

December 2022

Yukon Koyukuk School District
Connections

Good morning YKSD!

Happy Holidays! The first semester is already here with students having early dismissal and report cards due. Before you leave for your winter break, please be sure to have all your grades and attendance entered, and finalize any last-minute emails, calls, or correspondence.


Your dedication and commitment to our students and communities is so very much appreciated. The hard work benefits every student with quality educational opportunities and after school activities. On behalf of the YKSD Regional School Board, you will be receiving a small extra payroll check of \$100. Checks will be direct deposited or mailed on December 19th. The first round of certified employment contracts will be emailed out on January 4th from Human Resources.

After winter break, staff will return to work on January 4, 2023. There will be three days of In-service at your local sites from Wednesday, January 4th thru Friday, January 6th. The District has sent a variety of snacks and lunch out to each site for everyone to enjoy during these professional development days.

The first day back to school for students is Monday, January 9th.

Enjoy your winter break. Take time with friends and family, take an adventure, read a good book. However, you enjoy your time, be sure to come back refreshed.

Wishing you all a warm and joyous holiday.


Kerry Boyd, Superintendent



YKSD Regional School Board Election Results

Kerry Boyd, YKSD/TCSD
Superintendent

The YKSD Regional School Board election took place this month. Please join me in congratulating **Leona Starr** from Huslia and **Marie Dayton** from Koyukuk for joining the YKSD Regional School Board!

Congratulations to the YKSD School Board officers and new members are below!

- ***Fred Bifelt** - Huslia, Board Chair*
- ***Wilmer Beetus** - Hughes, Vice Chair*
- ***Ruth Folger** - Minto, Treasurer*
- ***Anne Titus** - Ruby, Secretary*
- ***Marie Dayton** - Koyukuk, Member*
- ***Leona Starr** - Huslia, Member*

A big **Thank You** to our previous board members, Gloria Patsy and Shirley Kruger, who have both served as advocates of students on the YKSD School Board for over a decade. Their dedication and support will carry on for years.



Congratulations to the new YKSD Student Government Leadership Team

- *President **Alexis Moses**, Koyukuk*
- *Vice President, **Chad Roberts**, Minto*
- *Secretary, **Agnes Patsey**, Nulato*
- *Treasurer, **Tristan Linus**, Allakaket*



Board Recognition

Carla Saunders, Executive Secretary

Staff Winner



Steve Swatling

Teacher, Jimmy Huntington School, Huslia

Staff Nominations

Joby Doronilla: *Teacher, Allakaket School*

Victoria Deacon: *Teacher, Andrew K. Demoski School, Nulato*

Marie Dayton: *Principal Aide & Cook, Ella B. Verneti School, Koyukuk*

Kristina Bellamy: *Teacher, Johnny Oldman School, Hughes*

Shana Esmailka: *Paraprofessional, Kaltag School*

Sara Titus: *Teacher, Merrelaine A. Kangas School, Ruby*

Francine Wiehl: *Principal Aide, Minto School*



Board Recognition

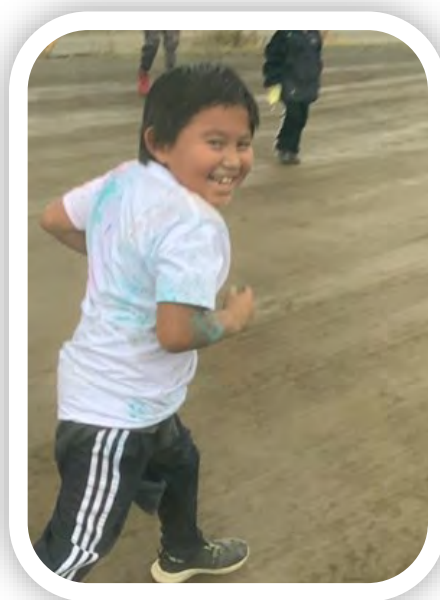
Carla Saunders, Executive Secretary

River School Student Winner



Savannah Overbay

*8th Grade
Minto School*



Kyron Saunders

*3rd Grade
Johnny Oldman School, Hughes*

Student Nominations

Robbie David: 12th grade, Allakaket School

Kylie Hildebrand: 3rd grade, Kaltag School

Ciara Vent: 10th grade, Jimmy Huntington School, Huslia

Chasity Greenway: 8th grade, Merrelaine A. Kangas School, Ruby

Kaylee Aloysius: 2nd grade, Ella B. Verneti School, Koyukuk

Agnes Patsey: 12th grade, Andrew K. Demoski School, Nulato



Board Recognition

Carla Saunders, Executive Secretary

Raven Student Winner



Joshua Kohler

9th Grade

Raven - Fairbanks

Student Nominations

Efim Savonin: 12th grade, Raven~Delta Junction

Elle Chandler: 8th grade, Raven~Wasilla

Seamus Davidson: 8th grade, Raven~Eagle River

Surge Kulikov: 4th grade, Raven~Anchorage

Eleanor Butler: 3rd grade, Raven~Anchorage

Talitha Hammond: 12th grade, Raven~Juneau

Teaching & Learning Department

Patty White, Assistant Superintendent
School Operations, Teaching & Learn-

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. For Raven, one of our teachers, Erica Jones, will be assisting as a Computer Technologist to support parents and advisory teachers with math programs. We have also newly hired a Computer Science Specialist, Jakobe Boyd, who will assist both River and Raven teachers with Computer Science and Computer coding classes.



Math Challenges

Our first semester of math challenges has come to a close, and we had 124 student videos submitted on Flip in addition to 11 student groups who competed in the Gingerbread House Contest, which included completing associated grade level math tasks. Our goal for the spring is to get more sites involved in these fun and challenging activities, as the majority of respondents have come from just two sites. A special shout out to Hughes and Ruby, and thanks to everyone who participated in our Fall challenges!"



Other Important Updates:

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

The Social Studies Committee will begin meeting in the second semester to review and recommend a new social studies curriculum.

The Winter MAP testing window is January 9 – 27. We are expecting to see great growth from our students!

