



October 2024

Yukon-Koyukuk School District Connections

Superintendent Boyd

Congratulations to Our New and Returning School Board Members

Please join me in congratulating our newly elected and returning YKSD Regional School Board Members, following the official results on October 18, 2024:

- Ruth Folger, Chair – Minto
- Marie Dayton, Vice Chair – Koyukuk
- Leona Starr, Treasurer – Huslia
- Jeanette Williams – Huslia
- Carla Dick – Minto
- Maurice McGinty – Nulato
- Shirley Kruger – Nulato
- Liisia Edwardsen – Tanana
- Fred Bifelt – Huslia

I also extend my deepest gratitude to our outgoing board members, Anne Titus, from Ruby and Pete Anderson from Minto, for their dedicated service and advocacy on behalf of our students. Their commitment has been invaluable.

Tanana City School District Transition to YKSD

A heartfelt thank you to the Tanana City School District Board Members for their tireless efforts during the district's transition to YKSD, which officially took place in July 2024. Your hard work and dedication have been instrumental in ensuring a smooth process.

Tanana City School Board members included:

- Liisia Edwardsen, Chair
- Theresa Marks, Secretary/Treasurer
- Cynthia Johnson, Member
- Phyllis Erhart, Member
- Theresa Marks, Member

CSC Members- Thank you!

Thank you to every CSC Member who has volunteered to serve as the voice for the school. YKSD has CSC members at every school.

Congratulations to the Area Wide Student Council Officers

Student council has almost 30 members from around the district and the four students below lead the student body and report out to the YKSD Regional School Board for each board meeting.

- Ciara Vent, President
- Serenity Bifelt, Vice-president
- Trinity Kozevnikoff, Secretary
- Carmen Vent, Treasurer

Exciting Construction Updates

Superintendent Boyd

We are thrilled to announce that the **Rampart School Construction** project will commence in spring 2025, following the acquisition of a nearly \$10 million grant for renovations.

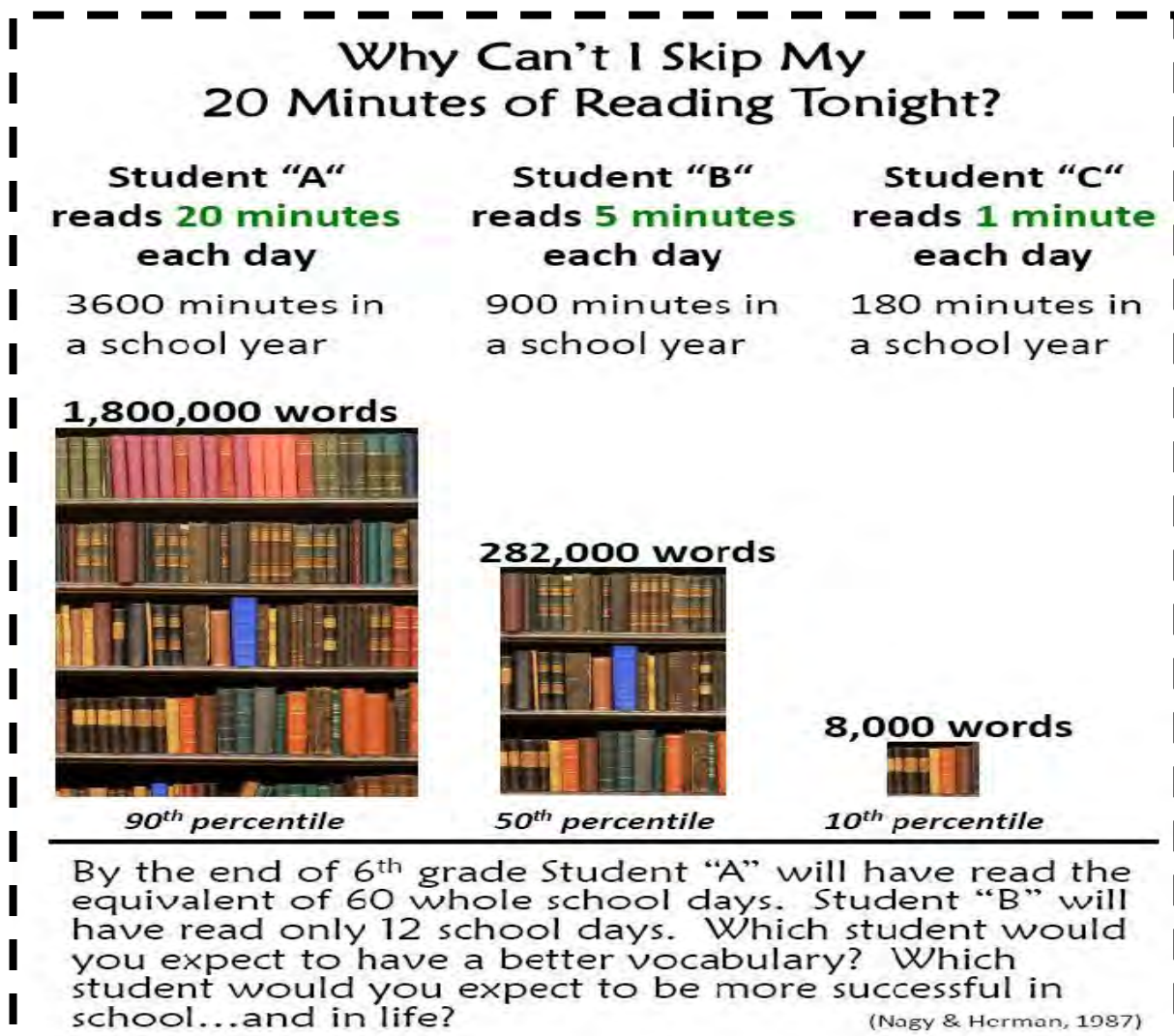
Additionally, we anticipate the completion of the **Minto New School Construction** project by November 2024, alongside the new **District Career Technical Education Building** in Fairbanks. This state-of-the-art facility will include a 26-bed dormitory for short stays.

2025-2026 School Calendar Review

Superintendent Boyd

Included in this newsletter is the first draft of the school calendar (page 3). Your feedback is crucial as we finalize important dates such as holidays, subsistence days, and the first and last days of school. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your school principal or the district office to share your input or for more information.

Thank you once again for your continued support and enjoy all the great submissions about our wonderful students in Yukon Koyukuk School District.



2025-2026 Draft School Calendar

Board Reviewed 10/16/24

YKSD DRAFT SCHOOL CALENDAR

July 2025						
SU	M	T	W	T	F	SA
		1	2	3	4 H	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST 2025						
SU	M	T	W	T	F	SA
					1	2
3	4 (P)	5 (P)	6 (P)	7 (NT)	8 (NT)	9
10	11 (W/I)	12 (W/I)	13 (W/I)	14 (O)	15 X	16
17	18 X	19 X	20 X	21 X	22 X	23
24	25 X	26 X	27 X	28 X	29 X	30
31						

SEPTEMBER 2025						
SU	M	T	W	T	F	SA
	1 (H)	2 X	3 X	4 X	5 (S)	6
7	8 X	9 X	10 X	11 X	12 (S)	13
14	15 (S)	16 X	17 X	18 X	19 (MQ)	20
21	22 X	23 X	24 X	25 X	26 X	27 (P)
28	29 (W/I)	30 (T)				

OCTOBER 2025						
SU	M	T	W	T	F	SA
			1 (T)	2 (T)	3 (W/I)	4
5	6 X	7 X	8 X	9 X	10 X	11 (P)
12	13 X	14 X	15 X	16 X	17 (E)	18
19	20 X	21 X	22 X	23 X	24 X	25
26	27 X	28 X	29 X	30 X	31 X	

NOVEMBER 2025						
SU	M	T	W	T	F	SA
						1
2	3 X	4 X	5 X	6 X	7 X	8 (P)
9	10 X	11 X	12 X	13 X	14 (MQ)	15
16	17 X	18 X	19 X	20 X	21 X	22
23	24 X	25 X	26 X	27 (H)	28 (H)	29
30						

DECEMBER 2025						
SU	M	T	W	T	F	SA
	1 X	2 X	3 X	4 X	5 X	6 (P)
7	8 X	9 X	10 X	11 X	12 X	13
14	15 X	16 X	17 X	18 X	19 (EO)	20
21	22 (V)	23 (V)	24 (V)	25 (H)	26 (V)	27
28	29 (V)	30 (V)	31 (V)			

JANUARY 2026						
SU	M	T	W	T	F	SA
				1 (H)	2 (V)	3
4	5 (V)	6 (O)	7 X	8 X	9 X	10
11	12 X	13 X	14 X	15 X	16 X	17
18	19 X	20 X	21 X	22 X	23 X	24 (P)
25	26 X	27 X	28 X	29 X	30 X	31

FEBRUARY 2026						
SU	M	T	W	T	F	SA
1	2 X	3 X	4 X	5 X	6 (MQ)	7
8	9 X	10 X	11 X	12 X	13 X	14
15	16 (V)	17 X	18 X	19 X	20 X	21 (P)
22	23 X	24 X	25 X	26 X	27 X	28

MARCH 2026						
SU	M	T	W	T	F	SA
1	2 X	3 X	4 X	5 X	6 (E)	7
8	9 (V)	10 (V)	11 (V)	12 (V)	13 (V)	14
15	16 X	17 X	18 X	19 X	20 X	21 (P)
22	23 X	24 X	25 (PT/EO)	26 X	27 X	28
29	30 X	31 X				

APRIL 2026						
SU	M	T	W	T	F	SA
			1 X	2 X	3 X	4
5	6 X	7 X	8 X	9 X	10 X	11
12	13 X	14 X	15 X	16 X	17 (MQ)	18
19	20 X	21 X	22 X	23 X	24 X	25 (P)
26	27 X	28 X	29 X	30 X		

