



Partnership Press

Spring 2008

Newsletter of Anchorage School Business Partnerships • (907) 240-2345 • www.asdk12.org/depts/sbp

STAR Award Winners Announced



The End of the Year Recognition Luncheon is our opportunity to celebrate positive business participation in our schools and recognize exemplary partnerships with the STAR awards. The annual celebration is held in collaboration with United Way Anchorage's "Success By 6" Initiative at the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce's Make It Monday luncheon.

The Anchorage School Business Partnership Board of Directors takes this opportunity to congratulate this year's STAR award winners.

2008 Student STAR -
Lola Ofiu, Central Middle School

2008 Educator STAR -
Trudy Keller, East High School

2008 Business Partnership STARS -
Carlile Transportation and Mountain View Elementary School
Northrim Bank and Fairview Elementary School
KTVA-Channel 11 and Mirror Lake Middle School
Siemens Building Technologies and Dimond High School
Wilder Construction and SAVE High School

2008 Superintendent STAR -
Anchorage High School Auditorium at West Restoration Committee

2008 Shining STAR - BP and the ASD

2008 Executive STAR - Brian Griggs

Please contact your business/organization partner, student or teacher to make arrangements to attend the event.

Day & Date - Monday, May 12, 2008

Time - 12:00 to 1:15 pm (Doors open at 11:15 am)

Place - Egan Convention Center

Theme - Investing in our Children from Cradle to Career

To attend, you must make reservations by calling Rebecca at the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce - 677-7114 or on-line at www.anchoragechamber.org (click on Event calendar). Individual seats are \$30 per person.

Congratulations!

Eagle River High Students Place 8th in National World Quest Competition



Congratulations to **Eagle River High School** students Bonnie Etter, Bryce Jarvis, Ryan Jarvis, Courtney Gilpin, (pictured from left to right in front of the United States Supreme Court building) and their teacher, Tom Klaameyer, on placing 8th in this year's National World Quest competition held in Washington D.C. on April 5th. They earned the privilege of representing the state by placing first in the local competition. The competition consisted of 100 questions, divided into ten rounds of ten questions. Each round

tested their knowledge in a different area of international relations such as International Law, Elections, Economics and the United Nations Peacekeeping Efforts. Although the older three are graduating in May, Bonnie is already looking forward to competing again next year. They would like to thank the **Alaska World Affairs Council** and **ConocoPhillips**, both School Business Partners, for sponsoring the local competition and generously providing transportation and accommodations to compete at the national level.

Financial Skills Taught At Crossroads

Judith Crotty teaches financial literacy to young women at **Crossroads High School**. **Providence Health & Services Alaska** and **Wells Fargo** also partner to provide lunches from the Children's Lunchbox (a program of **Bean's Café**) to the students and their children.



Pictured at right: Laarni Power, Providence; Rosemary Fish, Crossroads Principal; Linda Solomon, Children's Lunchbox ED; Susan Marthaller, Children's Lunchbox Dev. Director; Carlen Balluta and son Cameron; Jim Crockett, Bean's Cafe ED; Melissa Yang and daughter Leah; Judith Crotty, Wells Fargo. Crossroads students enjoy the benefits of this partnership

that expands their understanding of finances, health and wellness.

Business Partners Visit Gruening Middle School

Eagle River Rotary, a school business partner with **Gruening Middle School**, recently presented its "Choices Seminar" to Mrs. Miller's two business education classes. The "Choices Seminar" demonstrates how decisions made in middle school will impact the job options students have when they get older. Mr. Gamble and Ms. Reinbold, both members of the Rotary, came to Gruening for two days to present the seminar at Gruening.



In December 2007 **Gruening Middle School's** School Business Partnership class welcomed **KTUU** anchor Sheila Balistreri into their classroom.

Mrs. Balistreri spent time talking with the class about the news business, how to become an anchor, and how to do anchoring well. She gave the students great tips about being a good employee, making the most of their

talents, and why it is so important to do a job well. The GBN News team then asked her if she would be willing to do the morning announcements with them for the following day's broadcast, and she readily accepted. She and the news team had a great time putting together the news for the following day. All students and staff at Gruening were more than surprised to see Mrs. Balistreri on the morning announcements the next day and were excited that such a famous personality would come to Gruening and help them out.

