



Old Steller Yeller

November 2012

Hello Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you all in good health. It's that time of year when we need to be thinking about what we can all do to stay healthy. The snow is on the ground and the light is waning. It not only affects our moods, but that of our students as well. I try to have a little extra patience with my kids when the season changes, and I ask them to do the same for me. I've set goals to be more active this year than I was last, and I will try and get out and take more advantage of the snow.

We will be registering for Fall Intensives on the 5th of November, so make sure you have read all of the course descriptions. Of note, I believe you will be pleasantly surprised as to how many more core classes are being offered. I am very excited to see such interesting classes.

Steller will be administering the Workkeys exam to all juniors and seniors who have elected to take it on Thursday, November 8th. There will be one make up day on Friday, November 9th, for those who miss the first exam. All teachers have been notified about the exam and students should be able to make up any work missed during the exam without grade repercussions. Just like any other major exam day, please make sure your students are rested and have eaten a sensible breakfast.

Please don't forget about the Auction on Saturday, November 10th from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM. Check in will begin at 6:00 PM. If you have items to donate, I thank you in advance. I am sure the Auction Committee is still taking items. I'm sure you can find something worth investing in. Don't just come to the auction by yourself, but invite all your friends. Remember, we need you and your friends to make this a successful event.

Thanksgiving week is a short one for academics. Students and Staff have the 22nd and 23rd of November off. Students should be out of the building and picked up by 3:00pm on Wednesday, November 21st.

November 30th will be the registration day for second semester. Keep looking at the Steller Flash for an update on the scheduling process. Our goal is to schedule early so we can ensure each student has the best schedule with the fewest of conflicts.

Don't let the end of the semester sneak up on you. It comes fast. Finals will be on the week of December 3rd through the 7th. Intensives will begin on December 10th. Please keep in mind there will be no early finals given. If you plan on leaving for vacation early, you must make arrangements with the teacher to take the final upon return. A grade will be given based upon the grade your student has with a zero on the final. After the student takes the exam, the grade will be changed to accurately reflect the new grade.

It is exciting to me to see parents and teachers partnering up to help our students. The parent liaisons are a tremendous help, and I look forward to seeing them work more with our teachers. I feel as though there is a much stronger line of communication between parents, teachers and students this year. Thank you all for what you are doing to assist in the process.



**From the Principal
Dale Evern
742-4964**



Staff Corner



We recently wrapped-up our first quarter and the first set of student-led conferences, the feedback from which is intended to give students, parents, and the advisor a good idea of what is going well and what can be improved. Second quarter is short – only seven weeks – so it’s especially important for students to stay on top of their academics. This includes regularly accessing their grades on Zangle to make sure they know where they stand in each class and that what’s recorded is accurate to their understanding. Parents should check with their student to be sure they know their password and are regularly checking Zangle. Since teachers/advisors use Zangle to email parents, make sure your contact information is updated in the system.

Another means of obtaining class information is through teacher websites. A number of teachers maintain websites with class due dates and topics covered in class, which can be good discussion starters with your student about their class progress. See the list of teacher names on Steller’s district website. Names are linked to individual websites.

On Thursdays, teachers have agreed to be accessible in their rooms between 2:05 and 2:30 to fill out weekly progress reports. Students can get a form in the office and take it around to each teacher. Doing this on a weekly basis ensures that students check in face-to-face with teachers. Parents may wish to have their students do this and bring the form home to discuss the feedback.

For students struggling with organization, parents may require them to keep a daily planner in which they write down what they did in class and upcoming due dates. For greater accountability, students can have each teacher sign their planner at the end of each period to see that it was filled out accurately; parents can check the planner at home on a regular basis to see that it’s getting filled out.

If a student is struggling in a class a good first step is, of course, seeking help from the teacher at lunch or after school, but there are additional aids that students may utilize. Academic support includes math lab and homework lab. Math lab is available during lunch Monday through Thursday. Natalie and Jen are on hand to answer homework questions and provide test preparation. Homework lab is Tuesday through Thursday in Jen’s room. To get one-on-one help with writing, students can set up a time to meet with their language arts teacher, usually at lunch or after school.