Assessments

Andrea Nield, Assessments
Assistant Director

2022 AK STAR:

The results from the spring 2022 assessment were made public November 10, 2022. Paper reports were mailed to parents on December 6, 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 AKSTAR Assessment. 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. Report are available as the student finishes his/her test.

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**.

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.



ESTEEM Grant

**Andrea Nield, Student Support
& Assessment Assistant Director**

Administrator: Andrea Nield. For any questions please contact anield@yksd.com. Below are some of the offerings for 1st Semester. This is a parent choice grant meaning parents have choice in their child's learning opportunities. For all course offerings please visit <https://esteem.yksd.com/>. Parents will need to sign up their student for each course

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. This semester Al Sokaitis visited Tanana, Rampart, Huslia, Nulato and Minto.



Huslia



Rampart



Tanana

ESTEEM Life Skills Through Team Sports took place November 18-21, 2022 in Fairbanks for students in Grades 8-12. Unfortunately we ran into some plane cancellations due to weather, but students from Tanana, Huslia, Allakaket and Minto made it to the camp where Coach Sokaitis demonstrated methods of team building, developing communication skills, sport skill development and physical development to include: persistence, decision making and strength training. This was a great preseason camp prior to the upcoming basketball season.



ESTEEM Grant continued

Andrea Nield, Student Support
& Assessment Assistant Director

ESTEEM Anti Bullying and Suicide prevention Magic Show with Brian Glow was able to make it to all of our villages, including Tanana with the exception of Rampart due to weather. He will reschedule Rampart in the spring semester. The community magic show was interactive and well received by all.



Nulato



Allakaket



Huslia



Hughes



AK Grad

ESTEEM Grant will reimburse schools for any credit recover courses high school students need to graduate. Please contact your school front office if your student needs additional credits.



***ESTEEM Grant** continued*

Andrea Nield, Student Support
& Assessment Assistant Director

Cultural 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 at anield@yskd.com. We would love to partner with you.



College Prep Hoops

College Prep Hoops is three to five days. It provides an empowering camp experience customized to your community needs. It offers Health & Wellness, Respect for Self & Others, and The basketball Advantage. College Prep Athletics is founded on the idea of developing athletics in Alaska.



Kaltag



Nulato



Ruby



Allakaket

***ESTEEM Grant** continued*

Andrea Nield, Student Support
& Assessment Assistant Director

Dancing with the Spirit

Dancing with the Spirit is a week long music camp with two staff teaching singing, guitar, fiddle, ukulele, culture, and language with the help of elders. A student concert and community dance will be held at the week's end.



Kaltag



Hughes



Koyukuk

Alaska Basketball Academy

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.



ESTEEM Grant

Andrea Nield, Student Support
& Assessment Assistant Director

YKSD Parent Mentor Workshop

On October 18-21 was the first YKSD Parent Mentor Workshop at the Hilton in Anchorage. The workshop covered 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 received information to bring back to their villages to share.



13th Annual Fun Run

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 district wide, here are the results of the top three runners in each category. This was a family and community event.



Grades K-2 1/2 mile

	Grade	Runner	Time
1 NUL	2	Greyson Madros	2:14
2 NUL	1	Mathias Sommer	2:16
3 NUL	2	Cylar Sipary	2:22

Grades 3-7, 1 mile

	Grade	Runner	Time
1 NUL	7	Trevon Madros	5:20
2 NUL	7	Seth Chapman	5:35
3 HSL	7	Nala Honea	6:34

Grades 8-12, 3 miles

	Grade	Runner	Time
1 NUL	11	Travis Madros	17:34
2 NUL	9	Vegaas Kruger	17:50
3 NUL	11	Thomas Patsy	19:03

High School Basketball

Andrea Nield, Student Support
& Assessment Assistant Director

High school basketball is under way and YKSD will have the following teams

- ◇ *Nulato Boys*
- ◇ *Nulato/Minto Girls Co-op*
- ◇ *Huslia/Tanana Boys Co-op*
- ◇ *Huslia/Tanana Girls Co-op*
- ◇ *Minto Boys*

Upcoming tournaments for the season.

Dates	Tournament
January 13-14	Minto Tournament
January 19-21	Tri Valley Tournament
January 26-28	YKSD Shootout in Tanana
February 2-4	Nenana Invitational Tournament
February 2-4	Nulato Tournament
February 9-11	Tok Tournament
February 16-18	Huslia Tournament
February 23-25	Northway Tournament
March 2-4	IA Golden Heart Conference- UAF Patty Center hosted by Northway
March 15-16	IA State Tournament- ANC

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



A Bite from Food Service



Rachel Spencer,
Food Service Specialist

Recent News:

Our food service staff at Ella B Verneti School was recently elected to our School Board (congratulations, Marie!) so we are now seeking a cook, no experience needed! We will provide training. Please let the principal know if you are interested!

Year to date, our schools have served more than 19,000 meals!

Congratulations to Minto School for getting their hydroponic program started! There is a long road ahead, but we look forward to increasing interest in local agriculture and one day serving local produce in our Minto school.

Upcoming news:

YKSD is sending a spokesperson to Washington, DC to meet with our senators and congresswoman in March to represent the Alaska School Nutrition Association.



H A P P Y
Holidays

Meet Lani Scott in Purchasing!

Lani Scott, Purchasing



I arrived in Fairbanks in August of 2012. Made the move to care -take my elderly father in law, Sam, after the unexpected passing of his wife. I was warmly welcomed to a wonderful community in the Smith Ranch neighborhood near the airport, full of pilots and other aviation enthusiasts. Traveling the interior with Sam I developed a deep appreciation of the area and the history that surrounds us. I've spent many hours listening to his stories, exploring the area, hiking, kayaking, fishing and even purchased a recreational cabin near Chena Hot Springs that we could enjoy. Prior to being hired at YKSD, I've worked in customer service, security, insurance sales and most recently a buyer for a large construction company. Thanks for the warm welcome Fairbanks and YKSD.

