

Indian Education Program

Anchorage School District

January - February 2004 Bulletin Updates and Information
For Parents and Students K through 12



Special Interest Articles:

- Applying for College
- College Goal Sunday
- Improving Your Child's Attendance
- Geneva Bright Retires from IEP
- Native Youth Olympics Begins
- ASD Six Year Plan
- Public Hearing

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College Applications: Act Now

Is your son or daughter planning on attending college this fall? If so, now is the time to get those college applications underway. Many financial aid scholarships are due in the next few months. There are several things students need to be doing to ensure their college application process is complete.

First, many colleges have entrance requirements, including sending in student's high school transcripts and/or test scores on the college entrance tests, the SAT or ACT. In addition, there might be a small application fee. Each college has an Admissions Office staff to assist students in applying.

Second, students will also need

to fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) in order to receive scholarships or federal grants. Most students will need their parents' help in filling out the FAFSA because of necessary tax information to determine how much aid they are eligible to receive. Colleges also have Financial Aid Offices staffed to answer any questions students or parents might have on the Financial Aid Application or scholarship process.

The Indian Education high school staff is also available to assist with college and scholarship applications.

Lumina Foundation Sponsors College Goal Sunday for Alaskans on February 13

New to Alaska this year is the first College Goal Sunday designed by the Coalition of Alaskans Supporting Higher Education (CASHE) and funded by the Lumina Foundation.

College Goal Sunday will take place on Sunday, February 13, 2005, and is designed to help students and families clear the paperwork hurdle when applying for college financial aid. At the event, financial aid professionals

from Alaska's higher education institutions and the Alaska Commission on Post-Secondary Education will host the event in various hubs across Alaska.

For additional information on Alaska's College Goal Sunday, contact the Alaska Commission on Post-Secondary Education at 1-800-441-2962 or online at www.alaskadvantaae.state.ak.us

The Importance of Regular School Attendance

Promote regular attendance with your child to increase his or her chances for graduation.

Do you want your child to have a better chance at employment? Did you know that a high school graduate is more likely to be hired than someone who doesn't complete high school? Your child's regular attendance at school is important for many reasons.

Consistent attendance is directly related to a student's academic progress, self-esteem, graduation, and exposure to a variety of learning experiences. When students miss a lot of school, they find it harder and harder to catch up, and students who fall behind by grade level are more likely to drop out of school. Be your child's attendance advocate. Here are a few tips to help you promote attendance and improve student connection to school.

- Know your child's friends.
- Maintain contact with your child's teachers.
- Create schedules to ensure adequate sleep and time to get ready for school in the morning.
- Call to confirm absences immediately.
- Try to schedule vacations and appointments that match school vacation days to reduce absences.
- Seek assistance if your child is struggling academically or socially.
- Contact the school immediately if your student complains of being scared to go to school.
- Encourage good nutrition in your home to foster learning.

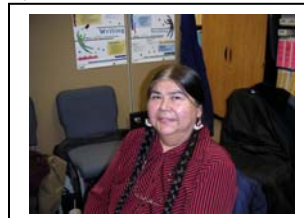
Geneva Bright Retires after 25 Years with IEP

Indian Education Program Tutor-Counselor, Geneva Bright, is retiring after 25 years, serving in the Anchorage School District since 1971. Originally from Dillingham, Bright is Aleut and believes in breaking down the barriers between cultures. "Cultural lessons and activities help students to understand and appreciate other cultures," Bright said. "Taking the mystery out helps to dispel prejudices." Her work has been welcomed by all students, who often stop her in the halls to ask when she is coming to their classroom next. Bright said that she has remained with the IEP because she loves working with kids, especially the Native kids, to make sure they get everything they need." She has been taking classes

since 1974, and will continue to take classes in her retirement. "Like my mother taught us, education is the most important thing," Bright stated. "Whatever we needed in school, she provided. All of my siblings have education and appreciate our Nativeness." Bright added, "Education is a step toward wherever you are going. It gives you more choices." Geneva Bright has been a great resource for the IEP, and her presence will be missed.