We hope your student-led conferences went well. We are always looking for ways to improve the process. Please pass feedback along to your advisor or to Dale or Elizabeth in the front office. Our next conferences will be at the end of the year, during the last week of school, and will be focused on reviewing the year and looking ahead to next year.



Nurse's Notes



How to Talk to Your Kids About Drugs

<http://www.narconon.org/drug-abuse/talking-to-kids-about-drugs.html>

First and foremost it is important to be educated about drugs yourself. There are many resources available, including several government websites that provide basic drug information, current news, and study results. Also important is *how* you talk to your kids. What has never worked in drug education is to tell an adolescent something from an authoritative viewpoint. As soon as a parent starts in with that approach, the child will immediately tune the person out. A better approach is to ask them questions and then provide basic, true information.

A parent can ask, "What have you heard about drugs that is good?" At this point it's important for the parent to simply listen to the adolescent's response without interrupting them. Give them your full attention, no matter what they say, be patient and listen carefully.

When they have finished telling you the good things they have heard about drugs, it is best to just say "thank you" or "I understand" to the communication they just gave you. This helps give your child confidence that they can talk to you and that you are interested in what they have to say. It's like having communication with your best friend, only this one happens to be your child.

Now that they have told you what they heard that was positive about drugs, it is time to get them the correct information. The objective is to give information so they can make sound decisions on their own. It has been determined that when young people are given the accurate information about drugs their attitude about them changes and they make their own decisions not to use them. Their own solid decision will carry them a long way.

When providing them with information, ensure that they fully understand it. Consult their understanding and ask for an example of what they have just learned. If they ask a question that you can't answer, it is important that you are honest with them and don't try and make something up. Use the opportunity to work with them to find the answer.

Honesty, patience and good communication are the keys to [talking to adolescents about drugs](#). Getting their questions answered will help ensure they make the right decision not to use drugs.

Juniors

WorkKeys



Who: **ALL** Juniors (and a few seniors, there are only a few extra books – see John)
When: Thursday, November 8th, 8:30 am
Where: MPR Room
Why: Alaska Performance Scholarship
Career / Vocational Placement
All the Reasons Below:

1. WorkKeys is a job skills assessment measuring “real world” skills that employers believe are critical to job success. These skills are valuable for any occupation being considered and at any level of education.
2. The State of Alaska regulation 4 AAC 06.717 requires that all Juniors take WorkKeys in three skill area assessments as shown below. WorkKeys scores are expressed in levels that range from 3 to 6 or 7, depending on the assessment.
 - a. Reading for Information = 3 to 7
 - b. Applied Mathematics = 3 to 7
 - c. Locating Information = 3 to 6
3. Regulation 4 AAC 06.717 also allows Seniors the *choice* to take the three WorkKeys skill area assessments during the same time as Juniors at their school. There will be no charge for Seniors choosing to take WorkKeys. Seniors wishing to take WorkKeys must sign-up at their school. A student’s best score report will become part of his/her permanent record.
4. Students may receive a nationally recognized credential. This National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) documents their achievement in the three skills areas mentioned above. NCRCs and score reports can be shown to prospective employers and listed on resumes and job applications. Many employers nationwide now look for National Career Readiness Certificates.
5. WorkKeys results can be used to qualify for all Alaska Performance Scholarship levels for attendance in a *Career Technical Education certificate program but not for attendance in a degree program*. Please see your child’s school counselor for more information regarding the Alaska Performance Scholarship and WorkKeys scores.
6. More information about WorkKeys is available on the State of Alaska website at <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/workkeys.html>.



Financial Aid 101

Tuesday Nov 6th, 6:30 – 8:00

In the New Computer Lab

We are very fortunate to have Conor Williamson, expert presenter from Alaska Advantage - Alaska Dept of Post Secondary Ed to speak about:

- Intro to FAFSA
- Types of Financial Aid
- Alaska Performance Scholarship
- UA Foundation Scholarships
- Alaska Resident Financial Aid Programs
- “Secrets & Tips” You’ll Need to Know
- Scholarship Searches using the internet (a hands on presentation – you’ll be searching for funds).

