

May 2024

Yukon-Koyukuk School District Staff Connections

Yukon Koyukuk School District Employees of the Year

Kerry Boyd, Superintendent

We are thrilled to announce that **Andrea Nield** and **Maegan Mascagno** have been selected as the Yukon Koyukuk School District Employees of the Year! Their dedication, hard work, and commitment to our students and community have set them apart.



Andrea Nield



Maegan Mascagno

In addition, we would like to recognize several other outstanding employees who were nominated for Employee of the Year. These individuals have demonstrated exceptional dedication and have made significant contributions to our district. Let's celebrate their hard work!

- **Rose Wolfe**, Elementary Teacher - Minto School
- **Steve Swatling**, High School Teacher - Jimmy Huntington - Huslia
- **Casey Weter**, Principal of Jimmy Huntington School - Huslia
- **Cathy Walker**, Speech Pathologist - Itinerant Districtwide
- **Heather Bjerke**, Elementary Teacher - Minto School
- **Heather Heineken**, CFO - Fairbanks
- **Joby Doronila**, Elementary Teacher - Allakaket School
- **Kim Bergey**, Director of Raven - Wasilla
- **Lawrence Huff**, Maintenance Coordinator - Fairbanks
- **McKenna Nixon**, Elementary Teacher - Andrew K. Demoski - Nulato
- **Patty White**, Assistant Superintendent - Fairbanks
- **Patty Wiehl**, Maintenance Administration - Fairbanks
- **Brenda Jimmie**, Custodian - Minto
- **Holly Shier**, Raven Administrative Support - Juneau
- **Mark Weaver**, Cook - Merrelaine A. Kangas School - Ruby

Please join us in congratulating all these exceptional individuals for their contributions and dedication to our district.

Congratulations!

Board Recognition

Certified Employee of the Year

Andrea Nield



Andrea Nield, the Assistant Director, Testing Coordinator, and Home Away Program Coordinator for Yukon Koyukuk School District (YKSD), has been a dedicated and invaluable member of our district for 19 years. Her selection as the Employee of the Year is a testament to her unwavering commitment, remarkable contributions, and exceptional service to our students, staff, and community.

Commitment and Longevity Andrea has been a cornerstone of YKSD since her own school days, continually demonstrating her dedication to our district. Her longevity has provided her with extensive knowledge of district operations, making her an essential resource, especially given the high turnover rate. Her institutional memory and expertise ensure continuity and stability within our programs.

Leadership and Coordination Andrea is the backbone of our district's testing and basketball programs. Her meticulous organization and tireless efforts have kept these programs running smoothly. Without her dedication, our basketball programs would not exist. Andrea goes above and beyond to ensure students have the opportunity to play and travel, fostering their physical and personal development.

Community Engagement and Volunteerism In addition to her professional roles, Andrea is a foster parent and a high school basketball coach. She actively participates in the Fairbanks community, showing her commitment to supporting youth both within and outside the district. Her inspiring and selfless nature is evident in her ability to juggle multiple roles and responsibilities.

ESTEEM Grant Management Andrea manages the ESTEEM grant, ensuring that its activities are on track by maintaining constant communication with principals, teachers, and vendors. The grant involves complex logistics, including travel, documentation, budgets, and meetings, all of which Andrea handles with exceptional skill and dedication. Her ability to manage these intricate details on top of her other responsibilities is truly commendable.

Support for Students and Families Andrea's support extends beyond the classroom. She attends all student events in the Fairbanks area and travels to rural community events to support families. Her home is a safe haven for students needing extra help, demonstrating her and her husband's commitment to the well-being of our youth.

Positive Influence and Inspiration Andrea's influence is far-reaching. She serves on various boards around Fairbanks, impacting youth both locally and regionally. Her interpersonal skills and ability to collaborate with diverse groups are crucial to meeting student needs. She is always available to assist students and teachers, providing guidance and leveraging her extensive contact list to support educational and athletic programs.

Advocacy and Relationship Building Andrea is a strong advocate for student experiences, coordinating events and travel to ensure students can participate in various programs. Her advocacy extends to staff as well, fostering cooperation and harmony throughout the district. She builds meaningful relationships with parents, students, Elders, and community members, embodying the district's commitment to cultural values and community engagement.

Dedication Beyond Work Hours Andrea's dedication is evident in her willingness to work beyond regular hours, ensuring that all responsibilities are met. Her efforts inspire others to strive for excellence and reliability in their roles. She is a pivotal figure in the district, contributing significantly to its success and cohesion.

Conclusion Andrea Nield's unwavering dedication, extensive contributions, and inspirational presence make her a deserving recipient of the Employee of the Year award. Her tireless efforts and commitment to YKSD's students, staff, and community exemplify the values and mission of our district. We are proud to honor Andrea for her outstanding service and exceptional impact.

Board Recognition

Classified Employee of the Year

Meagan Mascagno



Maegan Mascagno, Administrative Assistant with Raven-ANC, embodies the spirit and dedication that drives our office's success. Her exceptional organizational skills, positive attitude, and commitment to fostering a supportive and engaging environment make her an indispensable part of our team. It is with great pride that we recognize Maegan as the 2024 Employee of the Year for Yukon Koyukuk School District.

Pillar of Organization and Efficiency Maegan's organizational prowess is unparalleled. She ensures that everything in the office runs smoothly, from daily operations to special events. Her ability to keep things in order, even when challenges arise, is remarkable. Maegan's quick and efficient handling of tasks ensures that any issues are promptly addressed, maintaining a productive and positive work environment.

Positive Influence and Team Spirit Maegan's energy and enthusiasm are contagious. She is always planning fun activities and celebrations for staff and families, creating a lively and enjoyable atmosphere. Her efforts to welcome and support our new counselor or any new employee have been outstanding. Maegan has not only helped acclimate employees to the office but also makes sure new employees feel at home in Alaska. Her willingness to go above and beyond to support new team members exemplifies her nurturing and inclusive nature.