Welcome to the Business Office! We're glad you've joined our Team!

Counselors Corner

Kela Gillihan, Counselor

The counseling department has been working hard with classroom activities and lessons in this second quarter. Some of the lessons we focused on this first semester have included friendship building and conflict resolution, goal setting and determination, anti-bullying, and recognizing strong emotions. We have also been working with the seniors with planning for their next steps after graduation. One helpful tool we offer every year to our juniors and seniors is the ACT and ACT Workkeys test. The next testing window for the ACT is February 11th-26th. The postmark deadline for this testing window is January 6th and January 20th for late registration. If students are interested in the ACT or ACT Workkeys test, please reach out to your counselor for more information. We recently had our second Healthy Lifestyles and Career Fair for the school year and will have our next virtual Healthy Lifestyles and Career Fair in February. 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 started 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. The girls participating just received their swag items, which included a shirt, sunglasses, and a book for their parent/guardian. It has been a great first semester of school and the counselors are wishing everyone a wonderful winter break.



Preschool Screening

Cristina Welker, Special Education & Support Services Director

The YKSD Special Education Department conducts preschool screenings beginning at age 3 to identify those children who may benefit from a special education referral. This is a free and confidential service.

Parents: If you have concerns or questions, please contact the Yukon-Koyukuk School District Child Find Coordinator, Derek Coryell, at (907) 374-9456, to schedule a pre-referral conference, or refer to the Special Education teacher in your community.



Student Council

Kela Gillihan, Counselor



Area-wide student council sent four of its members to the Youth Leadership Institute held by AASB in early November. This was a great opportunity for our students to learn from other students in the state, as well as board members from different districts. The YLI focused on helping youth leaders use their voice to create change in their schools and communities. The student council members are also working hard on upcoming events for next semester. The Great Kindness Challenge will be January 23rd-27th. The student council will be sending out information about classroom challenges and dress-ups days for school wide involvement.

Counselors Corner continued



Healthy Lifestyles & Career Fair Was December 9th

Cristina Welker, Special Education & Support Services Director

The counseling department hosted our second virtual healthy lifestyles and career fair for the 22-23 school year on December 9th. We had four wonderful speakers from different health and career fields. We encouraged all classes K-12 to attend. The first three presentations were focused more for Middle School and High School students.

Please feel free to reach out to the counseling department with any questions.



Autism Awareness

Cristina Welker, Special Education & Support Services Director



Autism Awareness highlights the need to help improve the quality of life of those with autism so they can lead full and meaningful lives as an integral part of society. This year's Special Education Department t-shirt was designed by Cynthia Brown, Ruby Special Education Teacher, to honor this ideal. *Thank you Cyndi!*

Happenings from the Office of State & Federal Programs

Melissa Davis,
Administrative Assistant,
State and Federal Programs

Season's Greetings from the State and Federal Programs Department! We have had a full and productive first quarter prepping STREAM night and PreK kits for classrooms. We are also proud to say that our students have been blasting through reading goals! Allakaket, Andrew K. Demoski, Johnny Oldman, Merrelaine A. Kangas, and Minto have all reached the one-million-word club. Minto and Johnny Oldman students have reached 6 million words!! Way to go students!

STREAM Nights

Here are a few pictures from the first quarter STREAM Nights!



STREAM Night literacy kits have been sent out to our river school sites. Our second quarter theme is Superheroes! Spaghetti and activities will be provided for STREAM night and each family will take home a Superhero Family Connection Kit including a chemistry set, games, watercolor art supplies, and literacy materials.

Second Quarter Dates:

- December 5th - Hughes
- December 6th - Huslia and Koyukuk
- December 8th - Allakaket, Ruby, and Kaltag
- December 14th - Nulato
- January 17th - Minto
- January TBD - Rampart



Migrant Education and Recruiting

The Migrant Education Program provides grant funds for school districts to help improve educational opportunities for migratory students. Our Migrant Education Recruiting has wound down for the fall season. We were happy to add several new families to our program. A big thank you to all our recruiters and families who took the time to complete the paperwork.

We will continue to recruit throughout the year and are looking forward to students receiving their literacy subscriptions. Please reach out if you know of any students who meet the following criteria: 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.

We appreciate your dedication in supporting our Migrant Students!

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

Kk'oleyo Hoffman ,
Native Language Coordinator

Our department organized a virtual Halloween parade in October. Several remote classroom sites and district staff participated.

Native language department staff recently travelled to Huslia and Minto to engage students and their families in language learning activities as well as individual and class portraits.

While in Huslia, we met with parents and community leaders and introduced ourselves to staff at the Huslia Tribe.

While in Minto, we happened to be there during operation Santa Claus where Salvation Army worked with Army National guardsmen to collect and deliver backpacks with presents inside to approximately 65 students. The community hosted a wonderful potluck lunch where we got to visit with many community members and Elders.

We are in the process of developing an interactive new card game for both Denaakk'e and Benhti Kenaga' based on berries and other food items. Staff met with Bertina Titus to capture audio of some of the Benhti terms, such as animal names, food items and other terms related to the card game.



The Technology Corner

Trevor Nickisch,
Technology Coordinator

In an era of easily obtainable information, the demand for sustainable technologies increases every day. It is important that we not only encourage our students to use it, but more importantly, that we prioritize proper and safe internet and technology habits.



Pro tip: Vigilance to ads



Recognizing a fake ad, or website. We've all seen ads and likely clicked on one or two. But is the redirect really safe? Number one is always trust your instincts. Malicious Adware can place viruses directly onto your computer or take you to a fake website. Cyber criminals tend to use spoof websites. Always check you are where you want to be before entering personal information. Ebay.com, facebook.com, youtube.com are examples of spoofed websites. A better method is right clicking an ad and copying the URL. Copy and paste the information at the link below Google will scan the link for you and check its validity. <https://transparencyreport.google.com/safe-browsing/search>.

Meet AK Grad's Newest Members!

