-2 class

The Minto K-2 class has been busy reading, writing, problem solving, and having fun! They recently had a publishing party for their narrative stories they wrote. Last Thursday, they put on their speedy feet and participated in the Fun Run! They have been training hard for the run for a month! With the help of the high school class, we celebrated "Read a Child a Book You Like Day." The students had fun enjoying wonderful books together! Our class has also been visited by three Mystery Readers so far this year! We receive mysterious clues about our reader and have to try to figure out who it is before they arrive!



The 'Mystery Reader'.



Fun run practice.



Sharing a good book.



Ms. Bjerke's class reading their published Stories.



Group publishing party.

Mrs. Wolfe's 3 - 5 class

Our class hit the ground running this year. We have been doing lots of learning, reading and writing! We started using Writer's Workshop and it is going well so far. Students are even asking to write stories when they finish their other work. We will be making a personal narrative book at the end of the quarter. Our class participated in the Districtwide Fun Run with full participation and students received doughnuts as a reward! Students have set learning goals and are working hard to reach them. We are looking forward to Halloween and all of the fun activities coming up!



Minto School continued

Mike Day, Principal

Mrs. Bruno's 6 - 8 class

The Minto Middle School students enjoy a daily dose of creative comedy in the form of theater. This quarter they focus on the ancient art of shadow puppet performances. Through teamwork, scene composition and script development students explore expressive possibilities. This is a great time for these puppeteers to practice being playful and present. Live shows will be performed in front of parents and students shortly.



Stay tuned for our upcoming Christmas play, Charles Dickens adaptation of "The Goblins and the Gravedigger."

Mr. Fields' High School class

We spent our RTI time Reading with the elementary Kindergarten to 5th grade students with their AR books and the kids had a great time!



Merrelaine A. Kangas School

Candis Gunn,
Principal & Teacher

At MAK, autumn is flush with activities and forward progress!

Merrelaine A. Kangas school has been buzzing with activity this quarter. We began building relationships, setting expectations, and teaching protocol in the first week, but we also integrated outdoor activities. MAK students picked low-bush cranberries on an expedition that led to delicious jam-making in their Wednesday cooking club. They went on a hike through the nature trail and the older students trimmed the Willows back to clear the path. Several of our students and their families took advantage of our subsistence days to look for moose and a few of our kiddos even got a moose of their own!

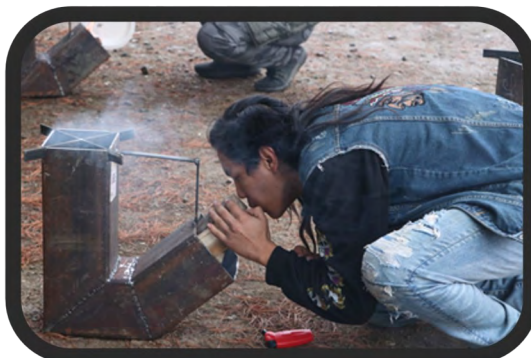
In the classroom, our students have hummed right along. We have completed our first round of STAR and MAPS testing and that data has been parsed to build new student and site goals. We had 100% participation throughout the testing period and our digital data wall is accessible in our shared drive. Our secondary classrooms are ripe with discussions of Earth science and student-specific Accelus math skills, while the ELA students have completed diversified book report projects and are reading "Touching Spirit Bear." Currently, our students are on track to meet or exceed their AR goals, as well.

MAK has a brand-new Parent-Teacher Association whose first meeting was on October 7th, 2022. They will be responsible for several student activities such as the 2022 Halloween Carnival and the Christmas Bazaar. This is a great opportunity to include stakeholders in the progress of MAK in addition to removing extraneous activities from our teachers' plates. We are very excited to build this program into the fabric of our school and community life!

Our September Students of the Month were 2nd grader Kailani Nikoli and 12th grader Charlie Ambrose. Our September Employee of the Month was Nate Titus.



MAK Elementary prepped for AR reading.



Charlie Ambrose breathed life into the Rocket Stove he built during the CTE welding program which was taught by Anthony Cavan.



Walter Titus made Willow wreaths in Elementary Electives.