Community Engagement and Leadership Maegan's involvement extends beyond our office. She plans and participates in community events, leveraging her connections from growing up in Anchorage. Her deep relationships with parents and students allow her to provide personalized greetings and support, fostering a strong sense of community. Maegan's ability to know and remember families by name enhances the welcoming environment of our office.

Exceptional Multi-Tasker and Communicator Maegan's multi-tasking abilities are extraordinary. She supports not only the Anchorage office but also the Raven counseling team and other Raven branches. Her organizational skills shine in her role as the overseer of the Raven's Call each quarter and as the building test coordinator for state testing. Her swift completion of tasks and effective communication ensure that everything is done promptly and accurately.

Innovative and Supportive Presence Maegan brings a wealth of knowledge and innovative ideas to our office. Her planning skills for student and family events increase participation and engagement. She is a volunteer at local organizations, involved in community sports, and actively contributes to many Anchorage Raven Homeschool events. Her encouraging words and friendly demeanor make everyone feel welcome and valued.

Dedicated and Reliable Team Member Maegan's dedication to her work is evident in her consistent reliability. She arrives on time, ready to work, and always goes the extra mile to ensure tasks are completed efficiently. Her ability to communicate effectively and her respect for the chain of command help maintain a harmonious and productive work environment.

Celebration and Morale Booster Maegan's efforts to celebrate and boost morale are commendable. She organizes birthday celebrations, assists with workshops, and ensures holidays are festive and fun. Her thoughtful gestures, such as providing treats and arranging potlucks, create a positive and cohesive team atmosphere. Maegan's contributions make the office a joyful place to work.

Community Involvement and Personal Growth Outside of work, Maegan competes in community volleyball, manages dance recitals, and supports the Anchorage Drama Club. She is also pursuing her master's degree to further her career and enhance her contributions to YKSD. Her commitment to personal growth and community involvement enriches our office and the broader community.

Conclusion Maegan Mascagno's exceptional organizational skills, positive attitude, and unwavering dedication make her the backbone of our office. Her ability to juggle multiple responsibilities with grace and efficiency, along with her commitment to fostering a supportive and engaging environment, make her a deserving recipient of the Employee of the Year award. We are incredibly grateful for her contributions and proud to honor her outstanding service.



2024 YKSD Graduates

Taylor Alexie ~ Kaltag School, Kaltag, AK

Mia Cardenas-Wright ~ Jimmy Huntington School, Huslia, AK

Justin Charlie ~ Minto School, Minto, AK

Kyler Charlie ~ Maudrey J. Sommer School, Tanana, AK

Manuelito Cook ~ Kaltag School, Kaltag, AK

Jaydyn Crosby ~ Kaltag School, Kaltag, AK

Andrew David ~ Minto School, Minto, AK

Kenneth Esmailka ~ Kaltag School, Kaltag, AK

Cody Kriska ~ Andrew K. Demoski School, Nulato, AK

Valicia Kruger ~ Andrew K. Demoski School, Nulato, AK

Travis Madros ~ Andrew K. Demoski School, Nulato, AK

Trinidy Madros ~ Kaltag School, Kaltag, AK

Drew Martinez ~ Maudrey J. Sommer School, Tanana, AK

Thomas Patsy ~ Andrew K. Demoski School, Nulato, AK

Evan Sam ~ Jimmy Huntington School, Huslia, AK

Chloe Sipary ~ Andrew K. Demoski School, Nulato, AK

Cierra Sommer ~ Andrew K. Demoski School, Nulato, AK

Miles Starr ~ Jimmy Huntington, School, Huslia, AK

Shaylie Stickman-Pilot ~ Andrew K. Demoski School, Nulato, AK

Benjamin Swider ~ Minto School, Minto, AK

Jacob Titus ~ Minto School, Minto, AK

Larry Wholecheese ~ Andrew K. Demoski School, Nulato, AK

Stuart Wholecheese ~ Allakaket School, Allakaket, AK

Ashton Williams ~ Jimmy Huntington School, Huslia, AK

Board Recognition

Staff Winners



Ashley Crosby
Teacher
Kaltag School
Kaltag, AK



Jamie Ruble
Administrative Assistant
Raven Homeschool
Eagle River, AK

Staff Nominees

Mary Linus ~ Teacher Aide, Allakaket School

Maegan Mascagno ~ Administrative Assistant, Raven Homeschool, Anchorage

Erin Maycroft ~ Teacher, Raven Homeschool, Wasilla

Andrea Nield ~ Assistant Director, State & Federal Programs, Fairbanks

Patrick Smith ~ Maintenance, Minto School

Board Recognition

Student Winners



Barry Moore
Grade 7
Minto School
Minto, AK



Kainoa Thole
Grade 8
Raven Homeschool
Juneau, AK

Student Nominees

- Thomas Clifton** ~ Grade 11, Raven Homeschool, Juneau
Emily Durant ~ Grade 12, Raven Homeschool, Anchorage
Lindberg Linus ~ Grade PreK, Allakaket School, Allakaket
Atticus Marang ~ Grade 10, Raven Homeschool, Wasilla
Tassie Nickoli ~ Grade 6, Kaltag School, Kaltag
David Shastitko ~ Grade 12, Raven Homeschool, Delta
Lucian Swatling ~ Grade 6, Jimmy Huntington School, Huslia
Holly Tritt ~ Grade 9, Johnny Oldman School, Hughes
Wilfrid Wittkop ~ Grade 4, Raven Homeschool, Eagle River

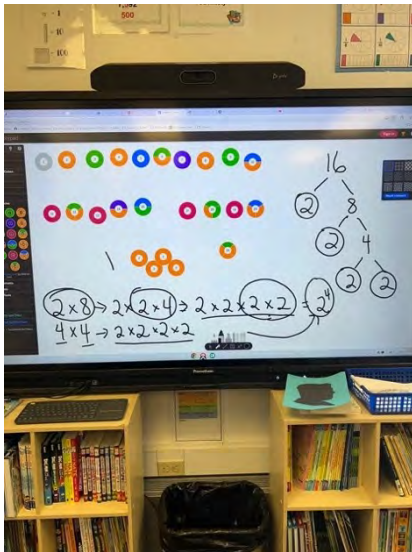
Teaching & Learning Department

Patty White,
Assistant Superintendent

Students in grades 3-9 have completed the Alaska Star (AK Star) state testing in Language Arts and Math. In addition, students in grades 5, 8, and 10 completed the Alaska Science Assessment. Thank you to all the families for your support and assistance to help make this a successful testing year. Scores should be available in early fall. Last year's 2023 AK Star results were mailed home to families last week. Please feel free to call your school or the district office if you have any questions.