MAY 2026						
SU	M	T	W	T	F	SA
					1 X	2
3	4 X	5 X	6 X	7 X	8 X	9
10	11 X	12 X	13 X	14 X	15 X	16
17	18 X	19 X	20 X	21 X	22 (C)	23 (W)
24	25 (H)	26 (P)	27 (P)	28 (P)	29 (P)	30
31						

June 2026						
SU	M	T	W	T	F	SA
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

- (P) Principals Workday (tentative dates)
 (NT) New Teacher
 (O) School Opens- First Student Day
 (T) Inservice Days
 (V) Vacation Days
 (W) Work Days (no students)
 (H) School Holidays
 (E) End of Quarter-Early Dismissal for Students/Report Cards
 (MQ) Mid-Quarter
 (PT/EO) Parent Teacher Conf.-Early Dismissal for Students
 (C) School Closes/ Report Cards
 (EO) Early Out
 (S) Subsistence Day (Vacation Day)
 X All other days to count for staff and students
 Testing
 (W/I) 1/2 Workday, 1/2 Inservice

- AUGUST**
 6, 7, 8 Principal In-service
 11, 12 New Teacher In-service
 13, 14, 15, 18 Work Days
 13, 14, 15, 18 In-Service
 19 School Opens

- SEPTEMBER**
 1 Holiday - Labor Day
 5, 12, 15 Subsistence/Vacation Day
 19 Mid-1st Quarter
 20 Principal Work Day
 29 Work Days
 29, 30 In-Service

- OCTOBER**
 1, 2 In-Service
 3 Work Days
 11, 12 Principal Work Day
 17 End of 1st Quarter
 29 P/T Conference 1/2 day

- NOVEMBER**
 8 Principal Work Day
 14 Mid-2nd Quarter
 26 Vacation
 27, 28 Holiday - Thanksgiving

- DECEMBER**
 6 Principal Work Day
 19 End of Semester
 22-31 Vacation Days
 25 Holiday - Christmas

- JANUARY**
 1 Holiday - New Years
 2 Vacation Day
 5 In-Service
 6 School Opens
 24-25 Principal Work Day

- FEBRUARY**
 8 Mid-3rd Quarter
 16 Vacation
 21 Principal Work Day

- MARCH**
 8 End of 3rd Quarter
 9-13 Spring Break
 21 Principal Work Day
 25 P/T Conference 1/2 day

- APRIL**
 17 Mid-4th Quarter
 25 Principal Work Day

- MAY**
 21 School Closes
 22 Work Day
 23 Principal Work Day
 25 Memorial Day
 26-28 Principal Work Day

YKSD Regional School Board Recognition

Launa Madros, Board Secretary

The Yukon-Koyukuk Regional School Board recognizes excellence in staff and students at each meeting. Congratulation! We hope that you will continue to strive to meet your goals and continue to be an excellent role model for your peers.

Staff Winners



Mark Weaver
Cook
Merrelaine A. Kangas School
Ruby



Erika Jones
Teacher
Raven Homeschool
Anchorage

Staff Nominees

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

Philip Crosby: *Teacher, Kaltag School, Kaltag*

Jeff Healy: *Teacher, Andrew K. Demoski School, Nulato*

Jacqueline Morgan: *Sped Aide, Merrelaine A. Kangas School, Ruby*

Robert Pilot: *Teacher Aide, Ella B. Verneti School, Koyukuk*

Derek Whitaker, *Teacher, Jimmy Huntington School, Huslia*

YKSD Regional School Board Recognition

Launa Madros, Board Secretary

The following students have been recognized for their outstanding achievements this school year.

Student Winners



Scott Golilie
Grade 12
Andrew K. Demoski School
Nulato



Emerson Reed
Grade 4
Raven Homeschool
Delta

Student Nominees

***Kambria Dayton**, Grade 3, Jimmy Huntington School, Huslia*

***Shaylee Dayton**: Grade 4, Ella B. Verneti School, Koyukuk*

***Alvin Esmailka**: Grade 3, Kaltag School, Kaltag*

***Rayleen Horner**: Grade 4, Johnny Oldman School, Hughes*

***Maverick Vent**, Grade 9, Jimmy Huntington School, Huslia*



Teaching & Learning Department

Patty White,
Assistant Superintendent

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.

We will also continue our instructional goal focused on Mathematics Mastery. Our goal is that every student will master foundational math skills by sixth grade. We have two Math Specialists, Chuck Backe and Bev Kokrine, ready to help support this goal and our teachers and students.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences: October 30, 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.

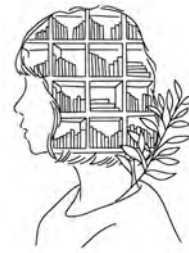


The Teaching & Learning department is excited to welcome Bev Kokrine as our New Math Specialist! We are thrilled to have her join YKSD and know she will bring her expertise, experience, and passion for mathematics education to our schools!

Teaching & Learning Department continued

Patty White,
Assistant Superintendent

COMING
SOON
*Professional Development
Libraries!*



We are pleased to announce a new initiative to support the continual professional development of our educators! Each school will soon have its very own Professional Development Library, offering a diverse collection of books aimed at enhancing teaching skills, knowledge, and inspiration.

Teachers are encouraged to explore the library, borrow books, and return them once finished - with any notes or insights added, if you'd like! This is a fantastic way to share ideas and strategies that have been helpful. You are also welcome to contribute to the library by adding books you feel would benefit your colleagues.

Let's create a community of shared learning and growth! Happy reading!



Facilities & Maintenance Department

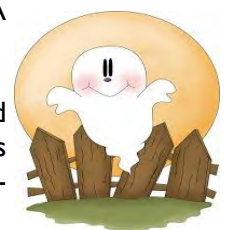
Gale Bourne, Facilities &
Maintenance Director

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.





Brad Kennon,
Technology Director

Staying Informed with Synergy

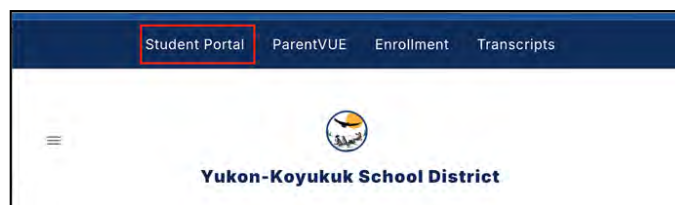
Parents and Students: Keep Track of Grades and Attendance.

With technology at your fingertips, staying on top of academic progress has never been simpler. Students now have easy one-click access to grades through the **ClassLink Launchpad**, while parents can download the **ParentVUE app** to monitor their student's grades and attendance.

For Students: Check Your Grades with Ease

Staying up-to-date with your grades is crucial for academic success. Here's a simple guide to checking your grades using the ClassLink Launchpad:

1. **Go to the Student Portal** on our homepage: www.yksd.com



2. **Log in to your account** using your student credentials.
3. In your **ClassLink Launchpad**, click on the **Synergy** icon.



4. View your grades and other important academic information directly!

Make sure to check regularly, so you stay informed about your progress and can tackle assignments on time.

Staying Informed with Synergy continued

Brad Kennon,
Technology Director

For Parents: Access Grades and Attendance Anywhere with the ParentVUE App

Parents, being informed is key to supporting your child's education. With the **ParentVUE app**, you can track grades, attendance, and assignments effortlessly. Here's how to get started:

1. Download the **ParentVUE app** from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#)



2. Enter your Zip code to find **Yukon-Koyukuk School District**.
3. Select our district and log in using the credentials you used during your child's enrollment.
4. Once logged in, you can view real-time information on grades, assignments, and attendance for each of your children.

The app makes it easy to stay engaged and keep an eye on academic progress—all from your phone or tablet!

Tips for Parents and Students

- **Set Reminders:** Encourage students to check grades weekly and address any missing assignments.
- **Ask for Help:** If you or your child are unsure how to access the portal or app please ask for help.

More Information can be found on our website!



Business Office Welcomes New Members

Jarrett Roethke,
Chief Financial Officer



Benjamin McFarlane has worked with the Yukon Koyukuk School District for the past 10 years. This summer he joined the Business Office as the Controller. Ben completed his bachelor's degree in mathematics at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He is excited to be part of the business office team and to be involved with the Raven Homeschool correspondence program. Outside of work, Ben & his wife stay busy raising their three children. Their favorite activities include camping, fishing, playing sports and cross-country skiing.

Hello, my name is Amy Steveson. I was born in Montpelier, Vermont. At the age of eight, my family and I moved to Hoonah, Alaska. I spent my first few years living on a farm just outside of Hoonah, before moving into town as senior in high school.

This is where I met my wonderful husband and raised my three amazing daughters. I spent the last 14 years working for the Hoonah City School District first as the District Office/Board secretary and then as the business manager.

After our youngest daughter graduated high school, my husband and I decided to make a change and move up to Fairbanks where our two oldest daughters were living. I am so excited to start my new journey with the Yukon-Koyukuk School District and in Fairbanks, AK.



Matumelo Wilkin is new to the Yukon Koyukuk School District. She is proudly South African! She completed her Bachelor's degree in International Business Management at The University of Nottingham (Ningbo, China campus). She next ventured to Edinburgh, Scotland and completed her masters in International Development where her thesis examined the efficacy of using CTE to overhaul the South African educational system and increase the rate of development in post-apartheid South Africa. In addition to English, Matumelo speaks nine other languages including Sepedi, isiZulu, and Mandarin. Matumelo is married to Richard Wilkin III who has worked for the district for 6 years and they are raising 3 kids including two hockey playing rink rats and a quadrilingual polyglot who speaks four languages. Matumelo and her family loves traveling, learning about new cultures, experiencing different foods, and running.