All students in the School Business Partnership class were especially appreciative of all Mrs. Balistreri did. They are still talking about all the tips and information she gave them, and how fun it was to get to perform the broadcast with a professional anchor woman.

West High Field Trip to USKH Has Huge Impact on Students

On Wednesday, April 9th, **West High** students took a field trip to their business partner, **USKH**, an architectural, engineering, environmental, planning and land surveying firm. The students visited various departments including Civil and Mechanical Engineering, Land Surveying, Architecture as well as IT, Human Resources, Marketing, and Accounting. Highlights included getting to use survey tools, reviewing architectural renderings and learning how 150 pounds can be supported by three eggs! The kids were talking about what they saw and learned the entire way back to school. They all agreed that it was entertaining and educational and that they came away with a much clearer understanding of USKH and the world of work in general. One student was overhead

commenting that the employees of USKH really seemed to like their jobs and that he hadn't known anyone who really liked his/her job. The quote that their teacher, Mary Peterburs, has used over and over this semester is from Thoreau: "Most men live lives of quiet desperation." Mary tells the students that happy people are in control of their lives and that life doesn't just happen to them; they direct their lives. She says that every USKH employee who presented to the West students illustrated that point so much better than she ever could. It got the kids talking about their futures. A huge thank you to USKH and Mary Peterburs, SBP coordinator and teacher, for impacting these students' lives in such a positive way.



Bruce Hopper demonstrates how an ordinary file folder with extra folds added can hold the weight of a board and book. It's structural engineering!

Chugiak's business partner Eagle River Super Suppers hosted Mrs. Besse's class at their store. The students had fun in the kitchen learning to make several side dishes including stuffing, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, and a chocolate pudding dessert. Left to Right: Mike Grotelueschen, Danielle Cash, Jon Butler, and Patience Everingham from Eagle River Super Suppers.



Stellar community Service at Steller!

Steller students have been helping numerous community service organizations with energy and enthusiasm.

Over the holidays students had heaps of holiday fun while bringing sunshine and hope into the lives of others. First, students helped the **Anchorage Downtown Partnership**, our school business partner, with its annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony in Town Square. Inside at the Performing Arts Center, students worked with the children of military families invited to a special reception marking the occasion.

The weekend before Christmas, a crew of elves wrapped gifts at the Midtown **Title Wave**, another Steller school business partner, for well over eight hours. All tips they received were earmarked for the student Spain trip. A Steller advisory group also wrapped gifts for charity at both the Downtown and Midtown Title Wave locations. Students logged well over 15 hours wrapping!

On Monday, December 31, a group of students helped with the Anchorage Downtown Partnership's Annual New Year's Eve Fire and Ice Celebration in Town Square. They readied the inside of the Performing Arts Center for a reception honoring donors and benefactors of the event. Afterwards, students helped outside selling light sticks and distributing viewing glasses for the fireworks that occurred at 8:00 p.m. under clear skies.

There are many other community service projects currently occurring at

Steller. Every advisory group works on service projects including a sock drive, penny drive, raising money for children's books in India, and raising money for a village in Africa.

An *awesome* community service project was undertaken by one Steller student who has been involved this year with many School Business Partnerships. Kristina Vaughn, a junior and advisory group rep, got her advisory on board to raise money for the "Smile Train." This international organization is the leading charity in providing cleft palate surgeries to children who live in developing countries. Besides raising money with her advisory, Kristina decided to challenge the other advisory groups to fundraise as well, and offered the winning advisory a pizza party that she personally paid for.

Kristina did an internship for a local radio station owned by the **Morris Communication Group**. They were so impressed with her commitment to this cause that one of the lead Account Executives offered to help her produce a community service spot about the Smile Train. We are proud of her and all the caring Steller students!

For more information about the Smile Train charity, please go to: www.SmileTrain.org

If you would like to find out more about how your business could contribute to Steller and become a school business partner, please contact Linda in the Counseling office or feel free to send her an email her at samorajski_linda@asdk12.org.



TheSmileTrain

The World's
Leading Cleft
Charity.

Thank yous of all types are always appropriate!

