

March 2024

Yukon-Koyukuk School District Connections

Tanana City School District Officially Merging with YKSD! Superintendent Boyd

On March 12, 2024, the Local Boundary Commission determined the City of Tanana is eligible to be reclassified under AS 29.04.045. The truncated petition documents were submitted and approved.

Per AS 29.04.045(c), the city council has 30 days to reject this reclassification. If the city council does not reject the reclassification, the reclassification will take effect on July 1, 2024.

With this approval, and pending no rejection to the reclassification, Tanana City School District will officially merge with YKSD July 1, 2024!

YKSD Board Expansion and District Resectioned Effective July 1, 2024

In time for the next school board cycle in October 2024, YKSD will expand from a seven member board to a nine member board. The new boundary lines for YKSD will include Tanana City School District and the voting sections will likely change. The proposed MAPS generated by the Local Boundary Commission (LBC) will be released for public comment in the near future. Essentially, input received from the district and community members is taken under advisement with the LBC finalizing the MAPS to ensure the new sections are balanced.

HB 193 Increase in internet speed for schools

The Alaska Legislature passed [HB 193](#) as was transmitted to Governor Dunleavy for signature. Through the enactment of HB 193, rural and remote schools across Alaska will now benefit from much faster internet download speeds of 100Mbps. Currently most schools in YKSD are at 25 Mbps. This critical enhancement will empower students to remain competitive with their counterparts statewide and enable educators to employ innovative teaching methods utilizing technology.



Board Recognition

Carla Saunders, Executive Secretary

Staff Winners February 2024



Kela Gillihan

Itinerant Counselor
Allakaket, Rampart,
Minto and Hughes



Charlotte Ojala

Administrative Clerk
Raven Homeschool
Fairbanks, AK

Staff Nominations

Lizzie Alexie: Cook, Kaltag School

Lavonne Moses: Special Projects Assistant, Allakaket School

Keely O'Connell: Teacher, Rampart School

Steve Swatling: Teacher, Jimmy Huntington School, Huslia

Rose Wolfe: Teacher, Minto School

Board Recognition

Carla Saunders, Executive Secretary

Student Winners February 2024



Stuart Wholecheese

Grade 12
Allakaket School



Asher Titus

Grade 11
Minto School



Oliver Robertson

Grade 6
Raven Homeschool
Juneau

Student Nominations

Ethan Bellamy: Grade 9, Johnny Oldman School, Hughes

Jadyen Crosby: Grade 11, Kaltag School

Trent Henry: Grade 9, Jimmy Huntington School, Huslia

Iris Holzberger: Grade 5, Raven Homeschool, Eagle River

Luke Holzberger: Grade 4, Raven Homeschool, Eagle River

Genevieve Johnson: Grade 8, Rampart School

Andrew Lukinov Grade 2, Raven Homeschool, Delta

Board Recognition

Carla Saunders, Executive Secretary

Staff Winners March 2024



Heather Bjerke

Teacher
Minto School



Ryan Tilbury

Counselor
Raven Homeschool
Fairbanks, AK

Staff Nominations

Mercedes Brady: Special Education Aide, Allakaket School

Cynthia Brown: Special Education Teacher, Jimmy Huntington School, Huslia

Chris Carlson: Reading Specialist (Itinerant), District-wide, Fairbanks

Jeff Healy: Teacher, Andrew K Demoski School, Nulato

Laura Saunders: Teacher Aide, Kaltag School

Anna Stiller: Teacher, Raven Homeschool, Eagle River

Terri Thurston: Teacher, Raven Homeschool, Anchorage

Board Recognition

Carla Saunders, Executive Secretary

Student Winners March 2024



Austin Sanders

Grade 9
Kaltag School



Isabella Valcarce

Grade 12
Raven Homeschool
Wasilla

Student Nominations

Ruth Attla: Grade 7, Andrew K. Demoski School, Nulato

Audrianna Beetus: Grade 2, Johnny Oldman School, Hughes

Dorothy Henry: Grade 8, Jimmy Huntington School & Raven Homeschool

Alexis Juergens: Grade 11, Raven Homeschool, Juneau

Emery Kanayurak: Grade 2, Minto School

Anika Linstid: Grade 8, Raven Homeschool, Juneau

Megyn Linstid: Grade 7, Raven Homeschool, Juneau

Jacaranda Rubacher: Grade 12, Raven Homeschool, Eagle River

Michelle Wingfield: Grade 11, Raven Homeschool, Delta

Mia Cardenas-Wright: Grade 12, Jimmy Huntington School, Huslia

Teaching and Learning Department

Patty White,
Assistant Superintendent

We have had a strong start to the second semester. In late January, a group of teachers and district office staff attended the RTI/MTSS conference in Anchorage. The conference was an amazing opportunity to learn about the best strategies and intervention practices for struggling students and start the second semester with renewed energy and focus. Principals attended the conference virtually so they could remain onsite. All sessions were on the weekend to limit time out of the classroom.

Assessments

Students completed the Winter MAP reading and math and DIBELS reading assessments which showed good progress in all areas. Students are now preparing for the State of Alaska AK Star test which will be administered in late March and April. Schools are working on their schedules and will share the dates with parents. Please ensure your students get plenty of sleep to help them do their best on the tests.



A new reading program, Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) has been purchased for grades K-5. This new program follows the Science of Reading components. The district will be providing training for the teachers this spring and additional training in August in order to start strong with the new reading program.

State and Federal Programs

Kristi Burns,
Assistant Director

STREAM Night has been a great success across our district! Our literacy crew has been working endlessly to put together Family Literacy Engagement Kits for each of our student households, which will be handed out during STREAM Nights. This includes wonderful games for the whole family, as pictured below:



YUKON KOYUKUK SCHOOL DISTRICT STREAM NIGHTS		
SITE	Date	Time
Rampart	February 13, 2024	5 PM
Allakaket	February 27, 2024	5 PM
Minto	March 4, 2024	5:30 PM
Nulato	March 8, 2024	4 pm
Koyukuk	March 19, 2024	5 PM
Tanana	March 19, 2024	5 PM
Huslia	March 20, 2024	6 PM
Hughes	March 21, 2024	5 PM
Kaltag	March 27, 2024	5:30 PM
Ruby	March 28, 2024	5 PM

GAMES * BOOKS * FLEKS KITS * DINNER



*Rampart enjoyed their STREAM Night with a fun way of learning through games and dinner.
Be sure to attend your STREAM Night!*



The Middle of the Year Class DIBELS 8th Edition assessment was administered for all K-5th grade students. If you have any questions as to how your student did on it, please contact the classroom teacher.

BoB Team Photos

Christopher Carlson,
Itinerant Literacy
Intervention Instructor

BoB K-2 Teams: 20 Participants



K-2 DISTRICT WINNER

Team Name: The Good Guys
Team Coach: Heather Bjerke
School: Minto School
Team Members: Cadence Alexander,
Lilo Wolfe, Avery Overbay, Emery Kanayurak



Team Name: Wolverines
Team Coach: Kristina Bellemey
School: Johnny Oldman School
Team Members: Charles Francis, Kasen Bifelt,
Dominic Oldman-Linus, Audrianna Beetus



Team Name: K-Crafty Horses Mario Readers
Team Coach: Beth Taube
School: Juneau Raven
Team Members: Katy Beth Braun,
Satye Moore, Luke Stevens

Team Name: Allakaket K-2
Team Coach: Lynette Hull
School: Allakaket School
Team Members: Corban Linus,
Jordan David, Janie Cole
Photo Not Available

Team Name: Rampart Rampage
Team Coach: Sonya Shelley
School: Rampart School
Team Members: Morigan Johnson,
Patricia Moses, Amelia Johnson,
David Sykes
Photo Not Available