**Alaska
Native
Ways ...**

*Honor your
Elders -
They show
you the way
in life.
-- Inupiat*



Geneva Bright, IEP

Anchorage School District Six-Year Plan Update

In May, 2003, the Anchorage School Board called for a six-year instructional plan to chart a course for "closing the achievement gap" while concurrently increasing achievement for *all* students. The plan is organized around the three adopted School Board goals:

- Increase achievement of *all* students and reduce the achievement gap
- Provide a supportive and effective learning environment
- Ensure public accountability.

Twenty five ASD departments contributed to the plan, which now serves as a guidance tool for a large and diverse district like ours. The Plan preserves department autonomy and is flexible to accommodate future issues such as budget, legislative mandates, and educational research. In short, the plan is both solid and flexible.

During the next six years, the Indian Education Program will:

- Collaborate with all programs and departments to provide supplement

tal support for eligible students, to increase achievement and retention in school. That support will be based upon accurate assessment.

- Develop opportunities for ASD Indian Education Staff to meet highly qualified status as per "No Child Left Behind.

- Develop opportunities for ASD staff to become knowledgeable of standards, which emphasize culturally responsive curriculum and teaching practices.

- Maintain an active partnership with Native education and community organizations to ensure coordination of delivery services.

Dr. Enid Hunter, Executive Director, Curriculum and Instructional Support States, "The curriculum department has new energy. We are working visibly and

accountably for all students to be able to realize all of their dreams and visions." To view the ASD Six-Year Plan in its entirety, log on to www.asdk12.org and click on Curriculum under Departments. For more information call the Indian Education Office at 742-4445.

Start Practicing for Native Youth Olympics

The statewide Native Youth Olympics, sponsored by Cook Inlet Tribal Council, is slated for May 5, 6, 7, 2005, at the Sullivan Arena for grades 7-12. Teams and individuals should be practicing now to participate in the NYO Preliminaries, scheduled for April 1, 2005, at the University of Alaska Anchorage Sports Complex. Team Registration is \$250.

Students interested in forming a team, or being a part of one,

should contact their Indian Education Community Counselor, Angela Elsenbast, East High School, or Glenna Maulding, West High School. CITC coaches Howard Sparrow, Dimond High, and Mike Jerue, Bartlett High are also available to answer questions. For additional information, contact Courtney Sullivan, Special Programs Manager, CITC, at 297-1772 or CSullivan@citci.com

Tutoring

Is your child(ren) failing core subjects at his/her school? Check out the Evening Program!

Every Tuesday and Thursday free tutoring is provided for K-12 grades at the EVENING PROGRAM, NORTH STAR ELEMENTARY, 6:15-8:15 PM. For more info call our Office at 742-4445.

American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month Highlights

* Through the Native Cultures in the Schools project, funded by The CIRI Foundation, the Alaska Native Heritage Center, and other donors, 28 Native artists and tradition bearers worked directly with students, K-12, in hands-on classroom activities and school assemblies. They spent a total of 430 hours with 11,358 students in 35 schools.

Celebrate
Elizabeth Peratrovich
Day - February 16, 2005

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January-February Highlights

Jan. - Feb.: Tues. and Thurs. evenings, tutoring available at North Star Elementary, 6:00-8:00 pm

Jan. 27: Public Hearing at North Star Elementary. All Parents, Guardians and Teachers of Native children are

invited to make recommendations for the IEP for 2005-2006 school year.

Feb. 1: Native Advisory Committee meeting @ North Star Elem., 6:15-8:15 PM

Feb. 17: President's Day
No school.

March 1: Native Advisory Committee meeting @ North Star Elem., 6:15-8:15 PM

Next Issue will come out in March 2005

The March/April Newsletter will give you an update on Indian Education Programs. Highlights

will include how to give your student a helping hand during benchmark testing. 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.