

Anchorage School Business Partnerships, Inc.

4600 DeBarr Road • Anchorage, AK 99519
sellens_sharon@asdk12.org

February News Update

Important DATES...

- Wednesday, February 25 – DEADLINE for STAR Nominations
- Friday, February 27 – Public Release forms due for “What I’ve Learned So Far”
- Monday, May 10 – Annual STAR Awards Recognition

Wells Fargo Teams Up with Alaska's Schools By – Judith Crotty – Wells Fargo Bank

Last summer, Wells Fargo held a company-wide *Team Up for Our Schools* campaign in support of Alaska’s local schools. For each qualifying new checking account or related service opened during the campaign, Wells Fargo contributed \$10 to the customer’s local school district. The campaign netted \$31,770 for Alaska’s school districts, including \$12,880 for the Anchorage School District. Throughout Wells Fargo’s 23 banking states, our company is giving \$2.9 million to schools. The program was created to help support public schools during a time of unprecedented budget shortfalls.



Wells Fargo team members also collected school supplies to donate to students in need as part of *Team Up for Our Schools*. In Anchorage, team members volunteered to collect and distribute school supplies for the H.U.G.S.S. (Helping Us Give School Supplies) and Coats for Kids community-wide donation campaign for low-income families. Wells Fargo Bank Alaska is an annual sponsor of the project, which is administered by Catholic Social Services, Lutheran Social Services and The Salvation Army.

The *Team Up for our Schools* program was such a success nationwide, that the campaign will be repeated in August 2004 to provide further support to Alaska schools.

At Wells Fargo we believe it is our responsibility to make sure we do everything we can to help people of all ages obtain a quality education. We support education programs from kindergarten to university levels, and we support capital campaigns at universities and at community colleges. Our giving illustrates what one company can do, and we hope to be an example for other businesses in our community to step up for education.

Exploring Programs: More Than the Shadow Experience

By – Chris Thomsen – Learning for Life

“Explore, explore!” Candi Dixon, Career Resource Counselor for Chugiak High encouraged the students seeking career and future schooling information in her “research center.” The encouragement was to get out, do, and “test run” interests -- not just do the paper research. Across town at East High, teacher Staci Yeckers was similarly promoting connections in the community. Staci had connected students on the Groundhog “job shadow” day and promotes connections with her school business partners and other opportunities.

Both anticipate the Exploring/Learning for Life program will facilitate development of more “Explorer Posts” with community sponsors providing career exploration opportunities. The Exploring Program is nationally proven; it is arguably the largest “school-to- careers” program in the United States. Ask around; you will find Explorers who had great experiences in the recent past: hospital based posts, fire, and police stations are traditional sponsors. The opportunity for posts to match the hobby interests of teenagers (in voluntary association with a few adult advisors) is limited only by imagination.

A recent career interest inventory at Chugiak High included significant student interest in photography, culinary arts, and veterinary medicine. Speakers and possible sponsors for posts in such fields, in addition to more traditional careers, are being sought and approached. Student interest is there: a post needs only five youth, ages 14-20 to start, but at least four adult mentors are required, in addition to a sponsoring organization or executive and a place to meet. The Exploring model includes group activities, youth leadership, democratic processes, responsible adult guidance, and encouragement of a community service event or activity. Elected Post leaders help select, plan, schedule and conduct events. Some events and discussions may be adult led, such as the local Engineering Post, sponsored by the Society of Petroleum Engineers, which invites engineers from different fields to speak; their students come from higher math and physics classrooms around Anchorage. APD Chaplain Bert McQueen has initiated a new social support, law enforcement, and crisis response post. That new post’s advisor, Marti-Anne, is a college student finishing a Bachelor of Social Work degree.

Development of new posts seems limited primarily by apprehension of adults and businesses thinking they might not have the time, energy required to meet two or three times per month or not realizing that Explorer Posts come with insurance backing. The benefits of facilitating exploration, mentoring, and positive social interaction for teens is too important. If you know a community member or youth with desire, expertise, or initiative, or the ability to support, encourage them to contact the local Exploring office: 338-5142 or ctomsen@lflmail.org. More information is under www.learningforlife.org

IBEW/Denali Elementary SBP Winter Update **By – Dora Wilson of IBEW 1547**

October 2003

The Halloween Carnival given by Denali PTA seemed to be a huge success again this year. The IBEW proudly donated 30 passes to H2Oasis Indoor Waterpark to the PTA for this function.



