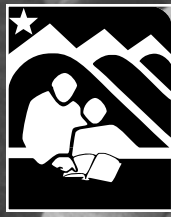




Monthly Update



Anchorage School District



This month at the Anchorage School District

- Election Day, April 4
- Statewide testing at all schools on April 4, 5 and 6
- Parent-teacher conferences, April 17—20
- Friday, April 21 is an in-service day. No school for students

Announcements

A Fair of the Heart and Mind

The ASD Safe and Drug Free Schools department is holding its eighth annual Asset Fair on Thursday, April 13, at the Egan Center. Developmental assets are 40 characteristics and qualities that lead children and adolescents to become caring, responsible adults. National studies show that the greater the numbers of assets there are in children's lives, the more positive and successful their development into adulthood. The fewer the number of assets present, the greater the possibility that youth will engage in risky behaviors such as drug use, unsafe sex, and violence. Parents, educators, counselors, business partners, volunteers and education support staff are invited to attend the fair to learn more about developmental assets and social and emotional learning, and share success stories of what is working in their schools.

Getting the most out of conferences

Teachers will invite parents to schools in mid-April for conferences and report-card distribution. The format and style varies depending on the grade level of the student, but the common goal is to let parents know how well their children are progressing in school and to discuss what can be done—at home and at school—so that students can achieve even greater success. Parents, make the most of this time. Information and tips for how to have a productive, positive conference can be found on the ASD Web site at www.asdk12.org/parents/conferences.asp.

A 'thank you' to our volunteers

Thousands of parents, grandparents and community members volunteer their time at schools across the district, helping out in numerous ways. On Wednesday, May 3, Superintendent Comeau will hold a reception at Wendler Middle School, 6:30 p.m., to celebrate our many volunteers and thank them for their commitment to our students and staff.

Don't forget: School starts earlier this summer!

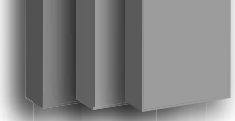
Classes for the 2006-2007 school year begin on Tuesday, August 22, 2006. School registration will be held during the week of August 7–11.

April's N.A.C. meeting canceled

The April 6 meeting of the ASD Native Advisory Committee is canceled. The NAC's next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, May 4, 6:30 p.m. at North Star Elementary School.

Academic achievement is rising!

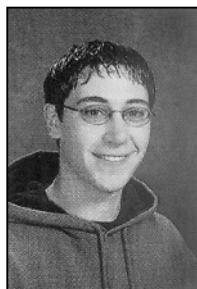
The number of ASD schools that are making "adequate yearly progress" has increased in the last three years. To make AYP, schools must show that their students—as a whole and in nine sub-groups—meet or exceed academic proficiency levels set by the state and federal departments of education. Three years ago, 40 percent of ASD schools made AYP. In 2004, 58 percent made it. Last year, 66 percent of ASD schools made the mark.



Point of Pride

Poetry Out Loud is a national program that encourages high school students to memorize and perform great works of poetry. Through their study of poetry and competitive recitation, students increase their literary knowledge, develop self-confidence, and hone their public speaking skills.

At the recent ASD districtwide Poetry Out Loud competition, Chugiak High School senior David Brescia won with his recitals of "Charge of the Light Brigade" by Alfred, Lord Tennyson, "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost, and "Old Ironsides" by Oliver Wendell Holmes. David will now head to Juneau for the next level of competition. Congratulations to David and the staff at Chugiak High!



David Brescia

A Word from Carol Comeau



School boundaries

You may have read or heard that the School Board and I will soon consider some changes to attendance boundaries at all middle schools and at a few select elementary schools. Three task forces have been creating some potential recommendations for me, and people from all over the district have given me comments and suggestions.

I'll give the School Board my recommendations for new boundaries on April 10. As yet, I have not made up my mind on what to do and where to draw the lines.

During the next week I'll review all the public testimony that's come in and I'll drive through the neighborhoods that have sparked the most discussion. That way, I can see for myself what some of the situations and issues are.

I'd also like to hear from you. Send me your thoughts and suggestions, and I promise to take them all into careful consideration when making my decision.

Measuring achievement

This Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday thousands of students in the Anchorage School District and across the state will take mandatory tests that measure their skills in reading, writing and math.

These tests provide students, parents and educators with a detailed look at how each student is progressing in language arts and math. Areas of strength and weakness are identified and educators can use the data to fine tune their lessons to address students' specific needs.

Parents, you can help your children do their best by making sure that they get plenty of sleep before the tests, eat a healthful breakfast before heading to school, and get to school on time. You can also encourage your children to try their best and take their time while reading and answering the questions on the exam (there is no time limit on the tests). Reassure your children that you have confidence in their ability to do well. Students who are tired, hungry, rushed or anxious will not be ready to perform at their best.