BoB 3-4 Teams: 11 participants



3-4 DISTRICT WINNER

Team Name: FBI Female Book Investigators
Team Coach: Joan Gianotti
School: Juneau Raven
Team Members: Esther Braun, Elsie
Stevens, Novella Wilson



Team Name: JOS Boys
Team Coach: Kristina Bellamy
School: Johnny Oldman School
Team Members: Henry Beatus,
Royce Tritt, Morrison Beetus,
Kyron Saunders



Team Name: Little Lakers
Team Coach: Rose Wolfe
School: Minto School
Team Members: Barbara Alexander,
Johnathon Alexander, Regina David,
Jayce David

BoB Team Photos

**Christopher Carlson,
Itinerant Literacy
Intervention Instructor**

BoB 5-6 Teams: 7 Participants



Photo
Not
Available

5-6 DISTRICT WINNER

Team Name: Minto Lakers
Team Coach: Rose Wolfe & Zach Dube
School: Minto School
Team Members: Kyla Roberts,
Royce Frank, Lenora David

Team Name: Allakaket
Team Coach: Lynette Hull
School: Allakaket School
Team Members: Saphira DeWilde, Alice Simon,
Sophie Strassburg, Caleb Bergman

BoB Middle School Teams: 18 Participants



MIDDLE SCHOOL DISTRICT WINNER

Team Name: Tofu is My Favorite Mammal
Team Coach: Kim Troxel
School: Raven Homeschool, Fairbanks
Team Members: Cara Schneider,
Colin Schneider



Team Name: Wordy Wildcats
Team Coach: Ashley Crosby
School: Kaltag School
Team Members: Joshua Crosby,
Avery Crosby, Tassie Nickoli



Team Name: Juneau Raven MS
Team Coach: Donna Matthews
School: Raven Homeschool, Juneau
Team Members: Jacob Ivaniszek,
Oliver Robertson, Tarvaivini Verebasaga



Team Name: Wolfe Pack
Team Coach: Zach Dube
School: Minto School
Team Members: Easton Wolfe, Seeley Wolfe
Photo Not Available

Team Name: Me, Myself, and I
Team Coach: Lynette Hull
School: Allakaket School
Team Members: Hazel Strassburg
Photo Not Available

Team Name: Fiery Cats
Team Coach: Andrew Bellamy
School: Johnny Oldman School
Team Members: Owen Bellamy,
Clayton Bergman, Alexander Tritt

Team Name: Rampart
Team Coach: Keely O'Connell
School: Rampart School
Team Members: Kane Johnson, Genevieve
Johnson, Ariyah Woods, Henry Huntington
Photo Not Available

BoB Team Photos

Christopher Carlson,
Itinerant Literacy

BoB High School Teams: 7 Participants



HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT WINNER
Team Name: What is Your Answer
Team Coach: Danae Davis
School: Raven Homeschool, Anchorage
Team Members: Xienna Solberg,
Ryan Solberg



Team Name: Team Error 404
Team Coach: Andrew Bellamy
School: Johnny Oldman School
Team Members: Holly Tritt, Ethan Bellamy,
Payton Bifelt



Team Name: Juneau Raven
Team Coach: Donna Matthews
School: Raven Homeschool, Juneau
Team Members: Kezia Verebasaga,
Naomi Blackwell

ASTAR Grant Gears Up in YKSD

Arne Erickson,
Teacher Retention Leader

The Yukon Koyukuk School District received a grant from the US Department of Education. This grant is called the "ASTAR" grant (Alaska Serving Teachers Accomplishing Retention). This grant will provide the district with about \$500K per year over the next five years to facilitate recruiting and training teachers from within the river communities of the district. This is called a "grow your own" program for short. If successful there will be several positive outcomes for the river communities.

1. Reduced teacher turnover resulting in better instruction outcomes.
2. Improving the local economy by providing good paying professional jobs to local residents that don't require leaving home.
3. Providing successful local role models for district students
4. Providing culturally aware and relevant instruction to students in all subject areas
5. Provide a wider choice of career options to local students.



The ASTAR grant hired Arne Erickson to be the Teacher Retention Leader on January 22. Mr. Erickson is originally from Tok, Alaska and a 1987 graduate of UAF. Arne taught and coached basketball for 25 years in rural Alaska in the communities of Shishmaref, Hoonah, and Galena before retiring from full time teaching in 2013. Arne will be visiting all ten of the river schools this semester telling our students about the opportunities available to them for a career in education and how the YKSD can help to make that dream a reality for them. He has visited Ruby and Allakaket so far. Mr. Erickson will also be working with the paraprofessionals (teacher aides) at the river schools helping them to get on a plan to become designated as "highly qualified" by the Alaska Department of Education. This will help our district get into compliance with Alaska regulation [4 AAC 04.220](#) and allow our paraprofessionals to qualify for a pay increase. Mr. Erickson will be working at the CTE building when he is not out working at the river schools.

Assessments

Andrea Nield, State and Federal Programs
Assistant Director / Assessments

Assessments: On February 6-7 Andrea Nield and Vicky Charlie attended the State District Test Coordinator Meeting in Anchorage.

The Alaska System of Academic Readiness (AK STAR)

Alaska's Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) has partnered with NWEA to implement a creative approach to balanced statewide assessment that better reflects learning throughout the school year and helps educators target instruction to students' individual needs. The Alaska System of Academic Readiness (AK STAR) is designed to streamline the testing experience for grades 3–9 in the areas of English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. For more information please visit <https://education.alaska.gov/assessments/akstar>

- The test window will be Monday, March 25, 2024 and ending on Friday, April 26, 2024.
- Practice tests are now posted and will be sent to teachers this week.
- [Why should my child take the statewide summative assessment?](#)

Alaska Science Assessment

The Alaska Science Assessment is a summative assessment designed to measure a student's (in grades 5, 8, and 10) knowledge of the **K-12 Science Standards for Alaska**, adopted in June 2019. The **K-12 Science Standards for Alaska** provide a new foundation for defining what students should know and be able to do in terms of scientific knowledge and skills.

The *K-12 Science Standards for Alaska* support learning and understanding through sense making and investigations associated with scientific phenomena in life science, physical science, earth and space science, and engineering and technology. Crosscutting concepts, an organizational framework for connecting knowledge from the diverse science disciplines into a coherent and scientifically based view of the world, are included in the standards. Science and engineering practices, [Alaska Standards for Culturally Responsive Schools](#), and evidence-based reasoning are also included.

For resources on preparing students to take the science assessment, please view [Student Readiness](#).

ACCESS for ELLs

ACCESS for ELLs is a secure large-scale English language proficiency assessment for students who have been identified as English Learners (ELs). ACCESS for ELLs is aligned with the WIDA English Language Development (ELD) Standards and assesses each of the four language domains of Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. Alaska has adopted the 2007 WIDA ELD Standards (Alaska Regulation 4 AAC 04.155). ACCESS for ELLs is given annually in WIDA Consortium member states to monitor student's progress in acquiring academic English. ACCESS for ELLs must be administered to all identified ELs in the State of Alaska anytime during the test administration window of **February 1 – March 31** (Alaska Regulation 4 AAC 34.055(c)).

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as “the Nation's Report Card,” is the only nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas. Its two major goals are to measure student achievement and to report change in performance over time. Schools participating in the spring: Tanana, Huslia, Kaltag, Ruby.

Assessments continued

Andrea Nield, State & Federal Programs
Assistant Director / Assessments

Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alternate Assessment

The Alternate Assessment is administered to students with significant cognitive disabilities who are instructed and assessed on alternate achievement standards (Essential Elements). A Student's IEP team makes the determination if a student qualifies for the alternate assessment.

The Alternate Assessment is untimed and individually administered. The assessments are comprised of selected response items and modified constructed response items

MAP Testing

We are currently in the winter testing window for MAP Testing.

