

# Indian Education Program

Anchorage School District

June 2005 Bulletin Updates and Information  
For Parents and Students K through 12



## Indian Education Program Finishes the End of the School Year and Kicks-off of its Summer Programs

### Special Interest Articles:

- Year-end Celebration
- Honor Grads
- \$2.6million Advance Placement Grant and national focus on AP courses
- Reading tips and Summer Literacy Camps
- Renowned author to teach course for teachers in ASD in classroom diversity

### Individual Highlights:

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The Indian Education Program has put a positive glow on the end of the 2004-2005 school year, capping off its activities with a celebration that kicks-off the 2005 summer programs. Held on May 19, at North Star Elementary School, over 150 joined together to participate in this fantastic first time event. Families enjoyed an assortment of activities.

Children participated in a mini Native Youth Olympics, stretching their muscles and minds for the long summer of fun and reading ahead. There were math and science and Tlingit language activities. Kids could pick out a book to read over the summer. Parents attended sessions on banking, wellness and summer academic activities for their kids, including PLATO/ Lightspan and summer reading. The Eagle River Drum Group provided great music

for the sharing of food and visiting with friends.

Many thanks to the following: Wells Fargo, SouthCentral Foundation, Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Alaska Native Health Board, Pathways, Eagle River Drum Group, Indian Education Evening Program Staff, and the Raise Program.

Have a safe summer, and we will see you in the fall!



Families and students of Anchorage School District Indian Education Program celebrate the end of school and kickoff summer..

### Honoring High School Graduates with 3.5+ Grade Point Average

**Service High School:** Frank A. Grubbs, Chloe L. Keller and Sandy L. Packo

**West High School:** Holly M. Stebing, Jessica M. Kilshenstein, Timothy H. Argetsinger, Stacy L. Pulis, Robert J. Springhill, and Jayme R. Johnson

**Dimond High School:** Ryan A. Hittle, Amber M. Jenkins, Daylan G. Schnik

**East High School:** Samantha Englishhoe, Rachael Ferguson and Lily Jordan

**Chugiak High School:** Deana A. Vogt

**Family Partnership Charter:** Megan D. Savage

**Steller High School:** Daniel Becker

**Graduates**

*\*\*Please report any errors and omissions to 742-4445. and we will place them in the next newsletter.*

### ASD is One of Four Districts Collaborating on \$2.6 Million Three-year Advance Placement Program

*"This year  
the US Dept.  
of Education  
awarded 13  
grants in 9  
states, and  
the ASD and  
its partners  
received one."*

*~ Doreen Brown  
Supervisor, IEP*



May 19 was a good day for the Anchorage School District and the Indian Education Program, one of four partner school districts told they were awarded \$2.6M over three years for Project APPEAL (Advanced Placement for Every Able Learner), a federal grant.

Project APPEAL systemically builds Advanced Placement (AP) access, enrollment and success for low-income students in Anchorage, Yukon/Koyukuk, Fairbanks North Star and Kuspuk school districts. This initiative will increase the numbers of low income and minority students taking and completing AP courses in high poverty schools, assisting those students to be better prepared to succeed in college and beyond. It will raise overall achievement in core content areas in those schools. This will be

done through three overlapping approaches:

1. AP and pre-AP course development
2. Professional development
3. Student support services

As part of the national No Child Left Behind movement initiated by the Bush administration, research shows that students who take rigorous courses stand a far greater chance of succeeding in college. Low-income students who take AP courses are more likely to enroll and be successful in college than their non-participating peers.

This is an exciting opportunity that directly impacts Native youth from these school districts. For more information, visit the ASD website at [www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org) under District News.

### ASD Teacher Academy to Provide Diversity Course for ASD Educators this Summer

Renowned author and race relations expert Dr. Beverly Tatum, will teach a course at the ASD Teacher Academy June 13-14. Her course, *The Psychology of Racism and Its Implications for Classroom Practice*, is designed for educators at all levels interested in understanding the psychological impact of individual, cultural and institutional manifestations of racism in the United States and the implications for classroom practice.

Anchorage is becoming increasingly diverse; over 40% of ASD students have an ethnicity other than Caucasian, and over 90 languages are spoken by ASD

students. This is a great opportunity for teachers to learn about classroom diversity issues on the horizon and how this will affect their classrooms.

