



Partnership Press

Fall 2009

Newsletter of Anchorage School Business Partnerships • (907) 240-2345 • www.asdk12.org/depts/sbp

Kudos to Steller's Gardening Gurus!



If you walk past the entrance of **Steller Secondary School**, you can still see iris, forget-me-nots, roses, and other perennial plants in great shape. These are actually two *stellar* rain gardens! These scientifically engineered environmental systems are not only pleasing to look at, but they also save taxpayer dollars.

Last May, Steller art teacher Jean Poulsen and seminar teacher Danielle Sjoden teamed up to sponsor a Community Gardening Intensive. Working with a program sponsored by the Municipality of Anchorage, twenty-five Steller students built two rain gardens.

A rain garden is a depression in the landscape designed to catch and filter the water that runs off impervious surfaces. Rain gardens filter storm water runoff and improve water quality before it flows into streams, rivers and lakes. Particles from snow melt and rain can clog the drainage system, costing taxpayers a great deal of money to periodically clean out.

Students tirelessly dug holes and layered sand, gravel and native soil. Parents donated most of the native, and Danielle purchased two rose bushes and gravel. Students decided where to place the plants. Kari Sherman of the municipality's rain garden program helped the students determine the size and location of their rain gardens.

Steller students also worked with Ryan Gallman from the **Alaska Community Action on Toxins (ACAT)** to build a peace garden next to the school's gazebo. ACAT helped Steller build a community peace garden free from pesticides and chemical fertilizers, which create severe ocean pollution. Vegetables planted included snap peas, carrots, potatoes, beans, lettuce, chard, zucchini, and other squash. Over the summer, students Sean Kelly and Alexandra Gerlt carefully tended the garden with Ryan, making frequent trips to school to water and weed. Last month, Jean and students carefully harvested, cut, washed, and wrapped lettuce and chard, eventually delivering over three industrial-sized drums to the Food Bank of Alaska. Food Bank employees were thrilled, and shared with Steller their delight at receiving fresh produce for their clients for the very first time in memory.

At right: Senior Arvin Ting creatively illustrates the "Peace" Garden sign as he and C.J. Montano harvest carrots.



Great Growing, Steller!

More From Steller SBP

Annual Banned Books Reading

This September, **Steller Secondary School** and **Title Wave Books** celebrated Banned Books Week by hosting their Third Annual READ-OUT LOUD! Steller students, staff, and celebrity guests, including Lauren Maxwell of Channel 11 News and ASD Superintendent Carol Comeau, read aloud selections from their favorite previously banned or challenged books like *Catcher in the Rye*, *Harry Potter*, *Fahrenheit 451*, and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, among others.



Observed since 1982, Banned Books Week is an annual event sponsored by the American Library Association. It celebrates the freedom to read and reminds Americans not to take this precious democratic freedom for granted.

Town Square Sculptures

Steller SBP, **Anchorage Downtown Partnerships**, wrote and received a grant to bring up a well-known artist to work with students during an intensive. Students created outstanding sculpture pieces that were exhibited at the opening of Anchorage’s remodeled Town Square.



**Guest Reader
Lauren Maxwell.**



Drew Erickson, Grade 8



Cassie Sneddon, Grade 9



Marylanz Young, Grade 11

United Way: Food Drive Festivities

Once again, School Business Partnership Coordinators helped coordinate their schools' **United Way "Day of Caring"** food drives. ASD students and staff collected nearly 12,000 pounds of food for the Food **Bank of Alaska**.

The food drive has become a tradition at **SAVE High School**, and is coordinated by counselor and SBP coordinator Caren Flaten. For the second year in a row, SAVE students donated more food than any other school, with 3,763 pounds coming from their program. SAVE is an alternative high school that allows students who are behind to recover credits.



Thanks to SAVE students, the Food Bank of Alaska has over 3700 pounds of food on its shelves!



Romig students organize food donations.

Over at **Romig Middle School**, the food drive was sponsored by the School Business Partnership class as a team competition. The Aurora Team won by collecting 360 pounds of food, and they were rewarded with an ice cream party. In all, Romig students collected 1,016 pounds of food.

The staff at **Chugiak High** got especially creative with this year's Day of Caring campaign. Donated food was brought to the school's Homecoming pep assembly, and students and faculty built structures with the cans!



Junior Achievement = Financial Literacy!

