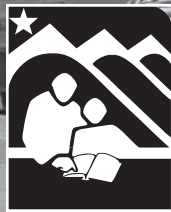




# Monthly Update



## Anchorage School District

### This month at the Anchorage School District

- **Schools will be closed** for winter break beginning Monday, December 19. Classes begin again Tuesday, January 3.
- **ASD support and administrative offices will be closed** beginning Friday, December 23, reopening Tuesday, January 3.

### Announcements

#### Peace in the Family

Parents, grandparents, guardians and anyone taking care of children can learn to peacefully resolve conflicts at home through the ASD Safe and Drug Free "Peace in the Family" classes held this month. Participants will learn to manage conflict and anger by focusing on how to be "hard on the problem" and not hard on loved ones. Classes will be held 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Dec. 5, 7 and 12 at Rogers Park Elementary School. Parents attending the class will get \$25 plus \$25 worth of children's books and parenting books. Call 742-4162 to enroll.

#### Gifted Parent Forum Meetings

**Boniface Education Center  
Orange Conference Room  
7-8 p.m.**

- January 19:** Guiding the Gifted Underachiever
- February 16:** Outsmarting the Precocious Pre-school/Kindergarten Child
- March 16:** High School and Beyond for Gifted Students
- April 20:** Technology and Gifted Kids: Making the Computer Safe, Fun, and Parent Savvy (Meeting will be 7-8:30pm)
- May 18:** Parenting Gifted Children: Frequently Asked Questions and Helpful Answers

#### Join the K-12 Art Curriculum Committee

Community members are invited to apply for positions with the district's K-12 Art Curriculum Committee. During the second semester, the committee will discuss an Advanced Placement Art History course for high school students, make revisions to middle school 6-8 art curriculum, expand the elementary art substitute teacher packet, and design the ASD Art Department's Web site. Throughout the school year the committee reviews quality, "inquiry-based," K-12 art curriculum related to state and national standards. For more information and an application, please contact the ASD Art Department at 742-4851.

#### Native Advisory Committee Meeting

**January 5, 2006, 6:30-8 p.m.  
Susitna Elementary School cafeteria**

#### Title VII Indian Education Evening Program

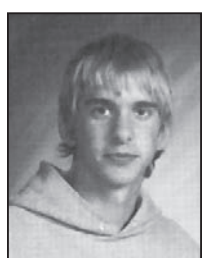
**Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m.  
Muldoon Elementary School**

No evening program classes during winter break; program resumes on Jan. 3. For more information, please call 742-4445.

#### Help develop Social and Emotional Learning standards

Social and Emotional Learning is the process through which students learn to recognize and manage emotions, care about others, make good decisions, behave ethically and responsibly, develop positive relationships, and avoid negative behaviors. ASD recently drafted standards and benchmarks for SEL curriculum, and is seeking community input. A copy of the draft standards and benchmarks is available on the ASD Web site, [www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org), under the Curriculum Department link. For more information, please call 742-4864.

### Point of Pride



West High School seniors Julia Kosygina and Tim Truer were recent winners in the 2005 National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Achievement Awards in Writing contest. They are two of 628 high school seniors across the country designated by the NCTE as outstanding writers. West High has been well represented in the past with individual students winning this award in 2002 and 2003, but this is the first year that two award winners have been from West High. In its congratulatory letter, the NCTE commended West High's English teachers and administrators for setting a climate that encourages student writing. Congratulations, Julia and Tim, and great work, West High!

### A Word from Carol Comeau



Dark winter days and cold weather bring changes to routines at school and at home. As much as we try to get outdoors during winter, we spend more time indoors.

Schools that are pleasant and functional to be in during our long winters are important to the teaching and learning process. Reliable heating and electrical systems are a must. Brightly lit classrooms help increase alertness and mood. Having ample room for indoor exercise allows students to continue to pursue physical fitness on the coldest, snowiest days. For our younger students, being able to have daily recess, even if held indoors, rejuvenates them for afternoon lessons.

I am grateful to the community and thank voters for their support of school improvement projects that ensure an optimal learning environment at our schools.

A good preventive maintenance program and keeping up on minor repairs help ensure that our schools remain functional and safe throughout the school year. Routine maintenance also extends the life of our schools, but with 90 facilities in our care a few schools each year arrive at a point where, due to their age and condition, they are beyond "band aid" repairs and require major renovations or upgrades.

We have a citizen committee that studies our school facility renovation needs. A few weeks ago they made a recommendation to me about projects that should be considered for a school bond in next April's municipal election. I'm reviewing the recommendation, and will discuss it with the School Board on December 12. You may recall that we did not have any school bonds on the ballot this year, keeping a pledge made in 2004.

Later this month, schools and support offices will close for winter break. I encourage all of our students, employees, families and the community to enjoy and celebrate the holidays. Please keep our military men and women who are deployed in service to our country in your thoughts.

I look forward to the New Year, and I sincerely thank everyone in the community for their support of our students and staff.

Most sincerely,

*Carol Comeau*

Carol Comeau, Superintendent

### Announcements

#### District Budget

Superintendent Comeau will present a districtwide budget for the 2006-2007 school year to the Anchorage School Board in January. The board will hold a series of public hearings and readings of the budget. All meetings are in the ASD Boardroom, 4600 DeBarr Road. More information on the district's budget outlook is available at [www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org).

