

# ATHABASCAN

word of the week

## Fun with water at -45 degrees

**W**hen the temperature dips to -45 degrees F, water can be a fun thing to play with. Once it gets to that temperature you can throw hot water up in the air, and by the time it reaches the ground the droplets are frozen icicles. It makes a steam-like curtain in the atmosphere. Another fun activity at -50 is making soap bubbles.

— Kjetil Jervsjø of Manley Hot Springs Gladys Dart School

### Vocabulary

**Hookk'utl:** It is very cold weather. There is a cold snap.

**Hudelzus:** There is ice fog.

**Zuhge k'ekk'utl no deelt'aa:** The camprobber is a sign of cold weather.

“Said when the camprobber sits with its feathers all fluffed out in the winter.” — Eliza Jones



Photo courtesy of Heidi Wright

**Ice fog forms at -50 degrees as a result of throwing water into the atmosphere during morning classes at Manley Hot Springs Gladys Dart School.**

The Athabascan Word of the Week appears every Saturday on page A3 of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. The words are provided by Susan “K’etsoo” Paskvan of Yukon-Koyukuk School District. She is originally from the village of Koyukuk on the Yukon River in Interior Alaska. She is Tleeyegge Hut’aane, which is Koyukon Athabascan. She seeks stories and phrases from both Denaakk’e (Koyukon Athabascan) and Denak’a (Lower Tanana Athabascan), which are languages spoken in the Yukon-Koyukuk School District region. Yukon-Koyukuk School District serves the villages of Allakaket, Hughes, Huslia, Koyukuk, Nulato, Kaltag, Ruby, Manley Hot Springs and Minto. The Board of Education places a priority on teaching the Native languages within the district.