Math News

Simon Huff & Chuck Backe,
Math Specialists



During the 2023-24 academic year, our team of math specialists embarked on a multifaceted approach to promote mathematical literacy and engagement among YKSD students. Two visits were organized to each village, supporting direct instruction in mathematics education to distant communities. These initiatives not only addressed educational disparities but also underscored our commitment to equitable access to learning opportunities. Additionally, personalized video conference tutoring sessions were provided, offering tailored support to students navigating challenging mathematical concepts. Complementing these efforts was the continuation of a weekly math challenge, aimed at stimulating intellectual curiosity and fostering

problem-solving skills among students. Furthermore, the establishment of a weekly math club served as a platform for collaborative learning and social interaction, enriching the educational experience beyond the confines of traditional classroom settings. Through these initiatives, we endeavored to cultivate a culture of mathematical inquiry and inclusivity, leaving a lasting impact on the educational landscape and empowering students to embrace the transformative potential of mathematics.



New Math Curriculum

Chelsea Kennon,
Assistant Director of Learning & Curriculum

We are excited to announce that YKSD will implement a new program next year called Edmentum! Edmentum will be the online choice for secondary math classes and can also be used for credit recovery in over 68 courses. Get excited for these two great program components in the 2024-2025 school year!

New Math Curriculum continued

Chelsea Kennon,
Assistant Director of Learning
& Curriculum



Courseware

Courseware is a dynamic, mastery-based curriculum for students 6-12. Teachers using Courseware will provide flexible and interactive learning in core Math courses. Students requiring Credit Recovery can use Courseware to access the full course catalog.

Exact Path

Pulling directly from NWEA MAP Growth data, Exact Path provides adaptive, age-appropriate, personalized instruction in math, reading, and language arts based on valid and reliable assessment data. All YKSD students and teachers will have access to the Exact Path program.

Computer Science News

Jakobe Boyd,
Technology Facilitator

Hello YKSD and Raven!

As we approach the end of the year, I just wanted to squeeze into this final newsletter to put the spotlight on some of the amazing computer science activities that have been going on for the last little while.

Hour of Code: For this year's **Hour of Code** the theme was Artificial Intelligence, where participating schools had a choice between several A.I. based activities, or the main course activity where we used our webcams to program and control sprites in Scratch. McKenna Nixon's class from Nulato and Joby Doronila and Karry Betson's classes from Allakaket participated and had loads of fun, so be sure to catch next year's Hour of Code!



AMP IT UP: On the Raven side of things, we recently held the AMP IT UP Camp, (Amazing Math Plus Information Technology Understanding Programming!) in Juneau and Delta. Students went through loads of fun math and computer science activities, including robotics, programming, legos, and more. There was also pizza!

Have a great end of the school year everyone, and I look forward to what's to come for this fall!



Counseling Corner

Michelle Coryell,
Itinerant Counselor

May is Mental Health Awareness Month



Our counseling team delivers Social Emotional Lessons to entire classrooms, small groups and individuals as needed. If you know of a child who is struggling or just needs someone to talk to, reach out to the school counselor, we'd be happy to help!



The final quarterly **Healthy lifestyles/Career Fair** took place May 3, 2024.

We had our largest turn out of the year! Our guest speakers included Coleman Larsen discussing how he earns a living with his mushing team outside of racing, AnnaLee and Dallas who discussed their careers as Firefighter/EMTs, and Amy Bristor UAF Alaska Advantage Director who discussed Dual Credit/Enrollment for our secondary students followed by a district-wide Blooket!



THE COUNSELING TEAM TOOK PART IN THE 2024 RURAL ALASKA COUNSELOR FLY-IN FOR TWO JAM-PACKED DAYS OF INVALUABLE INFORMATION TO BRING BACK TO YKSD. RURAL STUDENT SERVICES DID AN AMAZING JOB PUTTING THE PRESENTATION TOGETHER AND PROMOTING SO MANY OF THE WONDERFUL PROGRAMS UAF HAS TO OFFER. WE ENDED OUR TWO DAYS WITH A PANEL OF STUDENT SPEAKERS FROM RURAL VILLAGES, AND ONE WAS FROM MINTO! WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO RSS TRAVELING OUT TO EACH OF OUR SITES IN THE FALL FOR COLLEGE NIGHTS

The time has come to celebrate all the hard work of our Kindergarteners, Eighth graders and Seniors! Congratulations and best wishes to all students in our YKSD community, and thank you to all of our educators for all you do to help dreams come true.

State and Federal Programs

Rachel Spencer,
Administrative Assistant

Migrant Education

The Migrant Education Program provides funds for school districts to help improve educational opportunities for migratory students.

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. Should you have questions, please email rspencer@yksd.com.



We appreciate your dedication in supporting our Migrant Students!

Elders Biography Project

Under the guidance of our School Board, YKSD is continuing collaboration with community members throughout our District to preserve the history and culture of our Elders. The Elders Biography Team has conducted interviews with Elders from Ruby and Koyukuk communities this school year. One aim of this initiative is to involve students in gathering these narratives and developing curriculum materials that can be used district-wide, thereby honoring our Elders.