CIRI and **Wells Fargo** teamed up last spring with **Junior Achievement of Alaska** to present the first ever “JA in A DAY” events at **Muldoon Elementary**, the CIRI School Business Partner, and **North Star Elementary**, the Wells Fargo School Business Partner.

On April 14th, CIRI volunteers “took over” Muldoon Elementary School and the whole school day was devoted to financial literacy, business, and citizenship lessons provided by Junior Achievement of Alaska. CIRI volunteers, including CIRI Vice President of Administration and Government Relations, Barbara Donatelli, had been trained by Junior Achievement staff on how to present the fun, interactive economics lessons at each grade level. Most CIRI volunteers worked in pairs and some even wore costumes appropriate to their lessons such as chef hats for the assembly line versus unit construction donut making lesson in 2nd grade. **Doyon Corp.** provided breakfast for the volunteers, and **Credit Union 1** provided the lunch. CIRI generously provided the Junior Achievement teaching kits and training, a donation of \$10,000, which all agreed was well invested in the financial literacy of tomorrow’s leaders.

Likewise on April 28th, thirty enthusiastic Wells Fargo volunteers headed up by Judith Crotty, Wells Fargo Community Development Manager, and Logan Birch, Wells Fargo Assistant Vice President and JA Board member, marched into North Star Elementary school to be teachers for the day. Using Junior Achievement teaching kits, they taught financial literacy skills and the benefits of saving to kindergarten through 6th graders. Employees wore Wells Fargo shirts and even brought along Jack the Dog who mugged for the TV news cameras. Wells Fargo also sponsored \$10,000 for materials and training.

If your company would like to get actively involved in a possibly life changing experience for your SBP students, please contact Peggy Ammann at Junior Achievement of Alaska to find out how to arrange a JA in a Day Financial Literacy Event for your School Business Partner.



Exciting New Partnership for Chugiak!



Chugiak High welcomes their newest school business partner, the **Anchorage Opera!** Many opportunities will be possible for Chugiak students thanks to this new partnership.

In February 2010, the Anchorage Opera will present a famous Russian opera called *Eugene Onegin*, a classic tale of love and loss by Aleksandr Pushkin set to music by Ilyich Tchaikovsky (composer of *The Nutcracker*). The Anchorage Opera plans to provide an opera outreach presentation at Chugiak High School. The Anchorage Opera's goals for this community project are to introduce opera to young adults, to be positively involved in education, and to promote Russian programs and culture in Alaska.

This will be the arts project for Chugiak students taking Russian this year, and it comes along at a good time since 2009 was named the Year of Russian Language by the president of China and in 2007 the same designation was announced by Vladimir Putin, the former president of Russia.



Torrie Allen of the Anchorage Opera talks with a Chugiak High Russian class.



Thanks to Alaska Railroad!

Mary Mead-Olberding was the winner of the raffle for the **Alaska Railroad** tickets for those principals, coordinators, businesses or board members who completed the annual SBP partnership survey.

"Our trip to Seward was the perfect way to end the summer - a beautiful weekend, enjoying Alaska compliments of the Alaska Railroad. Thank you for this opportunity, Alaska Railroad!"

~ Mary Meade-Olberding, Anchorage School District Director for Charter Schools

Credit Union 1 Opens West High Branch

Credit Union 1 and **West High School** celebrated the grand opening of their cyber branch on Wednesday, September 30th with an audience that included Superintendent Carol Comeau, several School Board members, members of the Anchorage Assembly, the SBP Board of Directors, Credit Union 1 staff, and the students and faculty of West High School.

Unlike most financial institutions, there are no tellers and counters at this branch. Instead, you'll find computer terminals for online banking and an ATM. The plan is for students to be trained as financial mentors with the skills to bring financial literacy to their peers. Students will learn how to open accounts online, make online payments, apply for online loans, monitor their credit scores, and develop a myriad of other financial skills.

The branch also features cable televisions that will broadcast West sporting events, theatre performances, academic decathlons and other student activities. There is also a seminar space in the back that can be used for student conferencing, activity meetings and, of course, financial mentoring! We look forward to watching this special partnership develop.



