



Ole Steller Yeller

April 2014

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



Hello Steller Community,

It is with very mixed emotions that after three years as your principal, I am announcing my retirement from the Anchorage School District. My final day at Steller Secondary will be the 13th of June. I will do everything I can to help make this transition as smooth as possible for the incoming principal. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you all, and I will miss the entire community.

After a long winter, it feels absolutely sunny and warm outside. With all the snow melting and with early morning freezes, it makes for dangerous times walking to school. Make sure your students have adequate foot wear for dealing with both water and ice. If your student is driving to school, please remind them about being careful driving through all the puddles. Some may be car-eating potholes. I've already seen a few of those.

It's time to start planning for next year. Steller Staff has already begun to put next year's calendar together. We will be asking all parties to be involved so they know what to expect in the year to come. Staff is working hard on several projects. One such project is the development of an independent semester program for a select group of seniors. There will be more information coming soon. We are already looking at intensives for the Fall, and we will have a list of options to you some time this month.

In looking at most of the students that have been put on probation, one factor stands out. Absenteeism is correlated greatly with success in school. Students who aren't here often have a much harder time keeping up in school. The school can do everything it can to offer extra help and support services, but we can't make students come. Please make sure your students aren't missing school.

As we move through the spring, make sure you are looking at the calendar for upcoming events. I don't want either you or your student missing out on important and fun events. I hope to see you at the All Community Meeting on the 23rd of this month. It will be a wonderful event. We'll do our best to keep the calendars updated. Again, I want to thank all of you for all you are doing.

Regards,

Dale





Staff Scoop

April and May are busy months and we would like to make the community aware of a number of upcoming events and important dates. After testing week, there are only four weeks left in fourth quarter, and then intensives begin. Please watch the flash for an announcement and link to a Google Doc that will have a list of teachers' needs for parent volunteers during intensives.

April 7th – students will register for intensives in Advisory Group

April 14th – students who wish to teach a peer-taught next fall semester should present their proposals to staff today; course descriptions for fall intensives and fall semester will be out this week.

April 22nd – 7am Senior Breakfast: All seniors and their families are invited to attend a breakfast made and served by the sophomore class.

April 23rd – 6:30pm All-Community Meeting

May 2nd – End of 4th quarter

May 5th – 15th - Intensives

May 16th – Activity Day; students will register for fall intensives this morning

May 19th and 20th – End of Year Conferences: Time to look back on the challenges and successes of the past school year and to set goals for the upcoming school year.

May 21st – School-wide presentations from 8:30 to 11:45. School is dismissed at 11:45 and Graduation is at 3pm. All are welcome to attend Graduation.

May 22nd – Registration for fall semester and the last day of school for students

While we're all looking ahead to spring intensives and summer, it's important for students to maintain their academic focus. Parents can help by checking in with their students to ask about topics from class and due dates.



CAMP INTERNET EXTREME

SUMMER ~ 2014



Camp Internet: Extreme, entering its 20th *mammoth* year, offers students access to top-of-the-line 20" flat screen iMac computers, a wide variety of cutting edge multimedia equipment, and two certified teachers with 30 years of combined technology teaching experience. Campers will have an opportunity to use these resources to produce virtual reality environments, design and manipulate digital video, create 3-D images, create animation, design their own animated creature, create studio quality music, and gain life-long technical skills that can be used in the home and classroom. Campers will work on their own computers to generate daily projects using the wide variety of media tools available. For grades 2-10.

The **Camp Internet** instructors will teach your child to become comfortable using technology as a tool for learning. **Camp Internet** is designed to provide your child with a powerful, state of the art multimedia iMac computer, access to proven educational programs, and direct high speed internet access. **New software and hardware updates!**



BUILD A DIGITAL WORLD



ANIMATED CHARACTERS



STAR IN A DIGITAL MOVIE



DESIGN A SPACESHIP



CREATE DIGITAL MUSIC

http://www.asdk12.org/staff/weimann_doug/pages/Camp_Internet_Extreme/

REGISTRATION FORM

Camp Internet meets in the Kasuun Elementary School technology lab. Enrollment is accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Cost per session is \$175 for Camp Internet: Extreme. **Please make checks payable to Kasuun Elementary School PTA. Send Registration form and check to Kasuun Elementary School c/o Doug Weimann 4000 E. 68th Ave., Anchorage, AK, 99507.** Sessions fill quickly, register early!

