



Old Steller Yeller

March 2013

Hello Steller Community,

Somehow, I feel as though this year is moving faster than I would like it to. We have a lot going on, and we are already at the beginning of our fourth quarter. Just remember, the quarter will go fast with intensives at the end of the year, Activity Day, Parent Conferences, and next year's registration. Make sure you check Zangle regularly. That always helps me to keep my daughter on track with her studies.

This year, I have worked hard to make sure each student has a book for any class that requires a textbook. I thought we were there, but it turns out we need one more set of Astronomy books for a Junior High class. I will continue to look for a way to fund this set of textbooks, but our budget for textbooks has been expended for this year. The Science Department has been tasked with taking a complete inventory of all the equipment we have, and we will be searching for funds to ensure our students and teachers have everything they need.

I brought the head of the STEM Department to our school to look at our program, and he let us know all schools will be getting new sets of Biology books for next year. The District will then look at the Middle School Science equipment and books once we have the new Biology books.

The sun is shining more often now, and winter is going to start letting go of its hold on us. Students will want to be outside more often, and their thoughts will soon be straying away from schoolwork. It's important we all keep the students focused and on task. Our tenth grade students will be taking an SBA test on the 28th of March, and the HSGQE will be on April 2-4. These tests are important, and I know our students will be well rested and prepared to take them.

Every time I turn around, there is something new I learn. It just took one call to the Office of Public Works, and the sidewalks in front of our school on Blueberry Road got the snow removed from them. I wish I knew to do that earlier. Now, the challenge is to make sure our students aren't parking on the sidewalk.



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

I hope you all enjoy your Spring Break. I know I will. I look forward to seeing you all at the All Community Meeting on the 20th of March. It promises to be positive and fun!

Take Care,

Dale





Staff Corner

2013 - 2014 Travel Intensive Options

The staff is currently narrowing down their intensive options and beginning to plan for this spring's offerings. Watch the flash in the upcoming weeks for intensive course descriptions. Intensive registration will follow in a subsequent advisory group.

Next year, there will be at least three travel intensives offered:

Troy is planning a trip for next May and is looking at a European destination. He is considering a trip to cities along the Danube River, including Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Munich, and Salzburg – beautiful locations with rich histories.

Ken and Chris are planning a Community Service trip to Nicaragua or the Dominican Republic next May with Outreach 360. Students will be teaching English to children in orphanages and working with them on other projects as well. If you are interested in finding out more, please go to Outreach360.org. There you will find a wealth of information about their service trip offerings and the kinds of things that students can expect on such a trip. This is a fabulous opportunity to get a feel for a foreign culture as well as making a positive difference in the lives of the truly needy.

Danelle and Leigh Anne are planning an intensive to Belize in December 2013. The focus is on science and adventure. On this trip to Belize, students will explore coral reef and tropical rain forest ecosystems.

If you're interested in any of these trips, email the particular teacher for more details.



Outreach360





Nurse's Notes

Parents and Students,

I edited a synopsis of a research article I found interesting. It is *not* against the law in Alaska to allow your adolescents to drink under supervision in your home. However, I would re-think that practice if you are allowing it to happen. You can find the full article and a video on this subject at the link below.

www.nbcnews.com/id/42807670/ns/health-childrens_health/

Letting Teens Drink Under Parent's Watch Backfires

As prom night approaches and parents begin to worry about what might happen during after hour parties, some might be tempted to try to teach their high schoolers to drink responsibly – by allowing them to consume alcohol under supervision. That approach, scientists now say, is dead wrong. A new study shows that teens who drink with an adult supervising are *more likely* to develop problems with alcohol than kids who aren't allowed to touch it until they reach age 21. The study makes it clear that you shouldn't be drinking with your kids.

Twenty-five percent of teens acknowledge they had been at a party where underage drinking was occurring in the presence of a parent. In a recent study, researchers gathered 1,945 seventh graders and then tracked them for three years. Half of the teens were from Victoria, Australia, the other half from Washington State. Each year the kids were given questionnaires that asked about their experiences with alcohol and about their relationships with their parents. The teens were asked how often they'd consumed more than a few sips of any alcoholic beverage each time they were surveyed.