- **SAVE High School** awards engraved plaques to all their partners thanking them for supporting SAVE. They invite their partners to their award assembly and recognize them.
- **Gruening MS** sent thank you notes signed by all students with gift cards to **Starbucks** to their business partners who conducted student mock interviews.
- **SAVE HS** gave their partners who supported Arctic Survival program sweatshirts, pictures and thank you letters.
- Some schools give their partners a framed photo of the staff and students or the School Business Partnership Class.
- **Begich MS** recognized their partners on 'Thank Your Mentor Day' for their support in the **Student Led Designated Opportunity Guides**, aka 'SLED DOG' Program. This program enabled students to share their portfolios when their families couldn't attend conferences. Begich students and partners also worked on a service project for Volunteers of America, sorting and labeling books in order to teach students about "giving back."

Giving the use of facilities or student talents is a win-win!

- **Begich MS** invited their neighboring partner, **AFD Station #6** to use their running track for the firefighters' workouts.
- **West HS** gives their partners a school activities pass (free admission to all home sports events) as a gift.
- **Alpenglow ES** and **Taku ES** sent their choirs to sing at **Wal-Mart** and **Costco-Diamond**.
- Several elementary schools send choirs to sing at company holiday parties.
- **South Anchorage HS** choir spent an evening caroling for patients at **Alaska Regional Hospital**.
- **Gruening MS** has student art work displayed on site for business partners **Wells Fargo & Sleepy Dog Café**.
- **Chugiak HS** art students painted a holiday scene on the windows at their partner's place of business.
- **Turnagain ES** students sent artwork to **Fed Ex** for display.
- **Aurora ES** student artwork was displayed at **First National Bank Alaska, Elmendorf Branch**.
- **Romig MS** Spanish immersion students translated children's books for their business partner, **Providence**, to take on a mission to El Salvador.



Aurora Elementary artwork on display at First National Bank Alaska, Elmendorf branch.

Giving back to your partners can be a service learning opportunity!

- **Chugiak HS** collected medical supply donations for humanitarian aid for partner **Esther Petrie's** "To Russia With Love" program.
- **Central MS** does an annual "Pennies for the Penniless" campaign to benefit their partner, **Kids' Kitchen**.
- **Mirror Lake's** SBP class played Bingo with seniors at **Chugiak Senior Center**.
- **Ravenwood Elementary** promoted and sold tickets for **Eagle River Nature Center's** Spring fundraising auction with two sand carved Raven glass mugs (by Brecht Studios), a pair of raven earrings, a beautiful hand carved birch bowl by a staff member's husband, a beautiful glass and bead raven ornament, a book about ravens, and a raven note pad. All items/cash donated came from staff.

Projects that provide students with learning opportunities and promote the missions of the business as well are a win-win!



- **Central MS** facilitates their partner's **ACVB** Wild About Anchorage Trivia Contest.
- **Mirror Lake MS** made a moose safety video with and for their partner, the **Alaska Department of Fish and Game**, in collaboration with an **APU** student. The 12 minute DVD was accompanied by a lesson plan and distributed to all ASD elementary schools.
- **Mirror Lake MS's** Communication Team has produced a 10 minute training video for new partner, **The Department of Labor and Workforce Development Wage and Hour Administration**. This video will train business managers on the state's law concerning children in the workforce and will be used throughout the state of Alaska. (See photo above.)
- **Polaris K-12** students monitor local creeks for water quality standards as part of the **Anchorage Waterways Council's Citizens Environmental Monitoring Program** and **UAA's Environment and Natural Resource Institute Stream Team** monitor local creeks for the program.
- **Mirror Lake MS** holds an annual book fair at **Barnes and Noble** where all their musical groups perform for parents, friends, and Barnes and Noble patrons, which raises funds and boost the stores' sales. Students also decorate the store for "Art Reception" night and bring parents to the annual gala!
- **Ravenwood Elementary** set up a Nature Club with their partner, the **Eagle River Nature Center**, and students and staff produced a quilt which is auctioned off to raise funds.

Facilitating communication and relationships between different partners is a special service!

- **Chugiak HS** encouraged their business partners to help each other by employee hiring and firing practices.
- **Begich MS's** partner, **First CME-CDC, Inc.** honored another of Begich's partners, **Anchorage Fire Department #6**, by nominating them to the citywide Anchorage Alliance of Mentorship and recognizing them at the City Assembly on 'Thank Your Mentor Day' for their strong support of Begich students.

Spreading positive vibes makes the world a kinder place!

- **Mirror Lake MS** and **Begich MS** set up videoconferences with American soldiers in Iraq through Freedom Calls for **ConocoPhillips**.
- **Wonder Park ES** sends personalized birthday cards to their partners.
- Many elementary students make hand-made holiday cards for their partners.
- **Polaris K-12** nominated one of their business partners for the Top 40 under 40 award by the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce.



