

Indian Education Program

Anchorage School District

November/December 2004 Bulletin Updates and Information
For Parents and Students K through 12



CIRI Golf Classic Donates \$25,000 to the Indian Education Program

Special Interest Articles:

- CIRI Golf Classic Donates to IEP
- Bus Tokens Available to Native Families
- IEP Staff Photo
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The Annual Cook Inlet Region Inc., (CIRI) Golf Classic selected the ASD Indian Education Program (IEP) to receive benefits from the annual fundraising golf tournament in 2004. IEP Director, Doreen Brown, said the funds will be put to good use sponsoring programs designed to work on closing the achievement gap for Alaska Native students in the ASD.

First, for students, Brown said, IEP would like to combine its summer activities with the ASD summer school to provide a Guided Reading program with culturally responsive literature. The details have not been fully designed yet, but the program is slated to begin in summer 2005. Similarly, the IEP will use funds

to accommodate staff training for effective strategies to reduce the achievement gap. Again, the focus will be on culturally responsive instructional strategies and curriculum. IEP Staff will research these methods, and they will meet to discuss the best options for training and implementation.

A third IEP program that will grow from the donation will be the Language Program that was initiated under the previous administration but never fully implemented. Within all areas, the IEP will utilize the rich resources found in the Native elders of Anchorage, who can provide guidance and expertise.

Municipality of Anchorage Assembly Votes To Donate 1000 Bus Tokens to Parents and Students

In an effort to support Native families in the Anchorage School District (ASD), Anchorage Assembly Members voted to donate 1,000 bus tokens to the Indian Education Program. The action was championed by Assembly Chairman, Dick Traini. The tokens are to encourage

involvement in ASD meetings, such as attending Native Advisory Committee or ASD School Board meetings. Students can also use the tokens to reach after-school tutoring programs or IEP's Evening Program activities. Contact the IEP Office to get bus tokens.

Heritage Month: Film Star Eddie Spears Talks with Students

*"If you have a dream, fight for it, it can come true,"
~ Eddie Spears
Actor, speaking
To ASD high
School students*

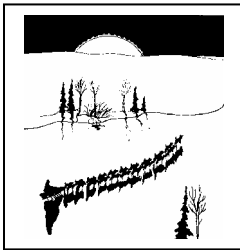
The Indian Education Program invited national film star Eddie Spears to speak to ASD students during his recent visit to Anchorage for American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month showing of his film, *Black Cloud*. The film features Spears, a Lakota-Sioux, in the title role, where he portrays a talented boxer who discovers his place within the boxing ring and the world around him.

Spears is a motivational speaker who encourages Native youth to be persistent in their efforts to finish school. He pushes them to work hard, and he is honest when he tells them there is no immediate gratification but that school will

help them in any career they choose. He said that education is the foundation for other things, such as reading scripts. His message tells kids to remain positive and drug free.



Eddie Spears speaks to students on being an actor and staying in school



**Alaska
Native
Ways ...**

*Take care of
Others; you
Cannot live
Without them.
~ Siberian
Yup'ik*

2004-2005 Indian Education Program Staff



Director, Doreen Brown, Center, looks forward to working with the program staff on innovative new projects at the school year progresses.

NAC Welcomes Three New Members

The Native Advisory Committee (NAC) held its Annual Community Meeting and Elections in October, and three new members were voted into office.

Raelene Active, a student at West High School, stepped up to the challenge and ran the one-year position as a student representative.

New Parent member, Adriene Active, who works at the Alaska Federation of Natives and is

the mother of Raelene Active, holds her two year seat until September, 2006. A new Teacher Representative on the NAC is Darlene Heckler, who also fills a vacant two-year term. As a teacher in the Anchorage School District, she will bring a teacher's perspective to the NAC.

NAC meetings are held monthly, and the public is welcome to attend. Remember, if you need transportation, call the IEP office for bus tokens.



CHECK IT OUT:
**Indian Education Program's
New Website**
www.asdk12.org/depts/indeed

Heritage Month: Velma Wallis

Works with the IEP Staff and Students

Renowned Athabaskan Indian author, Velma Wallis, was a featured speaker at Clark, Hanshaw and Romig Middle Schools as part of the Indian Education Program's honoring of American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month. She spoke of what it takes to be a writer.

"We want to inspire kids to be writers and readers," said Doreen Brown, Director of the IEP.

Wallis said that she writes

because her brother told her she would be a writer. "We need to hang on to what-ever we have that wasn't obliterated by the Western culture," she said. She is currently working on new book, which is of a story similar to her earlier books, *Two Old Women* and *Bird Girl and the Man Who Followed the Sun*. Wallis writes from her childhood experience on the Yukon River.

Building Assets

Excerpts from

Helping Kids Succeed - Alaskan Style

*Written by and for Alaskans
Building Assets, Alaskan Style
Parents, Teens, Communities*

Checklist for Parents: Asset statements -

*"My child tells the
truth even when it is
not easy."*

*"My child is good at
making and keeping
friends."*

Student Highlight: Lance Gatter

Lake Otis Elementary student Lance Gatter was accepted into the People to People World Leadership Forum and went to Washington, DC, November 8-14, 2004, to earn high school credit while studying leadership and exploring some of our nation's most prominent monuments and institutions.

Gatter was nominated and accepted for the honor based on outstanding scholastic merit, civic involvement, and leadership potential.

The program is coordinated by People to People Student Ambassador Programs, which began in 1956.

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December/January Highlights

Tues. - Thurs. all Dec. and Jan.: 6:15 - 8:15 p.m.
Evening Program at North Star Elem., tutoring and cultural art activities.

Dec. 2: Evening Program Arts and Crafts Sign-up Project #2 Yupik Style Drum Making

Dec. 3: Elitnurvik Within East High School (EWE) Pow Wow.

Dec. 8: EWE Honor Student luncheon.

Dec. 9: Lightspan Open House at Evening Program at North Star Elementary

Dec 14: Native Advisory Committee meeting, North Star Elementary, 6:15-8:15

Jan. 11: Native Advisory Committee meeting, North Star Elementary, 6:15-8:15

Next Issue will come out in January 2005

The ASD Six Year Plan is in its second year. The Jan./Feb. issue of the IEP Newsletter will give

you an insightful view and update on the Plan.

If you have any questions regarding

programs offered by the Indian Education Program, please call our offices at 742-4445.

About The Indian Education Program . . .

The Indian Education Program of the Anchorage School District has staff in 50 schools within the district. The program concentrates its efforts in three areas: academic assistance, counseling, and cultural enrichment. Unfortunately, there is not enough funding to place staff in every school. However, if you or your child is interested in participating in activities, please call our offices at 742-4445. The Indian Education Resource Room is located at 1016 West 6th Ave., Anchorage.