Findings showed that Australian teens were more likely than their American counterparts to be drinking with adult supervision by eighth grade and they were more likely to have experienced harmful consequences from their drinking. Regardless of the continent, it was clear that the strategy to teach teens responsible drinking habits through supervised consumption was backfiring. These findings didn't surprise the experts. "Parents need to make it clear that it's not OK for kids to drink until they reach the legal drinking age – a line has to be drawn. Many parents seem to have a difficult time drawing lines when it comes to alcohol. They may be very responsible parents in many ways who think that *this* is part of being a responsible parent.

Should Moms lock up the alcohol? That may be related to our own mixed feelings about a substance that is actually a legal, mind-altering drug. Many parents forget is that teens are not just smaller versions of us. Their brains have not finished developing alcohol has a very different effect on the unfinished brain. Alcohol alters brain development. The teenage brain is much more vulnerable to begin with and repeated drinking can lead to long-term deficits in learning and memory.

Parents should model moderation

Beyond this, there's mounting data showing that it can be dangerous to start drinking young. Studies have shown that kids are four times more likely to become alcoholics if they start drinking before age 15. Will that glass of wine with dinner — made all the more necessary by rebellious teens you live with — encourage them to drink too much? Not necessarily, experts say. You want to model moderation. You don't want to be drinking a lot in front of them – or inviting them to parties where your friends will be drinking a lot. That will confuse them and lead them to think that it's OK to drink a great deal. You don't have to lock down the liquor cabinet, however, you should remember that kids experiment. Parents should know exactly what and how much alcohol they've got, and you want to taste it periodically to make sure it's not been diluted. But what about that prom night situation? The solution might be a simple one — let your teen host the party at your house. Alcohol free parties are a great idea.



NO School

**In-service day,
end of third
quarter**

March 8th

No school for
students

Spring break

March 11-15
Spring Break.
No school for
students.

Multilingual Marvels

Steller will be hosting this year's Multilingual Marvels middle school event on Saturday, March 30th from 9:00am - 12:30pm. This is an event for middle school students of world languages to showcase their talents in poetry recitation, cultural cooking, cultural trivia, posters and cultural performances. All middle school students taking Spanish or Russian at Steller are encouraged to participate (and can receive extra credit for doing so). High school students can see Ashley to volunteer during the event (and also receive extra credit). This year's theme is, "A different language is a different vision of life." – Federico Fellini. Students are asked to design a poster interpreting this theme. For more information and to register for the event please contact Ashley vanhemert_ashley@asdk12.org and check out the website http://www.asdk12.org/depts/world_lang/events/marvels/index.asp (registration is currently not working but will be up and running soon). We look forward to seeing you there!

Steller Student Artwork on Display

Students are exhibiting artworks during March at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art in the 41st annual Youth Art Month Exhibit. Steller students **Sean K., Maya H., Justin S., Hope G.** and **Keyahna J.** are among other ASD students who have art on display. All secondary students' art will be displayed on the 2nd level of the museum atrium.

The theme of the ASD show is "**Flight of the Imagination**" to coincide with the Anchorage Museum's special exhibit, ARTIC FLIGHT. A wall designated specially for art that expresses the Flight theme will be set up on the second floor.

The ASD Youth Art Show opens with an evening "First Friday" on March 1st. The Museum is open from 6 – 8 p.m. and admission is free. The show continues through March 31.

All students are encouraged to come and bring your family and friends!

Upcoming SBA, SBA/HSGQE, and HSGQE Assessment Information

The SBA, SBA/HSGQE, and HSGQE Assessment will be Tuesday April 2, Wednesday, April 3 and Thursday April 4th.

