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NEW MURAL GETS INSTALLED IN SCHOOL: The new mural by Kevin Smith illustrates Kobuk’s customs and traditions (more photo’s on page 7)

From the Superintendent – Dr. Annmarie O’Brien

Welcome back to the second semester of the 2014-2015 school year. My sincerest thank you to parents/guardians, staff, and community for their continued efforts toward making the NWABSD a great place for students to learn and teachers to teach.

Congratulations to the Kotzebue Huskies for winning the 123A State Wrestling Championship and Team Sportsmanship award. The Huskies had a remarkable season winning at every tournament they attended including the 4A tournaments. The Huskies produced five individual state champions this year: Gavin Maslen (#113), Spencer Wood (#152), Zachary Haviland (#170), Joshua Roetman (#182), and Moira Sheldon (#106) in the first ever Girls’ State Tournament.

For having such an outstanding team this year, the AWCA recognized head coach Mark Lane and assistant coach Rod Eakin as this year’s Coaches of the Year.

Also congratulations to the Noatak Lynx for taking 4th place at the 1A Mixed-Six State Volleyball tournament in Anchorage. This was Noatak’s 4th straight state appearance under coach Timm Nelson.

Congratulations to Kelsey Sheldon of Ambler as this year’s NWABSD Spelling Bee champion. She will compete at the state competition on March 5th in Anchorage. Congratulations to our three divisional NWABSD Science Fair champions: Elementary - Elijah Skinner-Bryant (JNES), Middle School - Eli Atkins & Leon Toomer (KMS), and High School - Miya Page & Jennifer Sage (Noatak). They will compete at the state science fair on March 21st at Anchorage East HS.

While acknowledging our academic and athletic achievements we continue to focus efforts on academic success for all students. Three target areas know to improve student success are attendance, communication, and sleep.

A 95% attendance rate is essential for student learning. As of December 2014, our District-wide attendance rate is 89%. 5th grade has the highest at 92% and 12th grade has the lowest attendance rate at 84%. We can do better! Habits of good attendance start in kindergarten and follow students throughout their adult lives into the workplace. Help your child develop good habits starting early in their lives.

Communicate with your children’s teachers and work together to solve problems. Encourage your children to do their best and celebrate successes and accomplishments. Support them when confronted with difficulties or challenges, but urge them to keep trying.

Sleep is another critical component of student success. A minimum of eight (8) hours is essential for proper brain functioning and learning. Without proper sleep students have trouble learning, making decisions, and controlling emotions and behaviors.

Support the District’s mission "to graduate students with the skills and knowledge to be good citizens.” Only by working together – administrators, community members, parents/guardians, students, support staff, and teachers can we prepare all children for the opportunities awaiting them upon graduation.

If you have any questions, or if I can be of assistance, please feel free to call me at 442-1802 or email me at aobrien@nwarctic.org.

Sincerely,

MISSION
To graduate students with the skills and knowledge to be good citizens.

VISION
To be a leader in PreK to 14 education based on student achievement and graduation rates.
Annual Board Retreat
Superintendent O’Brien addresses Board Members and NWABSD Directors at the Annual Board Retreat in October.
During the retreat, each Director gave a report and/or presentation on their department’s past, current, and future projects. The district’s goals and priorities were discussed and reviewed.
Board Members provide the guidance and direction to the school district’s administration for the upcoming school year.

Directors and Board Members listen to a presentation during the Board Retreat in Anchorage.

AASB Annual Conference
Board Members, Directors and Superintendent O’Brien pose for a group photo after the Rural Caucus during the Alaska Association of School Boards (AASB) Annual Conference in November.

School Board of Education Meeting - January 2015
KOTZEBUE HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING CHAMP RECEIVES ACKNOWLEDGMENT DURING THE BOARD MEETING: Josh Roetman, a high school senior at KHS, recently received the Reno “Tournament of Champions” Champion Award, 182# class. Josh displays his trophy while posing with his parents, younger brother, Superintendent O’Brien and Board President Sandy Shroyer-Beaver.
123A State Wrestling Tournament:

**Kotzebue – State Champions & Team Sportsmanship Award**

Mark Lane – recognized by Alaska Wrestling Coaches’ Association as Coach of the Year

Rod Eakin – recognized by Alaska Wrestling Coaches’ Association as Assistant Coach of the Year

#113 – Gavin Maslen, Kotzebue – Champion
#145 – Gary Eakin, Kotzebue - Runner–Up
#152 – Spencer Woods, Kotzebue – Champion
#170 – Zach Haviland, Kotzebue – Champion
#182 – Josh Roetman, Kotzebue – Champion
#195 – Drew Nanouk, Kotzebue - Runner–Up
#220 – Stephen Hyatt, Kotzebue - Runner–Up

**COACHES OF THE YEAR:** Rod Eakin and Mark Lane receive their awards

**The Kotzebue High School Huskies Wrestling Team receive the Sportsmanship Award**

**STATE CHAMPIONS:** Congratulations to the Team and Coaches!
PHOTO GALLERY
2014-15 Battle of the Books

KIANA SCHOOL ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

MCQUEEN SCHOOL ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

SHUNGNAK SCHOOL ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

NOORVIK ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

DAVIS-RAMOTH ELEMENTARY STUDENTS
2014-15 Science Fair

JUNE NELSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKE AWARDS

KOTZEBUE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS display their projects

District Spelling Bee Champions

INTERESTING FACTS

• It takes about 7 minutes for the average person to fall asleep.
• Many people who read the word yawn or yawning begin to feel the urge to yawn.
• Months that begin on a Sunday will always have a ‘Friday the 13th’.
• A jellyfish is 95 percent water!
• Like fingerprints, everyone’s tongue print is different.
• It is impossible to lick your elbow.
• Guinea pigs and rabbits can’t sweat.
• The average person laughs 10 times a day!
• The elephant is the only mammal that can’t jump!
• Over 75% of people who read this will try to lick their elbow.
• You cannot think of an English word to rhyme with the word month because there isn’t one.
Alaska Technical Center has grown, both in terms of our beautiful, well-equipped facility and our offerings for students. In addition to serving adult learners, ATC is a partner in the Star of the Northwest Magnet School.