Special Education & Student Services

Derek Coryell,
Assistant Director

The Special Education Department is Ready, Willing and Able to help you and your student!

- Director, Cristina Welker 907-374-9430
- Assistant Director, Derek Coryell 907-374-9456

Welcome new families! If you are new or are returning to the district, please feel free to reach out to discuss your child's needs and services for the school year.



This year we are pleased to welcome a few new Special Education Teachers to our Department including a full-time position in Koyukuk. New Special Education Teachers include the following:

- Noah Graham, Andrew K. Demoski
- Kathy Abrams, Ella B. Vernetti
- Joe Cannone, Kaltag
- Shannon Tvrz, Merraline A. Kangas
- Sharon Chevalier, Raven Eagle River



Child Find



Parents: If you think that your child may have problems with communication, learning, or skill development, contact the Yukon-Koyukuk School District Child Find Coordinator, Derek Coryell, at (907) 374-9456, to schedule a pre-referral conference, or if you are part of Raven, to help refer you to the Special Education Department in your community school district.

Resources:

Each year, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) helps hundreds of Alaskans with disabilities prepare for, get and keep good jobs. If you want to work or keep working and have a physical, intellectual or mental condition that makes this hard, you may be eligible for vocational rehabilitation (VR) services.

Link: [Alaska DVR](#)

The Tanana Chiefs Conference Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program (TCC TVR) provides assistance to advance vocational opportunities for individuals with disabilities that enrich tribal, cultural, and traditional values which promote independence and self-determined quality of life. We help people with disabilities find jobs and improve their quality of life. Link: [Tanana Chiefs TVR](#)



Counselor Corner

Kela Gillihan, Counselor

We are excited to announce Red Ribbon Week will be October 21st-25th. The Area-Wide Student Council has 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 Life is a Movie, Film Drug Free. We want to encourage each student to celebrate their life by living it drug free!

Red Ribbon Week

Life is a Movie, Film Drug Free®

October 21th-25th, 2024

Dress-Up Days

Monday-Adam Sandler Day

Act Cool! Say no to drugs!

Wear appropriate baggy shirts and baggy shorts.

Tuesday-Twin Day

Be a good friend and help others stay away from drugs!

Dress the same as someone else or match with someone.

Wednesday-Anything But a Backpack

Anything but drugs!

Use anything but a backpack to bring your school work to school.

Thursday-Reverse Day

Flip the Script, Be Drug Free!

Students dress as the teachers and teachers dress as the students.

Friday-School Pride

Our School Chooses to be Drug Free!

Wear your school/community shirt or school colors.

Counselor Corner

The Counseling Team

The YKSD Counseling Team hit the ground running at the start of the school year, making significant progress with two new systems. In early August, we introduced the new Student Information System, ****Synergy****, to help us efficiently build classes for teachers and place students accordingly. In addition, we implemented ****Edmentum (Courseware)****, an online platform for online class setup and student enrollment. Although we are still learning the ins and outs of both systems, we have successfully completed the initial stages of setup.

Area-Wide Student Council

Kela Gillihan, Counselor

The Area-Wide Student Council has begun for the 24-25 school year. We are entering our 16th year with the district wide student council. Each year we keep growing and students are interested in more leadership opportunities. Student representatives give site reports each month on what has been taking place at each school and in each community. Students also have the opportunity to speak with board members, attend leadership conferences, and plan district wide events and school challenges. We were able to elect new officer positions for the new school year, with **Ciara Vent** as President, **Serenity Bifelt** as Vice-President, **Trinity Kozevnikoff** as Secretary, and **Carmen Vent** as Treasurer. We have multiple students from all of our school sites participating this year in the student council. These leaders are very involved in their schools and looking forward to different opportunities for them to enhance and develop their leadership skills.



SENIOR CLASS OVERVIEW

Andrew K Demoski, Nulato: 4
Jimmy Huntington School, Huslia: 5
Johnny Oldman School, Hughes: 1
Kaltag School: 3

Maudrey J. Sommer School, Tanana: 1
Minto School: 2
Rampart School: 2



We are working closely with these students to ensure they are on track for graduation and exploring post-secondary opportunities



Counseling Team

\$ ALASKA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP (APS) UPDATES \$

This year, the **Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS)** has seen several changes that benefit our students. The state of Alaska has increased the award amounts, made SAT/ACT test scores optional, and introduced a new minimum qualifying GPA. These changes create more opportunities for students to qualify and make higher education more accessible.

For further details on the APS, visit the [Alaska Performance Scholarship webpage] (<https://acpe.alaska.gov/financial-aid/ak-performance-scholarship>).

For more information on Scholarships, click the links below:

Scholarships.com

<https://www.scholarships.com/scholarships/ge-reagan-foundation-scholarship-program>

YKSD Scholarship Link

<https://www.yksd.com/o/yksd/page/scholarships-opportunities>

UPCOMING TESTS AND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

We are in the process of scheduling both the **ACT** and **Work Keys** tests for our juniors and seniors. These tests will help improve student eligibility for various scholarships & discover workplace skills. In addition, seniors have been notified about the importance of completing the **FAFSA** and applying for all available scholarship opportunities. Our team is assisting them in navigating these essential steps to secure financial aid for college. FAFSA link: <https://studentaid.gov/>

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES AND CAREER FAIR

On September 27, we hosted our first **Healthy Lifestyles and Career Fair**, which was a great success. **Joel Johnson**, a realtor from Fairbanks, spoke to students about pursuing a career in real estate, offering insights on how to enter the field and how realtors make a living. The session was both informative and inspiring for students interested in real estate careers.

Additionally, the **Public Health Nursing** team gave a critical presentation on the risks of **vaping**, addressing student health concerns. Our elementary students also enjoyed an **introductory career presentation**, encouraging early exploration of future career paths.

Educators Rising

Ta'Shona Hayes,
Special Education Teacher

Our district boasts five chapters of the Educators Rising Alaska Organization. Thirteen student participants engaged in virtual competitions held on February 12th-13th. Following this, these students attended the Statewide Leadership Conference in Juneau on February 22nd-23rd, hosted at The University of Alaska Southeast. During the conference, they took part in various breakout sessions covering leadership, education, Alaska Native Knowledge, lesson planning, and more. Additionally, they had the opportunity to tour the university and its residence halls.

Special recognition goes to MacKenzie Rustad and Clayton Bergman, students at Johnny Oldman School, who excelled as authors and illustrators. Their dedication resulted in securing 3rd PLACE statewide in the Children's Literature K-3 division for their original book, "The Most Beautiful Dog in the World."

Congratulations to all participating students!

We invite students to join their school's Educator's Rising chapter for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year.

Our Career and Technical Education department works diligently to ensure students have many opportunities to explore various careers, trades and skill development.



**EDUCATORS
RISING
ALASKA**

CTE News

Courtney Agnes,
Training & Support Specialist

We are thrilled to welcome several new members to our team! Please join us in extending a warm welcome to:



*Haley Andrews,
CTE Instructor Specialist*



*Courtney Agnes,
Training & Support Specialist*



*Carla Saunders,
CTE Residence Facilitator*



*Truly Steckel,
CTE Facilitator/Paraprofessional*

As we kick off an exciting school year, our teachers have been busy traveling and teaching in key areas such as Welding, Construction, Career Explorers and Small Engines.



What's Happening???

- **EXCEL Program:** Our students attended the EXCEL Program in Anchorage from September 26th to October 7th.
- **SKILLS USA:** We held a Skills event, which took place from October 7th to 11th.

Department Updates: We're pleased to report that construction is progressing well on the new YKSD CTE dorms, and we can't wait to see the final results!

Teacher and Staff Recognition: A big thank you to our dedicated instructors who have been working hard to ensure our students receive top-notch instruction and support. Your efforts make a significant impact!

Interesting Trivia: Did you know that the skills learned in our CTE programs can lead to immediate job opportunities in high-demand fields?

Stay tuned for more updates, photos from our events, and important reporting deadlines. Let's make this school year a fantastic one!

Warm regards,
YKSD CTE Department

State & Federal Programs

Rachel Spencer,
Administrative Assistant

Migrant Education

Migrant Education recruiting is in full swing! YKSD MEP recruiters are available to interview your family either in your home, at the school, or over the phone. Our Migrant Education Recruiters are Sara Henderson, Chris Carlson, Arne Erickson, Libby Graves, and Rachel Spencer.

We don't want any qualifying students to miss out on this great opportunity for educational support. Please reach out if you know of any youth who meet the following criteria: a family within the district must make an economic "move" (outing) for at least 7 nights and 8 days over the period of a year. Also, families must travel over 20 miles and participate in fishing, berry picking, or logging.

The Migrant Education Program provides funds for school districts to help improve educational opportunities for migratory students. Our MEP participants receive essential winter gear, books, tutoring, and many other services. Should you have questions, please email Rachel Spencer at rspencer@yksd.com.

We appreciate your dedication in supporting our Migrant Students!



Literacy Corner:

Kristi Burns, State & Federal Programs
Assistant Director

Supporting Your Child's Reading Journey

Migrant Families: Keep an eye on your mailbox! Soon, your family will receive two informative flyers and a book about local plants and their benefits—an engaging way to explore nature through reading.

Lovin' Literacy Newsletter: Your child should have brought home a copy of *Lovin' Literacy*! This newsletter offers helpful tips, reading activities, and ideas to support your child's literacy development. Be sure to review it together and try some of the activities at home!