There is HSGQE help at:

<http://www.asdk12.org/ae/assessments/hsgqe/>

In case any of your students would want / benefit from additional help beyond that there are SBA, SBA/HSGQE, and HSGQE practice materials at: ,materials at:

http://education.alaska.gov/tls/assessment/SBA_PracticeTests.html

Overall SBA and HSGQE information is at:

<http://education.alaska.gov/tls/assessment/hsgqe.html>

If you have any questions let me know,

John

LOTTERY TIME

The time is here for sixth graders and their parents to be thinking about the next school year. Please encourage your friends and family to consider Steller.

APPLICATIONS DEADLINE

March 22, 2012

No later than 3:00 pm

DON'T FORGET - Lottery applications are required for all students who want to attend Steller *including siblings*. If a student is already attending Steller or is on the waitlist they do not have to do a lottery application.

Guidance & Counseling Things



Guys,

If you are a senior and/or you're 18 (or will be someday) you need to register for [Selective Service \(www.sss.gov\)](http://www.sss.gov); it's the law **AND** you won't be eligible for any Federal funding for school if you don't register within one month after your 18th birthday (you can get it done early!).

What does this mean when thinking about scholarships? Bottom line, if you don't do this you will not be able to receive the Alaska Performance Scholarship, Federal Student Loans, many scholarships, etc.

If you have any questions see John; it only takes a few minutes to complete...don't put it off.

KCC CLASSES FALL SEMESTER 2013 – registration open soon...sign up with Michelle

Number your choices 1,2,3 with #1 being your first choice. Indicate if you have a preference for an AM or PM class. All regular session KCC classes will award 1.5 credits per semester; academic credits for each class are listed below (all KCC academic credits fulfill eligibility requirements for the Alaska Performance Scholarship).

Rank	am or pm	Name of Class Requested	Academic Credit Available
		Advanced Health Care Practices	.5 PE/Health & .5 Life Sci credit (can be earned concurrently) .5 elective credit
		Advertising Art and Design	.5 English credit and 1 elective credit
		Automotive Maintenance Technology	1.5 Elective credit
		Aviation Maintenance Technology	.5 Math and .5 Physical Sci credit (can be earned concurrently) .5 elective credit
		Aviation Technology	.5 Physical Science credit and 1 elective credit
		Business Technology & Web Design	1.5 elective (.5 English credit after completion of two semesters)
		Carpentry	1.5 elective credit
		Collision Repair and Refinishing	1.5 Elective credit
		Computer Electronics Technology	.5 Math & .5 Physical Sci credit (can be earned concurrently) and .5 elective credit
		Computer Information Technology	.5 Math credit and 1 elective credit
		Construction Electricity	.5 Math credit and 1 elective credit
		Cosmetology	.5 PE/Health credit and 1 elective credit
		Culinary Arts	.5 Physical Science credit and 1 elective credit
		Early Childhood Education	.5 Social Studies credit and 1 elective credit
		Emergency Medical Tech. AM Only	.5 Life Science credit and 1 elective credit
		Film, Audio and TV Production	.5 English credit and 1 elective credit
		Fire and Rescue Services PM Only	.5 Physical Science and 1 elective credit
		Horticulture and Landscape Design	.5 Life Science credit and 1 elective credit
		Natural Resources Management	.5 Phys Sci and .5 Soc Studies elective credit and .5 AK Studies (can be concurrent)
		Photography	1.5 elective credit
		Public Safety	.5 Social Studies elective credit and 1 elective credit
		Travel and Tourism	.5 AK Studies & .5 Soc Studies elective credit (can be concurrent) and .5 elective credit
		Small Engine Repair	1.5 elective credit
		Veterinary Science	.5 Life Sci and .5 PE/Health credit (can be earned concurrently) and .5 elective credit
		Welding	1.5 elective credit

Very Helpful College Info Links

[\(List of College Links\)](#)

- ✓ “Quick Help”
- ✓ study aids for SAT/ACT/etc
- ✓ college lists & searches
- ✓ financial aid & scholarships (w/ search tools)
- ✓ research majors and careers
- ✓ student athletes, military
- ✓ and so very much more