Richard Wilkin,
AK Grad Online Teacher

Mrs. Vicky Charlie has joined the AK Grad team as our leader and top Administrator. She brings with her a plethora of leadership and experience. For the past two decades, she served as Principal of Minto School in Minto, Alaska. Prior to that, she was a teacher in Rampart School (Rampart, AK) and in Minto School. Mrs. Charlie oversees AK Grad and is focusing on ways to improve and expand the program. We welcome Mrs. Charlie to the team!



Mrs. Susan Erickson joins AK Grad as our registrar and also will be handling the billing for our program. She joins the AK Grad team after previously working for Raven Homeschool and YKSD in the Federal Programs Department where she served for ten years. Mrs. Erickson is working hard to streamline the registration process and help improve user experiences with the new AK Grad website.

Welcome aboard Mrs. Charlie and Mrs. Erickson!

The CTE Department Continues to Grow!

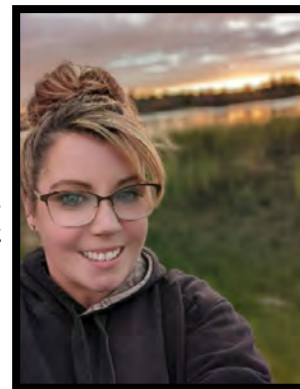
Patty Woody,
Career & Technical Ed
Assistant Director

The YKSD CTE Department continues to grow. We are excited to have Dave Foshee and Misty Posekany join our team.



Dave retired this spring from the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District as Assistant Principal for West Valley High School. He has many years' experience working with students, including working with students in rural Alaska. Dave is our new CTE Coordinator and manager for a couple of our grants. Dave has been a great addition to our team!

Misty has over 10 years' experience in business administration! She is currently the President of the North Pole Chamber of Commerce. Misty Posekany has only been with us a short while and is filling a huge need for us!



A big welcome to Misty and Dave!

Facilities & Maintenance

Ben McFarlane, Facilities and Maintenance Coordinator

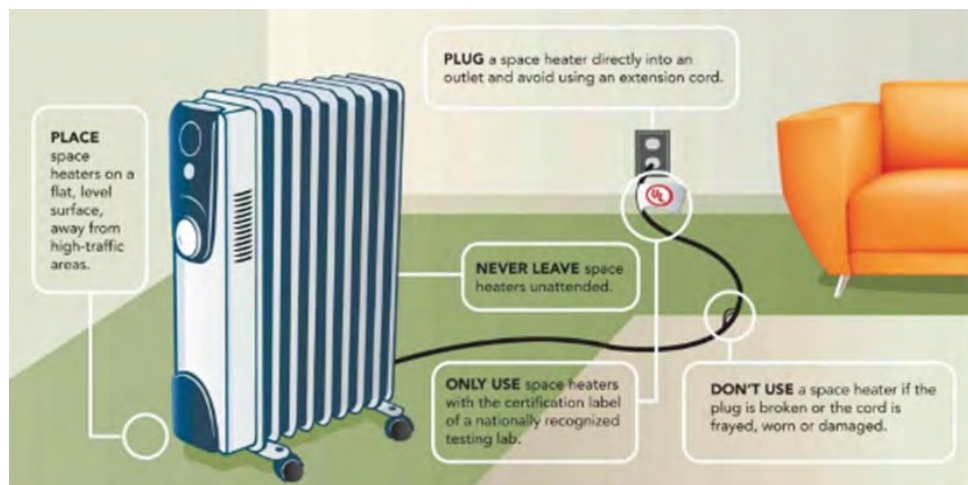
Heating Safety Tips

It may not come as a surprise that heating equipment is the leading cause of residential fires in Alaska. While I am certain everyone is anxious for warmer weather, I am afraid we are going to have to keep the heaters on for a while longer. If you use a wood stove in your home, check out the following safety tips from the Rural Fire Association of River Walls Wisconsin.

- Don't place the stove in an area of high traffic.
- Keep anything that can catch fire at least 36" from the stove.
- Don't dry clothing over the stove- clothes that can fall and ignite.
- Install your stove in accordance with local regulations and those suggested by the manufacturer.
- Ensure proper ventilation in the house.
- Avoid placing ashes near combustible materials before you are certain all burning embers are out.
- Inspect and clean the stove, chimney connector, and chimney at least once a year.
- Check twice monthly for creosote buildup in your chimney connector and chimney.
- Never use or store flammable liquids, especially gasoline, in the vicinity of the stove.
- Burn only seasoned wood. Green wood burns inefficiently and causes a buildup of creosote.
- Be aware of the dangers of CO poisoning, which can occur due to incomplete combustion in your wood stove, furnace, or appliances. CO detectors are available in stores.



Electric heaters account for a surprisingly large share of home heating fires. According to the National Fire Protection Association, between 2011 and 2015 portable and stationary space heaters were responsible for 43% of home heating fires and 85% of home heating fire deaths. If you use space heaters, make sure to check out the following graphic for safety tips from the Electrical Safety Foundation International.





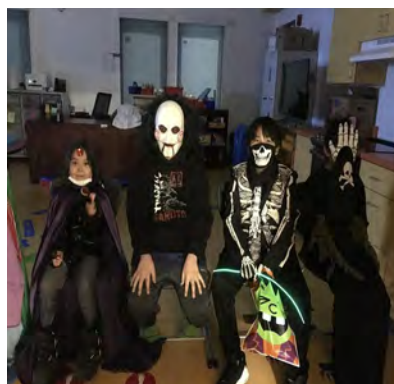
Allakaket School

Joshua Hatfield,
Principal & Teacher

The second quarter here in Allakaket has been a busy but exciting one. First, the Alaska State Troopers came out with their helicopter to deliver candy to students. Everyone was thrilled for the opportunity to be able to sit in the helicopter but maybe even more so the rescue basket. It was very nice of them to do this and we appreciate them very much for all their hard work.



Halloween Carnival was the same day, we had a great turn out and everyone received lots of candy and played lots of games. The BIG hit of the night was Ms. Beth's jail, it was non-stop entertainment.