Spring MAP- For spring all students in grades 3-9 will be taking the AKSTAR assessment which is combined with the spring MAP growth. Leaving students in the following grades to take the spring NWEA Measures of Academic Progress, MAP

Grades K, 1, 2, 10, 11 for Math

Grades 10 & 11 for reading

The spring assessment window opens April 8-26, 2024. 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.

STAR Reading- All students in grades K-2 will be doing taking the STAR assessment in reading and also be used for interventions. Results have been shared at parent teacher conference.



Golden Heart Conference Basketball Tournament

Andrea Nield, State & Federal Programs
Assistant Director



Allakaket/Tanana Boys- Sportsmanship Award

Golden Heart Conference Basketball Tournament

Andrea Nield, State & Federal Programs Assistant Director



Huslia/Tanana Girls - Sportsmanship Award



Boys All-Academic Team includes Warren Charlie-Minto, Trent Henry-Huslia, and Vegaas Kruger-Nulato



Girls Academic Team includes Jeneva Penn-Husila

Golden Heart Conference Basketball Tournament

Andrea Nield, State & Federal Programs Assistant Director



Boys All Tourney Team includes Vegaas Kruger-Nulato, Miles Starr-Huslia, Marsten Capelle-Minto, and Andrew David-Minto



Girls All Touney Team includes Cuppy Agnes-Tanana and Carmen Vent-Huslia



20241A Golden Heart Boys Champions - Minto Lakers

ESTEEM Grant

Andrea Nield, State & Federal
Programs Assistant Director

This is a parent choice grant meaning parents have choice in their child's learning opportunities. We are currently in the process of bidding out services in the area of

1. Cultural/Native Language
2. College and Career Readiness
3. Extended Learning Opportunities
4. Resilience

For all course offerings please visit <https://esteem.yksd.com/>. Parents will need to sign up their student for each course. Below are the activities provided by esteem.

SPRING 2024

After School Tutoring: Services are available for those students requesting one on one tutoring. Availability will depend on the tutor and the subject students need help with. For more info on tutoring please see your front office

Tutoring has been funded this year for- Tanana, Hughes, Allakaket, Huslia, Ruby, Koyukuk

AKGRAD: ESTEEM Funds any students who need credit recovery.

Mask Carving: Kathleen Carlo, who is a master wood carver, held mask carving classes in Nulato February 5-16, 2024. She is from Nulato, but now resides in Fairbanks.



ESTEEM Grant continued

Andrea Nield, State & Federal
Programs Assistant Director

SPRING 2024

Gathering of Nations

Next quarter we are pleased to offer the Gathering of Nations trip. This program is part of the Cultural and Native Language and CTE portion of the ESTEEM grant. Selected students have been notified. Travel is April 24-28, 2024. Cultural Growth/Awareness - Attend the largest Pow Wow in the country! College & Career Readiness – Explore post-graduation options. While their students will part take in cultural exchange at Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute and tour New Mexico State.



Students pictured with President of Fort Lewis College after their performance at the Multicultural Day celebration and exchange with the Native student ambassadors.

Dancing with the Spirit Spring Schedule

Minto - March 4-8

Hughes - April 19-26

Tanana - March 18-25

Huslia - May 6-10



Dancing with the Spirit in Rampart December 2023

ESTEEM Grant

Andrea Nield, State & Federal
Programs Assistant Director

Plight 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 club, which brings together youth and adults from the community to learn important social, emotional, and resiliency skills. The program 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 spring dates and locations for Phlight Club. Parents please sign up for the [ESTEEM course](#).

Hughes - March 25-28

Kaltag & Koyukuk - April 22-26

Huslia - March 25-28

Nulato - April 29-May 1



Nick Hanson, Eskimo Ninja

This spring we are happy to announce that Nick Hanson, Eskimo Ninja will be traveling to our sites. Parents, please sign up for the [ESTEEM course](#) if you'd like to see him come to your sites.



Allakaket, Hughes - **March 19, 20**

Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk - **April 1, 2,3**



ESTEEM Grant

Andrea Nield, State & Federal
Programs Assistant Director

Skiku

Skiing Across Alaska: Our goal is to get Alaska skiing. We call our statewide program Skiku, a name that combines the Iñupaiq word for ice—siku—with ski. Volunteer coaches from the broader ski community will be traveling to our sites for a week at a time. Volunteering to foster the health, recreation, and competitive sports benefits of cross-country skiing. Parents, please sign up for this activity on the [ESTEEM website](#)

Hughes: March 24-30

Tanana: March 24-30



2024 Doyon Family of Companies CAREER Open to 6th-12th Graders FAIR

WHERE?

Tiaga Center
212 Wedgewood Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99701

WHEN?

Friday, April 26, 2024
From 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Meet with employees working in a variety of jobs including medical, accounting, power-plant, water-plant, information technology, utilities, GIS, oil field, tourism, trades, and more.

There will be prizes and food available!



DOYON, Limited

ESTEEM Grant Parent Advisory Meeting

April 16th, 2024 at 9:00am
Location: Pikes Hotel, Fairbanks, AK



- Flights, room & board, stipend provided
- We are looking for parent representatives from each of our sites to provide input for the final year of the grant

Parents and/or Guardians and Tribal Members

- ▶ Serve on an Advisory Council

Student Opportunities

- ▶ Eskimo Ninja
- ▶ Skiku
- ▶ College Prep Hoops
- ▶ Cultural Classes
- ▶ Language Classes
- ▶ Art, Tutoring

Trips

- ▶ Gathering of Nations (HS)
- ▶ Culture Camps
- ▶ Summer Language & Phlight Club
- ▶ Upward Bound
- ▶ College visits

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or information contact:

YSD: Roxanne Stickman, rstickman@yksd.com, 907-374-9467

"001 DIS"

rought to you by the ESTEEM Grant



*Yukon-Koyukuk School District
Presents Small School's*

PROM NIGHT

Saturday, April 27, 2024

7 PM - 11 PM

**Wedgewood Resort
Fairbanks, AK**

**Open to 8th - 12th grade students
Sign up with your principal by April 5th**

Schools invited: Allakaket, Hughes, Huslia, Kaltag Koyukuk, Minto, Nulato, Rampart, Tanana, Ruby, Mentasta, Northway, Tetlin, Fort Yukon and select schools from Iditarod Area School District.

Music by :DJ KAY



INTERIOR YOUTH BASKETBALL
PRESENTS

COMPETITIVE BASKETBALL

TOURNAMENT
MAY 3 - 5

**DIVISIONS INCLUDE:
BOYS AND GIRLS
3RD/4TH, 5TH/6TH,
7TH/8TH GRADE,
AND HIGH SCHOOL**

**\$300 Per Team; 4 game
guarantee**

**Registration ends April 20th,
2024**

Registration : www.interioryouthbasketball.com

More Information:

Matt Titus 907-978-0294 IYBNorthstar@gmail.com

Denaakkenaage' Hunek, Denakenaga' Khunek: Native Language News

Holly Wofford,
Native Language Teacher

Language Classes

Denaakk'e Classes 2023-24: The first half of the second semester went extremely well and online classes continue to be a success. It's great to see the kids back in classes after the weeklong Spring Break. You can always feel the kid's renewed energy after a mid-semester break.

Recap: Overall, throughout the year I have been seeing a lot of growth in my Denaakk'e classes, especially those that have been signing on consistently. When the teacher is invested with the students and practicing outside of classes it makes a huge difference in their retention, pronunciation, confidence, and participation during their scheduled class time with me. It's good to see our kids learning and understanding their language!

Currently we have 16 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**.

Classwork Update: To start the year, we began in **Units 9 – Łeek Eent'aanee?** and **Unit 10 – Saanh Ggaagge Hodee?** before moving into the beginning of the workbook. Using this approach gave students more time to learn about colors and birds in units 9 & 10; rather than rushing through it at the end of the school year. During the **Second Quarter** we worked through **Unit 1 – Nedaats'e Ne'ooze?** & **Unit 2 – Do'eent'aa?**

Quarter Three we completed **Unit 3 – Sezek** (My Body) & **Unit 4 – Donaalt'aayee?** (How Many Are There?) and we were able to start **Unit 5 – Dohoot'aa?** (What's the Weather) before Spring Break. To start off **Quarter Four**, we picked back up where we left off in our weather unit and are right on schedule to finish the workbook by end of year.