Solid structures, sound environments

High-quality instruction and strong parental support are the primary components of a top-notch education system, but the condition of the school buildings also plays a role.

Leaky roofs, inefficient or ineffective heating and ventilation, overcrowding, electrical systems that cannot support today's technology demands, and other infrastructure issues detract from a positive learning environment.

Out of our general operating budget we spend millions of dollars a year on preventive maintenance and routine repairs. But as schools get older, components like roofs and mechanical systems begin to wear out. Replacing entire systems within a school or adding space for a growing population go beyond the capability of our operating budget. To improve these situations, we ask the community to consider funding bonds to make repairs and renovations at schools.

On Tuesday, municipal voters will head to the polls to decide whether to approve school bond Propositions 9, 10 and 11.

Detailed information about each bond is available on our Web site, www.asdk12.org. I encourage you to take a few minutes to learn about the propositions before heading to the polls on Tuesday.

Most sincerely,

Carol Comeau

Learn more about school bond Propositions 9, 10 and 11 at www.asdk12.org

Meetings of the Anchorage School Board

agendas current as of 3/31/06

SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA April 10, 2006 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. Contract Negotiations Update
4. Litigation Update
Superintendent's Update Adjournment

REGULAR MEETING—AGENDA April 10, 2006 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. Goldenview Middle School Choir, Sam Struempfer, Director
2. **Memo 204** - Recognition for Goldenview Student Research
3. **Memo 241** - Recognition of 2006 Student Library Bookmark Winners
4. **Memo 243** - Recognition of Presidential Scholar Candidates
5. **Memo 255** - Recognition of Alaska Middle School Principal of the Year

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. Regular Meeting - January 9, 2006
 - b. Special Meeting - February 27, 2006
 - c. Special Meeting - March 6, 2006

2. **Memo 240** - Resolution in Support of Administrative Professionals Day
3. **Memo 252** - Adoption of Tentative Agreement: Bus Drivers and Attendants Unit, General Teamsters Local #959, 2006-2009
4. **Memo 218** - Middle School Boundary Changes (First Reading)
5. **Memo 219** - Williwaw Elementary School Boundary Changes (First Reading)
6. **Memo 220** - Bear Valley Elementary School Boundary Changes (First Reading)
7. **Memo 229** - School Board Policy Revisions: Section 349 - Evaluation (Second Reading)
8. **Memo 230** - School Board Policy Revisions: Section 722.2 - Budget Contents (Second Reading)
9. **Memo 239** - Prior Approval of Grant Award: Title VI-B Individuals With Disabilities Education Entitlement and Pre-School Disabled Incentive
10. **Memo 233** - Prior Approval of Grant Award: Alaska State School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing
11. **Memo 256** - Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant: Carol M. White Physical Education Program

12. **Memo 231** - Acceptance of Grant Award: Alaska Community Foundation Microsociety at Eagle River Elementary School
13. **Memo 244** - Amendment to Boniface Lease
14. **Memo 248** - Approval of Educational Specifications for Clark Middle School Renewal
15. **Memo 237** - Personnel Report

- Superintendent's Report*
1. **Memo 238** - Project Status Report
 2. **Memo 247** - Facility Contract Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Month of February 2006
 3. **Memo 253** - Third Quarter End-of-Month Membership Summary - March 31, 2006
 4. **Memo 254** - Assessment Calendar for 2006-2007 School Year

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 April 12 at 5 p.m., April 13 at 12:30 p.m., April 15 at 12:30 p.m. and April 16 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.*

SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA April 20, 2006 5:00 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road

Call To Order, Roll Call
Jeff Friedman, Presiding
Announcements
Oath Of Office Of New School Board Members

Adjournment Of 2005-2006 - Sine Die Organization of 2006-2007 School Board
Superintendent Carol Comeau will preside as temporary chair until a new president is elected.
1. President 3. Clerk
2. Vice President 4. Treasurer

Communications & School Board Comments
Adjournment

**The meeting will be aired live on cable channel 14 and will be rebroadcast April 22 at 4 p.m., and April 23 at 1 p.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

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Crystal Kennedy, 696-2624, kennedy_crystal@asdk12.org
Mary Marks, 742-2343, marks_mary@asdk12.org
Jake Metcalfe, 274-1441, metcalfe_jake@asdk12.org

Macon Roberts, 742-5350, roberts_macon@asdk12.org
Tim Steele, 277-7663, steele_tim@asdk12.org
John Steiner, 696-2629, steiner_john@asdk12.org
Carol Comeau, Superintendent, 742-4312, 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 • Tune in to cable channel 14