Turnagain Elementary student work on display at Fed Ex.

Some partners are honored posthumously.

- **Mirror Lake MS** renamed their tech room "The Augie Hiebert Communications Studio" by School Board memorandum and board meeting recognition and included their business partner **KTVA**.

Giving back helps develop workforce skills!

- **Chugiak HS** students go to **Costco** to help with inventory as thanks for being a partner.
- **Willow Crest ES** staff signed up for shifts to cover a day of work opening boxes for stocking at **Costco-Diamond** during the holidays.
- **Central MS** does the layout for their partner **Hilton Hotel's** internal newsletter.
- **South Anchorage HS** culinary students decorated gingerbread houses for a display at the **Diamond Center**.
- **Polaris K-12** students are trained by **Kaladi Brothers Coffee** to be baristas in the student café, increasing their employability.

Raising students' awareness about partners is a benefit!

- **Chugiak HS** gives business partners a table at Open House and conferences to display literature and make employment applications available.
- **Central MS** hosted out of town military and professional guests in classes who wanted to see how **Fort Richardson** partner Brian Griggs' program worked.
- **Benson HS** encourages their students to consider employment with partner **Carrs/Safeway**.
- **Central MS** promotes volunteer opportunities for partner **Anchorage Youth as Resources**.

Some projects help students and parents hone their skills in public processes!

- **Turnagain ES** MIR parents wrote letters of support for partner **Northern Forum** when they lost state funding.
- **West HS** students learned about an issue a partner cared deeply about – libraries - and wrote letters to encourage funding from the legislature.

Other projects help the entire community!



- **Springhill ES** promised to send staff and parents to **Super Suppers** to pick up trash after Spring break-up.
- **Central MS** works with partner, **ACVB**, to hang lights for the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce's City of Lights program.
- Most schools participate in the **United Way Day of Caring** by collecting food.
- Many schools also participate in the Coats for Kids drive.

Greater community involvement is another way to give back!

- **Central MS** SBP coordinator and class teacher Janna Walker serves on the board of business partner, **Learning for Life**.
- **Begich MS** SBP coordinator Debbie Whitehouse serves on the board of business partner **First CME-CDC, Inc.**

Pictured at right: Ravenwood Elementary started an after-school Nature club with their partner, Eagle River Nature Center. Students helped make this lovely quilt which is being raffled as part of the center's annual Spring Auction.





Join the School Business Partnership Team on the **9th Annual Alaska Visitor Industry Charity Walk!**

What's that? Affectionately known as the "5K Buffet", this walk winds through downtown Anchorage and allows you to stop at food stations along the route to sample delicious foods prepared by hotels and restaurants. This is probably the only walk in Anchorage where you won't lose any weight!

And there's more! You'll finish at the Park Strip for the grand finale - the WOW event- featuring desserts, live music, massages, jugglers, clowns, magicians, face and hair painting, carnival games, and prizes!! All of this included in your registration donation at **no additional cost!!**

What's the purpose? This event, also referred to as the "Graze to Raise", is a fundraiser for local non-profits. It's the visitor industry's way of giving back to the community. **You'll be supporting the School Business Partnership Program by participating!** AND your race "bib" will be picked up for you saving you a trip downtown on April 29th. (If you register after that date, you are on your own!)

When? Friday, May 2, 2008

Who? Students, teachers, friends, families, co-workers... ANYONE!

How Much? Minimum pledges of \$30 per adult or \$15 per child (5-18 years, under 5 free) for those who register by April 29th. (\$10 additional after 4/29 and they won't let you be part of our team ☺)

How do I register? Go to www.alaskacharitywalk.org Click on "**Anchorage**", then "**registration information**" and finally "**register on-line.**" Next under "**Team Name**", scroll to select "**School Business Partnership**" team name and then click on **Register** to fill out the form! (Have your credit card ready)

Where? Meet at **5pm** at the west end of the Park Strip near 9th and M Streets. Look for the School Business Partnership Team sign to pick up your race "bib" from me and start the walk at 5:30 pm. If you're late, try to catch up to us or call me on my cell - 240-2345.

Questions? Call team captain, Tam Agosti-Gisler at 240-2345!