At the end of October, Terry L. Johnson, a Journeyman Lineman for Municipal Light & Power, and Dennis Traylor, a Journeyman Wireman and instructor for the NECA/IBEW Apprenticeship School, gave a presentation to the 4th, 5th, and 6th graders at Denali on 'Electrical Safety.' They both had a great time in the sessions and were very



impressed with the behavior of the students as well as the level of interest the students showed in their presentations. I really enjoyed their presentations as well, and also learned quite a bit on electrical safety myself!

November 2003

The IBEW is one of the sponsors for the City of Lights and also sponsored the Parade of Lights this winter. Melinda Taylor, IBEW Communications Director, thought it would



be a wonderful idea to incorporate the students at Denali into this project by creating a 'Float Design Contest.' One drawing was chosen from each classroom as a finalist and from those there was a Grand Prize Winner chosen. Each finalist received two tickets to H2Oasis Indoor Waterpark and the Grand Prize Winner received four tickets to H2Oasis Indoor Waterpark, as well as an invitation to ride on the NECA/IBEW Parade of Lights Float. Colton Collins, a 2nd grader from Denali, was chosen as the Grand Prize Winner. When I spoke to Colton's mother it was really nice to hear her say just how excited he was and how much it meant to him to have his design chosen. He also had a great time riding on the float on the day of the parade.

December 2003

There are six students who give up part of their recess time every day to help clean up the lunch room after their designated lunch time. To acknowledge their efforts IBEW sponsored a pizza party for them. In addition to the party each student received a \$10 gift certificate to Barnes and Noble.

February 2004

This time of year is testing time for the students. The students will be going through a week of Benchmark and CAT testing. When the students complete their testing they will have a treat to look forward to. We will be sponsoring an Ice Cream Social to celebrate the end of testing.

IBEW has really enjoyed working with the staff and students at Denali Elementary this winter and look forward to a great relationship in the future!

**NEW School Business Partnerships**

1. Jitters with Birchwood ABC K-8
2. Picture This Art Gallery with Birchwood ABC K-8
3. Carrs Floral of Eagle River with Birchwood ABC K-8
4. A Novel View with Central Middle School
5. Animal Warehouse with Service High
6. Costco/Diamond with West High
7. A Sentry Mini-Storage with Wendler Middle School
8. Thomas, Head, and Grieson Certified Public Accounts with Wendler
9. Orso Ristorante with KCC
10. Friends of Pets with Chester Valley Elementary
11. Coca-Cola and SBP Student Board

Rambucks Rewards Program at Wendler Middle School **By - Dan Rufner – Wendler Counselor**

This year Wendler Middle School has developed a school-wide motivational program, which attempts to reward all students for their efforts. Once a month students have a "pay day" in which Rambucks are distributed for their efforts the previous month. Rambucks are given in \$10, \$20, and \$50 payouts for quarter grade point average, monthly perfect attendance, a significant change in GPA, participating in clubs or activities, joining an athletic program, winning school sponsored contests, having good bus behavior, and distributed by teachers as classroom incentives.



The success of the program is evident by the lines of eager students waiting to see their pay for the month, as well as by the crowd that forms around the Rambucks store every Friday at lunch.

At the Rambucks store students redeem Rambucks for school supplies, novelties, and treats or opt to save Rambucks for larger rewards such as gift certificates to local stores and school sponsored field trips.

Through minor grant funding and significant contributions from "A Sentry Mini-Storage" and Thomas, Head, and Grieson Certified Public Accountants Rambucks was able to launch. We are on a continued funding search so we can both keep the program going as well as increase the amount and quality of the rewards students are striving for.

SBP Board of Directors Meeting

The next SBP Board of Directors meeting will be April 6, 2004, at Wells Fargo Bank – 301 W. Northern Lights Blvd. Please RSVP to Sharon Sellens.

SBP Student Board of Directors

The SBP Student Board will meet March 2, ASD Offices, 4600 DeBarr Road, room #320, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Middle and high school students are invited to attend. Dinner is provided by SBP – Domino's Pizza. Please RSVP to Sharon Sellens.

For information about School Business Partnerships, please contact
Sharon Sellens at 243-6674 or sellens_sharon@asdk12.org