Native Language teacher Holly Wofford teaching Denaakk'e weather phrases and signs during a site visit in Ruby, AK.

Native Language News Continued

Holly Wofford,
Native Language Teacher

Shoutouts: In the past six years that I've been employed with YKSD I have never seen this much engagement in our NL program. We have had more involvement from our onsite co-teachers and upper grade levels than ever before, and it has been exciting for me to see our program expanding. All of this is due to the interest from our returning teachers and the new teachers who have signed up for time slots in the NL schedule. Enaa Baasee' to those of you who have made the investment in their daily schedules to include Native Language in your student's learning.



A few of Keely O'Connell's 6-12th Grade students in Rampart having fun singing a Denaakk'e version of Head, Shoulders, Knees, & Toes in Upper dialect .

Cultural Activities

Tristan Madros: YKSD's new Cultural teacher has been getting the cultural program off the ground for its first year. He has been successfully providing daily instruction onsite to 19 students in Nulato. Which is where he is based year-round. Students in his secondary classroom have completed projects such as gloves, slippers, headbands, earrings, and keychains. While students in his early elementary classes have been receiving additional Language instruction and Native Singing & Dancing practice.

Update on Site Visits: One of Tristan's goals is to visit other villages throughout the school year to provide week-long culture classes to our other nine sites. To date he has visited Kaltag (December), Huslia (January), Ruby (March), & will be in visiting Koyukuk (May) at the end of the year. Projects that he has worked on at the listed sites are mittens, hats, key chains, and Native Singing & Dancing with the communities in the evenings.

Future Plans: He has plans to visit YKSD's other 5 sites (Hughes, Allakaket, Rampart, Tanana, and Minto starting next school year)



Tristan Madros teaching students how to make beaver hats in Huslia, AK.



Tristan working on potlatch songs with students and community members of Ruby, AK

Native Language News Continued

Holly Wofford,
Native Language Teacher

Wednesday Story Hour

Starting last school year 2022-23 Wednesday Story Hour became a weekly part of our NL class schedule. We have shared all forms of storytelling; from having special guests sign on, reading from the Catherine Attla books, watching full length movies, sharing tv series *Make Prayers to the Raven*, and watching TCC's *Legacy of our Elders* videos.

Fun Fact: Storytelling has been used as an instrumental way to pass down traditional knowledge to younger generations for thousands of years.

Story Hour Highlight: One of our highlights this year has been watching *Spirit of the Wind* which is a full-length movie about world champion dog musher George Attla, with a recent follow up documentary that was made about him and his grandson Joseph Bifelt, a former teacher for YKSD.

Students are encouraged to draw as they're listening during Story Hour & to verbally share their thoughts when Story Hour has ended. If teachers or students have suggestions on future videos that are Culturally and/or Language related, please email me.

Native Language Department Events & Program Updates

To celebrate our YKSD River School Seniors, a flyer and information was recently sent out for parents on how to sign up for Regalia graduation cap supplies for their graduating seniors. This is made possible and funded by the ESTEEM grant.

GON Fieldtrip Results: We are currently in our third year of offering the Gathering of Nations field trip as an equal opportunity for Highschool students district wide. This is also an ESTEEM grant funded activity that the Native Language program has been successfully helping with to provide Cultural Awareness, Native Language, Singing & Dancing, College

Congratulations to this year's selectees:

Cierra Sommer - NUL

Thomas Patsy - NUL

Rayana Madros - NUL

Nevaeh Sam - TAL

Darian Woods - RMP

Christopher Sanders - KAL

Carmen Vent - HSL

REGALIA GRADUATION CAP SUPPLIES!!

SUPPLIES AVAILABLE:

- Hide 9.25" x 9.25" (commercial moosehide)
- Hard felt 9 x 12 (hard felt; inquire about color choices)
- Beads (variety of colors & sizes)
- Thread
- Needles
- Thimbles
- Scissors
- Fabric glue
- Tracing paper
- Rabbit Fur

CONTACT INFO:
hwofford@yksd.com
(907)-374-9405

FUNDED BY ESTEEM GRANT

Please share pictures with us we love to see finished projects :)

Please contact Holly Wofford or Roxanne Stickman with River School Parent Inquiries

Native Language News Continued

Holly Wofford,
Native Language Teacher

Curriculum & Materials

Updated Workbook Edition 2024: Something to look forward to, later this fall is our new edition of the NL workbooks along with new and improved teacher kits for school year 2024-25. New workbooks will include a 5-unit expansion; with new curriculum material on (Classroom, Plants & Berries, Camping, Fishing, & Moose).

Future Projects:

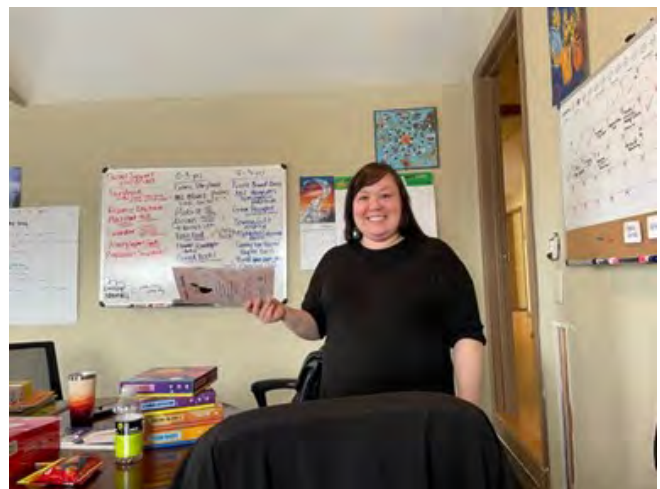
Some exciting news from our NL program is a new project that is under development to expand our program! Last month in February I was able to make a trip to St. Ignatius, Montana with our State & Federal Programs Director Scott MacManus.

During our visit we spent the week developing an Early Childhood Native Language Kit with our partners Native Teaching Aids & Brightways Learning. My vision for this kit is to bring Native Language not only to our Pre-K students, but to start in the homes with ages 0-5 years of age, and to empower parents as their teachers. A piece that I see missing in our NL program is that our Language is only being practiced during school months. With an Early Childhood Kit, we can get it into the homes and start Language learning at birth, so that families are learning together.

The kits design is built around providing materials and resources that are user friendly with interactive activities interwoven 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 their language 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.

Developing this kit has been a goal of mine as a Native Language teacher for over a year and it's beyond exciting to see it in its beginning stages. Tentative kit release date: Fall 2025!

In the Works: Fun interactive virtual exploration game for Native Language upper grade levels (9-12th Grade). More information at a later date.



Holly Wofford (NL Teacher) & Scott MacManus (State & Federal Programs Director) met with Native Teaching Aids and Brightways Learning during a three-day workshop in St. Ignatius, Montana.

As we near the end of the school year its time to make sure you have all you need to finish the year and prepare for another great school year that is just around the corner. Remember for any general funds that need to be spent on items for this school year should follow these guidelines:

Purchasing Deadlines

Business Office Reminders

Heather Heineken, CFO

March 29 - Purchase requisitions for all out-of-state ordering for this school year using general fund money must be done. It is important to know that these items must be physically received by June 30 or else they will be considered a purchase for next year and part of your next year's budget.

April 30 - The last day to submit purchase requisitions for your school site or department using general fund money. The exceptions are normal operation & maintenance, ongoing maintenance projects, approved staff and student travel and small incidental purchases for spring activities such as graduation.