Home Depot Beautification Project

North Star Elementary's business partnership with **Home Depot** resulted in a new entryway retaining wall that was built in a single September weekend. A brave crew of Home Depot volunteers, staff, parents and students didn't let a little rain get in the way of accomplishing this first phase of North Star's three-phase beautification project. Thank you Home Depot for donating your time, talent and funds for this project! Future projects between North Star and Home Depot include building a greenhouse and installing reading benches around the trees in front of the school.

Pictured are: Home Depot personnel James Stoneking, Jerry Faulkner, DeWayne Ingram, Lori and J'son Soule; students Ryland Jones, Devon Jones and Jared Anderson; and parent Jonathan Jones.



SBP Board of Directors participated in a day-long retreat in August. Special thanks to Ben Parks of **Alaska Performance Excellence** for facilitating the Strategic Planning process.

SBP School Reports

Central Middle School

Report from Janna Walker, SBP Coordinator and SBPC Teacher



The first weeks of school have been very busy! We hit the ground running with the food drive and are in the midst of planning our first school dance of the year on October 13th. The profits will be split between **Kids' Kitchen** and our program. We are trying something new this year by having the **ACVB/Central** "Big Wild Life" Trivia Contest in November instead of April. It fits in better with the seventh grade curriculum and teachers have long expressed a desire to try it in the fall. Our annual Pennies for the Penniless campaign which benefits Kids' Kitchen will be in the spring instead to accommodate the contest.

In early September, students from the SBPC went to the **Fort Richardson** challenge course and spent a fun day navigating different team building initiatives. They were so successful that the guy who runs the course said he wanted them back in the spring!

Central has a new partnership with **Total Reclaim**, a company that recycles electronics. Hopefully some teachers will arrange field trips to their site, and I am hoping management participate with mock job interviews.

Matt Kolesky, with **Arbor Capital Management**, has started teaching **Junior Achievement** to the SPB class. The Global Marketplace curriculum fits in well with the way the world is heading. I encourage teachers with an SBP class to schedule a Junior Achievement speaker as it gives the kids another person to teach them about the world of work.

Many thanks to **Blockbuster Video** for holding a fundraising drive during the month of November that will benefit Kids' Kitchen. We are hoping all the Anchorage stores will be plastered with cards that customers purchase as a donation to Kids' Kitchen. Thanks, Blockbuster!

Romig Middle School

In addition to the **United Way** Day of Caring food drive (see page 3), **Romig** SBP students were busy with two other business partners: Great Harvest Bread Company and the UAA School of nursing. Dirk Sisson of **Great Harvest Bread Company** visited the school to meet the Romig Staff, and the SBP class went on a field trip to the popular local bakery.

The **UAA School of Nursing** conducted free sports physicals for students again this year which allows many more kids to participate on the various teams. The SBPC students treated the nurses to lunch at Romig to show appreciation for their help.



South Anchorage High School

Report from Mike Fenster, SBP Coordinator

Charter Members of the Medical Explorers

South Anchorage High School has again paired with our School Business Partner, **Alaska Regional Hospital**, for an exciting goal. **Medical Explorer Post 1513** had its inaugural meeting at Alaska Regional Hospital in September. The Explorer group is for students who express interest in medical employment fields. It is open to youth from 14 - 20 years and will include monthly meetings at Alaska Regional. The September meeting included a demonstration of the new Rollover Simulator that the Anchorage Police Department is using to educate the public about the importance of wearing a seatbelt. South High science teachers Leesa Wingo and Lorraine Campbell will assist in organizing the students and the hospital campus liaison is Sandra McQueen at Alaska Regional. All meetings are open to any Anchorage School District student meeting the age requirements.

Polaris K-12

Report from Kathryn Smith, SBP Coordinator



Polaris adds a new school business partner in **Skurla Business Machines**. Owner Lynn Skurla is working with the new School Business Partnership Class teaching the basics of retail business practice. Employees of Skurla Business machines are supporting the school store and helped install a new state of the art cash register so that students working in the store are working with equipment comparable to equipment found in retail business in the community.

On September 20th, **Schlumberger** flew four students - Nithya Thiru, Nikki Navio, Ryan McLaughlin and Kivalina Grove - to Prudhoe Bay to tour oilfield facilities of **BP** and Schlumberger. This trip provides students with a first-hand look at the North Slope of Alaska and the petroleum industry. Dawn Nunley of Schlumberger toured with the students.