Willow Crest Benefits from Many Business Partnerships

Willow Crest has had some phenomenal partner support this year. Here's just a sampling of what's taken place in their partnership program:

- A School Business Partnership area was created in the school's front hall and partners were invited to a faculty meeting where they were introduced to staff members.
- **Holiday Station Stores** worked to provide food and gifts for families at Christmas.
- **Costco-Dimond** provided toys and clothes for Willow Crest's annual Santa's Workshop. Through this program, students are able to select and wrap gifts to give other family members.
- **Wells Fargo Checkpoint Group** provided volunteers for the Santa's Workshop and a Family Night. Wells Fargo Checkpoint Group also hosted an African-American Week art and essay contest with prizes, and participated in an all-school assembly.
- The local **Women of the Moose** donated food and presented baskets for a number of families for Christmas.
- Holiday cards were sent to partners.
- Monthly newsletters introduced and thanked partners for time and donations.
- **DQ Grill and Chill** gave free cone coupons for students with good attendance and participated in the school's November Family Night. In addition, Dairy Queen sponsored a fund raiser for Willow Crest one evening at their Tudor store location.
- **UAA** sponsored a university clothing drive for students and adopted Willow Crest to be the recipient of school supplies as part of their annual fundraising drive.
- **Costco** provided weekly volunteer readers to work with students at school, and provided a monthly lunch for all staff members. In addition, Costco provides a monthly breakfast for parents to meet and talk with the principal. Staff members spent Saturday, December 15, 2007 volunteering at Costco on Dimond as part of a Give-back Day agreement with Costco. Costco also provides a backpack with school supplies to students who need them, and recognizes students with perfect attendance for the entire year with personalized duffle bags full of summer sports equipment!
- **BP** donated teachers' desks and bookcases for many classrooms at Willow Crest.
- **Allen and Peterson** assisted the school in obtaining a new fridge/icemaker at a reduced price and arranged cooking classes for some students.
- A partnership was signed with **Refrigeration and Food Equipment** to provide the school with free ice for all events!



Pictured are Eliana Fosca, Costco employee and student Kaylex Estacion (2nd grader) from Mrs. Jerue's class.

Small Seed Grows into Great Project

Sometimes a small seed grows into a great project. Recently **College Gate** Librarian Dona Helmer and her colleague Kristee Dowling, a fourth grade teacher at College Gate Elementary, took a class on science notebooks and they began to wonder how they could enhance the science curriculum. Helmer worked with Bev Thornberg in the grants office to identify possible funding sources. They were unable to find financing for a desired document projector, but they did find something remarkable. They wrote and received a \$1,500 **Lowe's** Outdoor Classroom Education grant for "*College Gate Learning and Growing Garden.*"

According to Lowe's, College Gate is the first school in the state of Alaska to receive such an award.

Helmer and Dowling are thrilled to be working with Lowe's on the grant and are formalizing their relationship via a school business partnership.

Lowe's was impressed with the comprehensive nature of the grant and the fact the application was based on the goals of helping:

- Students improve their scientific observation skills.
- Students develop a positive feeling about their school.
- Students develop a positive feeling toward the environment and understand their role in protecting the environment, as well as developing their sense of stewardship of the earth.
- Students understand that many people need to work together cooperatively to achieve a goal of creating a beautiful space.
- Students improve their writing skills by writing in their science journals.



In order to accomplish the goals, the Lowe's grant will provide \$1500 for plants, soil, lumber, paint and art supplies for outside the school building. During the school year, Lowe's staff will work with Mrs. Dowling and Mrs. Helmer to identify specific age appropriate projects for different grade levels to improve the grounds around the school.

Thank you to our Financial Supporters!

These businesses have made a financial contribution to the Anchorage School Business Partnership Program this year.

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Wells Fargo check presentation: Brian Griggs, Jeff Leonard (SBP Co-Chairs), Tam Agosti-Gisler (SBP Executive Director), Judith Crotty (WF Community Development VP), Linda Emerson (WF Checkpoing TMRG), Stephanie Garrard (WF Alaska Contribution Manager).



Dora Wilson of NECA/IBEW presents a donation to Brian Griggs, SBP Co-Chair.



Federal Express check presentation: Tam Agosti-Gisler (ED), Tom Nabity (Senior Manager, Fed Ex), Connie Carter (Managing Director, Fed Ex).

Thank you!

...to all of our generous donors!



Anchorage School Business Partnerships

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