MAK Schools Low-bush Cranberry picking

Andrew K. Demoski School

Mary Ann Chapman,
Principal & Teacher

At the beginning of the school year, Bob Hawkins visited Nulato to instruct a small engines class to a few high school students. Each student received all the components of a completely functioning small engine replica and assembled it following detailed instructions.

In early September, Nulato Tribal Council hosted this year's culture camp at Maurice and Girlie McGinty's cabin in Kaiyuh. Seventeen adult chaperones and thirty-one students from the villages of Nulato, Kaltag, and Koyukuk joined together for three days to immerse in native culture and language. This included learning gun and knife safety, harvesting moose, catching and fileting fish, and journaling their experiences.



On October 11th, Andrew K. Demoski's Kindergarten and First Grade students participated in Miss McKenna's second annual ABC Bootcamp Fashion Show, where they showcased their alphabet themed vests to family and friends. That same week, Coach Chad Dyson and Miss Emma with College Prep Athletics worked with students during their class' Physical Education time and after school during Open Gym to develop winning life skills through the game of basketball.

Most recently, the Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade students read Halloween themed books to the Kindergarten and First Graders during RTI time. Our Middle Schoolers have also begun practicing for their basketball season, and they look forward to their first tournament in November.



Small Engines



College Prep Athletics



ABC Bootcamp Fashion Show



Culture Camp

Kaltag School

Kevin Matthews,
Principal & Teacher

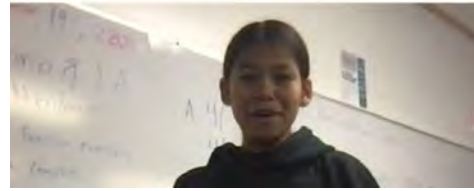
Wildcat Runner of the week!

Avery Pitka



Wildcat Runner of the week Sept 11-15

Tiana Madros



We are excited to welcome Mr. Michael Lane to our staff here in Kaltag. He is doing a great job working with our Middle School and High School students. He is also working with our students on running cross country.

We also want to welcome Ms. Jessica to our team, she is working with Mr. Lane. We also have Ms. Shanna who is currently working with Mr. Tackett.

Ms. Shana is a member of AmeriCorps and is providing afterschool activities for our students. This is a great opportunity for the young people in Kaltag. She also works for the school as a paraprofessional working with our students on their literacy skills.



Ms. Hroschikoski is working with the intermediate students this year. These years are crucial for our students as they continue to strengthen their academic skills. Our students work hard on Literacy and Math but we all know that Ms. Hroschikoski really loves teaching science.

Mr. Tackett is back with us but this year he is working with our K-3 students. He and Ms. Hazel work together to help our youngest students to build their reading and math skills. Ms. Hazel has three pre-K students and this year keeping her busy.

We are grateful to the rest of our team for helping pull everything together. Joseph Dentler takes care of our maintenance. Veronica Miller is our custodian. Monica Alexie keeps the kids fed. Lizzie Alexie works with our intermediate students and does a great job helping out wherever she is needed. Lina Edwin and Shanna Cook help Mr. Tackett.



The first round of MAPs and Star testing are completed and we look forward to see how much progress we can make this year. As noted, we have a full staff and more students. We are excited to see what this year has to offer. We are also looking forward to the opportunities that we will have from the Esteem Grant. Dancing with the Spirit will be here soon along with the other great programs. Going to be a great year in Kaltag.

Several of our students went to Nulato for Culture Camp. Special thanks to Calvin and Jessica for giving them a ride upriver.

Go Wildcats!



Ella B. Vernetti School

Stephanie Milner,
Principal /Teacher

What we have been up to in Koyukuk...



Our School

The school has been very busy and has the “buzz” of learning in the air. Thanks to Marie Dayton, our cook and Principal’s Aide, students had the opportunity to be hands on with processing moose meat for our lunches. Everyone helped and these types of activities really support cooperative learning and supporting one another with an important task.



