



INSIDE ASD—Oct. 16

School board recognizes one of its own
Monday night's school board approved school board member **Tim Steele's** nomination for the Association of Alaska School Board's Outstanding School Board Member Award. The award is designed to reflect the nominee's commitment to board standards, which include vision, structure, accountability, advocacy, and conduct and ethics. Tim Steele began his service in April 2001 when he was elected to the Anchorage School Board. He has served as the school board president for two years. Additionally, he has served on all board committees (Legislative, Audit and Policy) and is currently serving as the vice president of the school board and chair of the Legislative Committee. Mr. Steele has been an active board member; he has gone to most legislative fly-ins, has actively supported school bond elections and has testified frequently to the legislature and to the Anchorage Assembly on school district issues. Mr. Steele holds Seat A. His current term expires in April 2010; he cannot serve another term due to municipal charter restrictions. He has also served as a member of the AASB Board of Directors and recently was recognized as one of two awardees.



Alaska Native/American Indian Heritage Month resource
ASD joins the rest of the nation to celebrate November's Alaska Native/American Indian Heritage Month through a variety of community and school activities. The "[Sharing the Spirit](http://www.asdk12.org/events/native.asp)" (www.asdk12.org/events/native.asp) booklet is available to teachers who want to schedule a presenter. "The individuals and groups gathered for this book are eager to make presentations, answer questions and share his or her Native culture in the classroom," said **Doreen Brown**, Title VII Indian Education supervisor. "All presentations listed in this book are free during the month of November." Schedules fill up quickly; submit your request form to the Community Resources Department. Presentations are correlated with state standards and most of the content areas are addressed at each instructional level.



We'll keep the lights on... after school

“Lights On Afterschool” is a nationwide effort to focus on the importance of after-school programs in America. Monday’s school board approved to officially recognize Thursday, Oct. 22 as Lights On Afterschool Day. Activities to celebrate include book giveaways, family nights, safety demonstrations and literacy activities at ASD schools. The 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative, the only federal program dedicated solely to after-school programs, provided safe places for more than 5,000 of Alaska’s kids after school last year—with many more students in self-care that could be served if

programs were available, according to **Susan Williams**, 21st Century CLC manager. In Anchorage last year, nearly 1,500 students attended 21st Century CLC programs at some Title I schools. Numerous national studies show positive results in student behavior and achievement for students who regularly attend. The 21st Century CLCs provide academic enrichment activities that help students meet state standards. The centers also focus on a broad array of services such as drug and violence prevention programs, social skills counseling, art, music and recreation programs as well as technology education, character education programs and social-emotional learning at the district’s most needy schools. A new report, America After 3PM, as well as a new cable show created by Bright House Networks and the Afterschool Alliance will be released/debut on Lights On Afterschool Day. The study provides nationwide data on after-school supply and demand and was conducted for the Afterschool Alliance and sponsored by the JCPenney Afterschool Fund. The cable program will feature personal stories of families and youth after school. The show is the second in a series; [watch the first *After the School Bell Rings* here.](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?AfterschoolAlliance/c755a77974/adaa8a8959/f2f3394a9f/p=BE2EC5843C2DE79B) (<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?AfterschoolAlliance/c755a77974/adaa8a8959/f2f3394a9f/p=BE2EC5843C2DE79B>)



Russian Jack Elementary students learn about electronics during one afternoon with Total Reclaim environmental services after school as part of the district’s 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

School Bus Safety, Red Ribbon Week

The school board approved two resolutions Monday recognizing October 19-23 as [School Bus Safety Week](#) and [Red Ribbon Week](#), following national recognition of the weeks to highlight transportation safety and drug abuse prevention. This week the district honors **ASD Transportation** employees who provide more than 6 million passenger trips that travel about 3 million miles annually. On Monday, **Abbott Loop Elementary** officially

kicks off the district’s celebration of Red Ribbon Week at a special assembly.



Next week is Save for Retirement Week; do you know where you stand?

National Save for Retirement Week is next week (Oct. 18-24). “We know how important it is to prepare for retirement,” said ASD Benefits Director **Alden Thern**. “The district wants people to be informed and offers a variety of information, training and resources.”

[Online](http://www.asdk12.org/HR/benefits) resources (www.asdk12.org/HR/benefits) for employees include information on the district’s supplemental retirement savings account that allows employees an opportunity to make pre-tax investments in a variety of mutual funds and one fixed-income option with the 403(b) plan. Currently, more than 1,600 employees are participating actively in the plan. **Great-West Retirement Services** is the sole bundled services provider for the district’s plan. In celebration of Save for Retirement Week, Great-West has launched a “Save the Planet, Save for Retirement” campaign. The campaign includes an online information site that includes voice-over Web presentations and fliers that discuss important retirement savings topics, as well as online calculators and an online [quiz](#) (www.save4retirement.net/employee.html) designed to give employees an opportunity to test their environmental knowledge with familiar retirement planning and saving concepts.



- A representative from Great-West Retirement Services is available to discuss the 403(b) plan and investment options in Anchorage at 301 W. Northern Lights Blvd., Suite 406 (northwest corner of C Street and Northern Lights).
- Call Great-West Retirement Services for an appointment at 276-1500, or e-mail Cheri.Turner@gwrs.com or Andee.Nusaath@gwrs.com.