These deadlines are for general fund purchases needed through the end of this school year. If you need things for next year, those items can be purchased starting July 1. If you would like to get things ordered before coming back, let the Business Office know and we will work on getting those orders entered and processed when the system is available.



Counseling Corner

Michelle Coryell,
Counselor



The **Healthy lifestyles/Career Fair** took place March 1, 2024.

We had a great team that joined us that included a Health and Fitness instructor from F&H Fitness in Fairbanks, a representative from Doyon, Limited, and a representative from the Marines.

The counseling team is continuing **ACT** administrations. The next and final administration for this school year will be in April. The deadline for registering is March 8, and the late registration is March 22, 2024.



*Minimum scores are needed for the APS (Alaska Performance Scholarship)

<https://acpe.alaska.gov/financial-aid/ak-performance-scholarship>

Learn more about the ACT here <https://www.act.org/>



We will also be administering the **WorkKeys assessment** to 11th graders and 12th graders who want to improve their scores from the previous test.

ACT WorkKeys is an assessment that tests students' job skills in applied reading, writing, mathematics and Essential Skills. Scores are based on job profiles that help employers select, hire, train, develop and retain a high-performance workforce.

*Learn more about ACT WorkKeys here <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/act-workkeys/act-workkeys-assessments.html#assessments>

*A minimum score of 13 on the WorkKeys is needed for the APS (Alaska Performance Scholarship) <https://acpe.alaska.gov/financial-aid/ak-performance-scholarship>



It's FAFSA time! FAFSA stands for Free Application for Student Aid. Students and parents need to complete this form each year to be eligible for grants and scholarships to pay for post-secondary school and training. The new application is available at <https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/2024-25-fafsa.pdf>

Keep your eyes out for scholarships for our students. We have many already listed on our the YKSD counseling webpage <https://www.yksd.com/Page/86>

Sign up now for **UAF's Campus Preview Days!** Campus Preview Days are your chance to explore opportunities and experiences that await you at UAF! You'll learn all you need to know about UAF, admissions, financial aid & scholarships, living on campus and more. All attendees will receive an application fee waiver to any undergraduate program.

*Learn more at <https://www.uaf.edu/admissions/visit/previewday.php>

Counseling Corner *continued*

Kela Gillihan,
Counselor

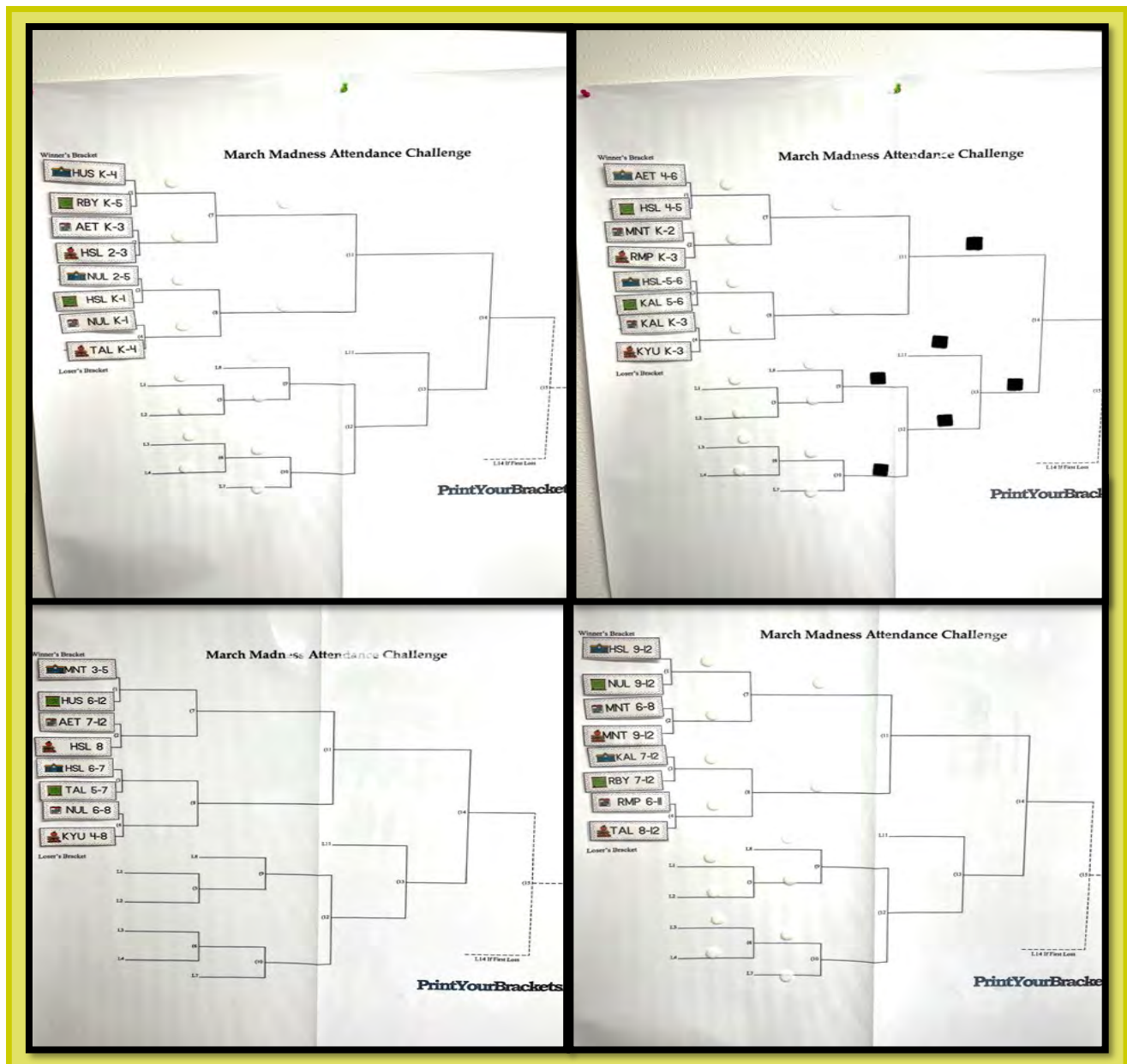


We had a wonderful Quarter 3 with **The Great Kindness Challenge**. Thank you to all of the classes that participated in both dressing up and showing acts of kindness!

Winners for The Great Kindness Challenge

1st Place-Ms. Bjerke K-2 1st Place- Mrs. Bellamy K-4 1st Place- Mr. Bellamy 6-11 1st Place Mr. Carney 9-10
2nd Place-Ms. Joby K-2 2nd Place-Mrs. Whitaker 4-5 2nd Place Ms. Eberle 6-7 2nd Place Mr. Scalise 9-12

We are excited to announce our new event for Quarter 4! The AWSC will be hosting a **March Madness** style attendance challenge. Classroom teams have been set based on classroom size for each bracket. This will be a double elimination event, so classes can keep participating after the first week. The challenge will run from March 18th-April 26th. Each week teams with the highest attendance will move on to the next round. We hope you enjoy this challenge and can't wait to see the classes with the highest attendance!



Technology Corner

Brad Kennon,
Technology Director

Dear River Schools Community,

As we journey through the spring semester, we're excited to share some significant updates and initiatives happening within our school district. From technology advancements to infrastructure enhancements, our commitment to providing the best possible educational environment remains steadfast.

SB-140 and BAG Grant

Since its inception in 2014, the Broadband Assistance Grant (BAG) has been a vital resource in supporting our schools' technological needs. Originally aimed at achieving 10 Mbps download speeds, the grant has evolved over the years. In 2020, thanks to the efforts of the Alaska State Legislature, schools were able to upgrade to 25 Mbps download speeds. Now, with SB-140 on the horizon, we're looking forward to potentially increasing these speeds to an impressive 100 Mbps. The Yukon-Koyukuk School District stands ready to leverage these funds effectively. We're prepared to enhance our connectivity, ensuring that our students and educators have the resources they need to thrive in today's digital age.