Tatum, author of the book, *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria*, is a clinical psychologist whose areas of research include black families in white classrooms, racial identity in teens and the role of race in the classroom.

The ASD Teacher Academy is pleased to be presenting Dr. Tatum as part of its 2005 offerings for teachers in the ASD. View their website at [ASDTA.com](http://ASDTA.com)

*Alaska  
Native  
Ways ...  
What our  
Elders have  
taught us.*

*Show  
respect to  
others -  
Each person  
Has a special  
gift.*

*~  
Athabaskan*

## Keep Your Child Reading All Summer Long

Parents, here are some thoughts to keep you and your child motivated to read during the summer. Experts agree that children who read over summer vacation gain reading skills, while those who do not often experience learning losses. Let's face it, three months is a long time to go without reading - or any other learning skill. As your child's first and most important teacher, families have a major role in motivating children to read during the summer months. Here are some tips to help keep your child learning and reading throughout summer break.

- **Combine Activities with books.** Bring a book to the park or in the car.
- **Visit the library.** Get your child a library card and check it out.

- **Lead by example.** Read the newspaper at breakfast, read a magazine at the doctors office.
- **Use books to break the boredom.** Books can teach kids how to make or do something, and it keeps them reading.
- **Talk it up.** Talk with your kids about what you have read and why you like it.
- **Help kids find time to read.** Leave some time for reading in busy days.
- **Relax the rules for summer.** Let kids read what, when and how they please.
- **Have plenty of reading materials around.** Have newspaper, magazines, and informational materials to inspire the young mind of young readers.
- **Read aloud with your kids.** Be a storyteller or take kids to one.

## Romig Middle School Touches Spirit Bear



Romig Middle School students participated in a Native Justice Circle as part of activities from Language Arts teachers Sidnie Seaward, Nick Jordan, with Kristine Masneri-Intervention Counselor, and Michelle Strawn-Indian Ed Tutor/Counselor. The project is based on the book *Touching Spirit Bear*, by Ben Mikaelson, about a young boy who commits a crime and must decide between traditional Native and Western justice. He chooses the Circle Justice, and the students at Romig performed the roles in the story for other students. Masneri said they were hoping to increase students' personal coping skills and insight by using literature and to highlight personal responsibility and participation in community healing. The response was outstanding and other schools are interested. Event partners include the Indian Education Program, Safe and Drug Free Schools and Cook Inlet Tribal Council and the Language Arts classes.

## Summer Child Safety

Parents, Remember:  
Kids Don't Float - Always use life jackets on the water when fishing or boating to and from camp

**Literacy Bootcamp**  
ASD 2005 high school summer school session targets those skills and strategies necessary for success on the reading portion of the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE). June 22-July 29 at East and West High Schools. Space is limited so contact your school counselor and register without delay.

**RAISE Literacy Camp**  
Sponsored by  
SouthCentral Foundation  
RAISE Program  
A literacy camp for Alaska Native and American Indian Children Ages 5-11  
High School Students -  
Apply to be tutors!  
For Information Contact  
RAISE Program  
Cross-Age Literacy Camp  
(907) 729-5015

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[www.asdk12.org/  
depts./IndEd/index.  
asp](http://www.asdk12.org/depts./IndEd/index.asp)



### June-July-August Highlights

**June 20:** Elementary summer school begins

**June 22:** High School summer school begins.

**July 20:** IEP Summer Enrichment Program begins.

**July 20-23:** World Eskimo and Indian Olympics, Fairbanks, AK

**Aug. 16-18:** Middle School Registration: 8<sup>th</sup> 8/16, 7<sup>th</sup> 8/17, 6<sup>th</sup> 8/18.

**Aug. 22-25:** High School Registration: Sr. 8/22, Jr., 8/23, Soph. 8/24, Fr. 8/25.

**August 16-18:** Elementary School Registration is not announced yet.

**Sept. 6:** Classes Begin!

### Next Issue Sept., 2005 - Prepare for Summer Now

Summer school programs abound. Check the ASD website for academic and

cultural activities. [www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org)  
Also, contact Cook Inlet Tribal Council

265-5900 for summer programs and South-Central Foundation RAISE Program at 729-5015.

### 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 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Anchorage.