Camp Internet: Extreme Sessions - \$175

June 2 - 6 Session 1 9 am - 12 pm	June 9 - 13 Session 3 9 am - 12 pm
Session 2 1 pm - 4 pm	Session 4 1 pm - 4 pm



Camper's Name _____

Choose Your Session: - _____

Home Ph # _____ Work # _____

Address _____

Zip Code _____ E-Mail _____

School Attended _____

Grade _____ Teacher _____



LEARN TO CODE!

Emergency	Name _____
Contact	Relationship _____
Information	Home Ph# _____
	Work Ph# _____



Anchorage Daily News
adn.com

PARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT (Must be signed before student may participate)

I am aware and understand and agree to the terms that the Anchorage School District, Kasuun Elementary School, and the Kasuun Elementary School PTA does not provide accident medical insurance for my child during any School or PTA sponsored programs. I will not hold ASD, Kasuun Elementary, the PTA, and any program staff responsible if my child gets injured. This includes this program. I am aware and agree to this and agree it is the responsibility of the parent and/or legal guardian to provide accident medical insurance for this child.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____

Date _____

Printed Name _____

Contact Information: Doug Weimann

Phone: 349-9441 E-mail: kasuun@yahoo.com

The Anchorage School District does not endorse these materials or the view points expressed in them.

Counselor's Corner

End of the year senior stuff.

Selective Service - young who have turned, or soon will turn, 18 need to register;

- * 18 year old men
- * it's the LAW
- * required for FAFSA
- * www.sss.gov

- ✓ Alaska Performance Scholarship and SAT / ACT scores.

ACT, SAT and/or WorkKeys (combined with courses taken and GPA) determine if, and how much of, an Alaska Performance Scholarship a student will receive.

Although it is very close there is still time to register for testing. Being an ACT / SAT / WorkKeys Test Supervisor and quite familiar with the APS I can be of some help if you have any questions.

- ✓ Neighbor high schools wanted students to register for AP tests by March 31; you may still be able to register with them...it's totally their decision.
- ✓ End of year transcripts need to go out to colleges.
- ✓ Remember, most schools won't accept unsolicited supplemental letters or documentation... contact admissions office before sending additional info.
- ✓ Students will begin to receive acceptance and/or rejection letter and financial aid packages (more on this below).
- ✓ Students need to communicate their commitments to schools.
- ✓ Students will begin receiving Financial Aid Packets. There is the ability to ask, nicely, for more money. It isn't hard, it is appropriate and Financial Aid Offices are not offended if you do (especially if your family money circumstances have changed since you filed a FAFSA or a CSS).

Since there is a very appropriate, and ethical, way to approach colleges about having a Financial Aid Offer re-evaluated be sure to do adequate research about the process. Go about it inappropriately and you can be fairly sure schools won't respond favorably to a request.

If you need help with any step in the process please let me know. I have worked with families who ultimately had financial aid offer(s) packages significantly increased (who wouldn't want that... especially if finances are driving which school to attend).

- ✓ GAP years, productive / constructive ones, that directly apply to a student's passions and ambitions, can be looked at very favorably by schools. Some will even defer admissions and allow students to venture off and have their place saved until the following year. Do your research and contact their admissions office to get more specific details about their view of GAP years and how they may, or may not, accommodate a student who is considering taking one.

Nurse's Notes

Parents,

The following information is from the websites of the National Education Association (NEA) and the National Association of School Nurses. Both are great sources of information for helping students.

Parents want their adolescents to do well in school but sometimes it is a challenge to figure out how to support them. One of the most important avenues for success is school attendance. Every day in school is important because lessons often build on each other. For example, a student who is absent during an introduction to a certain math concept may struggle with the concept, as the math gets more complex. Furthermore, learning online is not as effective as receiving the information in class where you can ask questions and be assisted with different approaches to the problems.

NEA advises parents to keep tabs on school attendance. If you suspect a problem, immediately call the school. Do not encourage your child to skip school for special trips or activities not related to school such as family vacations or an outing with friends. That makes school seem less important than having fun.

Reduction in absenteeism is an area where school nurses have been shown to have a positive impact, if the absenteeism is related to health issues. When the ratio of school nurses to students is higher, there is a direct correlation with attendance rates. A nurse will more often provide treatment to a student so that they can return to class; an unlicensed person is more likely to send a student home.