Negotiating a Financial Aid Package

DO'S & DON'TS OF ASKING FOR MORE MONEY AFTER YOU GET A FINANCIAL AID OFFER

[\(LINK TO ARTICLE\)](#)

Accepted to college...taking that huge breath of relief...you've Googled for the quickest route to the mall and created a perfect dorm room with a IKEA catalog. Things are is pretty much done except for the pesky issue that college isn't free and when you see the bill and add in all those additional “hidden” costs...you find a need for more money to cover the tab. Asking for additional financial aid is not frowned upon and may be a means to help cover the balance. Be prepared, you'll have to know what information school's need, how and what to ask for, the details of the process and what to do next.

ACT & SAT Test Questions Answered

Revised, updated, with even more pertinent information

[\(Read the Article\)](#)

- Comparing the ACT & SAT Tests
- What is the ACT Writing Test?
- What are the SAT Subject Tests?
- Which test(s) do I want / need to take?
- What can I expect on the tests?
- What to do (or not) to get the best scores?

Gap Year – the pros and cons

How to use you time wisely and make the experience count.

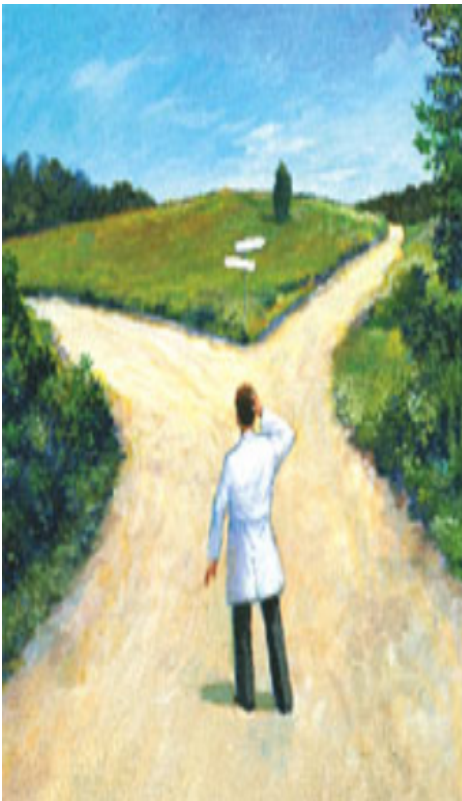
[\(Read the Article\)](#)

- Comparing the ACT & SAT Tests
- What is the ACT Writing Test?
- What are the SAT Subject Tests?
- Which test(s) do I want / need to take?
- What can I expect on the tests?
- What to do (or not) to get the best scores?

College & Career Night

Information and Planning

The Road To Your Future



- What To Do When - Grades 8-12
- The New Rules of College Admissions
- Making Colleges Want You
- Choosing the Right College
- Writing Compelling Essays
- Paying for School: FAFSA, Types of Aid
- Scholarship & College Applications
- College Visits & Interviews
- Gap Years – Taking Time Off
- What major and which degree
- Getting and Keeping a Job
- Resumes and Portfolios
- ACT, SAT, SAT Subject Testing

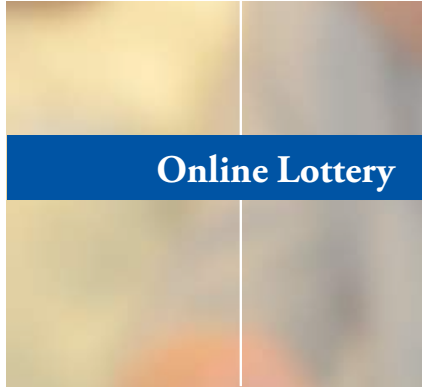
Who: everyone who won't be in high school forever,
What: info about what happens after high school,
Where: Old Computer Lab
When: Tuesday, March 5th, 6:30 - 8:00PM
Why: you can't stay at Steller forever.