Allakaket School continued

Joshua Hatfield,
Principal & Teacher

The K-2 and 3-5 classrooms collaborated to build haunted houses then created stories using them as the setting. The students worked together to create story outlines then the 3-5 students wrote the stories and the K-2 students illustrated them. It was great to see the kids use their imaginations and be creative building their houses then use their writing and illustrating skills to create their stories. The stories were made into books with each student getting a copy.



Stream Night with Sara Henderson, from the District Office, was a success. From making Bouncy Balls, T-Shirt Designs, School Motivational Poster, Hot Dogs and Nachos and of most importance everyone was excited about getting new books!

Do You Believe in Magic! Well after Mr. Brian Glow and his Anti-Bullying and Magic Show we sure do. What an amazing show and message that he had to share with us. All the students and community had a great time. It was really cool to see the students' faces and watch as they were amazed at all the tricks.



College Prep Camps with Chad Dyson and Coach Mo was a tremendous experience for all of our students. They worked on basketball fundamentals and team-building activities. Everyone learned something new, made improvements and had Fun!

And of course the students got out and enjoyed the snow. Some students got to enjoy spending time outside learning or training to ski. Amiya says "Peace Out"



During Ms. Holly's Native Language Class, Allakaket students learned how to weave place mats for thanksgiving. Using colored papers, glue and drawing materials, they were able to create beautiful place mats with everything they are thankful for. They also wrote Baasee' Eslaahn which means "Thank you so much" in Denaakk'e.



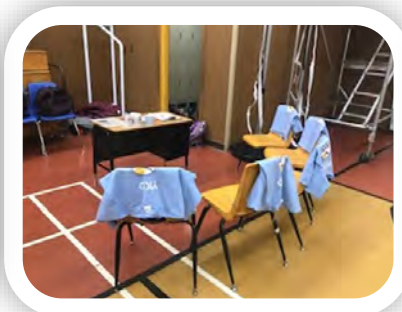
Ella B. Vernetti School

Stephanie Milner,
Principal/Teacher

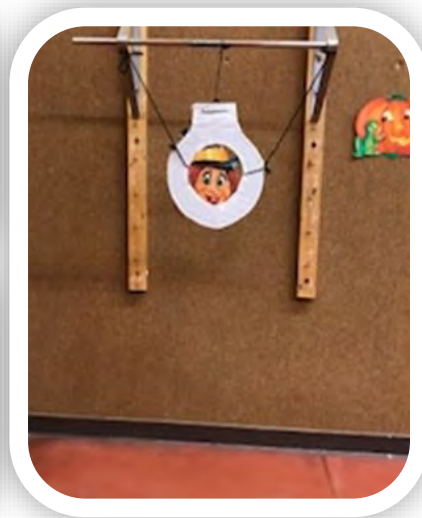
School Activities in Quarter 2!

Classrooms - Ms. Williams Primary K-3rd class and Ms. Milner's 4th-8th class have both been very busy, and enjoying a variety of activities throughout the quarter. Here are some highlight activities.

Stream Night took place October 25th. Students and families came out and enjoyed the various activities. They especially loved making the bouncy balls. What fun! We are looking forward to our December STREAM Night.



Halloween Carnival Fun - Our Halloween Carnival took place on October 27th. It was well attended. The games were fun and interactive. The Cake Walk is always a hit.



Anti-Bullying Magic Show - Brian Glow, Magician paid EBV School a visit on October 31st, 2022. He did a performance for students during the day. The message was overall one about how bullying affected his life and what students can do in order to recognize bullying, alert trusted adults and to break these patterns of behavior. In the evening Mr. Glow did a presentation to community members. Ms. Marie got to participate. Way to go Marie!





Kaltag School

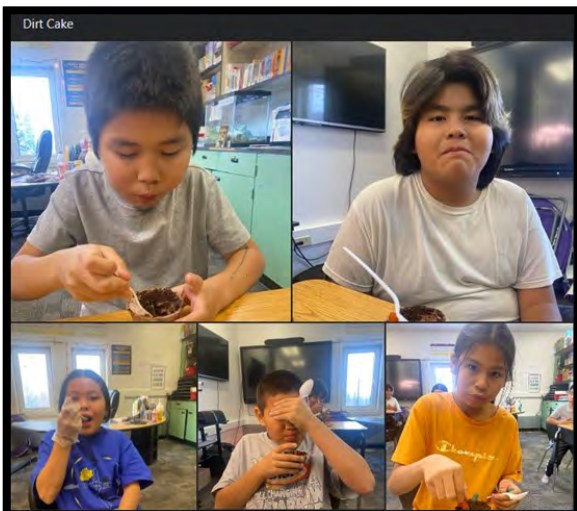
Kevin Matthews,
Principal/Teacher



Celebrating success! Some pizza... some ice cream sandwiches... and root beer... The second round of STAR Testing is done and our students are showing improvement.



Shana is doing great work with our kids. As a Para, she works with our students on literacy, and with Rural CAP she works with our students on after-school activities, like cross-country skiing.



Dirt Cake for Halloween.



Halloween is a big deal in Kaltag.

Kaltag School continued

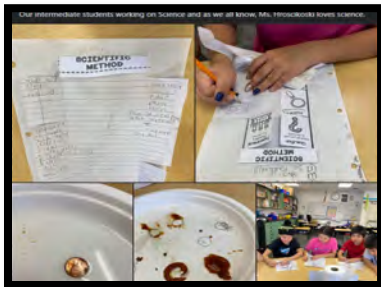
Kevin Matthews,
Principal/Teacher



All of our students were able to get in some CTE Time. Our 8th-grade students went to Nulato for a week and Larry Ehner and Stephanie Williams spent a week in Kaltag (plus a few extra days) working with our students, all of them.



Dancing with the Spirit - another great week.



Our Intermediate students working on Science and, as we know, Ms. Hroscikoski loves science.



Merry Christmas!

