

EDUCATING ALL OUR STUDENTS TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL AS RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS

FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

Alaska, the United States, and the entire world is currently in the midst a "Guttenberg Moment" in history. We are living through a seismic technological shift that is taking place on a global scale, as momentous as the invention of the printing press, and that is as impactful of every aspect of society and our economy. It is transforming educational institutions, upending politics, and completely revising the engines of our economy, whether we want it to or not. It is happening so fast that as a society, we can barely comprehend what it portends for our futures.

Moreover, we still have to ask ourselves, what lies ahead for our students? Did educators thirty years ago, at the

start of all this, know that so much of our world would be based on computers and technology today? Because of that impending and unavoidable reality, we must prepare Alaska and Alaskans for this new world that is evolving at a speed that is difficult to grasp and changing in ways that are impossible to predict. Also, if we believe this is true, that means we and I mean the collective societal "we" must be ready and able to adapt to this new reality. It requires that we are able to imagine what that future might be like and to heavily invest in getting our kids ready for that future. We must be able to teach the skills and the attitudes in our schools that will prepare them for what is coming, and we must develop our economic and physical infrastructures while taking care of our most vulnerable citizens. However, what we seem to have instead is a lack of imagination by those in leadership at the highest levels, who seem intent on looking backwards with a longing to a world that is rapidly fading out of sight and disappearing. It is the role of the state in Alaska, to adequately support our public school system so that we can prepare our youth to be ready for this future that is bearing down on us all. AGSD has done quite well for many of our kids, and we did our part to prepare them to become contributing members of our society the teachers in our schools, leaders in our communities, and CEO's of large innovative companies. They are religious leaders, entrepreneurs, researchers, doctors, and skilled craftsmen, welders, builders, and technicians who are contributing back to their communities. However, for too many kids, we still have a long way to go to help them find the connection to the future that they are looking for. We are working to find those connections that will open doors and allow our students to use their creativity and imagination to see opportunities that exist. To do that, and this is key...they not only need basic academic skills...they also need an understanding of how to navigate and use the technology that is driving us all through this moment in history. To succeed, they have to understand how things really work. This is why it is so important to be able to attract the best and the brightest and most creative teachers and support staff possible to work with our kids, and this why we are so excited to be welcoming 5 teachers who, along with our new Tok School Principal Akaran, are joining our instructional team this year. This is the smallest group of new teachers ever, but who bring a huge amount of talent and passion to their schools, and who will help us to continue to build the kind of school system that opens doors and change lives, and make sure our kids, your kids, are ready for whatever is coming.

**SUMMER DAY CAMPS FOR ALASKA GATEWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Alaska Gateway School District provided five weeks of summer fun to students across the district. The summer day camps were made possible by a 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant, which currently funds the Gateway Afterschool Program. One hundred and ten students from preschool to 12th Grade participated in a range of fun, educational activities. Minivans brought students from Northway, Mentasta, and Tetlin to join Tok day campers in the different opportunities. Transport from the outlying schools proved to be an ideal way to make new friends and explore options that Tok has to offer, such as the community pool and Mukluk land. Favorite camps included Swimming, Dog Obedience, Science Discovery, and Greenhouse Camp. The comprehensive program allowed students to use a Drivers Education simulator to improve student's chances of passing their driving permits. Credit recovery options, utilized by high school participants, offered small group academic tutoring. The two-week construction camp allowed campers to learn how to build picnic tables which sold to private individuals in the community of Tok. The funds raised going into an entrepreneurship account for students of the district. Tok School was a hive of activity, and everywhere one looked happy campers gave their thumbs up for the summer camp experience.


## WELCOME NEW STAFF

Molly Nelson taught preschool for 13 years in San Diego before moving up to Tok 6 years ago. She has worked at Tok School as a special education aide, ran a home daycare, worked as a home visitor for the RuralCAP Parents as Teachers program, and taught 6th-grade language arts. I am excited to be joining the Walter Northway School's team as the K-2 teacher and look forward to the new experiences and adventures it will bring!

Kim Hunt, new MS/HS Language Arts and half-time Special Education teacher, is the human in the life of Gabriel, an 8 yr. old, 85 lb. Labrador Retriever. Gabe has worked as part of a registered therapy dog team with Kim and also knows some mushing commands. Kim is looking forward to learning more about mushing and teaching Veterinary Science, in addition to other classes. She has studied both Journalism and Literature and looks forward to helping students connect with what they're reading as well as to helping them with various kinds of writing.