Kaladi Brothers Coffee generously provided training for baristas for the school store. Polaris students Leila Coulter-Khan, Gerald McBee, Briana Tobin, Janna Abel, Mario Davis, Andrew Sellen, Zoe Brown, Chelsea Parocha, Hollis Hasbrouk, Mark Oliver and Connor Hellings and school store advisor Kathryn were given beginning and advanced barista training in September. Kaladi Brothers also provided a grant for Yearbook in order to print our entire book on 80% post-consumer recycled paper.

Cherie Northon of the **Anchorage Waterways Council (AWC)** is once again working with the 7th hour Ecology class to conduct inquiry on the health of Anchorage Creeks. Briana Tobin and Jadelle Riski are working with AWC and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to monitor creek health as part of an independent study project that focuses on Eastwood park.

Maria Downey Visits Gruening Broadcast News Class

Maria Downey from **Channel 2, KTUU News** came to **Gruening Middle School** this past Spring to talk to Gruening's news team. The school business partnership class performs two services each day: running an in-school café and broadcasting a daily news announcement via closed-circuit television. Ms. Downey gave all the students tips for getting jobs in the news industry, how much work goes into getting the news prepared and broadcast each day, and the quality of work that reporters and anchors need to produce. The students were very impressed and excited to meet Ms. Downey and we hope she will return again to visit this year's SBP students.



Mirror Lake

Report from Emily Blahous, SBP Coordinator



We are fortunate to have nine active School Business Partnerships. Some of our SBP offer us service learning projects like the **Department of Fish and Game** and the **Department of Labor and Workforce Development**. Students have collaborated on producing movies for each of these departments. One was a 12 minute video highlighting the child workforce laws – presently used for training throughout the state of Alaska. Moose and bear safety videos were produced for Fish and Game. Other partnerships offer our students expertise and technical help: **KTVA** and **GCI** are examples of this service. **Eagle River Rotary** contributes money and time to reward our most improved students each quarter. The **Chugiak Senior Center** offers opportunities for community service. **Alaska Laser Printing and Mailing** provides us with many important contacts in the greater community of Anchorage. Students are able to see student dress rehearsals of Anchorage's operas along with special "opera to go" visits through our SBP with the **Anchorage Opera Company**. We extend that partnership to include the World Language Department of the Anchorage School District. **Barnes and Noble** offers the Fine Arts Department an opportunity to perform in the comfortable setting of their store. Our newest SBP, GCI, is supplying Mirror Lake with a free cable modem for connectivity for our radio station. AND, speaking of Mirror Lake's radio station, KAUG, our radio team of Caroline, David and Joselynn are working hard at producing 30 minute broadcasts from the Augie Hiebert Communication Studio. We are still working out our transmission problems with the help of Glen Coulson from **UAA** and Russ Weston, former Mirror Lake parent, but we are determined to be on the air soon for your listening enjoyment.

Anchorage Fire Department Creates a Scene at Wendler

Anchorage Fire Station 4, C shift conducted an Extrication Demonstration and Career Counseling session with **Wendler Middle School** students on the morning of October 7th at Wendler Middle School. Station 4 crews, along with a **LifeMed Alaska Helicopter Medivac** crew, demonstrated extricating and evacuating a simulated trapped victim as a result of an auto accident. Prior to the demonstration, the crew met with students to discuss the educational backgrounds required for AFD occupations and stressed the importance of safe vehicle operation for aspiring young drivers. Six of the Station 4, C Shift crewmembers are graduates of Anchorage School District high schools, including one who attended Wendler Middle School. Station 4, C Shift is a School Business Partner with Wendler Middle School. **Riggs Towing** generously donating the vehicle and towing services for the demonstration.



Executive Exchange Event

The 2009-10 Executive Exchange Event will take place during the month of November on a day that is mutually agreeable to both participants.

ORGANIZATIONAL PLAN:

- ~ a business executive and a school administrator will be paired
- ~ the school administrator will host a business executive for one half day
- ~ the business executive will host a school administrator for one half day
- NB: The exchange may take place on the same day or on two different half days as is mutually agreeable to both participants
- ~ both participants will attend the debriefing lunch to give a 2-3 minute presentation to their table about the exchange

MATCHING:

- ~ Emails will be sent to matched participants with phone and email contacts so date and time arrangements can be made directly between them
- ~ If a specific match is preferred, suggestions on the school or business will be taken and best efforts will be to made to secure the match
- ~ Our goal is to have 30 matches and a total of 60 participants.