DIBELS Test Results: All K-5 students have completed the DIBELS literacy assessment. If your child scored below proficient, the school should have already reached out to schedule a parent meeting. Classroom interventions are underway to provide targeted support and help your child grow.

After-School Tutoring: Each school is offering after-school tutoring sessions to further support student learning. If you are interested in enrolling your child, contact their teacher for more information and availability.

Access eBooks with Sora: Don't forget to use the Sora app for online reading! This platform offers a wide selection of eBooks that the whole family can enjoy. If there's a specific book you'd like or if you need ideas for literacy activities, feel free to reach out to Kristi Burns at kburns@yksd.com for assistance.

These resources are here to empower students and families—make sure to take full advantage of the opportunities available!



YKSD Grow Your Own Programs Expand

Arne Erickson, Teacher Retention Coordinator & David Foshee CTE Project Coordinator

The YKSD has two programs targeted at recruiting, developing and retaining local talent to fill teaching positions in the River Schools. One is focused on Jr. High & High School students and the other is designed for Paraprofessionals & other High School graduates. Both programs have seen a growth in participation and interest this year.

EdRising, headed by Dave Foshee, is focused on Jr. High & High School Students. Students may travel & participate in statewide activities to experience and learn different aspects of teaching by joining the EdRising club. Last year the team from Hughes placed 3rd in the children's book competition, and recently Savannah Overbay was appointed to the statewide EdRising student leadership board. Two students in Huslia and one in Hughes are taking dual enrollment education courses through Chadron State University and working as teacher pre-apprentices. Students may also apply for a tour of the Chadron State College campus in Northwest Nebraska to see the school in person. Last April 6 YKSD River School Students visited Chadron. For more information contact Dave Foshee (dfoshee@yksd.com).



ASTAR, headed by Arne Erickson (aerickson@yksd.com) is designed for paraprofessionals working for YKSD or other high school graduates interested in earning an Alaska Teacher's Certification for work in the River Schools. This tremendous opportunity to increase your earning potential is paid through a federal grant. YKSD has a memorandum of understanding with Chadron State College's para to teacher program in which all education expenses not covered by Federal financial aid are paid through the ASTAR grant. Since the program started in January of 2024, ten paraprofessionals in the district have taken steps to begin or continue their post-secondary education towards earning a teacher certification. Three paraprofessionals accompanied the students to Chadron State College as chaperones and met the Chadron education school faculty in person. All Chadron courses can be taken online, so persons in the program don't need to leave home, give up jobs, or interrupt their subsistence activities in order to earn a teaching credential. For more information contact Arne Erickson (aerickson@yksd.com).

YKSD Class of 2024 Student Spotlights

Andrea Nield, State & Federal
Programs Assistant Director

Stuart Wholecheese, Interviewed in September.



Stuart is part of the graduating Class of 2024, from Allakaket. He is currently enrolled in 13 credits at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado which is a 4-year college, his declared major is Mechanical Engineering. So far Stuart's favorite class is calculus because it is easy, and he enjoys math. His least favorite class is macroeconomics due to the number of tests each week. Some of the things he likes to do for fun on campus is play basketball, workout at the gym and he recently got into skateboarding. Stuart made his decision to attend Durango after a college visit with the Gathering of Nations trip provided by the ESTEEM grant. He says he liked how beautiful the campus was, with a nice town below and the weather was not too hot. He also liked that the smaller class sizes and he noticed that a lot of Alaska students were there as well. What he likes most is meeting students from all over the country, the teachers are very nice, they go into detail and take the time to get to know him as a student. Stuarts advice for current high school students is to make sure you work hard and turn in your homework because in college you have about 15 pieces of homework per week. Also to be dedicated to school but also to make time to have fun outside of class.

Congratulations Stuart! Keep up the good work.

***Picture submitted by Stuart.*

Cierra Sommer, Interviewed in September

Cierra is part of the graduating Class of 2024, from Andrew K. Demoski School in Nulato. She is currently enrolled in 13 credits at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Her current major is Ultrasound Technician, Diagnostic Medical Sonographer. Her plan is to eventually enroll into the Bachelor of Biology in Science. So far Cierra's favorite class is Medical Terminology. Cierra decided to go to UAF after Kristy Malamute and Jessica Hildebrand from UAF admissions came to visit AKD School this spring. While on campus and not in class, Cierra enjoys spending time with her friends and says the dorms are nice. Her advise to high school students is to make a schedule planner so you won't fall behind in your classes and to also participate in the classes.

Congratulations Cierra! We are very proud of you

***Picture submitted by Cierra.*



ESTEEM Grant

Andrea Nield, State and Federal
Programs Assistant Director

We are heading into the final year of the grant and have had many great offerings over the past 4 years. Please take the time to share the link with parents at your site to have them sign up for courses they'd like to see for their children as we plan out this year. Signing up for courses does not guarantee funding, however it does give us an indication that there is a need. For all course offerings please visit <https://esteem.yksd.com/>. This is a parent choice grant meaning parents have choice in their child's learning opportunities and will need to sign up their student for each course. Below are the summer activities provided by ESTEEM

- ♦ **AKGRAD Funding-** This year ESTEEM will be able to fund any high school students who need funding for credit recovery through AKGRAD. Last year several students were able to get on track to graduate with the assistance.
- ♦ **Tutoring-** After School tutoring
- ♦ **Chess Club-** Tutoring stipends for chess club which will be district wide and meet every Tuesday after school
- ♦ **ESPORTS-** For those schools who participate in Esports they are able to request new units that are updated this year.
- ♦ **Native Language**
- ♦ **CTE Heavy Equipment Simulator**
- ♦ **AASB Youth Leadership**
- ♦ **Glass Art**
- ♦ **College Prep Hoops**
- ♦ **Dancing with the Spirit**

Phlight Club

This is an after-school activity for students in grades 3-12. The exact times will be posted at your local school. Parents and family members are encouraged to attend. 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. It 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.

Stephanie Damery from Brightways is the lead trainer and below are the dates and locations for this semester. Parents please sign up for [ESTEEM courses](#)

December 9-13: Allakaket then Hughes

October 23&24: Nulato

October 28 & 29: Koyukuk



YKSD 14th Annual Fun Run

Andrea Nield, State and Federal Programs Assistant Director

Grades K-2 - 1/2 Mile				
	Location	Grade	Runner Name	Time
1	Nulato	2	Cali Sipary	1:59
2	Nulato	2	Malakai Moses	2:00
3	Nulato	2	Mary Nickoli	2:19

Grades 3-7 - 1 Mile				
	Location	Grade	Runner Name	Time
1	Huslia	6	Reeve Huffman	6:25
2	Minto	7	Traeton Titus	6:30
3	Nulato	3	Mathias Sommer	6:47

Grades 8-12 - 3.1 Miles				
	Location	Grade	Runner Name	Time
1	Minto	12	Asher Titus	18:55
2	Nulato	12	Riley Nicholi	20:37
3	Nulato	10	Cola Sipary	22:40



Kaltag



Hughes



Nulato



Huslia



Ruby



Minto

Fun Run Shirt Contest

Thank you to all the submissions for the 2024 T-Shirt Contest. It was a very tough decision as we have some very talented artists. Congratulations to **Saphria Dewilde** from Allakaket, grade 6. Her design is featured on this year's shirt, and she will also receive a pair of AirPods.



YKSD Home Away Program

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 are living with their extended family. The application for the FY25 school year is now closed.



ESTEEM Grant continued

Andrea Nield, State and Federal
Programs Assistant Director

Upward Bound

June 3-28, 2024, at UAF. Layla Vent, from Huslia, and Navaeh Sam, from Tanana, were selected to participate along with 44 students from villages throughout Alaska. On graduation day students showcased their projects to a public audience.



From the drone strand, we had the impressive Minto mapping project.



The sensor strand dazzled with their ATV traffic counting and remote weather station projects.



Meanwhile, the Makerspace team upgraded the Raspberry Pi kit, enhanced the demonstration station, and developed oil spill cleanup tools.

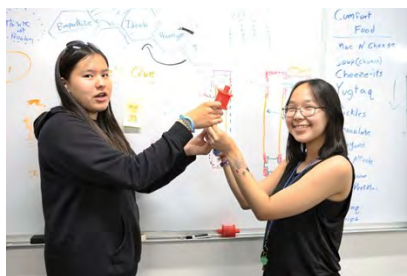
We are proud of all of the student achievements!



🌟 *Exciting updates from our Makerspace crew!* 🌟

Projects are really taking shape:

- 🚀 Lyla and Edna are showcasing their skimmer model alongside their detailed whiteboard plans.
 - 🔧 Sierra is diligently overseeing the laser cutter, while Kori impresses us with his latest laser cutting creation.
 - 🔋 Kally is wiring up a battery to power the weather station components when sunlight is scarce.
 - ☀️ Roxanna is busy assembling a triangular mount for the solar panel to ensure optimal positioning.
 - 📦 Kalista is carefully painting the lid of the weather station tote to prevent unnecessary heat absorption.
 - 📊 Nevaeh is putting the finishing touches on her presentation, documenting the steps of the RPi cord organization box journey.
 - 🔧 Sierra and Walther are meticulously preparing the pieces for the new RPi box.
- It's amazing to see everyone's hard work and dedication pay off! Stay tuned for more updates as we finalize our projects



ESTEEM Grant continued

Andrea Nield, State and Federal Programs Assistant Director

🔧 *Exciting updates from our Makerspace crew!* 🔧

Members of the Tick Tick Boom team are developing skimmers (to collect oil) and booms (to contain collected oil) for our community's coastal areas. 🌊 🛢️

They are currently in the empathize and define stages, researching and dismantling an existing oil boom—thanks to Bernie from Chena Hot Springs—to understand how it works and what can be improved



T3 Alaska students were thrilled by an unexpected opportunity to pitch their ideas to funders. Upon arriving in the hall, they discovered a fun, mock shark tank atmosphere awaiting them. T3 Staff had cleverly kept the secret that THEY were the funders! Tate and Petie took on the personas of wealthy Texas oil magnates eager to support young entrepreneurs. Petie became P.T. Moneybags, and Tate transformed into Hank Gold III. The whole event was a meticulously crafted and enjoyable experience. Although the students were initially nervous to present, P.T. Moneybags and Hank Gold III ensured it was an engaging and lively event.