My name is Phillip Freeman, and I was born the second son to Edna Freeman, a woman whose Native American grandmother raised her somewhere in Missouri. Raised on a farm, I became the only child in my family to graduate from High school—later college, graduate school, and further to post-graduate education in Europe. I am my mother's son: reading and the seeker of truth. Moreover, I was a pilot during the Vietnam war and joined the Peace Corps after the war to teach. That was the beginning: I have been teaching ever since. I have been lucky to teach around the world, around

Suzanne Bell is the new principal for Tanacross school. This will be her 13th year teaching. She taught K-2 at Walter Northway School last year. Originally, from Tennessee, she spent her middle school years in Saudi Arabia and has traveled to several countries. She enjoys sewing and quilting.

## CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE AND CAREER FAIR

AGSD students did a phenomenal job of featuring their skills and displaying their initiative at the CTE showcase, and Career Fair held at Tok School in May of this year. We acknowledge the commitment made by the Air National Guard, AP&T, Chevron, Division of Forestry, Fast Eddy's, Golden Bear, Job Corps, Sourdough Campground, Three Bears, and Tok Chamber of Commerce. All of these organizations hosted a table at the career fair, offering insight and advice to the opportunities available for interior students in Alaska. Tok, Tetlin, Dot Lake, and REACH Schools were in attendance. Northway and Eagle schools participated in creative ways, sending in pre-recorded videos with their projects and participating by Video Teleconferencing.

Judges evaluated the CTE Showcase and awarded the following prizes:

- Grand Prize (CTE): Logan Copper of Tok - Alaska frontier homestead
- 1st Place (CTE): Joe Walsh of Tok - bear cache
- 2nd Place (CTE): Tyler Berg of Tok - metal log lamp
- 3rd Place (CTE): Desiree Nollner and Timothy Thomas of Northway - project bush craft
- Top Expert Artist: Savanna Rutledge of REACH/Tok - wire/clay sculpture
- Expert Artist: Elisha Rutledge of REACH/Tok - digital art
- Expert Artist: Jazlyn Fix of Tok - acrylic painting and glass mosaic
- Top Expert Crafter: Shea Gunter of Tok - fur sewing and beading
- Expert Crafter: Heaven Albert of Tok - fur sewing and beading
- Top Culinary Expert: Loren Thomas of Tetlin - celery/cream cheese, olives
- Culinary Expert: Tyler Smith of Dot Lake - salsa
- Most Innovative Community Solution: Logan Copper of Tok - Homestead
- Judge's Choice: Alex Helmer of Eagle - cabin build
- Judge's Choice: Chisana Joe, Mikayla Demit, and Judith Albert of Northway -handmade quilt

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## PERFECT ATTENDANCE

**Congratulations for perfect attendance for the 2018-2019 school year.**

**Tok School**

- Sawyer Fitting - 2nd Grade
- Tanner Holmes - Kindergarten

**Mentasta Lake Katie John School**

- Nola Debler - 5th Grade
- Illeana Debler - 8th Grade
- Balena Debler, two years perfect attendance, 9th Grade

**Eagle Community School**

- Michael McAnnally - 9th Grade
- Kirsten Nelson - 9th Grade
- Ty Scott - 6th Grade
- Bryce Scott - 3rd Grade
- Jonathan McAnnally 2nd Grade

Students will receive a backpack with school supplies. Students with two years perfect attendance will also receive a chrome book. Congratulations!

**Alaska Gateway School District Online Registration Opening Soon**

The Alaska Gateway School District is excited to announce the second year of an online student registration/data validation system for the upcoming school year. This system will be for all New and Returning students. Returning students will receive a letter/email from the Alaska Gateway School District with instructions on how to access the system for your student. The email will contain a link/instructions and a secure "snapcode" that links directly to your student's information.

If you have forgot your password from last year, select the Forgot Password in the Sign In Screen. New Students are Students that were not enrolled in the AGSD at the end of the school year or students that did not complete an online enrollment during the school year 2018-2019. Go to the District's web page at [www.agsd.us](http://www.agsd.us). Select Student Enrollment. Select New Student. You will create an account, that you will use each year for this process, and submit a form for each student in your family. To make the process easier for families with multiple students, you will have the option to copy all generic family information to all other students in your family.

If you have any further questions, please contact your school office or Candy Thurneau at [cthurneau@agsd.us](mailto:cthurneau@agsd.us)