Literacy Night in Kaltag



Minto School

Mike Day, Principal

As a school we have read over 6.6 million words! The K-5th RTI groups have been formed and reformed using STAR Data, individual assessments, and teacher observations. The students come in excited to learn and can name the target(s) they are being taught.

Mrs. Washburn's Pre-School Happenings

Wow! We have been very busy these nine weeks. As a preschool class we have been learning the difference between a letter, number and word, our colors, shapes, and patterns. We were amazed by magic, had a great Thanksgiving, talked to Santa, and are making small gifts to give to loved ones. It is amazing how fast time is going. Have a Merry Christmas everyone!



building patterns,



finding a letter,



a number,



and a word



We learned a little magic,



had a great Thanksgiving



and Santa came to see us



Thanks Santa!



The elves are hard at work!

Minto School continued

Mike Day, Principal

Ms. Bjerke's Class Happenings

The K-2 class has had a busy couple of weeks! Operation Santa came and passed out presents and we got to watch helicopters circle the school! The students just finished up their personal narrative stories. We also entered the Gingerbread contest. We modeled our Gingerbread creation after the Minto Hall. The students worked really hard to make a festive replica of the hall.



Mrs. Wolfe's Class Happenings



We have had so many things going on, here in Minto. Bryan Glow came to visit and we really enjoyed his show and his message about "Speaking Out" against Bullying. We had an amazing surprise visit from Operation Santa the week of Thanksgiving, with Blackhawk Helicopters delivering Santa for a visit, including a community lunch and all you can eat ice cream thanks to Tasty Freeze. We have been studying body parts with Ms. Bertina in Behnti, where we have pictures of ourselves with Velcro dots to attach our body parts. We had a competition to see who matched up the body parts the fastest! We also had an animal drawing contest and 5 students won gift cards. We have been writing informational reports and studying hard! We are all looking forward to our Christmas Party and Winter Break!

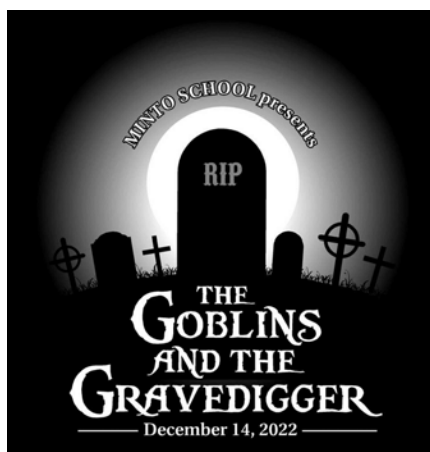


Minto School continued

Mike Day, Principal

Mrs. Bruno's Class Happenings

Students from Mrs. Bruno's Theater Class displayed their acting skills in "The Goblins and the Gravedigger" written by Charles Dickens. Two performances were presented on December 14, 2022 at 2:00 pm and 6:30 pm. In addition to performing, we had behind-the-scenes crews developing sets and sound bites. We wish you all could have joined us for this wonderful Christmas celebration.



Maudrey J. Sommer School

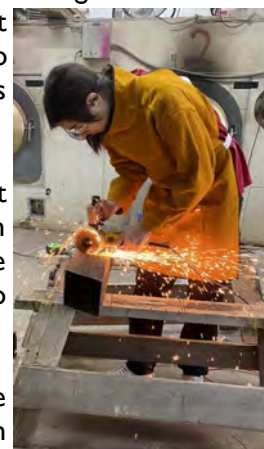
Therese Ashton, Principal

Since school began there 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.

Some highlights include the MJSS high school students learning how to weld with CTE instructor, Anthony Cavan. Simultaneously Anthony is working with MJSS teacher Arnold Marks, Jr so he can 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 week, I was able to present OSHA "10-hour Construction Safety and Health" cards to 10 high school students who completed the course taught by Mr. Cavan.

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.



Maudrey J. Sommer School continued

Therese Ashton, Principal

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.

We have had a number of unfortunate circumstances with two of the permanent teachers we hired for our elementary teacher position. Each had significant health conditions that made them unable to fulfill their contracts. Currently we have our 3rd long-term substitute in the classroom. Evelyn Willburn arrived just after Thanksgiving and will leave when the school closes for the winter break. Our new permanent teacher will arrive before the next semester begins in January. Third time's the charm!

Our Kindergarten-4th grade class started our villages holiday cheer by singing at the school on Thursday, December 15th. The program included the star of our show, all the young ones from our elementary grades who had been practicing for the 16th Annual Virtual Holiday Program on Dec. 16th. They did a dress rehearsal the day before the Virtual concert. Also included in the program were gifts of gloves from a grant written by Judy Gau, presentation of OSHA cards to the high school students, and a Doyon backpack filled with a project lead by Judy Kangas, our migrant recruiters (see bottom photo of students showing some gloves and painted trays). Last but not least, we had a visit from Santa himself who gave out a bag of treats to all the students as well as toddlers in the audience.

We wish all of you a Happy Christmas and a Merry New Year!



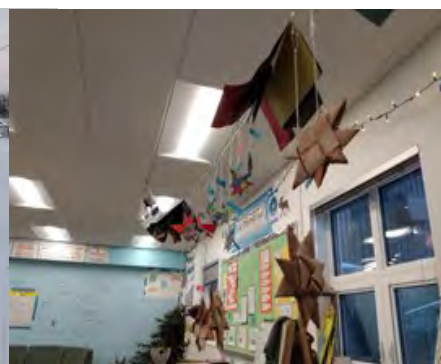
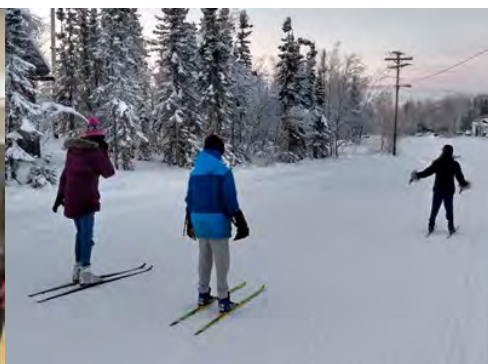
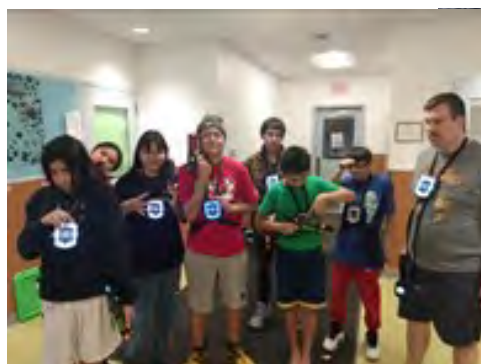