Students with a full-time nurse have about half the student illness or injury-related early releases from school compared to those schools where no school nurse is present. Improved attendance means the healthy student is in the classroom ready to learn. Again, the more time a student spends in the classroom, the more time they have to learn and the more likely they are to perform better in school.

Attendance is only one area where parents can make an impact in helping their adolescents do well in school, but it is an important one. So please, do what you can to help your son or daughter show up at school with a good attitude and ready to learn. As always, if there is any way I can support you in these endeavors, do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,
Anne McCarron, RN
Steller Secondary School Nurse
Direct line (907) 742-4963





Art 1 students re-make art from Re-Store junk and have an Art Show

A few weeks ago, students in the Art 1 class took a trip to Habitat For Humanity's ReStore in Anchorage. They each brought back one used and discarded household fixture. Over the past 3 weeks, they have been re-working these items into works of art. Thanks to the generous support of The ReStore, and Blaine's Art Supply, two of our School-Business partnerships, students will be showing them in a First Friday Art Show at Blaine's, Friday, from April 4 through the next few weeks. The First Friday opening is Friday April 4 from 5 - 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend.



StarLab training

Want to learn how to operate and use the Anchorage Museum's StarLab in your classroom? A StarLab training is available from 4-6 p.m. on Thursday, April 10. Anchorage Museum educators take you through the inflatable dome's set-up and takedown processes. Interested educators can [register online](#). This class is \$15 per person.

Online registration survey

The district will implement an online registration system through Zangle [ParentConnection](#) for all returning students starting with the 2014-15 school year. A quick, [four-question survey](#) is available and will help the district understand how parents currently use ParentConnection and how to best help them navigate the online registration process.

Editor's note: Online registration will only be available for returning students. New-to-district students will still need to enroll in-person at the school or at the central enrollment event over the summer. Transferring students will also need to register in-person.

Students!

The application for 2014-15 Gifted Mentorship Program is now available on the ASD website!

The application deadline for first semester mentorships is April 25, 2014. Space is limited, so apply early!

First Friday Art Show



Manufactured.



A collaborative
art exhibition
featuring the work of
Steller's
Art I and Atelier
Programs

FIRST FRIDAY SHOW
April 4th, 2014
5pm - 7pm
Blaine's Art
Anchorage, Alaska

SPOTLIGHT

ON STUDENTS

Jalijah Bennet
USASKILLS
COMPETITION

Rosie Montgomery
Dance Opportunity

JALIJAH BENNETT



Jalijah Bennett, 2nd from the right, placed 1st in the State USASkills Competition out of 10 students from all over Alaska including Palmer, Wasilla, Kenai, and Fairbanks. He made a composed Waldorf salad with blackened chicken and a permanent emulsion dressing, a pan fried chicken entree with a mushroom pan sauce, sautéed zucchini, brown rice pilaf, glazed carrots. He also made a chicken soup and was required to complete Carey's knife cuts like mince, small dice, oblique, julienne and Concasse. He had to break down a chicken into 8 pieces using techniques like lollipop, skinless and airline cut. Jalijah won multiple prizes including a Kitchen Aid, an Emerson blender, a chef knife, and a \$5000 scholarship including a scholarship to the Culinary Institute of America. Next, Jalijah will compete against 49 other competitors in Kansas City, Missouri, in the national competition as the representative from Alaska. Go King Career Center!



Rosie Montgomery

A shining star in the dance world



Rosie has been studying dance at Alaska Dance Theatre for ten years, and currently takes eleven classes a week there. She was selected to be a member of the ADT Pre-Professional Company, a select group of advanced dancers who rehearse several hours a week and perform regularly in the community. Last summer, Rosie was selected to attend the Sarasota Ballet summer intensive, and performed in the historic Asolo Theater there. This summer, Rosie was accepted in to three summer training programs: American Ballet Theatre, Boston Ballet and University of North Carolina School of the Arts. She has decided to attend UNCSCA as it has both a ballet and contemporary dance curriculum. Rosie will be training six days a week during the five week long intensive, and will be able to perform at their theatre in Winston-Salem, NC at the end of the summer.