Bring questions, concerns, thoughts about your future; leave with what you need to navigate through confusion, frustration, and anxiety about the future.



**Anchorage
School
District**

ASD Announcements



Key dates for parents:

- **Feb. 4** – Online lottery application period opens.
- **Feb. 9** – Alternative Programs Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Education Center.
- **March 21, 3 p.m.** – Application deadline for the March 2013 lottery.
- **March 22** – Date of lottery.
- **March 29** – Parent notification of lottery results, both accepted and wait-listed families will be notified by email and automated phone calls.
- **April 2** – Deadline for parents to accept results of the lottery. Must be done online.

Online lottery

Parents can now submit applications electronically

Beginning this year, ASD is moving to an online lottery system. The new online system is easy to use and delivers a fair, transparent and centralized lottery solution. This electronic system will produce randomly selected student lists that have been organized and ranked according to the district's lottery policy.

It's important to note that ASD is not changing its lottery policy, just implementing a new online system.

How to use the online lottery:

- Parents can login to the online lottery system through their existing Zangle accounts. If unsure of Zangle PIN and password, contact your child's school for assistance.
- Parents without a Zangle ParentConnect PIN and password can login at www.asdk12.org/choices/lottery/.
- Parents who have already submitted a paper application for a particular program are not required to resubmit. These applications have been entered into the system by ASD. Contact the program school and request that the front office staff connect the application to your online account.

Not all schools and programs are available for the online lottery this year. For more information about the online lottery application process or key dates, contact the desired school or program, or visit www.asdk12.org/choices/lottery/. All schools and programs will participate in the online lottery starting in Aug. 2013.

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.



Due to lack of space, some services to students are provided in the Girdwood K-8 storage rooms.

How will the money be spent?

\$23 million

Girdwood K-8 School construction

\$5.75 million

Aurora Elementary School gym

\$4.7 million

Bartlett High School cafeteria and kitchen renovation

\$10.7 million

Planning and design projects at 9 schools

\$10.65 million

Life extension projects at 19 schools

27 schools in the Anchorage School District are slated for improvement

A \$54.8 million bond package with 60–70% state reimbursement will be put before voters on April 2, 2013.

That means the average homeowner will pay about \$4.85 for every \$100,000 of assessed property value per year, with state reimbursement.

Schools on the list include ones determined by the district to have the greatest need.

Two different tools now determine the necessity of funds and improvements for all ASD buildings. One tool tracks physical problems like roofs, boilers and windows. The second tool detects issues that make teaching and learning difficult.

Using district measuring standards, Girdwood K-8's need is three times higher than any other school.

Last year voters approved more than \$2 million for school design. On April 2, voters will determine whether to use those plans to improve and expand Girdwood School.

Right now, the district has the lowest amount of debt it has held in a decade. In the last five years, ASD has paid off \$247 million.

Want more information?

www.asdk12.org/bonds



Find us on Facebook:
AnchorageSchoolBond2013



Anchorage School District
Educating All Students for Success in Life

How will the proposed bond affect your neighborhood?



*Make an informed decision on April 2.
Learn more at www.asdk12.org/bonds*



Scan the QR code with your smartphone (free QR readers are available online).



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, March 5th

College and Career Night
6:30-8:00pm

Wednesday March 20th

All Community Meeting
6:30 - 8:30pm

Wednesday, March 6th

Parent Group Meeting
6:00-7:30pm

Thursday, March 21st

Lottery Deadline

Friday, March 8th

End of 3rd Quarter
In-Service - NO SCHOOL

Friday, March 22nd

Lottery Drawing

Saturday, March 9th

SAT Testing

Thursday, March 21st

AD Board Meeting
6:30-8:00pm

Monday, March 11th - 15th

Spring Break - NO SCHOOL

Friday, March 22nd

March Dance
7:00-11:00pm



Anchorage School Business Partnerships
5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, AK 99504-3135
www.asdk12.org/depts/sbp/



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