Jimmy Huntington School

YKSD

Keely O'Connell, Teacher

The seventh graders of Jimmy Huntington School have been busy trying new things this quarter. From learning to ski to crafting ornaments for sale at the Christmas bazaar, the kids have taken risks and learned from experience what works and what doesn't. Academically, the seventh grade class is excelling as well; they reached their first million words in AR on November 28th and celebrated with laser tag and an overnight at school. Additionally, as of the end of Quarter two, they have collectively reached mastery in ninety math skills in IXL and proficiency in more than 180.



Awards Assembly!

Casey Weter, Principal

December 14, 2022 we held our awards assembly for Jimmy Huntington students. Ciara Vent was recognized for her excellence by the regional school board. Along with Steven Swatling. Ashton Williams, Tyler Drotzur and Isaiah Esmaika-Farmer were recognized for completing the UAF BA F309 career explorers course semester 1.



Ciara Vent with her certificate of recognition.



Annette Moses and her K-1 students sang Jingle Bells in Denakke' and English and also the bells.



Mr. Whitaker's 2-3 class did a variation of 3 Little Pigs and the Wolf the Christmas carol version.



Mrs. Whitaker's 4th grade class did a play they created themselves, called "Mrs. Whitaker's Classroom"



Merrelaine A. Kangas School

Candis Gunn,
Principal & Teacher

The second quarter has been very busy for the Ruby Ravens. We have had several ESTEEM grant guests, such as Brian Glow, the magician, and Dancing with the Spirit. YKSD's CTE program hosted a Small Engine Repair course on our campus, as well. Our fledgling PTA hosted the Ruby Halloween Carnival which was a success. We had our STREAM night, where we passed out awards such as Student of the Month and Blooket and Flip Math champions. Lastly, we hosted a Spaghetti Dinner for Veterans Day, which was followed by our first NASP tournament. The kiddos had so much fun!



Raven Clubs: Painting by Chas Greenway



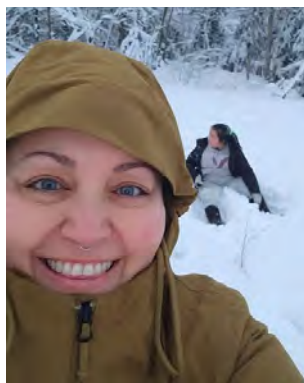
CTE Woodshop: Annessa Kangas designed and built this cutting board!



CTE: Small Engine Repair



NASP Coach S. Starr and helper J. Pulley cook for the Veterans Day Spaghetti Dinner and students Sidney McCarty and Steven Morgan serve it up!



Principal Gunn took the Secondary on a post-test walk!



Johnny Oldman School

Johnny Oldman Staff

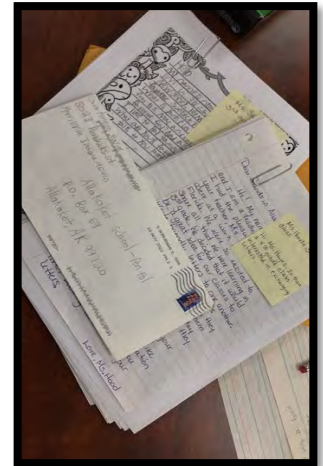
It's a time of celebrations at Johnny Oldman School. Over the last two months, we've invited the community into our school for Family Game Night on October 20th, STREAM night with Lisa Cavan on October 25th, the annual Halloween carnival on Saturday, October 29th, and our community Thanksgiving meal on Thursday, November 17th. Each event saw large turnouts and a great time was had by everyone there!

Mrs. Bellamy's class has had a unique project ongoing in their classroom, observing the lifecycle of a pumpkin as it decomposes and gives birth to a new pumpkin. But that's not all: students have also built their own robot circuits, created fictional maps with keys and directions, and wrote Spookley pumpkin stories!

In Mr. Bellamy's classroom, we held a solar system expo where each student created their own artistic interpretation of our eight planets and the sun (sorry, Pluto). We also investigated forensics science, analyzing impressions, thumb prints, and hair structure. A huge shoutout to Clayton Bergman and Holly Tritt, as well, who both have joined the "Million Words" Club by reading books and passing the related Accelerated Reader quizzes!

In our after school baking club, the students have made pancakes, pizza, and cinnamon rolls from scratch, while in our afterschool art club, the students painted and glazed turkeys for Thanksgiving. Then we baked treats for our Winter Bazaar at the school on December 3rd! Happy Holidays from all of the students and staff at Johnny Oldman School!

Ms. Hayes' pen pal friends in the lower 48 have been quite busy. We have received DOZENS of letters from students in pre-k through high school who want to "chat" with us!! Meet us every Thursday to write a letter or draw a picture and have a **snack** in PEN PALS Club!! Our first chat and chew was on December 8th.





Andrew K. Demoski School

Mary Ann Chapman,
Principal & Teacher

Andrew K. Demoski students have been quite busy since October. Our co-ed Junior High basketball team traveled to Galena and Huslia the first two weekends in November to start their season and ended at our home tournament here in Nulato. They finished the season strong going undefeated in the final tournament. Dr. Chapman filled in as their basketball coach for the season. During the final tournament, the Little Dribblers made their debut during halftime of the last game. Students in pre-K through 5th grade showed us their skills on the court and provided some fun entertainment.