Charitable Giving Campaign invites creative fundraising

The 2009 Charitable Giving Campaign is in full swing with pledges coming in and contests and luncheons happening at various work sites. **Whaley School** reports that it has two more Tuesday drawings on October 20 and 27. Charitable Giving Coordinator and Art Teacher **Bev Kirk** says the first three donors always receive their choice of beadwork. (They’re still talking about the time a couple of years ago, where every donor got to vote for someone to kiss the hind end of a pig; sadly for our coordinator, it was she.) **Maintenance** has several fundraisers, according to Charitable Giving Coordinator and Administrative Assistant **EJ Johnson**. Home baked goods will be delivered to each Maintenance shop Thursday morning, a wall-hanging quilt is being donated to the



Martina Henke, Language Arts coordinator (left) and Debbie Young, Language Arts, SEL administrative assistant, (right) hosted the east end Education Center Salad and Dessert luncheon fundraiser.

Huffman location silent auction and an afghan will be auctioned at the **East** and **Chugiak shops**. Theme baskets and other items are being donated for auction the last week in October in the bay at the Huffman shop. The east end of the **Education Center** held its Salad and Dessert luncheon on Tuesday and the west end is set for the Build-Your-Own Sandwich luncheon on Wednesday. Charitable Giving Coordinator and **Muldoon Elementary** Family School Services Coordinator **Lela Stevenson** said they held a Chili Feed today and are conducting a daily “Queen for the Day” contest.

Time is running out to be a hero (or villain) for JA

Each year, JA hosts a bowl-a-thon to raise a significant portion of its budget and this year’s theme is “Heroes and Villains.” ASD team captain volunteers are needed still to recruit teams of five to compete in this year’s event—you don’t have to know how to bowl and you’re not required to dress up as your favorite hero or villain. Last year, more than 8,100 students in Alaska benefited from [Junior Achievement’s](http://alaska.ja.org/) (<http://alaska.ja.org/>) programs, which are provided to schools and teachers at no cost.

- Saturdays, Oct. 31 and Nov. 7 from 5 to 8 p.m.
- Jewel Lake Bowl
- To participate, contact dent_ronnie@asdk12.org.



Shred it and forget it for free on Saturday

The first rule in identity theft protection: “If you don’t need it, dispose of it responsibly.” Take advantage of a free shredding service tomorrow, Oct. 17 by joining the Better Business Bureau serving Alaska, Oregon, and Western Washington for “[Secure Your ID Day](http://www.akorww.bbb.org/secure-your-id).” (www.akorww.bbb.org/secure-your-id)

- Saturday, Oct. 17, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Wells Fargo at 301 West Northern Lights Blvd.
- Drive up and drop off up to three grocery bags or boxes of unwanted documents. No cardboard or three-ring binders will be accepted. Items will be securely shredded on-the-spot by Shred Alaska.

Sears Mall offering art-showing space for ASD schools

The Sears Mall is offering ASD schools space to show art on two large bulletin boards, according to Bayshore Elementary School Art Teacher **Maya Guvreau**. The display space is located near the east entry on the Benson Blvd. side of Sears. There is an official ASD plaque between the boards, and schools can sign up for a two-month 'show.' **Bayshore Elementary** currently has a display of Alaskan-inspired art which will hang until November 30. The Sears Mall will also advertise featured schools on their digital sign. Any school interested in displaying its students’ art for a two-month period should contact



Gauvreau_Maya@asdk12.org. There are only three allocated times left this school year for sign-up on a first come, first served basis.

Zangle's ParentConnect a secure connection

With heightened concern about Internet security breaches, ASD Chief Information Officer **Jane Berglund** wants to assure staff and parents that the district's implementation of the Zangle ParentConnect application follows security best practices. "We use the same techniques as a bank to ensure security," said Berglund. "All traffic is sent over an encrypted connection and items like passwords are stored in the database in an encrypted form." This interface has been used at other school districts for many years and Zangle has not reported a single breach. Berglund says the district regularly tests the interface for possible security issues.

Teacher, administrator performance evaluation options

State regulations require that students, parents, community members and school staff are given the opportunity to provide information about teacher and administrator performance. Here are the options for completing a form:

- Employees can complete the Web-based EIF anonymously by going to the District Connection at <http://home.asdk12.org>. Find links to either EIF (teacher or administrator) under the special announcements section.
- Members of the public and employees not wishing to remain anonymous can complete a Web-based EIF by going to the [ASD Online](http://www.asdk12.org). (www.asdk12.org) Links to either EIF can be found on the [parents home page](http://www.asdk12.org/parents/). (www.asdk12.org/parents/)
- For those who wish to print a hard copy of the form, PDF versions can be found in the Forms and Publications Library on either of the district's Web sites.

ASD a hat-trick in October Urban Educator

ASD is featured in three articles in this month's [Urban Educator](http://www.cgcs.org/UE/October09.pdf), (www.cgcs.org/UE/October09.pdf) a newsletter published by the Council of the Great City Schools, representing 66 of the nation's largest urban public school districts. Superintendent **Carol Comeau** is recognized for her long tenure with ASD and for her participation in the National Education Standards Review Committee of the Council of the Great City Schools. ASD was featured as one district with dramatic rising enrollment levels.