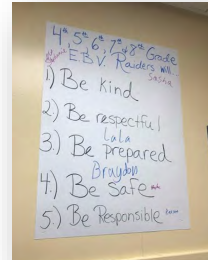
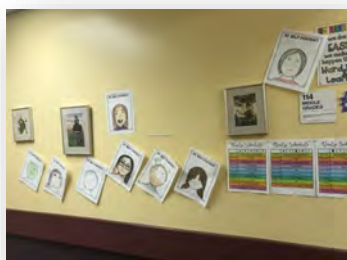
Grades K-3

Ms. Evelyn, the long term substitute teacher for Ms. Williams, had students collect some high bush cranberries. Students then made cranberry juice out of them. The final activity was to bake some chocolate chip cookies and serve them with the cranberry juice. Yummy! Ms. Williams has returned and students are happy to have her back. Students in the primary grades at Ella B. Vernetti School can be seen hard at work any day.



Grades 4-8

The 4th-8th Grade class has been very busy. We established positive classroom expectations and are working on making sure we support each other as a classroom and school community. We have some beginning of the year self-portraits outside of our classroom. We have been putting together data binders as well.



Rampart School

Therese Ashton, Principal

The Rampart staff has had a particularly difficult month with staff illnesses and loss. They have worked together to keep students in school though. We appreciate the extra work that staff members took on and managed more students than usual. We also thank the itinerant YKSD staff who came during the week and pitched in while they were in Rampart for specialized activities such as counseling and food monitoring.

One of the highlights of the month in Rampart was when Bob Hawkins came and did a course on small engine repairs. Five students in grades 7-12 were able to spend a couple of days with Bob and learn some vital skills about engines. This is a great hands-on CTE experience for our students in Rampart.

During his Indian Studies class, Joe Biefert was able to work with the K-6th graders to learn about birch baskets. They were able to make some baskets too. Six students were able to learn this particularly useful craft.



Jimmy Huntington School

Casey Weter, Principal

Adding CTE has been received well by the students here at Jimmy Huntington Schools. We have two classes this first semester of Intro to Shop and Natural Resources. In intro to shop students have spent time learning to be safe while working with tools. Students made step stools using only hand tools. After students built them, they learned how to calculate the bill, so they know how much to charge for the product if they were to sell it. In Natural Resources they have been working with Beki and Taylor from AK Resources. We have been learning a lot of Alaska's landscape, rocks, minerals, and the mining industry. Students learned how we get the internet out here in Huslia and we have that represented on a wall in the classroom.



Cross Country

We had a great first season for cross country. They had the opportunity to compete in 3 events, Anchorage Christian invite, Palmer Invitational, And Region 2 meet. Students ran hard and had fun. All the races are 5k or 3.1 miles along trails that are rocky, muddy, hills, and in the woods. Students are given the ability to walk the course before they race. In doing so they get to see the hills and challenges of the course. Through-out the season everyone did cut some time off their runs, but Ciara really pushed it at regional. At regionals Ciara cut her 5k time by 3.5 minutes!!! We had a few mishaps as this was everyone's first year but as a coach, I couldn't be prouder of these students. The top 10 Region 2 runners at regionals advanced to the State Championship. Below are the rankings overall from the Regional Race.



Boys

Miles Starr, 14th
Owen Roberts, 18th

Girls

Ciara Vent, 15th
Serenity Bifelt, 17th
Chloe Sam, 18th



Jimmy Huntington School continued

Annette Moses, Teacher

This is Cameron Williams, he is a 1st grader in Mrs. Moses class. This past April the class planted sunflower seeds for Mother's Day. As of September 15, 2022, this is how big Cameron's flower has grown. His mom clipped a flower, and we pressed it as a class for an experiment.

Kambria Dayton's sunflower was growing but not as quickly as Cameron's. I asked many questions such as: why the flowers are growing differently, what do plants need to grow, do all living things grow the same, and many more questions.

In all my years of teaching and planting sunflowers with students I don't remember any sunflowers getting this big. We took a short field trip and visited the flowers before it gets too cold.



Raven Homeschool

Kim Bergey,
Raven Director

We would like to welcome all our new team members and new families!

Anchorage Office:

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



Delta Office:



Welcome Back! We hope you had a wonderful summer. It was definitely busy for our office. It began with the Kindergarten graduation, Father's Day Craft and End of Year Celebration, Back-to-Homeschool Celebration! We love our new office and seeing all our families.