If you have any questions contact John.



Class of 2013-14 ALASKA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP Eligibility Progress Checklist



APS Level 1 (up to \$4,755 per year)

- Curriculum *and*
- GPA: 3.5 *and*
- ACT: 25 or SAT: 1680 *or*
- WorkKeys: 13 (no score below 4)*

APS Level 2 (up to \$3,566 per year)

- Curriculum *and*
- GPA: 3.0 *and*
- ACT: 23 or SAT: 1560 *or*
- WorkKeys: 13 (no score below 4)*

APS Level 3 (up to \$2,378 per year)

- Curriculum *and*
- GPA: 2.5 *and*
- ACT: 21 or SAT: 1450 *or*
- WorkKeys: 13 (no score below 4)*

To apply for the APS, students must complete a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) by June 30th of each year.

* A combined score of 13 or higher, with no score below 4, is required in Applied Math, Locating Information, and Reading for Information. Students with only WorkKeys scores can receive a Career/Technical Education (CTE) APS award which may be used to fund a certificate program but not an associate's or other degree.

Student GPA: _____ Student Test Score & Test Date: _____

Math & Science Curriculum

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 4 units Math | | | | |
| 4 units Science | | | | |
| 4 units Language Arts | | | | |
| 4 units Social Studies* | | | | |

* One unit in foreign language, Alaska Native language, fine arts, or cultural heritage may be substituted for one unit in social studies.

OR

Social Studies & Language Curriculum

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 2 units World Language* | | | | |
| 3 units Math | | | | |
| 3 units Science | | | | |
| 4 units Language Arts | | | | |
| 4 units Social Studies | | | | |

* Two language units must be in the same language, and may be foreign language, Alaska Native language, or American Sign Language.

9/6/2012

Find details and subscribe for updates at APS.alaska.gov





The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education's (ACPE) 2012-2013 edition of the *Going to College in Alaska* magazine is now available online! [Going to College in Alaska Online](#) contains useful tips to help Alaska's high school students make educated decisions about postsecondary school options. The online magazine features sections on choosing and applying to colleges and student financial aid as well as information on the Alaska Performance Scholarship and how to apply.

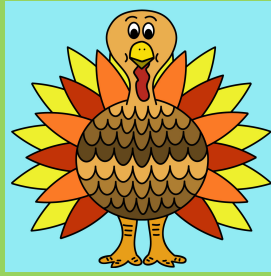
Spring Lottery Deadline 3:00 PM - Thursday, March 21st

Lottery applications must be turned into the office prior to 3:00 pm on March 21, 2013 to be included in the Spring lottery.

Applications received after this date will be entered in the Fall 2013 lottery.