The career pathways ATC offers for students are carefully selected based on emerging trends in Alaska's economy. They are centered on preparing for high-demand high-paying jobs available in Alaska and beyond. All programs are developed based on industry employer needs and expectations. They result in professional certifications and college credit.

ATC offers comprehensive Adult Education services, including preparation and testing for the General Education Development (GED) diploma. Personalized Guided Instructional Support is provided for all ATC students as they master the challenges of our industry standards-based curricula. Instructor Jake Lambers has a strong background in adult education and administration.

Our Culinary Arts program prepares the workforce for this rapidly growing field. It blends classroom, training kitchen and industry work experience to prepare students for jobs and advanced training. Students earn industry and university certifications and the employment advantage of completing externships in Kotzebue’s major commercial kitchens. Instructor Chef Alejandro Vargas has many years of experience in international cuisines in settings from camps to fine dining.

Our Construction Trades program provides students with the carpentry skills necessary to obtain entry-level positions in Alaska's growing building industry. Students learn construction fundamentals, utilizing new building techniques, materials and processes. The program incorporates the advances in cold-climate building technology vital to Alaska’s construction industry. Instructor Michael Harrison has worked in the field as a U.S. Navy Seabee, carpenter, contractor, crew leader and supervisor.

Health Care students prepare for challenging careers in one of the fastest growing fields worldwide; they improve the quality of life for the people in their care. Students have the opportunity to qualify as a Certified Nurse Aide, licensed by the State of Alaska. Through classroom, practical, and clinical training, they earn college credit transferable to university nursing degree programs. Cynthia Lincoln, Health Care Instructor is both a Registered Nurse and a certified teacher, with experience in public health, surgical, and clinical nursing.

Millwright workers are specialists who work primarily with metal and with precision machinery. Millwrights install, maintain, diagnose and repair machines; these can include compressors, pumps, conveyors, monorails, extruders, turbines and mining equipment. Instructor Scotty Evans is an experienced master millwright, and a NCCER certified trainer.

Process Technology workers monitor and control industry equipment and processes for Alaska employers in the oil and gas, mining, power generation industries. Individuals interested in technology, science and mathematics are drawn to this pathway. Students can earn college credit toward an AAS degree offered in Kotzebue through Alaska Technical Center and the University of Alaska. Instructor David Fonger worked as a Process Technologist for the U.S. Navy, operating steam and cryogenic plants and refrigeration systems. He is also an experienced certified teacher.

ATC students also benefit from instruction in the workplace skills that employers expect. We emphasize responsibility, excellent attendance, and positive collaboration in both the classroom and hands-on work settings. Students earn Alaska WorkKeys certifications. Those performing at the highest levels earn the Savakturuq ("works diligently") certificate we have developed with the input of employers worldwide.

Learn more about ATC at our new website: www.atcstar.com
INUPIAQ DAY IN OCTOBER – Students at the Kobuk School spent the day cutting up a seal and preparing seal oil for the elders. Thank you to John Horner, Sarah Stewart, Lena Tickett and Corrine Lundell!

KINDERGARTENERS PRACTICE WRITING NUMBERS

1st Place Winner Ella Horner and Mrs. Patterson

Top Three Winners L to R: 2nd - Jazmyn Horner, 3rd - Amber Griest, 1st - Ella Horner

L to R: Jazmyn Horner, Kaira McKay, Amber Griest, Celeste McKay, Ella Horner, Coach Ashley Patterson
GRAND OPENING FOR THE STAR OF THE NORTHWEST MAGNET SCHOOL DORMITORY

Northwest Arctic Borough School District’s Star of the Northwest Magnet School’s dormitory was dedicated with a grand opening held on January 28. This beautiful purpose-designed facility will provide a quality home base for Star students from across the NANA region and statewide.

Over 75 people attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony, representing the rich cross section of people who have collaborated to make Star of the Northwest a reality for Alaska’s students. They included elders, parents, legislators, educators and state, tribal, regional and local board members and officials. Representatives from the Northwest Arctic Leadership Team organizations and our many business partners joined in the celebration.

Guest speakers highlighted the long-term collaborative efforts and hard work that have led up the opening of the dormitory and statewide magnet school. Star serves both school age and postsecondary students through the collaboration of the Northwest Arctic Borough School District, its’ Alaska Technical Center, and the University of Alaska. Students prepare for high-demand well-paying careers in the Culinary Arts, Education, Health Care, and Process Technology career pathways.

BOROUGH MAYOR REGGIE JOULE ADDRESSES THE AUDIENCE: Northwest Arctic Borough Mayor Reggie Joule was one of the guest speakers at the Grand Opening Ceremony.

RIBBON CUTTING: School Board President Sandy Shroyer-Beaver and Superintendent O’Brien cut the ribbon with an ulu.