Technology Projects and Status

Starlink for Teacher Housing: Internet access is more than just a convenience; it's a necessity, especially for our dedicated educators. We've recently acquired equipment for all YKSD-owned housing units, with installation set to commence in Minto as soon as possible as the school remodel has impacted reliable internet access. We understand the importance of providing this service to our teachers and are committed to ensuring they have the tools they need to excel.

Websites: Our Technology Department is hard at work revamping our online presence. We recognize the significance of effective communication with our families and communities, which is why we're in the process of upgrading our website to a more modern platform. Stay tuned for the launch of our new website by July 1st, aimed at enhancing engagement and accessibility for all stakeholders.

Synergy SIS: Efficient communication and streamlined processes are essential components of a successful educational system. That's why we're excited to announce our transition to a new Student Information System (SIS). This platform will not only improve communication with our families but also integrate all our existing systems and programs under one application. We're on track to implement this upgrade for the upcoming school year, ensuring a more cohesive and efficient experience for all.

Phone System: Effective communication is key, especially in areas where local phone service can be unreliable. Recognizing this challenge, we're working diligently to replace our current phone system. The new platform will not only enhance communication with our families but also provide us with greater flexibility when navigating issues with local telephone utilities. Deployment has already begun for Raven, and we're on target to roll out this upgrade to all River schools by next school year.



Career Explorers in YKSD

Patty Woody,
CTE Assistant Director

The Career Explorers curriculum, part of YKSD's CTE program, continues to move forward. Career Explorers encourages students in our river communities to explore career options and prepare for post-secondary education, training, and employment. This semester Jeff Walters visited two additional sites (Ruby and Allakaket) to administer career counseling lessons. Melissa Good continues her distance-delivery AKCIS (Alaska Career Information System) lessons once or twice a month with most sites. We were also pleased to welcome two new employees. Brian Powell will facilitate Life Skills lessons and assist with grant management. Arne Erickson is focusing on YKSD's partnership with Chadron State University in Nebraska on our "Grow Your Own" teacher program. Specifically, Arne is helping to identify and support students, paraprofessionals, and community members as they begin working towards state teacher certification.

The CTE program has also been busy with several exciting opportunities! In January, nine students participated in a week-long welding certification class in Fairbanks. Then, from January 29-February 6, twenty-eight YKSD students in grades 6-8 traveled to Anchorage for ANSEP (Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program). In late February, thirteen students traveled to Juneau for the annual EdRising conference. Additional student opportunities are coming up soon, including an AHEC (Area Health Education Centers) training in Fairbanks at the end of March (juniors and seniors can earn 2 UAA health credits!), also a statewide SkillsUSA conference in Fairbanks at the end of March, and a Career Explorers camp for juniors and seniors in Nulato in mid-April. We're excited to provide these opportunities for our students!

Welding Certification



ANSEP Middle School Academy



Educators Rising State Conference



Allakaket School

John Brady,
Principal/Teacher

We have the wood shop operational, and students are busy learning safety, learning how to use tools and doing some projects. Rubber band guns seem to be a popular project.



A wooden spoon was made with a lot of patience and chiseling by hand.



Cutting boards are also a good learning project. We refurbished an old piece of maple wood that was found and made into a nice cutting board.



Rubber band gun.



A four-gun wall mounted gun rack was also just completed.

Andrew K. Demoski School

James Ortiz,
Principal/Teacher



It's a great day to be a Nulato Wolf! Quarter 3 has been extremely successful and busy. Time seems to be flying by with everything going on here at school.



Jan 15 - 19 2024 CTE Health Career Exploration: Ian McCarthy of University of Alaska Anchorage with Alaska Areas Health Education Centers (AHEC). Several students were able to dissect cow hearts.



Jan 29 - Feb 1 Trapping Course with Arctic Circle Educators: Ryan Bandy met with the students and had in class instruction on trapping, helped the students build their own Marten boxes, and skinned a wolverine with the students on the last day of the class.

Feb 5 - 16 Mask Making: Kathleen Carlo-Kendall was able to work with students grades 3 - 12 sculpt and build cultural masks that we were able to create and display at the school. Several hours of planning, sculpting, and decorating went into the student's artwork. We displayed their final creations in the entryway of the school.



Feb 19 - 23 Stickdance: Hundreds of people flooded Nulato for the Stickdance this year. It was amazing to witness. Stickdance is a memorialization and honoring of the passing of loved ones within the community. Many students and family members took part in this awe inspiring event.

Basketball Season: Basketball season has picked up. Many of the students are participating in basketball this year. There has been a lot of traveling this year to tournaments in other village schools and cities.

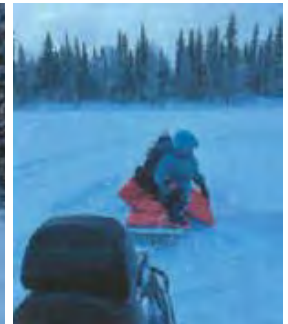
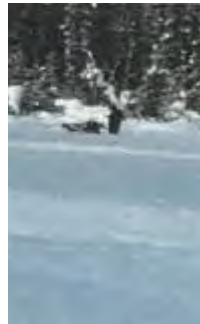


Go Nulato Wolves!

Ella B. Vernetti School

Mike Lane,
Principal/Teacher

For a couple of weeks, our community experienced a shortage of water, leading to shortened school days. Although this presented as a challenge, we made the most of our time academically. Fortunately, we came together as a community, ensuring that we had access to this essential resource. While academics remained a priority, we also found ways to enjoy ourselves during this unique situation. Our gym class, for example, took advantage of the snowy weather and offered us the opportunity to engage in thrilling activities such as skiing and snowshoeing. Additionally, on some days, we were able to explore the surrounding wilderness by checking the trapline. Despite the challenges we faced as a community, we managed to make the best out of the situation, both academically and recreationally.



Rampart School

Charles Burns, Principal

Rampart is doing very well. The facilities issues regarding water and sewer have been taken care of. Upon returning to school it was discovered that there were water and sewage issues. The issue was with a line from the village and was fixed. The students and staff have been very flexible and positive when adjusting to shortages/outages.

Two of our students were able to attend the ANSEP Middle School Academy in Fairbanks, in late January. They had a really positive experience.



Nic Hansen, the Ninja Warrior was able to visit. He was very entertaining and well received by the students and community.

Ryan Bandy visited our site and taught a trapping class. The students greatly enjoyed the experience.

We will be having SkiKu visit our site in the near future. The students really enjoy cross country skiing, and SkiKu provides a wonderful experience.

Rampart's attendance is at 96%, with only 7% chronically absent. The students are doing a great job showing up and building their knowledge and skills.

Johnny Oldman School

Andrew Bellamy, Teacher

Is it really the end of the third quarter already? It feels like we just got back from Christmas break! It's been a wild ride here in Hughes, Alaska but we've been piling in the activities! We participated in the Great Kindness Challenge, sent five 6th graders to ANSEP in Anchorage, received a special visit from Happy Boy, enjoyed a visit from our awesome guidance counselor, Ms. Gillihan, and received some great school swag! Visitors still to come this year are: Skiku, Eskimo Ninja Warrior, Dancing with the Spirit, Wilderness survival, Carpentry with Anthony Cavan, and more!



Kaltag School

Vicki Inferrera,
Principal/Teacher



K-3 drawing bodies, Naming the body parts in the Native Language, the halls were full of skillfully drawn and labeled bodies.



Jonah Semaken Selected Student of the Month for Hard work and cultural Involvement.



Students intertwine cultural lessons in Beading -with teacher aide, Laura Saunders, and Shanna Cook.



Ms. Poirier and students celebrate 100th Day of School is a symbolic celebration of students' achievements during the academic year, especially for those in elementary school. The event centers around the number 100, which helps develop learners' understanding and recognition of numbers up to 100.



