

Athabaskan Word of the Week, Saturday, May 19, 2012 (Susan Paskvan)



These last two weeks have been filled with activity in this joyful time of year. Last week, our youngest son, Adam “Nokenbaa” Paskvan, graduated from West Valley. It was bittersweet watching his last track meet. We look forward to having both our sons at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

To add to last weekend’s excitement, we met our niece Robin Chaney’s family from Dillingham as they celebrated her father Robin Samuelsen’s honorary doctorate degree from UAF. Her two blended families met for the first time at Dr. Samuelsen’s reception.

Now I am in Koyukuk for the promotion of two students: Morgan Nalauni Malemute’s promotion to first grade and Percy Lolnitz II’s promotion to high school. Congratulations to all the high school and college graduates and students who have been promoted to first grade and high school. May all the students have a safe enjoyable summer. Remember to read at least 20 minutes every day, get your exercise, and be helpful to your grandparents and elders. Challenge yourself to learn your language.

Boats were launched in Koyukuk on Tuesday — an exciting time of year.

Phrases: Hulookk’ut hoolaanh. It is spring.

Detlekts’e sozelts’eyh hulookk’ut hughunh. Everyone is happy for the spring.

Saakkaay sodelts’eyh. The kids are happy.