ASTAR Grant Activities

Arne Erickson,
ASTAR & HQPP Projects

The ASTAR grant is a 500K grant from the Federal Department of Education. The goal of the ASTAR grant is to recruit, train, and retain local community members to work as teachers and school leaders in the YKSD river schools. The desired outcomes of this grant will be reduced teacher turnover and greater local self-determination, resulting in improved student achievement. Arne Erickson was hired on January 22nd, 2024 to be the teacher retention mentor/leader and promote ASTAR grant opportunities to students, paras, and interested community members in the river schools. Arne has been traveling to the river sites doing a presentation to the middle and high school students on the opportunities and benefits in education careers presented by the ASTAR grant. Arne has also met individually with the paraprofessionals at each site to either document their Highly Qualified status in compliance with the Alaska Department of Education's regulation [4 AAC 04.220](#). Arne has visited 8 of the river schools so far (Ruby, Allakaket, Kaltag, Rampart, Nulato, Koyukuk, Tanana, & Huslia) and presented ASTAR to 91 students, 5 community members, 13 teachers, and 26 paraprofessionals. YKSD currently has 14 people in the river sites who have expressed interest in education careers (2 students, 12 paraprofessionals). 4 persons have actually enrolled in Chadron college and 1 paraprofessional has begun education classes. 3 Native American paraprofessionals traveled to Chadron State College as chaperones and learned about the Para to Teacher program offered at Chadron and the services provided through Chadron for paras to train to become teachers without having to leave their home communities. Plans are in the works to set up a professional development training this summer for the Native American teachers currently serving in the district river schools. The goal of this training will be to increase culturally relevant education methods and improve student outcomes. So far 3 Native American from YKSD have signed up to attend.

SUMMER READING

Dear Parent/Guardian,

YKSD is gearing up for summer break. While summer presents an opportunity to relax and enjoy the sunshine, we want our students to continue to find ways to learn while away from the classroom. We have an exciting reading service available through Sora, the student reading app, which provides free 24/7 access to eBooks and audiobooks. What better way to engage your student's mind than through reading?

This summer, the OverDrive Summer Read program will offer a collection of Juvenile and Young Adult titles that will be prominently displayed in Sora for quick and easy unlimited access from May 13 – August 26, 2024. You can explore the title offerings and learn more about the program here: <https://resources.overdrive.com/summer-read/>

How does it work?

Sora provides the quickest and easiest way to get started with digital titles from our school. Students can simply log in using Classlink and instantly access hundreds of eBooks and audiobooks on virtually any device. Get started today at <https://soraapp.com> or download the free Sora app for Android or iOS.

Boredom is not an option this summer.

Where can I find more information? Contact Kristi Burns at kburns@yksd.com.

Sincerely,
Kristi Burns

Assistant Director of State and Federal Programs, Literacy, and Early Childhood



ESTEEM Grant

Andrea Nield, State & Federal
Programs Assistant Director

It has been another great year with the ESTEEM Grant. We have been able to offer a lot of activities to our schools in the form of travel, programs, reimbursements, and events over the past 4 year in the following areas.

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 and fill out a survey for each activity.

Spring Parent and Grant Meeting

On April 16 there was a parent and partner meeting held with ESTEEM and Federal Programs. We gave updates on the different programs and resources being sent out to our villages. The Indian Ed. Committee was formed and met for the ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) for the Title programs. We talked about the family and community engagement and Indian Ed. Policies. A goal of the meeting was to get input from parents and tribal leaders on planning partnerships and events for next year. While there parents got to tour the new CTE dormitory building.



ESTEEM Grant continued

Andrea Nield, State & Federal
Programs Assistant Director

Coach Jocquis Sconiers

The week of April 18 Coach Jocquis Sconiers was able to make it to the villages of Nulato and Huslia. He has one more village, but they had to cancel last minute. While there he spoke with the students about playing at the next level, NCAA requirements, the 4 Ds of school and sports. Coach Joc partners with Elevate who has the Adidas 3SSB contract. While in Huslia, Carmen Vent was noticed and invited to play with the top players in Alaska for her age group. They traveled to Oklahoma to play national teams and finished the weekend with 3 wins and one loss.



College Prep Hoops

We have had a great year with Chad Dyson and Stephen Nye. They were able to make it to each of our sites in the first semester and finished out the spring in Rampart.



ESTEEM Grant continued

Andrea Nield, State & Federal
Programs Assistant Director

Eskimo Ninja, Nick Hanson

Eskimo Ninja, Nick Hanson and Forrest Strick made their rounds to each of our schools second semester. While on site they had a wonderful community event that involved the entire community running through a ninja obstacle course made with materials from around the school.



Hughes



Tanana



Koyukuk



Minto



Hughes

ESTEEM Grant

Andrea Nield, State & Federal
Programs Assistant Director

Gathering of Nations

April 24-28, 2024. – Students from Huslia, Nulato, Tanana, Kaltag and Rampart were in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Tehya Titus from Minto was competing in Miss Indian World. Students took part in cultural exchange at Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute where they exchanged native language, song and dance. During the exchange a young man sang a song sung by his great, great, great Grandmother up on a hill as a battle went on fighting for their lands. Her husband fought alongside the tribes, and they won. Afterwards all the men brought their red sashes they wore during the battle and strung them around her neck. This was the first battle in US history won by Native Americans which the government documented as a victory by Native people. The young man stated by sharing your culture, every little bit helps to keep it alive and going. There were other students on the tour from Oregon. Students toured the college.



Prom

Students attended the YKSD small schools prom and Doyon Career Fair. Air Travel for this event is being reimbursed to schools through ESTEEM. Over 100 students from small schools attended. The students enjoyed getting dressed up and meeting new friends. Music was provided by DJ Kay.



ESTEEM Grant

Andrea Nield, State & Federal
Programs Assistant Director

2024 Upward Bound Summer Program

The following students from YKSD were selected to participate this summer. This is offered through UAF and 44 students from villages throughout Alaska will be participating. Some of the participants will be in Drones, Maker Space and computer coding strands.

Lyla Vent, Grade 8, Jimmy Huntington School. Space Maker Strand

David Sam, Grade 10, Jimmy Huntington School. Drones Strand

Navaeh Sam, Grade 10, Maudrey J. Sommer School. Space Maker Strand

Program Dates: June 3rd to June 28th, 2024 **Location:** Fairbanks, AK

As a participant, you can expect to:

- Engage in hands-on learning experiences that integrate science, technology, and teamwork.
- Collaborate with experienced mentors and industry professionals who will inspire and guide you.
- Build lasting friendships with fellow participants who share your curiosity and enthusiasm.