The T3 Alaska Summer Program drone strand impressed the Minto Village Council with their amazing projects! The team crafted several maps for the community, including one that pinpointed a log jam blocking river transportation. They also tackled the issue of the village dump reaching capacity, creating a detailed map to help leaders plan an expansion without harming groundwater. But that's not all – our talented students snapped stunning aerial shots and stitched them into a 3D village map! The council was encouraging and thankful for the new resources.



ESTEEM Grant continued

Andrea Nield, State and Federal
Programs Assistant Director

Team Camp June 2024

Minto boys were able to attend the University of Alaska Anchorage Men's Team camp this June on the UAA campus. Then they went on to attend the Alaska Basketball Academy camp at Colony. Coaches from around the state gained noticed and asked Minto to schedule some games this coming season.



Minto Lady Lakers

Bertina Titus took the Minto/Allakaket/Tanana girls to Team camp in Colony. This is the largest camp in state with teams from throughout the state



College Prep Hoops

Andrea Nield, State and Federal Programs Assistant Director

- Week of Oct. 7- Kaltag
- Week of Oct. 14- Hughes
- Week of Oct. 21- Allakaket
- Week of Oct. 28- Ruby



Middle School Basketball Schedule

We are currently in the middle of Basketball Season which runs September 30- November 23. Below is the season schedule.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL — First Practice Sept. 30, 2024			
DATES	NAME	LOCATION	TOURNAMENT (YKSD Teams Attending)
Oct. 3-5	Tri Valley Tournament	Tri Valley	Minto B&G
Oct. 10-12	Tok Tournament Larry Weisz Memorial	Tok	Minto B&G, Huslia B&G
Oct. 17-19	Northway Tournament	Northway	Minto B&G
Oct. 24-26	Minto Tournament	Minto	Huslia B&G
Nov. 1-2	Delta Tournament	Delta	Minto B&G, Huslia B&G
Nov. 2-4	Northway Tournament	Northway	Minto B&G
NOV. 7-9	Nulato Tournament	Nulato	1 Huslia co-ed, 1 Tanana co-ed, Ruby co-ed
Nov. 8-9	Nenana Ice Cream Classic	Nenana	Nenana, Tri-Valley, Minto, Su-Valley, Tok Mentasta, Galena
Nov. 14-16	Galena Tournament	Galena	Huslia co-ed, Tanana co-ed
Nov. 14-16	Valdez Tournament	Valdez	Minto B&G
Nov. 21-23	Huslia Tournament	Huslia	Tanana co-ed, Minto boys, Ruby Co-ed

2024 X- Country Regionals

Andrea Nield, State and Federal Programs Assistant Director



Asher and Warren both made the all-academic team. Asher punched his ticket to State with a top 10 finish and the boys brought home the Sportsmanship Award.”~ Coach Pete Anderson (Pictured left.)

Asher Titus of Minto ran 20:30.7 at Division III at State Cross Country Championships placing 39th out of 91 boys running. Congratulations Asher! (Pictured right.)



International Moose Hide Culture Camp

Andrea Nield, State and Federal Programs Assistant Director

2024 YKSD Moose Hide Tanning Camp. Students and their parent/guardian had the opportunity to fly into Fairbanks to participate. The camp instructors included Tommy Bird, Lena and Lawrence Adams (from Canada and have a lifetime of tanning experience), Kathleen Hildebrand of Nulato/Fairbanks. Families got hands on experience working on hides in the various stages of scraping, dehairing, softening, gathering materials, brain bath, all the way through smoking.

While at camp our families also got to make a traditional drum with Harold Northway, caribou tufting with Joyce Roberts and fish jarring with Andrea Nield

Funding for this opportunity was made possible by the ESTEEM grant and TCC Cultural programs in partnership with Effie Kokrine. Thank you to our parents and students for participating



Denaakkenaage' Hunek, Denakenaga' Khunek: Native Language News

Holly Wofford, Native Language Teacher

Language Classes

Denaakk'e Classes 2024-25: The beginning of the school year has been going extremely well. It's great to see the kids back in classes after the summer break. There is always excitement in the air when school starts back up again, and you can feel it when you're in class with the students. At the beginning of the semester, we began lessons in **Unit 1: Nedaats'e Ne'ooze'** (What's Your Name?) and have now moved on to **Unit 3: Sezek** (My Body). We will be moving through the workbook by skipping units that I feel students have a better grasp of and focusing on units that are larger and more difficult. We are using this approach to ensure we have time at the end of the school year to explore the new workbook expansion, in units 11-15.

Denaakk'e Update:

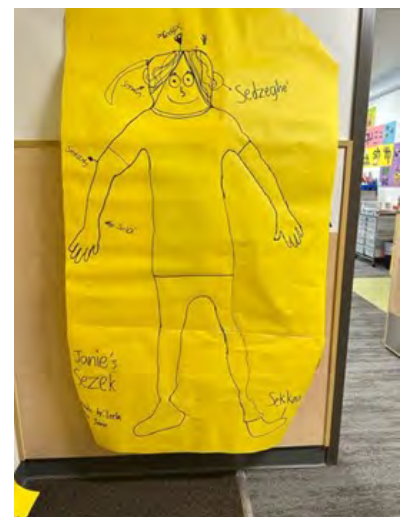
Currently, there are 15 classes signed up for Native Language. With representation from all three dialects **Lower, Central, & Upper**; as well as our subdialects **Central – KR** and **Central – YR**. We have 146 Denaakk'e students in K-12th grade. In the past two years, we have had a lot more interest from junior high and upper grade levels and they are doing great!

Although we're just a few months into the school year I have seen retention in a good portion of my classes! This is amazing to me. It means that students are holding onto what they've learned, even over the summer months. Students are moving through the vocabulary without much prompting from me or the NL co-teachers....as a language teacher seeing your students retaining the language and needing little to no help with vocabulary and phrases is the best feeling!

Benhti Update:

(Bertina Titus) says things are going well and she's doing a lot of review with her students. Currently, they are working on conversation terms - introductions, eating and drinking terms.

Enaa Baasee' to those of you who have invested in your daily schedules to include Native Language in your students' learning...you are making a difference! 😊



Ms. Joby's Class in Allakaket working on their body posters. Students had to label their body parts in Denaakk'e.

Native Language News continued

Holly Wofford, Native
Language Teacher

Shoutouts: I wanted to give one of our students from Kaltag, Jonah Dentler a huge shout-out for taking his language learning to the next level this past spring. Jonah is a natural leader in NL classes and auditioned for the Molly of Denali show last school year after I was asked to recruit one of my NL students by the Doyon Foundation. After auditioning he was chosen to be one of the voice actors for the character Tooey in the show. Jonah represented himself and the district so well! He practiced for several weeks with Mr. Tackett, Allan Hayton of Doyon Foundation, and myself before flying into Fairbanks to record his lines. I met him and his father at Reddot recording studio with Doyon representatives and was able to witness Jonah come out of his shell and nail each line. He will be featured in a Molly of Denali episode done fully in Denaakk'e.....Hoozoonh Jonah!!



Jonah recording his lines at Reddot Studio here in Fairbanks and holding his first paycheck as a voice actor for the Molly of Denali show.

Wednesday Story Hour

Wednesday Story Hour continues to be a weekly part of our NL class schedule. It is something I have come to look forward to as well as the students. We have been continuing our journey with TCC's *Legacy of Our Elders* videos since the start of this year.

Fun Fact: Cultural stories are intricately woven within our beliefs of how things came to be and were told in winter months to make the time go by.

Story Hour Notes:

Students are always encouraged to draw as they're listening during Story Hour & to verbally share their thoughts when Story Hour has ended.



Native Language News continued

Holly Wofford, Native
Language Teacher

Native Language Department Events & Program Updates

To celebrate and acknowledge Indigenous Peoples' Day district wide we have been holding an annual sticker contest for the past three years. We had 146 submissions this year! Everyone did an amazing job!

Note: Stickers are currently being printed and will be available at schools

YKSD

3RD ANNUAL STICKER CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT

YKSD would like to thank everyone who participated in the 2024 sticker contest!
Baasee'/Maasee'/Basi' for celebrating and acknowledging **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY!**

Denaakk'e Contest Winners

- Emily Crosby - Kaltag 11th Grade
- Nia Agnes - Nulato 8th Grade
- Avery Crosby - Kaltag 7th Grade
- Kane Johnson - Rampart 7th Grade
- Daniel Sam - Tanana 5th Grade
- Demi Reed - Tanana 5th Grade
- Stephan Roberts III - Nulato 2nd Grade
- Cali Sipary - Nulato 2nd Grade

Benhti Contest Winners

- Jenna Smith - Minto 11th Grade
- Lashawn David - Minto 9th Grade
- Brielle Baker - Minto 9th Grade
- Regina David - Minto 5th Grade
- Kyla Roberts - Minto 6th Grade
- Barbara Alexander - Minto 4th Grade
- Cadence Alexander - Minto 2nd Grade
- Avery Overbay - Minto 2nd Grade





Emily Crosby
Kaltag - 11th Grade



Nia Agnes
Nulato - 8th Grade



Avery Crosby
Kaltag - 7th Grade



Jenna Smith
Minto - 11th Grade



Lashawn David
Minto - 9th Grade



Brielle Baker
Minto - 9th Grade



Kane Johnson
Rampart - 7th Grade



Daniel Sam
Tanana - 5th Grade



Demi Reed
Tanana - 5th Grade



Regina David
Minto - 5th Grade



Kyla Roberts
Minto - 6th Grade



Barbara Alexander
Minto - 4th Grade



Stephen Roberts III
Nulato - 2nd Grade



Cali Sipary
Nulato - 2nd Grade



Cadence Alexander
Minto - 2nd Grade



Avery Overbay
Minto - 2nd Grade

Congratulations to the 2024
YKSD sticker contest winners!!