ANSEP Students attended the new Residential Acceleration Academy allows students in Alaska to live on UAA campus for a week. Our Middle School 6-12 graders experienced science and engineering like never before. They took part in cool hands-on projects with real science and engineering professionals (STEM) activities and how it is used in real world situation and got to live like a real college student.



Kaltag WILDCATS, logo is completed!



AK Heater - Academy- Boiler Training (Rocky Pave) Students learned all about boilers, how to build one, how to fix one and all the safety needed to repair one. The students were so engaged- every one of them said how interesting and worthwhile for the future this lesson was. (Thank you CTE!)



Yoga Brain Break, hosted daily by Mr. Crosby.

Kaltag School continued

Vicki Infrerra,
Principal/Teacher

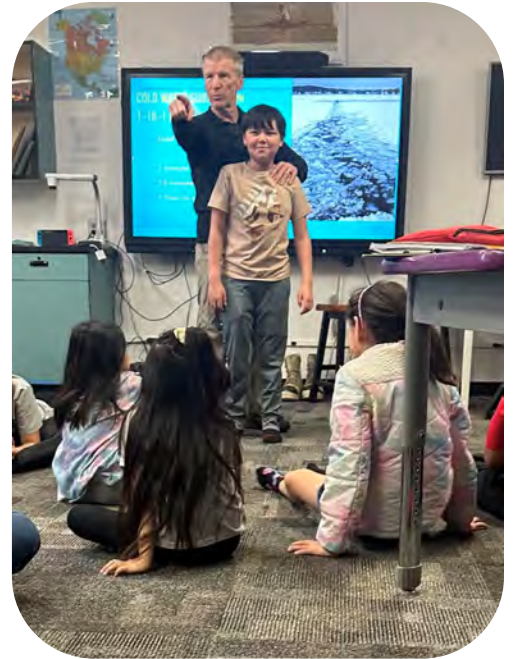
KALTAG Battle of the Books team took second place beating river schools and only losing to Fairbanks. We're SO Proud, they celebrated with a pizza party.

GO TEAM ! Avery Crosby, Allen Gunderson, Josh Crosby.

Ak Safe Riders (Mike and Dan) Presented safety when in the back-country on land, water or ice. Students practiced saving someone who had fallen through the ice among other lessons. Students were fascinated and really focused on that one!

Presidents Day was enjoyed by all even if it snowed for 3 days!

Joleen McGinty stopped by for 12th grade ACT Testing and checking up on graduation credits and grades ACT tests are a standardized test used for college admissions, covering English, mathematics, reading and scientific reasoning. Thanks Joleen!!



Map Testing is part of NWEA and uses RIT or Rasch unit scoring the scale measures the value of a student score in relation to his or hers scores on previous testing. The scores are viewed as benchmarks in the student's growth. Our students made gains in several places, and we continue to work hard to raise scores in other areas. It is a journey not a destination.

Chris Carlson, reading interventionist was shut out due to bad weather but will help plan our Kaltag STREAM Game Night! We can't wait!!



Maudrey J. Sommer School

Angie O'Dell, Teacher

Maudrey J Sommer School is buzzing with excitement as we reflect on an extraordinary February and eagerly anticipate the adventures awaiting us! Throughout the month, we had the privilege of hosting BackCountry Safety, enriching our students with essential knowledge on navigating sub-zero temperatures safely. The enthusiasm peaked with an incredible giveaway featuring Oakley goggles and snow machine helmets, bringing so much joy to our students! Moreover, Phlight Club reached new heights, fostering deep connections within our school and the wider community. Culminating the month was our inaugural Valentine's Party/Dance, where laughter and joy filled the air as students celebrated together. With these unforgettable experiences behind us, we're brimming with anticipation for the bright future ahead at Maudrey J Sommer School!

Looking ahead to March and April, the anticipation is soaring! As Spring Break approaches, both staff and students are eagerly counting down the days. After the break, get ready for the exhilarating visit of Dancing with the Spirit to Tanana, an event always cherished by our community. The excitement continues with the last week of March packed full of festivities, including The Tanana Spring Carnival and The Lance Foldger Memorial Basketball Tournament, promising thrills and camaraderie for all. Amidst the excitement, our focus remains steadfast on academics as we prepare diligently for the AKStar in April. With dedication and hard work from both our staff and students, we're ready to

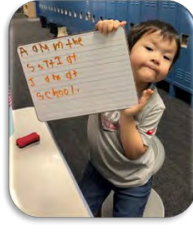


Minto School

Minto Staff

Preschool

we are doing great things in preschool! welcome Hailey! Happy Valentines Day! we colored and built a barn! we use it to read in or play like it is an ice cream shop or McDonald's or take a little nap. we love our barn!



we are learning about plants and what plants need to grow.

we even built a HUGE sunflower! we know that plants need water, soil, sun, we know that humans need water, food, and shelter. Learning is FUN!

K-2

Minto K-2 has been having a sweet, sweet, sweet Quarter 3! We had so much fun spreading kindness during Kindness week. We completed the entire challenge and won first place in the K-2 Kindness challenge and celebrated with a pizza party. We loved seeing how our kind deeds made others feel good.

Our class worked diligently to prepare for the Battle of the Books competition, and all of our hard work paid off! Team "The Good Guys" represented by Avery Overbay, Lilo Wolfe, and Cadence Alexander with Emery Kanayurak as the alternate took first place at the district competition!!



Congratulations to Avery Overbay, Cadence Alexander, and Lilo Wolfe for joining the 100 AR Points Club, and to Emmett David and Christopher Purdy for joining the 50 AR Points Club, and to Cameron Mcmanus and Judie Alexander for joining the 25 AR Points Club!

The K-2 class has also been working really hard in math! We had a goal of answering 10,000 math IXL questions by 100 days of school and we achieved our goal a few weeks early! We celebrated with a balloon party! With temperatures below -50 degrees, we filled some extra balloons with water and food coloring and froze them outside to demonstrate how liquids can turn to solids.



Minto School continued

Minto Staff

K-2

We have been excitedly counting our days of school waiting for 100 Days of school! Even though our day was cut short by a power outage, we still got to celebrate with root beer floats and cool glasses! We used an age filter to show what we would look as old people and wrote goals we have for when we are 100 years old! We also read in the dark with flashlights!

Congratulations to our Math Challenge winners so far this quarter! Cadence Alexander, winner of Week 13 Emery Kanayurak, winner of Week 12 (and three-time winner!), Lilo Wolfe, winner of Week 11.



We enjoyed our recent visit from the Ninja Warriors and our Valentine's Day party and we are looking forward to participating in the Iditaread and Minto Culture week in March!

3-5

Wow, this quarter has flown by. We have been busy, busy, busy. Students were reading and prepping for Battle of the Books. We celebrated Kindness week by dressing up all week. Congratulations to Barbara Alexander for reaching the 100 Point club in AR. Our 3-4 Battle of the Books team, The Little Lakers, made up of Regina David, Johnathan Alexander, Barbara Alexander, and alternate Jayce David, came in 2nd in the District Competition. They put up a good fight! The 5-6 team, the Minto Lakers, composed of Kyla Roberts and Royce Frank, came in 1st place for the District and will be competing in the State competition at the end of February!



We celebrated the 100th Day of School with a fun visit from the Eskimo Ninja Nick Hanson. We went down to the Hall and participated in some obstacle courses. The kids did great and had lots of fun! They came back that evening for even more fun activities, playing games like Cat & Mouse and running the obstacle course.

During Native Language, we learned how to make nonathdlodi (fish ice cream) and got to enjoy the treat! We had lots of delicious treats for our Valentine's Party! There are some fun and exciting activities coming up. We will participate in the IditaREAD contest at the beginning of March in which we will read 1049 pages, as well as Alaska Culture week. We are looking forward to Spring Break!!!