The poster is for the 2024 Upward Bound Summer Program, featuring a blue background with yellow text and circular images. At the top left, it says "2024 UPWARD BOUND SUMMER PROGRAM" in large yellow letters, followed by "Intro to T3 Experience" and "June 2-29". To the right is the UAF University of Alaska Fairbanks logo. Below the main title, there are three circular images: a drone, a person working at a computer, and two people in outdoor gear. Text to the right of these images says "Makerspace Drones RPi Sensors". At the bottom right, it says "Apply Today! Deadline March 1, 2024" with a QR code. Below the QR code, it says "In-the-field experiential learning Off-campus field trips & fieldwork". At the very bottom, it says "Students who have completed grades 8-10 at participating schools and who are new to the Upward Bound and T3 Alaska programs are welcome to apply." and "t3.alaska.edu".

2024 UPWARD BOUND SUMMER PROGRAM
Intro to T3 Experience
June 2-29

**Makerspace
Drones
RPi Sensors**

Apply Today!
Deadline March 1, 2024

**In-the-field experiential learning
Off-campus field trips & fieldwork**

Students who have completed grades 8-10 at participating schools and who are new to the Upward Bound and T3 Alaska programs are welcome to apply.

t3.alaska.edu



MOOSE HIDE CULTURE CAMP

Camp Dates: July 22-27 2024

Location: Effie Kokrine Charter School
Campus | Fairbanks, Alaska

Instructor: Tommy Bird and Canadian Elders

Grade Level: 5-12 grade students
(entering Fall 2024)

SCAN ME



This project is in partnership with Tommy Bird, Tanana Chiefs Conference and Yukon Koyukuk School District

For More Information :

anield@yksd.com | rstickman@yksd.com

(907) 374-9467

DEADLINE: FRIDAY JUNE 7, 2024 @ 5:00 PM

Career & Technical Education

Patty Woody,
CTE Assistant Director

Village Career Explorers & Capstone

Village Career Explorers is a 2-to-3-day CTE course offered each semester to juniors and seniors in YKSD river schools. This class aims to prepare students with practical career-seeking skills for life after high school and is taught with support from UAF-College of Business & Security Management and the Tanana Chiefs Conference GO program. In November, due to bad weather, the course had to be offered in Fairbanks and four students participated. This spring the course was taught by UAF instructors Amanda Langhorst and Jillian Bjornstad Kates in Nulato April 16-18. Seven students—six from Nulato and one from Tanana—successfully completed the spring class and gained skills and knowledge necessary to enter the workforce. Students researched and analyzed careers and job opportunities, developed professional resumés and cover letters, and practiced job interview skills. At the end, they earned 0.25 YKSD credit, one UAF credit, and a stipend from TCC. Students in both semesters did a fantastic job!

Special thanks to Principal “Coach” Ortiz, Josephine McGinty, Victoria Deacon, and everyone else at Nulato School for welcoming us and keeping us organized!

November Career Explorer Students

Stuart Bergman-Allakaket
Joni Newman-Rampart
Crystalee Sam-Hughes
Darian Woods-Rampart

April Career Explorer Students

Gabriel Agnes-Nulato
Ian Demientieff-Nulato
Scott Golilie-Nulato
Riley Melovidov-Tanana
Riley Nicholi-Nulato
Thomas Patsy-Nulato
Larry Wholecheese-Nulato

Career Explorers Capstone Launch

The next Career Explorers activity was a Capstone Launch program held in Fairbanks the week of May 6. Two seniors participated. These seniors received help with individualized series of activities to finalize activities related to their post-high school plans.

Students participated in the following individualized activities:

- Learned about being successful in college
- Obtaining a geology degree and had a tour of the geology department
- Met with engineering department and received a tour
- Met with UAF Rural Student Services (RSS) about:
 - College success
 - Registered for fall classes
 - Requirements
 - Financial support
 - Math placement
- Met with TCC about financial support and scholarships
- Met with military recruiter to discuss joining the military in the future
- Met with Warbelows head pilot to learn about becoming a pilot
- Discussed summer plans



Tech Corner

Brad Kennon, Technology Director

Technology Department Newsletter: 5/20/2024

As the school year winds down and we prepare for an exciting summer ahead, we're thrilled to share some significant updates! We're refreshing our website and transitioning our Student Information System from PowerSchool to Synergy, setting the stage for a more streamlined and user-friendly educational journey.

Website Refresh: Our Homepage Gets an Upgrade

Our website serves as your digital gateway to all things YKSD and we're excited to announce that it's getting a makeover! With a fresh design and improved functionality, our updated website will make it even easier for you to access important information, stay up-to-date with news and events, and engage with our vibrant school community.

Expect an intuitive interface that caters to the needs of students, parents, faculty, and community members alike. Whether you're looking for school announcements, curriculum resources, or contact information, our refreshed website will be your go-to destination for all things YKSD.

Transitioning to Synergy: Empowering Collaboration

We're excited to announce that we'll be transitioning from PowerSchool to Synergy as our Student Information System this summer. This transition represents a significant step forward in our goal to streamline processes and empower educators with the tools they need to excel.

Synergy offers a comprehensive suite of features designed to simplify student information management, including attendance tracking, grade reporting, scheduling, and communication. With Synergy, we're confident that our school community will benefit from enhanced collaboration, and improved data security.

Warm regards,

The YKSD Technology Department





The Business Office Staff
would like to thank each
you for a successful year!



Allakaket School

5th and 6th Graders Out-of-State Educational Trip

Karry Betson, Teacher

Montana

Day 1: The students played Native American games, learned about and met some cool raptors with Wild Skies Raptor Center. They did an archery course and dissected frogs. We were all happy and tired.

Day 2: The kids learned about chemistry and worked with Missoula County Ecology Department to identify plants and trees using dichotomy keys and made some awesome rockets.

Day 3: The kids studied macroinvertebrates with Blackfoot Challenge, built trees and learned about fire on the landscape with Montana DNRC, and learned and practiced primitive skills with stone survival & past skills wilderness school. After dinner, we drove to Missoula and enjoyed the waterpark at our hotel.