Congratulations to this year's winners from both Denaakk'e and Benhti!!

Native Language News *continued*

Holly Wofford, Native
Language Teacher

Cultural Activities

YKSD Cultural teacher Tristan Madros had a successful first year. He provided cultural classes by providing daily instruction onsite to his students in Nulato, and by visiting five other sites throughout the 2023-24 school year. To start the new school year off Tristan had his students complete a unit on Huteetl (Koyukon Potlatch). They were required to write an essay, build a miniature structure of a hall, and put on a potlatch at the school. His students have also been working on beading projects, language work, as well as song-singing, and jam-making. He is currently working with 26 students in Nulato.



Update on Site Visits: Last year Tristan was able to visit Kaltag (December), Huslia (January), and Ruby (March), & Koyukuk (May). Each site is able to pick projects that their students can work on during his week-long visits to their site. He has plans to focus on visiting the other Koyukuk River sites this school year.

Surprise Opportunities:

During Tanana Chiefs Conference Healing Gathering we had the opportunity to learn a lot of new traditional arts/skills to bring back to our students. Although we were there as attendees, I was approached last minute and given the opportunity to teach Denaakk'e for the language portion of the event. Roxanne and Andrea both jumped right in and helped as I was doing activities with the room. To end the presentation, we highlighted the YKSD Native Language program and all the manipulatives and games that help our students learn and practice their language.



Native Lang. Teacher Holly teaching Denaakk'e at TCC Gathering.



Holly & Andrea at TCC Gathering

Curriculum & Materials

Updated Workbook Edition 2024: The new 2024 edition of the Denaakk'e workbooks with the expansion of five new units (**Unit 11:** Classroom Communication, **Unit 12:** Plants & Berries, **Unit 13:** Out to Camp, **Unit 14:** Fish Camp, **Unit 15:** We Are Out Hunting) has been shipped out to each of the Denaakk'e sites.

The Benhti edition is in its last stages of edits and should be printed soon.

Current Projects:

The Early Childhood Native Language Kit is currently being developed with myself and our partners at Native Teaching Aids. We have had several meetings since the school year started and are currently in the design phase.

Early Childhood Kit Recap:

The kits will be built around providing materials and resources that are user-friendly with interactive activities interweaved throughout the units with sensory manipulatives. Parents will be able to independently teach and learn Denaakk'e with their children during their early development years at home so that they have a solid foundation in Denaakk'e before moving into structured lessons in kindergarten. With Pre-K classrooms and parents in mind, we plan to offer large kits for Pre-K programs, and a second option that has three parent-choice kits: **Kit One:** 0-18 Months, **Kit Two:** 18 Months - 3 years, & **Kit Three:** 3-5 years.

Tentative kit release date: Fall 2025!

Allakaket School

John Brady, Principal/Teacher



*The 2024 Fun Run on September 26. **Shirt design:** compliments of our own Saphira Dewilde.*



K-2 class group. Winner: Breanna Bergman



3-6 class group. Winner: Aria Bergman

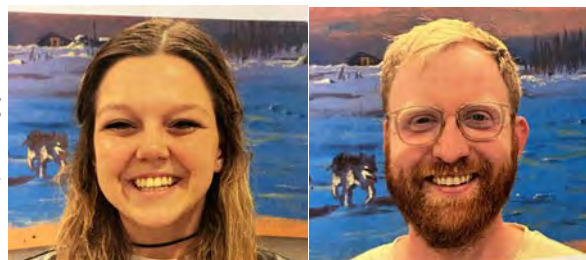


7-11 class group. Winner: Sid Bergman

Andrew K. Demoski School

James Ortiz, Principal/Teacher

We have two new teachers in Nulato this year, Noah and Hannah Graham. Noah is a special education teacher and Hannah is our English and social studies teacher for middle and high school. Our returning teachers are: Victoria Deacon, reading specialist, Jeff Healy, math and science teacher, Tristan Madros, cultural studies teacher, McKenna Nixon, K-2 teacher, Katie Ortiz, special education teacher, and Duane Sipary, 3 - 5 teacher. Here is a picture of the new teachers.



Hannah Graham

Noah Graham

On Friday, August 30, all of the students and families in Nulato were invited to a Back-to-School bon-fire earlier. There was a huge turnout, and it was a huge success. Everyone enjoyed being together and eating the smores, hot dogs, and other goodies!



Andrew K. Demoski School continued

James Ortiz, Principal/Teacher

We divided up all of our K - 12 students into three separate "Houses" or clubs. Each student can earn and lose points throughout the school year for themselves and their house. Students can earn individual prizes in each class but also earn points for their house to earn a huge reward at the end of each quarter. Here are pictures from the day we drew names for each student to go into their specific house. The man dressed as Hagrid the Giant is principal James Ortiz.



Houses meet every Friday for activities and fun. Some activities the students have enjoyed so far have been Native Youth Olympic competitions and dodgeball competitions.



Many of the students with their families participate in the moose hunting season for subsistence every year. Many of the teachers try to find ways to participate in hunting, hanging up, and cutting up moose meat. Hannah Graham participated in a moose hunt this year with people from the community. Here she is carrying a moose head back to the boat.



We had our Fun Run on September 27th this year. We had a lot of participation with the students.



Andrew K. Demoski School continued

James Ortiz, Principal/Teacher

Tristan Madros is the Cultural Studies Teacher at AKD. He has completed several activities with the students that they have greatly enjoyed and participated in during the school year so far. Here are just a few pictures of what he has accomplished so far this year.



Tristan is working with students on Athabascan Song and Dance (every Thursday with 3-8 grades).

Here are some pictures of when the students had a Potlatch in the classroom. The students were able to make food and bring it up to the school and had Maurice McGinty guest speak at the event.



Andrew K. Demoski school was mentioned in the Fairbanks Miner Newspaper recently. The University of Alaska Fairbanks was able to bring education that incorporated drones into school activities. Representatives from the University of Alaska Fairbanks have come out to Nulato for the past three years and worked with Mr. Duane Sipary's grade 3 - 5 class. Last year his class was able to work with and fly drones and this year they participated in an indoor planetarium. All the activities were a huge hit with the kids and was enjoyed by students, teachers, staff, and people in the community.

The article from newsminer.com:



EDUCATION

Education curriculum blends drones, science and Native language lessons

Jack Barnwell Sep 30, 2024

A small group of Nenana-area residents circulated through the Nenana City School library Friday evening to pick up a blend of language and the...

Ella B. Vernetti School

Jaylene Esmailka, Principal Aide

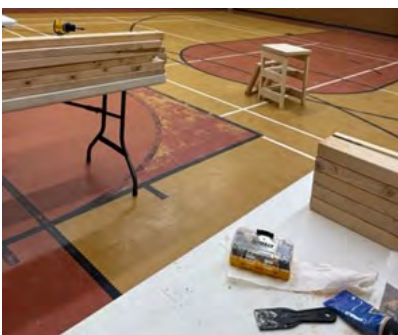
Students in all grade levels were given State and District assessments and diagnostics to assist teachers in pinpointing a precise learning plan for each child. Enrollment at Ella B. Vernetti is increasing almost weekly while tardies and absences have been rare. In fact, we've had several streaks with consecutive days of perfect attendance. As with most children, lunch and recess seem to be the most talked about subjects on our campus and for good reasons. Our breakfast and lunch programs are enjoyed by all students



We may be one of the smaller communities, but boy, do we go big to start the school year. Our parents, families, staff, and community members all came together to make the start of the 2024-2025 school year with having a Back to School BBQ. Thank you, community of Koyukuk, for showing up!



As September approached, we dove into a bustling month of subsistence hunting. This time is crucial for gathering the resources we needed to prepare for the long winter ahead. Subsistence hunting is not just a necessity; it's a fundamental part of our lives and traditions. Wish everyone a successful and safe hunting season!



The school year of 2024-25 started off with bang! Big thank you to CTE Department for coming to KYU and teaching the students how to make a multipurpose stool!



Jimmy Huntington School

6th Grade

Katherine Crowl, Teacher

Jimmy Huntington's 6th Grade class has been working hard to improve reading and math skills, and we've already seen great improvement! In English Language Arts, we are learning to read difficult texts, answering questions using evidence, and analyzing the meanings of a multitude of words. In Math, we are working through decimals and fractions and how to break down what questions are truly asking in word problems. Students are building stamina in independent reading as well as in their attempts in multi-step problems requiring more critical thinking. Lately, we have also explored the changing nature in our community and finding joy in the smallest moments in the outdoors together. Huslia's 6th Graders are working incredibly hard and are making huge strides!



7th & 8th Grade

Deb Eberle, Teacher



Students participated in a Native art project of collecting leaves and making pictures of nature.