The week of November 6th, Coach Al Sokaitis with Challenge Life spent several days talking with K-12 students in the classroom and on the basketball court. His focus was on students' mental and physical wellness while promoting an excellent lifestyle and presenting exciting learning opportunities for students. Coach Al's collegiate basketball experience allowed him to use the sport of basketball to reach students in a unique way. Challenge Life was made possible through the ESTEEM grant.



Junior High Basketball Team: L-R: Seth Chapman, Rylan Sommer, Jully Gingo, Cola Sipary, Trevon Madros, Aiyana Patsy, and Cassidy Ekada



Little Dribblers

Also during the week of November 6th, Dan Spillane with Arctic Technical Services provided a Toyo Stove Repair and Maintenance Workshop through our CTE department for interested high school students. Residents from the community were invited to bring their Toyo stoves down to the school's workshop to be serviced or repaired to ensure they were working properly for this winter season.

Our CTE department also sponsored a week-long basic electricity course for high school students beginning November 14th. Course instructor, Len Coursey with Garratt, LLC, spent the week in Nulato teaching students how to build open and closed circuits, which later led to the powering of light

bulbs and fans. The students also walked to the village power plant to learn how power is supplied to the entire village. Through all of these courses being offered through the CTE department, we have certainly found some very talented students!

With the help from YKSD, we were able to have a community-wide Thanksgiving feast before the holiday break. Thank you to our wonderful school district for providing all the turkeys and vegetables to host a wonderful lunch in the village. Guests brought additional covered dishes and desserts. We all enjoyed the wonderful fellowship around our thankful tables in our beautiful school.

Our students have reached over 5 million words read so far this year and still counting! Our K-5 students are working toward their reading goals to earn an ice cream party. Our secondary students are working toward their reading goals to earn a lock-in at the school, which Mrs. Deacon has so graciously agreed to chaperone! We will have to give her a special prize for agreeing to this lock-in!

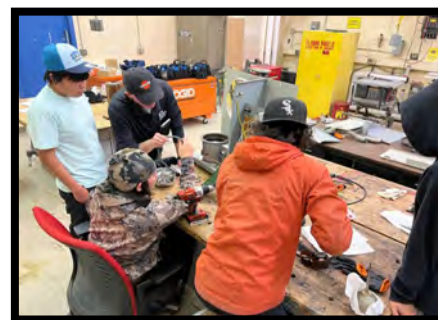
And finally, to wrap up this semester, YKSD held a virtual student and staff appreciation. Each site was able to share celebrations around their school with other students district-wide. We each had a turn at spinning the prize wheel to win some yummy prizes...Andrew K. Demoski School won root beer floats for the whole school!! We can't wait to enjoy such a special treat. Thank you YKSD for a great first semester!



Coach Al Sokaitis, Challenge Life



Len Coursey, Basic Electricity STIT



Dan Spillane, Toyo Stove Repair and Maintenance Workshop



Rampart School

Therese Ashton, Principal

Although Rampart went on a modified schedule during part of November and December due to issues with the sewer system we did get wonderful news from Superintendent Boyd that the Rampart School is #1 on the Capital Improvement Project at the state level. We are hopeful that the renovations will make the school safer and more secure for our students and staff. They all work so hard to keep this school running and the students learning.

There are some photos of students making parachutes during science class. We love our students being at school so they can do these hands-on projects. Students learn more when they can do something with their hands and it makes learning fun. (Photos from both events by Tim Main)

Teacher Joe Bifelt reported, "We had an Alyeska Christmas Celebration on December 1st. Santa and his elf flew in on the helicopter and brought gifts for the youth and food for the community. The students put up a tree and decorated the gym. It was a great opportunity for sharing laughs, gifts, goodies, and the result could be seen on the smiling faces of the kids. We would like to thank Alyeska for yet another year of bringing the holiday spirit to Rampart."



Happy Holidays from the students and staff of the Rampart School!





Raven Homeschool

Kim Bergey,
Raven Director

We would like to welcome all our new team members and new families!! Our Raven family continues to grow through the school year. Staff have completed multiple in-service days, learning ways that we can be more efficient with our tasks and ways that we can better serve our families.

Anchorage Raven Office

Our school year has been moving along quickly 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. High school students have been having meetings with our graduation coach to ensure they are on track for graduation.



Delta Raven Office



We hope you are enjoying the snow. It is definitely busy in our office. We have a great number of opportunities for families and students. Ryan has been to visit with our high school students multiple times. We have been doing workshops and field trips. We are excited about our Christmas stocking exchange.

Eagle River Raven Office



We have been enjoying all the snow. All of our clubs are active. It's so nice to see homeschool families having fun and connecting with one another. We have been skiing and really enjoy Lego club and music club. Our high school students have the opportunity to meet with Megan, our graduation coach.



Raven Homeschool continued

Kim Bergey,
Raven Director

Fairbanks Raven Office

Raven has been quite busy this quarter. We celebrated the holidays with games, food and fun. Families were able to show off their talents and make a little money at our Holiday Bazaar. Raven students have also had multiple opportunities to increase their learning. Students were able to tour the local Animal Hospital and learn about becoming a veterinarian. High school students have been able to learn about trapping and animal conservation while earning high school credits through our Trapping 101 course. Middle school students are improving their writing skills in our Making the Grade Class. Our Elementary students were able to learn more math skills while playing fun and engaging games in our Crazy 8's club.



Juneau Raven Office



This second quarter of the 22-23 school year has already been a busy one in our Juneau Raven office. We have welcomed many students in for clubs and activities. We continue to welcome parents to the Parent Advisory Council meetings to hear what opportunities they would like for their children.

Wasilla Raven Office

The Wasilla families have been able to enjoy more in person activities this year. We have been doing many things.... creating covered wagons as part of our Little House on the Prairie book club, getting together for cooking events and enjoying great food at geography club.



Santa Claus

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 Mrs. Claus
 naughty
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 Prancer
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 red suit
 reindeer
 rooftop
 Rudolph

Santa
 sleigh
 stockings
 toymaker
 Vixen
 workshop