Day 4: We went to the Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium. We observed tropical butterflies, learned about insect survival skills and met some really cool 'bug ambassadors'.



Seattle

We went to Seattle's Chinatown/international district and tried Chinese food and boba tea! Students explored the Burke Museum and ate indigenous food for lunch and tried some mochi donuts. In the afternoon, they also watched a baseball game between the Seattle Mariners and Arizona. The next day, we took a ferry to Bainbridge Island where we explored the beach and found tons of cute little crabs. We're headed for Fairbanks!



Fairbanks

We visited the Large Animal Research Station and learned about the reindeer, musk ox and buffalo. We also checked out the Alaska Pipeline. We're excited to share our learnings to our family and friends in Allakaket!



Allakaket School

Allakaket's Young Restaurateurs!

Joby Doronila, Teacher

The K-2 Class did a restaurant project. The grand opening was held on May 7, 2024. The K-2 students started with writing a business letter to Mr. John and sent them through our local USPS. The students also learned to design their own menu and store front. The students chose the food and drinks to sell. We practiced recognizing coins and bills and solved math problems regarding money. Thanks to Mr. Paul, Ms. Lynette Ms. Beth, MS. Mercedes, and Ms. Mary for teaching and helping the kids to prepare and make the food and drinks on their menu. On the opening day, parents, teachers, and fellow students were invited to experience the K-2 restaurants firsthand. The children greeted their guests with beaming smiles, proudly showcasing their restaurant and eagerly taking orders. Laughter filled the air as customers enjoyed the meals prepared with love and care by the young restaurateurs. The children were all proud by making their guests happy and satisfied and served them with smiles on their faces. The Filipino noodles called "pancit" and the rice cake called "palitaw" were the crowd favorites! Guests spent a lot of money to try all the restaurants! Good thing they're just using fake ones! Customers were asked to answer a customer satisfaction survey after eating. The event was a huge success.



ULUve You Moms!

John Brady, Principal/Teacher

The secondary students taking CTE class made ULU handles and gift boxes for Mother's Day. They seized the opportunity to express gratitude and love through a special project. Students meticulously crafted the handles and the boxes. This is their way of showing their appreciation and love for their moms.



Andrew K. Demoski School

James Ortiz, Principal/Teacher

It's a great day to be a Nulato Wolf! So many awesome things have happened in Nulato this year. It seems that the school year has just flown by. The fourth quarter was jam packed full of activities for the students here at Andrew K. Demoski!



March 18 - 21: The older students were able to work with the CTE Wire Welding crew led by Kate Kimmel. They practiced and worked on welding to prepare for the welding certifications later on in the school year.



April 1 - 2: Nick Hansen, the Eskimo Ninja, came to Nulato. The kids had a blast running through an obstacle course set up by Nick.



April 4 - 11: The seniors were able to raise around \$30,000 to go on a Senior Trip to Hawaii. Thank you to all the teachers, parents, and community members that donated money and participated in all the fundraisers throughout the school year.

April 22 - 26: Welding Certification and IBEW Electric in Fairbanks



April 15 - 19: CTE Career Explorers and Career Prep



Andrew K. Demoski School

James Ortiz, Principal/Teacher

April 27: Some of the Students from Nulato went to the Prom in Fairbanks over the weekend.



April 29: Scott Golilie was able to fly a plane on Monday. He had a great experience. Scott wants to work in the aviation tech industry after he graduates from high school. The people at ProFlight in Fairbanks were able to give Scott this awesome opportunity.



Spring has Sprung! Ms. Nixon's K-I class planted some seeds to grow in their very own mini-grow house!



May 4: Kindergarten Graduation. It was a spectacular affair! Our theme was "May the Force Be With You" because the ceremony was held on May 4th (May the 4th Be With You).



We hosted Dancing with the Spirits Culture Week in Nulato April 13 - 17 and Senior and Eighth grade graduation on May 17. We have an awards assembly and community picnic planned for the last day of school - May 23. It has been a busy and adventurous school year! A big shout out to all the teachers, staff, and community members that helped us out this year. We couldn't have done it without you!

Jimmy Huntington School

Wylie Scalise, CTE Teacher

Here at Jimmy Huntington, the CTE program is finishing the year with great success. Throughout this year, we have cooked many meals, built some really cool things, and learned a lot about what it takes to live out here and pursue careers. We incorporated a lot of math to calculate the cost of shopping for shop or culinary items and the cost of transporting goods through Wrights Air.

High school students constructed a shed for a teacher to keep their wood dry, and they are currently working on cutting boards. They are incredibly excited about the cutting boards. Additionally, some students have taken the skills learned from building picnic tables and cutting boards and plan on ordering supplies to build and sell them here in Huslia! Learning how to build furniture and household items not only equips students with practical skills but also instills a sense of self-sufficiency and creativity, empowering them to contribute to their communities in meaningful ways. Ten of our high school students got their Alaska food workers cards.

In middle school, students are constructing another 8-foot by 10-foot shed. Walls have begun to go up, marking the exciting phase where all the hard work in building the parts starts to come together. At our spring carnival, the shed we built last year was put to good use, providing shelter for many people who enjoyed food and warmth inside.

It has been a fantastic year for our students who have the opportunity to experience daily CTE classes.



Johnny Oldman School

Kristina Bellamy, Principal/Teacher

The end of the year is almost here and the middle school/high school students of Johnny Oldman School decided to go out in style with a class field trip to Washington D.C.! As an extension of our Government/Civics coursework, we went to the heart of democracy, visiting all of the main spots: Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, the Capitol, White House, several Smithsonian museums, and much, more. As an added treat, we even took the students to a Washington Nationals baseball game. The students had a blast, learned a ton, and made real-world connections to our classroom discussions.



Kaltag School

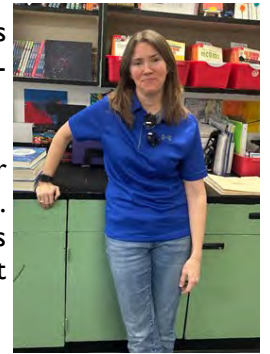
Vicki Inferrera, Principal/Teacher

Len Courtsey, CTE, visited Kaltag School to teach the Basics of Electricity. Len covered Volt Meters, Bulbs, AC Circuit, Generator Motors, students built a telegraph sounder and a game. They were very involved.