Steller Community

-Be The Change-



Five Steller students chose to spend their spring break making our Anchorage community a better place. These wonderful, amazing, and talented Alaska PYLI Class of 2014 who will go on as “points of light” to live and lead bright lives and make their communities better for all, especially those in need. To see these students in action log on to: <http://www.ktva.com/teens-deliver-surprise-to-station/>



ASD Announcements

The ASD Evaluation System is a reflection of the Anchorage School District mission to “educate all students for success in life.” Students, parents, community members and school staff are given the opportunity to provide information about teacher and administrator performance.

The two forms currently available are the *Evaluation Input Form on Teachers* and the *Evaluation Input Form on Administrators* (whether they are site administrators or central office administrators). If you would like to complete an Evaluation Input Form you have three options:

- Employees can complete the web-based Evaluation Input Forms anonymously by going to the District Connection at <http://home.asdk12.org>. You will find links to either Evaluation Input Form (teacher or administrator) under the Announcements section.
- Members of the public and employees not wishing to remain anonymous can complete the Web-based Evaluation Input Form by going to either the Parents or Community portal pages on the District’s website: www.asdk12.org/parents or www.asdk12.org/community/. Links to both Evaluation Input Forms are available under the “Feedback & Questions” heading.

Web-based Evaluation Input Forms will be transmitted electronically by the Human Resources Department (Ginger Moser, HR Specialist) to the appropriate supervisor.

- For those who wish to print a hard copy of the form, PDF versions can be found in the Forms & Publications Library on the District’s web site by searching for “Performance Evaluation Input.”
 - School sites will also have ‘hard copies’ of the forms for parents and employees who do not have access to a computer. Each school will determine a location for the form (most likely the main office). Hard copies will be kept confidential and routed by the school to the immediate supervisor.

The Evaluation Input Forms are now available on the website and they will remain posted in their web locations through May 1, 2014.



**Anchorage
School
District**

Anchorage School Board

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How will the money be spent?

\$22.8 million

Airport Heights Elementary School addition/renovation design and construction

\$5.9 million

Planning and design projects at four schools

\$28.5 million

Renewal and building life extension projects at 17 schools

Paying off debt

In the last five fiscal years, ASD had paid off \$258.9 million in bond debt.

In the next five years, the district will be paying an additional \$281.1 million.



Anchorage School District
Educating All Students for Success in Life

This information was approved by the Municipal Bond Council.

19 schools in the Anchorage School District are slated for improvement

A \$57.2 million bond package with 60–70% state reimbursement will be put before voters on April 1, 2014.

State reimbursement means the average homeowner will pay roughly \$4.86 for every \$100,000 of assessed property value per year. Without state reimbursement homeowners would pay approximately \$13.86 per \$100,000 of assessed value.

Schools on this proposed bond include ones determined by the district to have the greatest need.

Two different tools determine the need for improvements all ASD buildings. One tool tracks physical problems like roofs, boilers and windows. The other detects issues that make teaching and learning difficult. The results show many schools need improvements now in order to maintain good-quality buildings.

Airport Heights Elementary School's need is significant.

- The school is in need of a multi-purpose room, and dedicated art, health and music rooms.
- The school lacks sufficient space to support special education students with intensive needs.
- Building mechanical, electrical, plumbing and control systems are in need of renewal or replacement.
- Once improved, the building would serve the students and the community for the next 40 years.

Want more information?

www.asdk12.org/bonds



Find us on Facebook:
AnchorageSchoolBond2014

How will the proposed bond affect your neighborhood?



Eagle River



 Location affected by bond

*Make an informed decision on April 1.
Find project details for each school at www.asdk12.org/bonds.*



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





UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

PARENT GROUP MEETING 6:00-7:30PM

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

STELLER OLYMPICS

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

SOPHOMORE DAY/ACTIVITY NIGHT

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

ACT TESTING

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

AD BOARD MEETING 6:00-7:30PM

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

SENIOR BREAKFAST 7:00-8:15AM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

END OF YEAR ALL COMM. MEETING

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON 11:30-12:30

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

SPRING PROM 8:00PM - MIDNIGHT





Manuka
Health
Clinic

Blaines Art

Picture Framing • Art Supplies • Art Classes • Gifts



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

Dooleys

TUXEDOS
& COSTUMES

ANCHORAGE DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP Ltd.

Teen Underground
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BEAR TOOTH

THEATREPUB



Fred Meyer

ABBOTT



Alaska



BATES ENTERPRISES



Steller can't thank its
fantastic

business partners enough!!!

Thank You, Thank You,
Thank You

PYLI

Friends of Alaska
POINTS OF LIGHT