Eagle River Office:

We hit the ground running in August with our back-to-school party and we haven't slowed down since. All of our clubs have started. It's so nice to see homeschool families having fun and connecting with one another.



Raven Homeschool continued

Kim Bergey,
Raven Director

Fairbanks Office:

In August, we held our Back to School barbeque at Pioneer Park, it was a huge success! The year is in full swing with great opportunities for student activities. Additionally, this year we have added career and technical education opportunities in person. Joining the Fairbanks team we have Brandy H. as the assistant principal, Vicky C. as our new assistant director, and Jennifer M. as a new advisory teacher.



Juneau Office:



This first quarter of the 22-23 school year has already been a busy one in our Juneau Raven office. We even got to enjoy a visit from our High School Counselor, Ryan Tilbury where he met with students. We have a wonderful new administrative clerk, Kellen D. We started the year off with a jelly making activity and many other great opportunities for students.



Wasilla Office:

The Wasilla started the 22-23 school year with non-stop ILP meetings. Our goal was to get families going just as quickly as we could! In August we had our back to school event. Families were able to enjoy getting to know each other. We have been hosting many activities for students. We welcomed Amanda C. to our team as our administrative assistant.





Halloween Word Search Game

dracula
vampire
frankenstein
witch
mummy
zombie
werewolf
owl
skeleton
wizard
fairy
spooky
tombs
graveyard
ghouls

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

HALLOWEEN VIRTUAL PARADE

October 31, 2022 | Starts @ 11 Am

District Wide Invite!!

DIAL-IN BLUEJEANS MEETING: 90737494051



CHALLENGE LIFE

2022-2023

Challenge Life will visit
the following YKSD communities:


Huslia 11/5 - 11/8

Ruby 11/8 - 11/9

Nulato 11/10 - 11/12

Minto 11/13 - 11/15

Tanana 11/15 - 11/16



Challenge Life is a program designed to address physical and mental well-being while developing confidence and a high level of self-esteem. Former UAF men's basketball coach and history teacher, Al Sokaitis, uses sport skills, the pursuit of academic excellence and encouraging students to follow their dreams as the vehicle to personal wellness.

Activity times will be determined by the number of participants in each community upon arrival.



2022-2023 YKSD SCHOOL CALENDAR



July						
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2022	
AUGUST	1 Assistant Directors return to work 4 Principals Return to work 4-10 Principals at District Office 9-10 New Teachers at District Office 11 Returning Teachers Inservice on-site 15-16 Teacher Workdays 17-19 Teacher Inservice days on-site 22 First Day of School
SEPTEMBER	2 Subsistence day (Students & Teachers) 5 Labor Day Holiday 9 Subsistence day (Students & Teachers) 17 Principal Workday 23 Mid-term Progress Reports
OCTOBER	15-16 Principal Workdays 21 End of 1st Quarter/Early Dismissal for Students/Report Cards
NOVEMBER	2 Parent Teacher Conferences/Early Dismissal for Students 12 Principal Workday 18 Mid-term Progress Reports 23 Vacation/Non-contract day for teacher, principals & students 24-25 Thanksgiving Holiday
DECEMBER	10 Principal Workday (Fairbanks) 16 End of Semester/Early Dismissal for Students/Report Cards 19-30 Holiday Break-No School

2023	
JANUARY	2 New Year Holiday 3 Vacation/Non-contract day for Teachers 4-6 Teacher Inservice - No School 9 Students back to school 28-29 Principal Workdays
FEBRUARY	6 Mid-term Progress Reports 20 President's Day - No School for Students or Teachers 25 Principal Workday
MARCH	10 End of Quarter/Early Dismissal for Students/Report Cards 13-17 Spring Break (varies by school) 25 Principal Workday Testing Window Begins 27 Parent Teacher Conferences/Early Dismissal for Students
APRIL	21 Mid-term Progress Reports Testing Window Ends 29 Principal Workday
MAY	25 Last Day of School for Students/Report Cards 26 Teacher Workday 27 Principal Workday 29 Memorial Holiday 30 Principal Workdays (5/30-6/2)
JUNE	5-9 Admin.Retreat (Directors, Asst. Directors & Coordinators) 9 Last Workday for Assistant Directors

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

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