OBJECTIVES:

- ~ to become more knowledgeable about contemporary successes and challenges in education and business
- ~ to discuss the specific needs and demands for a quality education and a well-trained work force in the 21st century
- ~ to develop strategies for working together
- ~ to build bridges of understanding between the two communities

DEBRIEFING SESSION:

The 2009 Executive Exchange DEBRIEF is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 15th from 11:30 to 1 pm at the King Career Center**, 2650 E. Northern Lights Blvd. Lunch will be served.

To sign up to participate or for more information, contact Tam Agosti-Gisler, Executive Director, Anchorage School Business Partnerships, tamag@gci.net or 240-2345.



2009-2010 School Business Partnership Coordinators

Middle Schools (10)				
Begich	Michelle Barton	742-0578	Barton_michelle@asdk12.org	
	Whitney D'Atri	742-0572	D'atri_whitney@asdk12.org	
Central	Janna Walker	742-5104	Walker_janna@asdk12.org	
Clark	Stephanie Asplund	742-7723	Asplund_stephanie@asdk12.org	
Goldenview	Sam Struempler	742-8210	Struempler_sam@asdk12.org	
Gruening	Lori Miller	742-3681	Miller_lori@asdk12.org	
Hanshew	Sharon Herrell	267-0241	Herrell_sharon@asdk12.org	
Mears	Crysta Svendsen	742-6400	Svendsen_crysta@asdk12.org	
Mirror Lake	Emily Blahous	742-3500x7921	Blahous_emily@asdk12.org	
Polaris	Kathryn Smith	742-8700	Smith_kathryn@asdk12.org	

Romig	Frances Lucas	742-5285	Lucas_frances@asdk12.org	
Wendler	Steve Augustin	742-7300	Augustin_steve@asdk12.org	
High Schools (15)				
AVAIL / Continuation	Traver Pierson	742-4936	Pierson_traver@asdk12.org	
Bartlett	Georgia Berry	742-1820	Berry_georgia@asdk12.org	
Benson/Search	Sandra Pierson	742-2080	Pierson_sandra@asdk12.org	
Chugiak	Valerie Ekberg-Brown	742-3386	Ekberg-brown_valerie@asdk12.org	
COHO	Nate Williams	742-3200	Williams_nate@asdk12.org	
Crossroads	Gayle Boyer	742-2424	Boyer_gayle@asdk12.org	
Dimond	John Snead	742-6999	Snead_john@asdk12.org	
Eagle River	Deb Weesner	742-2752	Weesner_deb@asdk12.org	
East	Ben Brelje	742-2143	Brelje_ben@asdk12.org	

KCC	Teena Calkin	742-8996	Calkin_teena@asdk12.org	
McLaughlin	Mark Smedley	742-1158	Smedley_mark@asdk12.org	
SAVE	Caren Flaten	742-1250	Flaten_caren@asdk12.org	
Service	Carlene Hockema	742-6568	Hockema_carlene@asdk12.org	
South	Mike Fenster	742-6200	Fenster_michael@asdk12.org	
Steller	Linda Samorajski	742-4956	Samorajski_linda@asdk12.org	
West	Mary Peterburs	742-2500	Peterburs_mary@asdk12.org	



School business coordinators were introduced to the new online partnership agreement form at their fall training.

Pick.
Click.
Give.

The PFD Charitable Contributions Program

Anchorage School Business Partnerships is pleased to announce that we are part of the PFD Charitable Contributions Program for 2010. The Alaska Legislature passed a law in 2008 making it possible for Alaskans to donate to charity when they file for their PFD online. We are excited about the opportunity that it provides all Alaskans to give to their favorite nonprofit organizations. This program provides a safe, secure and easy way to make a donation. By giving through this program, you join others to become an important force in bettering our communities and our state. For those of you who already support Anchorage School Business Partnerships, we appreciate your gifts and hope you will use this option to make an additional donation.

When you go online to sign up for your dividend, you will see the option called "The Gift of Giving." Click and follow the instructions to make a new donation, or an additional gift. At the same time, please take the extra step you will see after you make your donation to provide your contact information to us. We want to acknowledge and recognize your generous support, and this is the only way we will know it's you making the gift.

You can find more information about the program, including frequently asked questions at www.PickClickGive.org. Or you may call us at 240-2345.



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