**Public Hearing, January 11, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Public Hearing, January 17, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**First Reading, January 26, 6:30 - 9 p.m.**

**Second Reading, February 2, 6:30 - 9 p.m.**

### Meetings of the Anchorage School Board

agendas current as of 12/2/05

#### SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA December 12, 2005 4:30 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road, Room 320

**Call To Order, Roll Call**  
Jeff Friedman, Presiding

**School Board Comments**

**Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation)**

1. Student Hearings

2. HSGQE Waivers  
3. Pending Litigation  
**Superintendent's Update  
Adjournment**

#### REGULAR MEETING—AGENDA December 12, 2005 6:30 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road

**Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute**

Jeff Friedman, Presiding

**Approval Of Agenda**

**Announcements**

**Awards/Recognitions/Presentations**

1. Capriccio - East High String Quartet, Director Margaret David

**Special Advisory Reports**

1. Student Advisory Board

2. Military Delegate

3. M.E.C.A.C.

**Persons To Be Heard On Non-Agenda Items (30-minute time limit)**

**Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of Minutes

a. Special Meeting - October 24, 2005

b. Special Meeting - November 14, 2005

2. Memo 131 - 2006 General Obligation Bond Recommendations

3. Memo 149 - Approval of School Board Out-of-State Travel, November, 2005 - April, 2006

4. Memo 148 - Nomination to Alaska Association of School Boards' Board of Directors

5. Memo 11 - School Board Policy Revisions: Section 332.3 Lottery Procedures - Open Enrollment (First Reading)

6. Memo 63 - School Board Policy Revisions: Sections 524 and 617.1 Nepotism and Sections 524.1 and 617.1 Fraternalization (First Reading)

7. Memo 146 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Western Alaska Council, Boy Scouts of America 2005-2006

8. Memo 134 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Title II D Enhancing Education Through Technology

9. Memo 135 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Alaska Tech Prep

10. Memo 136 - Prior Approval of Competitive Grant: FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant

11. Memo 94 - Approval of Consultant Selection for the Southeast Hillside Elementary School Site Evaluation

12. Memo 130 - Award of Contract: Student Nutrition Hot and Cold Pack Equipment

13. Memo 137 - Award of Contract: Service High School Generator Installation

14. Memo 140 - Award of Contract: Consulting Services for Medical & Life Insurance Benefits

15. Memo 145 - Superintendent Evaluation and Contract Changes

16. Memo 90 - Revisions to the Six Year Instructional Plan

17. Memo 115 - Adoption of the District Improvement Plan for the 2005-2006 School Year

18. Memo 133 - Emergency Preparedness Project Phase I Revised

19. Memo 132 - Adoption of Tentative Agreement: Anchorage Council of Education/AFT, Local 4425, 2006-2009

20. Memo 141 - Personnel Report

**Superintendent's Report**

1. Memo 142 - Project Status Report

2. Memo 143 - First Quarter Parent/Teacher Conference Report 2005-2006

3. Memo 144 - First Quarter Suspension/Weapons/Expulsion Report 2005-2006

4. Memo 147 - 2005-2006 Ethnicity Report

**Persons To Be Heard On Non-agenda Items**

**Communications & School Board Comments**

**Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation)**

**Adjournment**

**Persons wishing to be heard may call 742-4315 or sign up prior to the meeting being called to order.**

\*The meeting will be aired live on cable channel 14 and will be rebroadcast Dec. 14 at 5 p.m., Dec. 15 at 12:30 p.m., Dec. 17 at 12:30 p.m. and Dec. 18 at 7:30 a.m. The meeting will be closed-captioned for the hearing impaired. The agenda is available in Braille by calling 742-4153. The ASD telephone number is 742-4000. A message may be left after hours.

### For more information

**Anchorage School Board**

Jeff Friedman, President, 742-6699, [friedman\\_jeff@asdk12.org](mailto:friedman_jeff@asdk12.org)

Crystal Kennedy, 696-2624, [kennedy\\_crystal@asdk12.org](mailto:kennedy_crystal@asdk12.org)

Mary Marks, 742-2343, [marks\\_mary@asdk12.org](mailto:marks_mary@asdk12.org)

Jake Metcalfe, 274-1441, [metcalfe\\_jake@asdk12.org](mailto:metcalfe_jake@asdk12.org)

Macon Roberts, 742-5350, [roberts\\_macon@asdk12.org](mailto:roberts_macon@asdk12.org)

Tim Steele, 277-7663, [steele\\_tim@asdk12.org](mailto:steele_tim@asdk12.org)

John Steiner, 696-2629, [steiner\\_john@asdk12.org](mailto:steiner_john@asdk12.org)

Carol Comeau, Superintendent, 742-4312, [comeau\\_carol@asdk12.org](mailto:comeau_carol@asdk12.org)

MECAC: The mission of the Minority Education Concerns Advisory Committee (MECAC) is to serve as the voice for families in the Anchorage School District and to promote educational success for minority students. The MECAC meets the third Thursday of every month at 12 noon at 4600 DeBarr Road, Room 320.

**4600 DeBarr Road, Anchorage, AK 99519-6614 • 742-4000 • [www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org) • Tune in to cable channel 14**