

A-CHILL Update

Kathy Turco,
A-CHILL Coordinator



Johnny Oldman School: Hughes elementary students love their culture! The teacher dedicates every Wednesday afternoon to A-CHILL activities in and out of the classroom. Students listened to Elders share stories about dogs. Before snowfall, students looked for driftwood on riverbank for a holiday decoration project to be completed later in the semester. The dog musher teacher taught students about puppy care and socialization. Students also learned about adult dog care in a yard including cooking for dogs, cleaning the yard, and giving vaccinations and de-wormer. The teacher reported that the students' favorite activity is to take puppies for a walk.



Jimmy Huntington School: Three Huslia dog musher teachers share teaching the In-Kennel classes. They taught students how to feed dogs including chopping and stacking wood for the cook pot, and dog care such as putting straw in their houses. One dog musher teacher taught students how to fish under the ice. Another taught how to harness and hook up dogs with some classes ending with an Elder telling stories. In mid-November, Mari Hoe-Raitto traveled to Huslia to share a slideshow about the Yukon River Science & Culture Fish Camp with Huslia students there. She taught students about handling dogs. Students learned how to sew their own neck and wrist warmers, and also to make neck and tug lines, which they gave to the Huslia dog mushers.

Kaltag School: Kaltag teachers teamed up to start an A-CHILL after school club with students of mixed grades. Students started learning how sled dogs are closely tied to culture and about their care, which included exercise. Students were fitted for ski equipment and cleared a 5 Kilometer ski trail near the school. In early November, Mari traveled to Kaltag and was greeted with great teacher and student enthusiasm. She taught basic dog care including cutting nails, checking paws, brushing, feeding, and deworming dogs. Students had fun participating in sled dog games and activities. Students learned how to make their own skijor lines and leashes using fids. Mari taught students to sew their own neck and wrist warmers.



Minto School: As fall ended, Minto students started caring for dogs including taking young dogs for walks. Students continue to learn how to use tools and shop safety building dog boxes. In early October, Mari Hoe-Raitto, traveled to Minto to teach students to make useful dog equipment such as skijor-lines and leashes. Mari explained dog care in the fall including first aid and prevention of injuries and sicknesses. She also spent time with the elementary students learning imaginary games and activities using a sled dog. At the end of the semester student were excited to learn to fish under the ice.

Andrew K. Demoski School: Nulato students love sled dogs! Each student is assigned a dog to care for every day. Students learned how to cook for and feed dogs, plus how to brush, cut nails, check teeth, collar tightness and more. Elders visited the classroom to share stories about Nulato and traditions such as treasuring all parts of the animal, and dog mushing. In early November, Mari Hoe-Raitto traveled to Nulato to teach students how to harness and run with dogs (canicross) and harness-break the puppies. Students practiced hooking dogs up and running them with a 4-wheeler. A visiting Huslia dog musher taught students to run dogs with a sled! Students also learned how to make lines with a fid and sew their own neck and hand warmers.





A-CHILL Update continued

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Rampart School: After being involved in culture activities associated with late fall fishing and moose hunting, Rampart students started clearing trails and with a good first snow, they started skiing and using them to run their trap line. Students learned to skin and prepare hides. In late October, Mari Hoe-Raitto traveled to Rampart to teach A-CHILL students to sew their own neck warmers and wrist warmers. Students learned how to fid lines and tie knots. Mari explained dog care and health, including pet dogs. Students are getting organized to start their traditional dance group.



Merrelaine A. Kangas School: Ruby students continue to enjoy learning about sled dogs. Elementary students colored puppy drawings to hang on the wall and during imagination time, they fed and watered their puppies. Older students studied about the history of sled dogs in Ruby and about dog health. In mid-November Mari Hoe-Raitto traveled to Ruby and shared a slideshow about Yukon River Science & Culture Camp with Nulato students there. Students learned to make their own neck and wrist warmers, and also how to make skijor lines using fids. Mari taught about dog care and handling by teaching hands-on activities using her dogs. Older students ran with her dogs (canicross), and learned basic obedience. Students also practiced archery after school.

Allakaket School: The local two dog musher teachers have been volunteering their time to work with Allakaket students to set up an A-CHILL after-school/club. One dog musher received a vaccine donation and treated all sled dogs in the village. He is also preparing projects to teach culture to the students. With the help of her husband, the other dog musher teacher is teaching puppy and dog care including feeding and cleaning the dog yard. They practice handling, harnessing and hooking up dogs so both they and the dogs can be in shape to run this winter. Students love to take puppies and adults for walks.



RAVEN Homeschool in Manley: With school closed, last year's A-CHILL dog musher teacher is volunteering to prepare for RAVEN homeschool school students enrolling in the *Alaska Culture- Dog Mushing class*. The dog musher teacher has a small team including yearlings, which will be used for teaching In-Kennel classes. So far there are two local culture experts/teachers wanting to teach homeschool students. The dog musher teacher plans to teach students how to cook for and feed dogs, about dog yard maintenance, and about dog health including puppy care. Students will learn about feeding and caring for the dogs' feet, teeth, and fur. Students will learn to skijor and run dogs.



Learn more about **A-CHILL** at www.achill.life

~photos of students taken by **A-CHILL** teachers~



More A-CHILL Photos

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Photos submitted by A-CHILL Teachers.

Facilities & Maintenance

By Gale Bourne, Facilities
and Maintenance Director

THANK YOU TEAM!

The YKSD Maintenance Department would like to give a shout out to all of our diligent, hardworking maintenance staff. Our local maintenance technicians keep our schools comfortable and safe throughout the school year. They work through the cold winter months, keeping the heat on, the water thawed, vehicles running, and much, much more. They are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We appreciate them tremendously and are proud to have each one of them as part of our team.

A huge YKSD THANK YOU to:

- Todd Bergman Allakaket School
- Trevor Henry..... Jimmy Huntington School
- Sigwein Cleveland..... Johnny Oldman School
- Oscar Dayton..... Ella B. Verneti School
- Vernon Madros..... Andrew K. Demoski School
- Ronald Pitka.....Kaltag School
- Thomas Esmailka.....Merrelaine A. Kangas School
- Patrick Smith.....Minto School
- David Hoffman.....Gladys Dart School