Johnny Oldman School

Andrew Bellamy, Teacher

We've hit the ground running at Johnny Oldman School for the 2024-2025 school year! We kicked off the year with updated items in our school store, new lunch tables, and new classroom tables, but familiar faces in Ms. Kylee, Ms. Jessie, Ms. Trish, Mr. Bellamy, and Mrs. Bellamy. After fixing a waterline issue at the school (thank you to Gale Bourne and the maintenance crew for their help), we wrapped up MAPS testing, held Culture Camp at late Grandpa Henry's 8-mile camp, and built benches with Anthony Cavan from the CTE department. We also had our first cross country team and competition in many years, with Owen Bellamy participating in the middle school invitational at UAF. We are proud of our students' strong work so far and are excited to share in their achievements this school year!



Kaltag School

Joshua Hatfield
Principal/Teacher

Staff

Special Education: Joe Cannone
Elementary (K-5): Ashley Crosby
Secondary (9-12): Philip Crosby
Principal/Teacher: Joshua Hatfield.
(pictured right)



Caius McGinty (6th)



CSC Member,
Violet Burnham

Fun Run

Our Fun Run was on September 24, we had good participation from our students and a really good turn out from our community members. Everyone was excited to see the students out running. We then had a Community Cookout, where we served hot dogs, chips and cookies. Overall, it was a great day to be a KALTAG WILDCAT!

"In running, it doesn't matter whether you come in first, in the middle of the pack, or last. You can say, 'I have finished.' There is a lot of satisfaction in that."



Lawrence Williams III (5th &
Bella Huntington (3rd)

Friday Rotations

Friday afternoons at Kaltag school are fun and exciting, students get to choose from a variety of activities to participate in: poetry, painting, imagination room, sewing and beading, marble run. The students are engaged in hands-on exercises and show off their talents.

Students are engaged and have fun creating new projects. They get to learn how to use a portable pottery wheel and how details influence their project.



Painting



Nature Walk for Native Language



Mrs. Crosby and her pottery group

Kaltag School continued

Joshua Hatfield
Principal/Teacher

Culinary Arts Program

Our culinary science program is up and running and we are learning how to blend local food with modern and traditional cooking techniques to create a variety of outcomes. Potato soup, broccoli and cheddar soup, moose soup, and chili have all been on the menu. Along the way, we learned how to use apples on the verge of spoiling by making some fall time apple butter which we delivered to our elders. We also took some time to saw through a moose neck which was used to make a large pot of moose soup along with several jars of moose bone broth.



Apple butter on the left, moose bone broth on the right



Sawing through a moose neck.



Quinn Alexie (Left) and Austin Sanders (Right) showing us how to make broccoli/cheddar soup.



CTE

Small Engine/Driver's Ed: Bob brought his small engine repair knowledge to Kaltag and engaged the students from grades 7-12. The students learned valuable skills that can be utilized in real life applications.



Welding: Kate and Alyssa brought their knowledge to Kaltag. The students were learning welding fundamentals. Once the students completed learning the basic skills, they were able to complete their first project - building a trailer.



Maudrey J. Sommer School

Angie O'Dell,
Principal/Teacher

Tanana Wolves are off to an amazing start this school year! We have been setting a strong foundation in expectations, procedures, and high academic standards for our students. We are beginning strong with the implementation of PBIS and morning meetings, where students are greeted each morning by their teacher and principal to discuss character development and the week's happenings. This initiative is fostering positive relationships and truly sets the tone for the day at MJSJ.

Our dedicated team includes four full-time certified staff members, with Tanner Winters joining us as the new K-5th grade teacher. Dwight Switzer returns to teach our 6-7th graders, Arnold Marks continues to educate our high school students, and Ta'Shona Hayes is our full-time special education teacher.

We also have an amazing classified staff: Kayla Albert is our classroom aide, Nathan Folger is our special education aide, Ethan Titus is our cook, Thelma Starr is our principal's aide, Tasha Sanders is our custodian, and Juwan Moore is our maintenance provider. They all are an essential part of our MJSJ family.

Our students are excited to visit the school store each Friday to spend their "Wolf Bucks," which they earn for demonstrating good character, having good attendance, and going above and beyond. Every Wednesday, we have "Ice Cream Wednesdays," where our students and community can come in right after school for a sweet treat. Our students and families had a great time at our annual Fun Run at the end of September. Michelle Coryell, our school counselor, visits each month and delivers amazing lessons to our kiddos. Mr. Marks did an amazing lesson with all of our students while skinning a moose head. The students not only got to participate but they learned all of the different parts of the moose head!

Exciting events are on the horizon! Our only senior is planning to travel with CTE EXCEL in October. Our student council members are honing their leadership skills and exploring ways to serve others. We are eagerly anticipating our Halloween Carnival on October 26th. Additionally, we have a variety of CTE events scheduled for October and November, including welding, a basketball camp with Al Sokaitis, small engine repair, and driver's education.

We are also hosting numerous community events such as movie nights, basketball nights, and family dinners. We are thrilled about all the great activities planned for our students and families this first quarter. Let's make it a fantastic year!



Merrelaine A. Kangas School

Sara Titus, Teacher

**FUN RUN FUN!**

This year's Fun Run was our best turnout yet! We had so many parents not only show up, but participate in the race with the students. Our very own cook, Mark Weaver, ran the entire 3.1 miles with the secondary students. It was such a great time showing up for each other, being a team, and cheering on our students.

RAVEN STRONG

We have certainly kicked off our year Raven Strong, from our school-wide Morning Meetings to our "Walk to Read" style instruction. We have seen huge growth in such a short span of time. Our staff also enjoyed spending time together at our district-wide inservice. It just goes to show what a fantastic year our Ruby Raven team is having!

**CELEBRATIONS AT MAK**

Every day is an exciting day at MAK! We have started after-school clubs including chess and pyrography. We celebrate every Wednesday with ice cream and every month with a movie night. Parents and grandparents have been invited to Donuts for Dads and Muffins for Moms which will continue monthly. We're just so grateful!

Minto School

Minto Staff

School News



The magnificent Minto staff



Savannah Overbay is the Vice President of Community Engagement for Education Rising



High School Cross Country received the Sportsmanship Award! Asher Titus competed in the State Cross Country meet in Anchorage coming in 39th out of 91! Congratulations Asher!



Minto School Readers celebrated reading over 13,000,000 words last year and set a goal of 15,000,000 for the 2024-2025 school year. When the goal is met we will have a school-wide carnival and Mr. Mailhot has agreed to have top readers from each class put a pie in his face... We think he just likes pie.



Construction is coming closer to completion! We are very anxiously awaiting the finished product and will share more pictures in the future.

Pre-School Class

We are having an amazing year! We are doing great things and learning lots. We just completed our unit on Nursery Rhymes and Fables and are moving on to our Senses. We are working on proper pencil grip and coloring the whole picture without going outside the lines. This is going to be the best year ever!



Poor Humpty Dumpty 🤔

Minto School continued

Minto Staff

K-2 Class



The **Kindergarteners** have been busy building up their hand muscles and practicing making their name in a variety of ways! They are learning so much every day! They have been busy counting and writing their numbers up to ten!



First grade has been enjoying listening to and retelling Aesop's fables! They have been learning many valuable morals/lessons from these stories. They love acting out the stories! Here is a picture of Judie and Cameron acting out *The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing*! First grade has wrapped up their first unit in addition and has moved onto subtraction!



The **Second graders** have been having a magical time in their Fairy Tales and Tall Tales unit! Paul Bunyan even came to visit the classroom! They have been focusing on identifying characters, setting, plot and characteristics of fairy tales and tall tales! In math they have been busy adding and subtracting and playing their favorite game, Clumsy Thief!



The class enjoyed doing fish math with Mr. Scott. The students made estimates of how long the fish were in inches and feet. They compared using words like "greater" and "less than." We also discussed whether the fish were herbivores or carnivores. We knew they were carnivores because some of the fish had other fish inside their stomachs! All our fish were females because they had eggs inside them.

3-5 Class

We love our new school and spacious classrooms. Working through construction has been challenging, and we are looking forward to it finally being completed. Students meet in the commons area at the beginning of the day for a quick morning meeting which gives us a positive start to our day.



We have been working hard since the beginning of school! We jumped in feet first with our new reading curriculum, CKLA.



Our class is participating in the Great Alaska Type Off and we want to celebrate Emery Kanayurak and Iris Mays for winning September's competition for their grade level. Our class also won an ice cream party for the 4-6th grade age band in the typing contest. We will continue to practice and increase our typing speeds. Students ran in the District Fun Run and did so great! We did some "fish math" with Scott and Ms. Heather's class after lunch, where we practiced estimating, and using scientific knowledge to learn more about the fish food chain.



We enjoyed lots of outside time until the rain started. The kids had fun playing "Flush the toilet."



Minto School continued

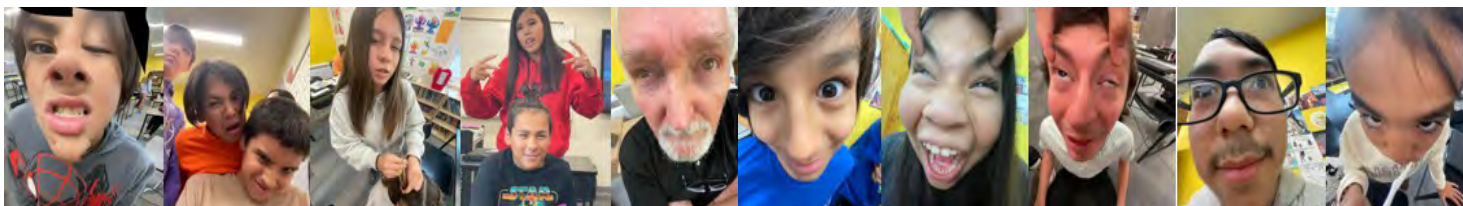
Minto Staff

Middle School Class

The year has started out great. We have been getting right back into our literacy and math focus. We plan on keeping first place in AR this year. The kids have snapped back into a school mindset and are already making good progress on words read. The kids get a prize for every book they read, and it can be hard to keep up with how many prizes have been going out.