Minto School continued

Minto Staff

Middle School

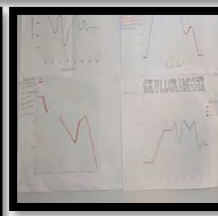
Middle School students have been working through the year at a good pace. We have been continuing to add more words to our class vocabulary list. Our reading scores are improving from last semester. We are now doing more reading than ever before. We have been dedicating more time to Accelerated Reader and taking AR tests. Our instructional class load has transitioned from Alaska history to Government. The class switch has been going over well, and the students show great interest in the new class. We would like to highlight Easton Wolfe for his efforts in the Battle of the Books.



High School

Hardworking students above. Minto High School students are learning Algebra 2 with Dr. (soon to be) Simon Huff. The Algebra 2 students created roller coasters through linear and quadratic equations. Minto students are again in the lead for the state of Alaska spring Vocabulary Bowl. **GO CHAMPS!** Together we are reading and analyzing Romeo and Juliet. The students are creating multigenre research projects to demonstrate their unique takes on the Bard's classic. Students use memes and gifs to demonstrate their understanding of the play. They are also using art, music, and role-plays. Even though I only see most of my students 3 days per week due to basketball, they perform at high levels both on and off the court.

Middle school artists never cease to amaze. They recently created masks from the culture or fictional universe of their choice. Middle school artists also created bamboo paintings with Chinese calligraphy. The students chose Chinese idioms or proverbs from greats such as Laotzu, Sun Tsu, and Confucius. **GO LAKERS!**



Raven Homeschool—Anchorage

Raven Staff

The third quarter of this school year has been as busy as the first two! Workshops, field trips, activities and meetings with families have kept us on our toes. Spanish Club, FLL, Mad Science Club, Quilting Club, Writing Club, and Dungeons & Dragons Club all meet weekly in our office. Our first ever Yearbook Club meets once a month as they prepare to create an amazing showcase of our activities and students. We celebrated Valentine's Day with an amazing party! We want to especially recognize our FLL team, The Mighty Ravens, who worked hard together for several months to create their project and their hard work paid off as they did very well at the state competition in January to represent Raven! Additionally, they got to meet and have lunch with their Juneau Raven teammates. The most exciting for this quarter is that our students performed the play that they wrote and did all the set design and acting for. It was outstanding with many first-time actors along with returning actors!



Raven Homeschool—Delta

Raven Staff

This quarter we are celebrating Pi Day on Thursday March 14th. We have many great activities happening such as Terrific Tuesdays, Lego Club, and the Idita-Read Challenge. We had a great Valentine's Day event, and our Tea Party featured a few dresses that were sewn by the student participants. We are excited to be welcoming spring and the many activities that we can do as the weather continues to get better.



Raven Homeschool—Eagle River

Raven Staff



We've been having a lot of fun in the Eagle River office! We had a fantastic Valentine's Day event! Lots of fun for students and families. We have had some cool science workshops with Ms. Fancher. We have many clubs that are going strong: Book Club of the Kids and Middles, Recess Club, Lego Club, Little Learners, and Geography club. We look forward to the fun we have in store for our families in the next quarter! We are so thankful that we have so many wonderful club instructors! We could not do all this for our students without them.

Raven Homeschool—Fairbanks

Raven Staff

The third quarter with Raven has been busy! Our office hosted a Valentine's Day party for the families with games and food for the kids. The Yearbook club is going strong. Siblings Colin and Cara Schneider formed a two-person Battle of the Books team and tied for 6th place in the State Battle of the Books Competition in the middle school division. The field trips have been fantastic with visits to the House of Bread, the fire station and much more.



Raven Homeschool—Juneau

Raven Staff

Our third quarter of the year has continued to fly by with many fun activities and events. Science Fridays have been a big hit this year with many new never done before experiments. Our Lego League team, "The One and Only 49ers," earned a seat at the



state competition and got to have lunch with their Anchorage



Raven teammates. Pokémon Club, Chess Club, Math Club, and Lego Club all have a good amount of kids who enjoy sharing their interests with each other, and other regularly occurring events like Marvelous Mondays, Girls' Gathering, Lunch Bunch, Poetry Teatime, and Adventures in Bookland

continue to be quite popular. Some big events of the quarter included our Valentine exchange, our Idita-Read and our goal of trying to read a Million Words in March!

Raven Homeschool—Wasilla

Raven Staff

The Wasilla Raven office has continued to be busy with workshops, activities, and field trips for students and parents to participate in. Our book club has been reading many books. The chess club is a determined group, learning strategy, that meets once a month. The D&D club is a student favorite- playing out their scenarios. The bowling club is nice for families- the youngest to the oldest can participate. The Culinary Cook Off allows students to share their culinary skills. This quarter they have showcased chili, pie, and macaroni and cheese. Students of all ages learn about famous artists and their work, as well as various art techniques when they come to the ARTiculate workshops taught by our fabulous family liaison, Daphne. She also facilitates the wildly popular Crafternoon workshops. The Valentine's Day events went over well. Our teachers have been working hard ensuring that reimbursements are getting done, staying in contact with families, and getting prepared for the upcoming assessments. The administrative assistants have been busy positively communicating with families in person, on the phone, and through their weekly communications. We, as a team, work hard at reaching our retention and recruitment goals.



Yukon Koyukuk School District

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ALLAKAKET

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MINTO

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HUGHES

KALTAG

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TANANA

DELTA JUNCTION

HUSLIA

KOYUKUK

RAMPART

WASILLA

EAGLE RIVER

2024-2025 YKSD SCHOOL CALENDAR

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2024	
AUGUST	1 Assistant Directors return to work. 5 Principals Return to work 5-7 Principals at District Office 8-9 New Teachers/New Principals at District Office 12-16 Returning Teacher Workdays/Inservice days on-site 19 First Day of School
SEPTEMBER	2 Labor Day Holiday 6 Subsistence day (Students & Teachers) 12 Mid-term Progress Reports 13 Subsistence day (Students & Teachers) 16-20 Inservice in Fairbanks 28 Principal Workday
OCTOBER	12-13 Principal Workdays 18 End of 1st Quarter/Early Dismissal for Students/Report Cards 30 Parent Teacher Conferences/Early Dismissal for Students
NOVEMBER	9 Principal Workday 15 Mid-term Progress Reports 27 Vacation/Non-contract day for teacher, principals & students 28-29 Thanksgiving Holiday
DECEMBER	7 Principal Workday (Fairbanks) 20 End of Semester/Early Dismissal for Students/Report Cards 23-31 Holiday Break-No School

2025	
JANUARY	1 New Year Holiday 2-3 Vacation/Non-contract day for Teachers 6 Teacher Inservice - No School 7 Students back to school 25-26 Principal Workday
FEBRUARY	7 Mid-term Progress Reports 17 President's Day - No School for Students or Teachers 22 Principal Workday
MARCH	7 End of Quarter/Early Dismissal for Students/Report Cards 10-14 Spring Break 19 Parent Teacher Conferences/Early Dismissal for Students 22 Principal Workday 24 Testing Window Begins
APRIL	18 Mid-term Progress Reports 25 Testing Window Ends 26 Principal Workday
MAY	22 Last Day of School for Students/Report Cards 23 Teacher Workday 24 Principal Workday 26 Memorial Holiday 27-30 Principal Workdays

C	Last Day of School/Report Cards
E	End of Quarter-Early Dismissal for Students/Report Cards
H	Legal Holiday
I	Inservice Day
M	Parent-Teacher Conf-Early Dismissal for Students
MD	Minimum Day
MT	Mid-Term Progress Reports
NT	New Teacher Workday
P	First Day of School for Students
P	Principal Workday (<i>tentative dates</i>)
S	Subsistence Days for Students & Teachers
T	Testing
V	Vacation Day (Students, Teachers, Principals)
W	Teacher Workday (no students)

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