



Courtesy Susan Paskvan

The Noolaaghe Doh Singers perform at the TCC After School Language and Culture Activities Conference at the Fairbanks Princess Riverside Lodge. Maurice McGinty said memorial songs aren't usually sung for entertainment, but he recognizes that the singing has been beneficial because the songs are being learned, and it is a positive activity for the youth. Paul Mountain, tribal administrator, said that the practice sessions keep expanding, and were recently attended by about 40 people.

Interior tribal leaders help promote language with after-school programs

The Tanana Chiefs Conference brought together 35 tribal members for a conference on the After School Language and Culture Activities Conference on March 1, in Fairbanks.

The tribal leaders from Interior Alaska are in the second year of a grant to provide after-school language and cultural activities. Some of the amazing activities include:

Arctic Village: Students were taken out caribou hunting. The students learned how to cut up the caribou and practiced naming the different parts in Gwich'in. They also learned which bones to use to make traditional tools.

Holy Cross: Students set a trapline for marten.

Koyukuk: Students just finished making canvas boots (kkaakene).

Fort Yukon: Students did a family tree with elders and have begun documenting the elders' stories. They also learned fiddling and Indian games.

Several villages are planning springtime activities, which include winter survival

ATHABASCAN

word of the week

camp, springtime games, snowshoeing, trapping and singing traditional songs.

I led the participants through a short immersion session about family and greetings. After the session, the participants stated that using games, gestures, repetition, competition, challenge and symbols helped them to learn the phrases. I pushed them further than their limits so they could feel empathy for their students who are learning.

On Thursday evenings Denaakk'e (Koyukon Athabaskan) classes are held at Yukon-Koyukuk School District offices in Fairbanks and Huslia. About 18 people from four generations attended Thursday over video-conference. At the end of class, I demonstrated how MP3 sound files can be imported into iTunes then synced with iPads or iPods. The students demonstrated these to their parents and grandparents.

Phrases:

Eenaa'e ____ be'ooze'.
My mom's name is _____.

Eetaa'e ____ be'ooze'.
My dad's name is _____.

Sode kkaa ____ ye? ____ ye? heelaanh.
My older sister's are ____ and ____.

The Athabaskan Word of the Week appears is 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 Athabaskan. She seeks stories and phrases from both Denaakk'e (Koyukon Athabaskan) and Denak'a (Lower Tanana Athabaskan), 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.