ALL INCOMING SIBLINGS MUST SUBMIT A LOTTERY APPLICATION

Thanksgiving Closure Information

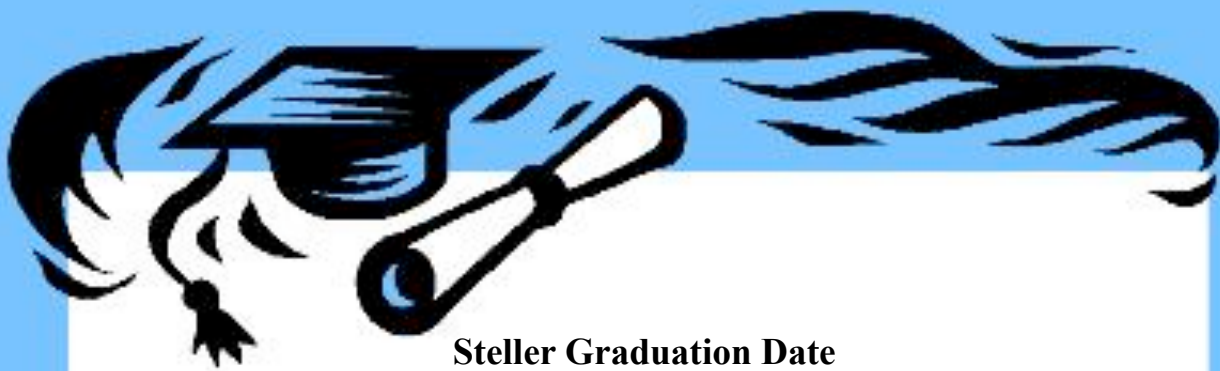


On Wednesday, November 21st (the day before Thanksgiving), the building will close and the doors will be locked at 3 p.m. **Students must be picked up BEFORE 3 p.m.**

Please be considerate of the teachers and staff who want to prepare for their holiday, too!

There is no school Thursday or Friday, November 22 – 23.

Thanks.



Steller Graduation Date

Mark your calendars for

May 22, 2013

3:00 p.m.

Wendy Williamson Auditorium

3211 Providence Drive

Anchorage, AK 99508

Stay connected



Help us connect with your community

*Join the Key Communicators
network*

Want to be the first to know about key events? Want to let the district know what you and your friends are talking about? ASD Key Communicators are staff, parents and community members who are interested in our schools and would like to help improve communications between the district and the community. Most of this group's interaction will take place via email and telephone, but the group will have non-mandatory meetings 2-3 times a year.

Learn more or sign up at
www.asdk12.org/newsletters/key/

Other ways to connect with ASD

Facebook:
AnchorageSchoolDistrict

Twitter:
ASD_Info and ASD_Closures

ASD Connect:
Monthly e-newsletter

Learn more at
www.asdk12.org/newsletters/

School Messenger

Stay informed throughout the school year

School Messenger is the system the Anchorage School District uses to send automated phone calls and email messages. Use of the "robo-call" system varies by school, but it can be used for attendance notifications, informational calls and emails, vital districtwide messages from the superintendent and may also be used in some emergency situations.

Keep these tips in mind

- If your school doesn't have an accurate phone number or email address, you won't get the messages. Contact your school's office to update your records.
- If you missed hearing a phone message, check your email. The system also sends an email with a link to a digital version of the message. Give your school's office a call if you still have questions.
- If you want to hang up during a call, press the 1 button first so the system doesn't think the line was accidentally disconnected and try to call again.
- You can unsubscribe from email notifications, but if you choose to do this, you won't receive any other email messages through School Messenger, including critical or emergency messages from the district. You will still receive notifications from Zangle and other systems.
- Due to limited capacity, the system can only contact one email address, up to two phone numbers for informational calls and up to three numbers for emergency calls.
- Your school welcomes your feedback! Are the messages helpful? Are they sending too many or too few? Do you want information about specific topics? Just let them know.



**Anchorage
School
District**

ASD Announcements

Walk to school safely!

Daylight hours are decreasing and soon our students will be walking to and from school in the dark. It is always a good time to remind your children about safety. Each year in ASD there are a handful of students who report being approached by strangers. Oftentimes, these strangers have good intentions. They may be offering a ride in sub-zero weather, helping with a heavy backpack or just trying to strike up a conversation. Although these instances are intended to be friendly, they aren't realizing how dangerous the situation could become.

Safety is a top priority for our students. Children should be told, and told often, that they should never accept rides or assistance from strangers. Please talk to your child about stranger danger, safe places to wait for rides from school and other information specific to your situation.

Also, make sure your children know what to do if they get scared. They should immediately run away from the situation, find a safe place and tell a trusted adult. This information should also be reported to the school principal. We will notify authorities and, if necessary, our School Resource Officers will follow up and work to ensure our students are safe before, during and after school.