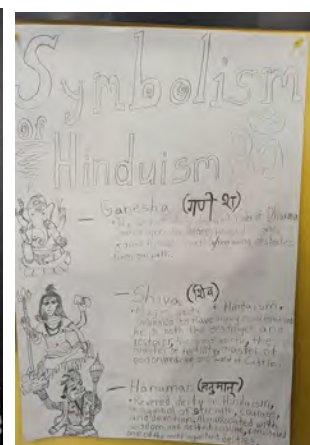
Mr. Washburn, Mailhot, Steve, and Brucker have been helping in math class and I am grateful for their help. Math scores have been steadily going up from the last few weeks and it is due to our efforts. We all make a great team. These efforts will hopefully lead to even higher math scores than last year overall.

Benhti class has been picking up more since last year. I have added new words and have been working with Bertina, David, Siri, and Holly on developing new content for Benhti class. I want to thank them as well for being very helpful. It takes multiple people working together to make progress. We are now working on building basic sentences with new content relating to their everyday lives. My goal is to have kids speaking basic sentences by the end of the year. Constant repetition and speaking practice will go along with it. I want these kids talking in Benhti. Making stronger efforts to make that happen.



High School Class

In high school World History, we've embarked on an exciting journey through time! We began with the fascinating world of Neolithic culture and cave paintings, explored the wonders of Mesopotamia and Egypt (students even wrote their names in cuneiform and hieroglyphics!), and are now diving into the rich history of the ancient East including Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism. In science, students got creative by making their own mnemonic devices to remember the scientific method. We also had a blast participating in the Fun Run, completed our MAPS testing, and are well on our way to another Vocabulary Bowl victory! We are so proud of all our students and their hard work!



Rampart School

Charles Burns, Principal

Greetings from Rampart,

We have had a rocky start to this school year. In September we suffered the tragic loss of an alumni and beloved community member, Liyana Newman-Woods. Liyana was a 2023 graduate and had recently started working at the school as our lunch cook. Liyana will truly be missed by all.

This year we have Keely O'Connell returning as our 6-12th grade teacher. Keely works diligently to provide our students with the best education possible. She also advocates for our students, wanting them to have as many enriching experiences as possible. Keely is great at stepping in and supporting the school in whatever is needed.

Carol Hughes has joined our team as our elementary teacher. She brings a wealth of experience in the field of education. She is learning our procedures and programs very quickly and getting to know her students. She has a very positive attitude and works closely with our younger students.

Michelle James continues to serve as a valuable classroom paraprofessional. She provides outstanding instructional support for our students. She is willing to step in and assist wherever needed.

Beth Alexander serves as our administrative assistant. She works closely with our teachers and also has agreed to assist with serving lunch, and custodial roles. Her willingness to fill these roles until we are able to hire others is essential to our school functioning at a level sufficient to provide an effective learning environment.

Forest Johnson continues in his role as breakfast cook. He is a very consistent employee and is willing to, when needed, step into other roles to ensure required tasks are completed. He is truly an integral part of our team.

Coleman Larson has begun working as a substitute at the school for whatever is needed. Having him available to fill in for whatever role needs assistance will help to provide consistency to our school operations.

Though our year hasn't started as smoothly as we might have hoped, we are now in full swing. Students are attending and services are being provided in a positive learning environment. We are expecting to have a great rest of the year!

Thank you,
Charles



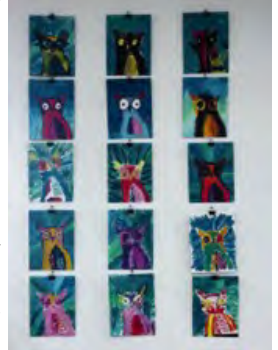
Raven Homeschool

Kim Bergey,
Director

Anchorage

We have started off the year strong with a Back-to-School Picnic, over 1,000 students, and 7 teachers working very hard to help families so our students can be successful! With a new Coordinator, Lisa Lansdale, the staff is excited to welcome everyone back for another wonderful school year. We are currently interviewing for a counselor position and our Graduation Coach, Megan Rosendall, is available to help our high school students to be as successful as they can.

The Anchorage Office has many enrichment activities, to include Lego League, Lunch and Learn, Handwriting, Quilting Club, Writing Club, Drama Club, Running Club, Virtual Tech Club, Kinder Builders, and Art Club. We had a strong showing as well for our Science Workshop "It's Berry Delicious." Spanish lessons start soon, and we are interested in hearing from parents on any activities they may be interested in leading as well. Our Gold Panning at Crow Creek Mine field trip was a success, and in October we are going to the Campbell Creek Science Center. We have hand-made raven ornaments being sent to Washington DC for the National Christmas Tree and our owl mosaic paintings turned out so well that they are hanging in the front office.



Delta Junction

The 24-25 school year has been busy getting classes and curriculum set and getting in the groove. We have had our Back-to-Homeschool celebration with lots of fun games and good food. We have Art Club, Game Day, and Lego Club meetings. Field trips have been happening: Delta Meat & Sausage, blueberry picking, AK Peace of Mind Farm, honey processing, Alaska Homestead Museum, and we are looking forward to the Fire Station Tour. We have made ornaments for the National Christmas Tree and are anticipating our Fall Craft coming up soon. Once a month we go to Fort Greely to bowl. Everyone is getting settled into their school routines, and it has been a great start!



Eagle River

We are pleased to introduce Sharon Chevalier, Eagle River's new advisor teacher! After living here for 44 years, Sharon claims Alaska as her home and has taught and lived in various areas of the state. She owned and operated a restaurant while working as a country radio DJ, in Southeast Alaska. In the Aleutians, Sharon served as an Emergency Medical Technician III. She is dual-certified to teach regular and special education and has taught grades K through 12 as well as college classes on English as a Second Language. Simultaneously, she homeschooled her own children from kindergarten to 12th grade. Sharon's favorite words to live by are "Learn something new every day"; and John Denver's quote, "Together, we can make a difference".



We also welcome our new administrative assistant, Adriel Mathew! Adriel was born in Oregon and moved up with her family in 1997. She is one of 13 homeschooled children. Over the years she has turned her hand to various pursuits, such as dancing, martial arts, and even massage therapy, but she most enjoys spending time with her family. She loves Alaska and enjoys spending time outside camping, hiking or biking, etc., but is also content to stay inside reading a book, watching a movie, drawing, embroidering... or whatever strikes her fancy. She has worked over 13 years in administrative roles and is delighted to be a part of the Raven Homeschool community.

Eagle River has many clubs, activities and workshops planned, and we are looking forward to an absolutely fantastic

Fairbanks

The First Quarter has been a whirlwind as the number of enrollments have exploded this year. We hit over 1,000 students enrolled in our office and all the teachers have been on the grind! We welcomed a new teacher to our team, Thomasina Tall.

Our Scholastic Book Fair made a little over \$5,500, which helps fund activities for our students. Counselor Ryan Tilbury set up a SAT Prep course for all high school Raven students across the state. Picture Day is this month! October 7th, 14th, and 21st the photographer will be in the office to take student pictures. We are once again offering classes for students to become CPR and First Aid certified. New this year from the same instructor is a Child and Babysitters Course.

With the holidays approaching, the office is gearing up to host holiday parties and various activities here in the office. The Halloween party will be October 24th from 4:00 PM - 7:00PM.



Juneau

Our first quarter has been packed with meetings, activities, and events, and it has been fun to connect with both returning and new families as we have soared into the 24-25 school year.

In July, we enjoyed an ice cream social and a tide pool field trip. Joan also led Trail Hikes weekly through July and August to explore our town together. Our Olympic Open House in August kicked off a lot of our regularly occurring clubs and activities like 5th-8th Girls' Gathering, Lego Club, Pokémon Club, Chess Club, Board Game Club, Popcorn & Pajama Movie Parties, and "Lunch Bunch" Show & Tell Story Time.

In September, we went on an awesome whale watching trip to the lighthouse, toured AJ Mine where the kids also got to do some gold panning, had a zipline adventure, and cruised the coast on Segways. Something else that has been awesome is how many parents are attending our monthly PAC Meetings to help with planning and organizing activities. It is so helpful when families get involved! This has been a wonderful first quarter and we're looking forward to more fun to come during the second quarter.



Wasilla

The Wasilla Raven office is pleased to welcome three new advisory teachers to our growing office! Jacob Hale recently moved here from Georgia and brings a wealth of special education experience. He loves teaching and the outdoors. Debra Davis, a long-time Alaskan who has lived and worked in Interior Alaska, St. George, and most recently the Matanuska Valley, brings personal homeschooling experience to the table as well as a passion for music. Jousette McKeel, a mostly lifelong Alaskan, has been teaching across the state since 2005, from the NW Arctic School District to the Mat-Su School District, and now YKSD. She brings experience as a literary specialist, curriculum development, and is a licensed principal with the state of Alaska.

Our families are off to a good start, with one holding a mock election and having their student write up why their candidate should be elected, campaigning, and having people that they know vote. Another student is building a dog kennel for a local kennel company as a community service project. A different family went on an epic nine-day RV road trip, where the student dove right into their digital photography class, taking over 2,000 pictures. We are anticipating a great school year!



Halloween Word Search



BOO
GAMES
HALLOWEEN
PARTY
SPOOKY
WITCH

CANDY
GHOSTS
MASK
PUMPKINS
TRICK

COSTUMES
GOBLIN
MUMMY
SKELETON
TREAT