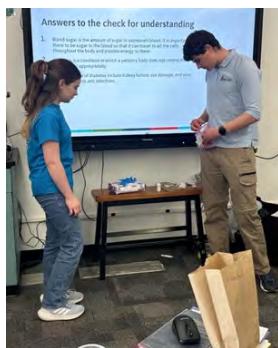


Student of the Month, **Tassie Nickoli**, has demonstrated hard work, she is cooperative and attends school regularly. She is a role model to other students. (pictured left)

Staff of the Month, **Ashley Crosby**, arrived at the end of the 1st Quarter from Texas with her husband, Phil Crosby, HS teacher, and four children. She is recognized for her thoughtful, kind and patient attitude. She is organized and puts the daily plan on the board so student always know what they should be doing. She works in small groups to allow the personal touch. (Pictured right)



Stephanie Damery, CTE, Phlight Club visited Kaltag teaching Wildlife Survival and Basic CPR. The students loved it. They made stretchers out of poles and duct tape and carried HS teacher, Mr. Crosby around on the stretcher. Phlight Club also held two evening meeting for the parents and community to join in the fun.



Ian McCarthy, UAF AHEC, and CTE, visited our classrooms and to provide Healthcare Career Exploration throughout the district. In these photos he is showing the Effects of Sugar in the blood.



Violet Burnham, CSC, stopped in to talk to the HS class on Mental Health and making good choices. She spoke about how to reach goals and think positive and plan for the future.



Minto School

Submitted by Minto Staff

Preschool

We have spent this last quarter learning about farms and kings, queens, and kingdoms. We love it when we can go outside to play! Gabriel and a few other students wrote a Fibonacci poem. Our STREAM night was filled with lots of fun games, and it was nicely followed up with mushing.

We have had a great year!



Grades: K-2

The K-2 class had an awesome Quarter 4 so far! We had fun meeting the mushers that were in Minto for the Spring Carnival! Everyone went up on their Math MAPS tests! The students have been busy writing persuasive letters. They had a publishing party and presented their work! We have also been making paper 3D shapes. Last quarter all the students were Triple Threat AR Winners, which meant that they met their word count, percentage correct, and AR points goals. Students celebrated with a pizza party! The students enjoyed the beautiful weather while completing a scavenger hunt! We are finishing the year strong and looking forward to our gold panning field trip in May! The students have grown so much this year and we are so proud of our progress!



Minto School continued

Submitted by Minto Staff

Grades: 3-5

We had a great last quarter. We got to check out the big blue bus that the mushers drove out. We made it through testing with great success! Thank you to all the kids who showed up ready to test every day! And our class won the district Attendance challenge for the first 6 weeks back from Spring Break and got an ice cream party! Way to go! So proud of all their accomplishments and hard work this year.

Congratulations to Kyla Roberts, Warrick Anderson, Ronald Alexander, and Royce Frank as they move on to middle school.



Grades: 9-12

“At last came the golden month of the wild folk — honey-sweet May, when the birds come back, and the flowers come out, and the air is full of the sunrise scents and songs of the dawning year.” — Samuel Scoville Jr.



Minto students won the Vocabulary Bowl again in the spring. They were inundated with lists for every imaginable purpose including, but not limited to: test prep, seasonal words, ripped from headlines, academic vocabulary, genetics, law, mathematics, words from Arabic, Yiddish, Celtic, Nahuatl, French, power prefixes, suffixes, roots, etc. This is not all that we do at Minto HS, contrary to what it may seem. These vocab lists are introductory activities for our units in each class. This is also used as makeup work for absences, replacements for missing work that has become irrelevant as time passes, and sponge activities for students who finish early.



A group of our students went to the “Gathering of Nations” Worldwide Pow-Wow in Albuquerque, NM. Goose hunting season started and our students are out hunting and participating in local traditions. Some students went to prom and had a great time. We have 4 seniors graduating on May 17. Congratulations to them!

We also build cabins, see photo left. Our students are engaging in a cabin build, a valuable experience of building from the ground up with all of the accouterments. They are learning from some of the best in CTE and local contractors of Alaska. This is truly a place of abundant opportunities!

Raven Homeschool -Anchorage

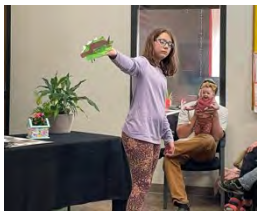
Raven Homeschool articles were submitted by Raven staff

The activity never seems to stop in our Anchorage office! Even though April was a quieter month due to state testing, we still have had a swirl of activities, workshops and field trips during the final quarter of our school year. Our weekly and monthly workshops are wrapping up for the school year and students are already anticipating them to begin again in the fall. We had an amazing demonstration and activity with Bird TLC where they brought Kenriiq, a short-eared owl, to the office! Kenriiq amazed participants with his flight through the office, then students dissected owl pellets to learn about their diet, habitat and lifestyle. We were able to visit a fire station on two separate occasions where students got to tour the facility, explore the fire trucks, learn about fire safety and discuss different career options in the industry. We celebrated our graduates of 2024 with a beautiful graduation ceremony. We had over 30 students participate in our ceremony! The school is rapidly coming to a close and we're sad to see this year end but excited to jump into 24-25!

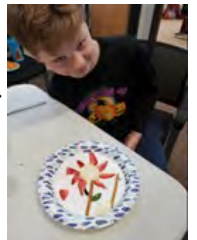


Raven Homeschool—Eagle River

It has been a fun and event-filled fourth quarter in the Eagle River office! Spring started with an open house where several potential new families came to eat some snacks, let their kids play, and asked a lot of really great questions about our program. Most of them have already enrolled for the 24-25 school year!



Our regular clubs continue to be well-attended. Lego Club, both Book Clubs, Little Learners, Recess Club, Music Club, and Geography Club have been so popular we already have them on the calendar for next year. In addition to those, we had two art sessions where Stephanie led students in creating the most beautiful pieces of artwork. We also attended two different shows at the Performing Arts Center in Anchorage - B2Wins and Frindle. Both were excellent!