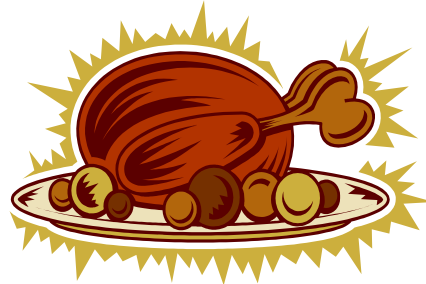
For more information about student safety, log on to www.asdk12.org/parents/safety.



Thanksgiving Blessing

Be generous and share your food with the poor. You will be blessed for it.

Proverbs 22:9



Bless your hungry neighbors with the gift of food. The faith community is joining together this Thanksgiving to collectively distribute to those in need.

How YOU can help:

Organize a food drive: Invite your church, temple or office to join you in a food collection. We suggest collecting a single item per food drive, i.e. set a goal of 1,000 cans of corn.

Donate funds: 10 dollars will purchase a turkey.

Volunteer: Help set up on Sunday, November 18 or distribute on Monday, November 19.

Have food?

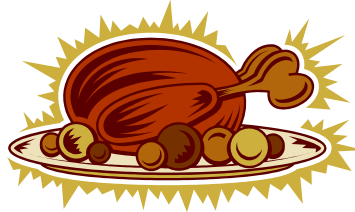
Gifts of food can be dropped off by Thursday, November 15 at Food Bank of Alaska (2121 Spar Avenue). Call 907-272-3663 with any questions.

Wish List:

- Aluminum roasting pans
- Canned corn
- Canned green beans
- Canned peas
- Canned sweet potatoes or yams
- Cranberry sauce
- Gravy mix
- Stuffing mix

Thanksgiving Blessing

*"Let them give thanks...for He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things."
Psalms 107:8-9*



Need help providing a Thanksgiving meal for your family? You can get a turkey and all the fixings on:

Monday, November 19, 3 pm to 8pm

**Please go to one (and only one) of the following sites, depending on your zip code.
BRING PROOF OF ADDRESS WITH YOU.**

Crosspoint Church (Dimond and Minnesota, in the Burlington Coat Factory mall): 99507, 99511, 99515, 99516, 99518, 99522, 99523, 99540, 99587

Faith Christian Community (4240 Wisconsin in Spenard): 99502, 99517, 99519

Central Lutheran Church (Cordova and 15th): 99501 - addresses WEST of Gambell, 99503, 99510, 99512, 99513, 99520, 99524

St. Patrick's Church (2111 Muldoon Road): 99504, 99509, 99521

Pacific Northern Academy (550 Bragaw Street): 99501 - addresses EAST of Gambell, 99508 - addresses SOUTH of Glenn Hwy

Mt. View Community Center (315 N. Price, off of Mt. View Drive): 99508 - addresses NORTH of the Glenn Hwy, 99514

Joy Lutheran Church (10111 E. Eagle River Loop Road): 99505, 99506, 99567, 99577

For More Information Call 2-1-1



Steller Secondary
can't thank our
School Business Partners
enough...
thank you, thank you,
thank you.



Anchorage School Business Partnerships

5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd.

Anchorage, AK 99504-3135

www.asdk12.org/depts/sbp/



Fred Meyer
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Picture Framing • Art Supplies • Art Classes • Gifts

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Nov. 3rd
SAT - MPR

Friday, Nov. 16th
November Dance
7:00-11:00pm

Wednesday, Nov. 7th
Parent Group Meeting
6:00-7:30pm

Thu & Fri Nov. 22nd & 23rd
Thanksgiving Break

Saturday, Nov. 10th
Auction
6:00-10:00pm

Friday, Nov. 30th
2nd Semester Registration

Thursday, Nov. 15th
Ad Board Meeting
6:30-8:00pm



STELLER SECONDARY SCHOOL
2508 BLUEBERRY ROAD
ANCHORAGE, AK 99503



Anchorage School Board

Jeannie Mackie, president

Tam Agosti-Gisler

Gretchen Guess

Pat Higgins

Natasha Von-Imhof

Kathleen Plunkett

Don Smith

ASD Superintendent

Jim Browder Ed.D.