We held two special events this quarter. Share Night included a wide range of topics, which included a lesson on chickens, facts about guinea pigs, homemade dragon puppets, a pogo stick demonstration, music performances, and more. We also gave moms a break with Mom's Morning Out. Parents dropped their kids off at the office for two hours and we kept them entertained with a Mother's Day craft, a Lego challenge, artistic snacks, and a fun game. Everyone had a blast!



We ended our school year with two epic events. We headed to Seward on May 17th for an Orca Quest Cruise. We invited the Anchorage office, so we had a total of 145 people attending. Almost the entire boat was filled with Raven families! Everyone had a fabulous time exploring the wildlife of Resurrection Bay. We then held an end-of-year party at Chugiak High School with a pool party. Everyone had a great time swimming, eating, and playing with their friends. It was a great way to end our amazing school year.

Raven Homeschool—Delta



Our Girls Annual Tea Party was amazing with good food, beautiful dresses and lots of fun! We've celebrated the coming of spring and summer with planting seeds, spring crafts and enjoying the sunshine and warmer weather. The boys and their dads spent some time together touring the local State Troopers station here for the Boys Night Out. Our 3rd through 8th grade students had a great time at AMP IT UP Camp learning fun math activities and coding fun games and spheros. Thank you Bobby Jo and Jakobe! You made learning math and computer coding

such fun! The Lego Club ended the year with a Space Theme. We had a rocket, lunar modules, rovers and even a few aliens! We made sugar scrubs and cards to give to our moms for Mother's Day. Students went on a field trip to a local greenhouse to plant hanging baskets to give to moms as well. We took our annual walk next door to the Drive In to get our first ice cream cone of the year. We are gearing up for our High School and Kindergarten graduations at the end of the month.

Raven Homeschool—Fairbanks



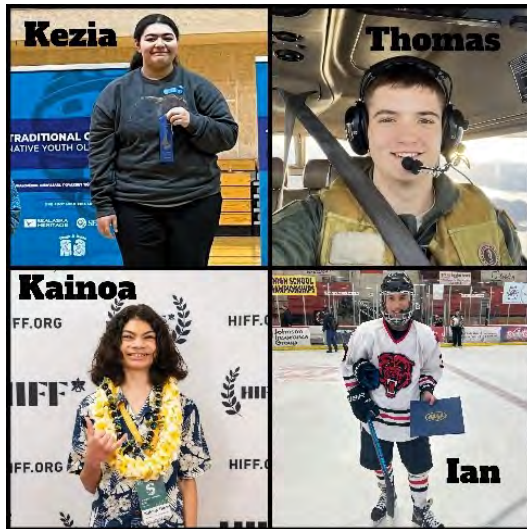
As the Fairbanks Office wraps up another year, we are busy and packed with fun as usual. March and April were filled with activities for students and parents. We had Line Dancing the past few Wednesdays. Students and Parents learned the go-to line dance moves like The Cupid Shuffle and Wobble Baby.



A gun safety course was offered to a handful of students by the Tanana Valley Sportsman Association. Testing had taken up a big chunk of time in March and April with AKSTAR and DIBELS. On April 16th, we hosted an open house for the community to learn more about us. We had a petting zoo, face painting, and BBQ for families that stopped by. Graduation is sneaking up on all of us. The ceremony will be held at Hering Auditorium on May 21st at 6:00 PM. We will have roughly 57 seniors walking in the ceremony but 151 potentially graduating this year. Congratulations to all our graduates for making it to the finish line!



Raven Homeschool—Juneau



Our fourth quarter has progressed quickly and has been full of fun activities and events. We are especially proud of the wonderful achievements of our students and look forward to highlighting their accomplishments.

Kezia Verebasaga participated in the Native Youth Olympics Traditional Games on April 6, 2024 in Juneau, Alaska. She placed first for high-school girls in the Inuit Stick Pull event. Thomas Clifton earned his private pilot certificate through the Civil Air Patrol's Cadet Wings program. Kainoa Thole submitted a film that he made to the 2024 HIFF 'Ōpio Fest: Future Filmmakers Showcase Competition in Honolulu, Hawaii and won the middle school award. Kainoa was 1 of 48 finalists, out of over 200 film entries. Ian Moller plays hockey and received the Crimson Bears

Warrior Award for the battle in every game, effort on and off the ice, good character, and never complaining. We are also excited to celebrate the Class of 2024 and have been featuring their senior spotlights on our website, Facebook, and Instagram. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7sDIpcx5qZY&authuser=0>

Raven Homeschool—Wasilla

The Wasilla Raven office has 54 graduates walking this year, which is a record number! Graduates, parents, teachers, counselors, and admin staff have been working tirelessly for this momentous occasion for months and the end is in sight! Graduation was on Friday, May 17th at 7pm. The kindergarten graduation ceremony is on Tuesday, May 21st at 2:30.

Raven families have attended a birch syrup workshop where they learned the history of tapping trees for syrup, how to tap and when to tap a birch tree, as well as sampling some birch syrup that was made last year. Our culinary students showcased their homemade macaroni & cheese recipes, favorite pasta dishes, and cinnamon rolls this last quarter. Book Club, Chess Club, D&D Club, Bowling Club, Games Club, and Science workshops continued to be well attended.

An open house for non-Raven families is planned for Tuesday, May 21st, with the intention of sharing the positive reasons to enroll with us and answer questions.



Student speakers Richard Blackwell, Jr., and Quoddy Repnow with Calvin Scott and Steve Duby at graduation.

Name: _____

FUN IN THE SUN!



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AUGUST
BARBECUE
BEACH
BEACH TOWEL
BOAT
FISHING
HOT
ICE CREAM
JULY

JUNE
LEMONADE
OCEAN
PARK

PICNIC
POPSICLE
SANDCASTLE
SANDALS

SHORTS
SPRINKLER
SUNGLASSES
SUNSCREEN
SUNTAN
SWIMMING
VACATION
WATER SLIDE