

CONGRATULATIONS

Graduates

CLASS OF 2021

Community Update – May 2021

District Calendar

May is...

Military Appreciation Month
Asian-American and Pacific
Islander Heritage Month
Mental Health Awareness Month

May 3 – 7

Teacher Appreciation Week

May 6 – 12

Nurse Appreciation Week

Friday, May 7

School Lunch Hero Day

Wednesday, May 12

National School Nurse Day

Thursday, May 13

Bike to School Day

Upcoming ASD Events

Monday, May 10

Graduation Week Begins

Thursday, May 20

End of Fourth Quarter

Friday, May 21

Teachers' Last Day

Monday, May 31

Memorial Day Holiday



ASD Recognizes Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month

The Anchorage School District recognizes and celebrates May as Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AANHPI).

As a District where 17 percent of students and 10 percent of staff identify as Asian American Pacific, ASD welcomes and celebrates the backgrounds and cultures of our AANHPI community.

In response to recent unjust acts of violence across our country, the Anchorage School Board recently issued a [statement](#) in response to Anti-Asian/Pacific Islander violence and acts of hate.

Happy Teacher and Nurse Appreciation Week!

This month we celebrate Teacher and Nurse Appreciation Week. Teacher appreciation week is May 3–7 and Nurse Appreciation Week is May 6–12.

Especially during this challenging year, our teachers and nurses have been beacons of community, care, and support for ASD families and students.

See photos below of dedicated ASD teachers providing instruction during the 2020–21 COVID-19 pandemic school year.



Terri Draeger, a science teacher at Stream Academy, works with one of her sixth grade students to launch a hot air balloon during a socially distanced, outdoor event during the second quarter of the school year. It was the first time Draeger met her students in-person.



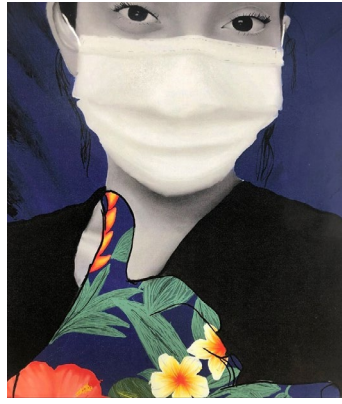
Lynn Mills, a fourth grade teacher at Taku Elementary School, assists a student in March 2021, just days after the CDC relaxed its guidance to say students may be three feet apart (previously six feet wherever possible).

Eagle River High School Art Teacher Jacob Bera led a project this school year to honor local healthcare workers titled, [Portraits of Those Who Serve: Honoring our Healthcare Workers](#). The portraits were unveiled during small ceremonies to kick off Nurse Appreciation Week at Providence Medical Center and Alaska Native Medical Center (see next page for content).

Pictured to the right:

Kristen, a registered nurse in Anchorage

"This picture is from the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Shaka sign is a symbol of love and Aloha and to keep the faith. I am from Hawaii and the Shaka is very symbolic. I love being a nurse and taking care of people. It makes me feel happy to be able to help others. Keep up the good work, wash your hands, and wear your mask. There will be brighter days ahead!"



Shrien was nominated for her outstanding efforts to keep students engaged when the COVID-19 pandemic forced students and teachers to adapt to distance learning.

"The Anchorage School District is excited and honored to have Kelly Shrein named as Alaska's Teacher of the Year!" ASD Superintendent Dr. Deena Bishop said. "She is a master of her craft and has earned a tremendous amount of respect among her students, parents, and colleagues across ASD and our community. Her innovation in the classroom and infectious enthusiasm for educating students is an inspiration to us all. We are so proud that she is being honored for her work!"



DEED Commissioner Dr. Michael Johnson presents Kelly Shrien the Alaska Teacher of the Year award during a small ceremony at Northwood Elementary School on May 5.

Brooklyn, an art student at Eagle River High School
"I read the description you sent in and put some real thought into it. I looked up the Hawaii state flower and made sure to incorporate it. Thank you so much for everything you have done."

Good Things:

Trailside Elementary School Principal Named AAESP's National Distinguished Principal for 2021

Congratulations to Trailside Elementary School principal Heather Jones for being named the Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals National Distinguished Principal for 2021.



Jones was nominated and selected by her fellow principals through a statewide search process conducted by the Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals.

Jones began her administrative career as a principal at Eagle's View Elementary in Unalaska in 2007 and went on to be a principal in Montana from 2010–2012, followed by principalships in Anchorage at Ocean View Elementary and Chinook Elementary from 2012–2019. She is currently completing her second year as the principal at Trailside Elementary School.

Jones will travel to Washington DC in October 2021 for two days of activities planned to honor and bring well-deserved recognition to the elementary administrators selected by their respective states.

Northwood Elementary School Teacher Named Alaska Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to fifth grade teacher Kelly Shrein of Northwood Elementary School for being named the 2021–22 Alaska Teacher of the Year.

Wendler School Nurse Receives School Nurse of Excellence in Alaska Award

Wendler Middle School nurse Kim Boyd, BSN, RN, NCSN, received the 2020–21 School Nurse Excellence in Alaska award during the annual Alaska School Nurses Association Annual Spring Conference, held virtually on April 24, 2021.

Boyd was honored by ANSA among her fellow Alaskan school nurses for demonstrating excellence in school nursing through daily practice, continuing education, collaboration, and leadership in school health.

Boyd credited the District's Health Services Department and her colleagues for their constant professionalism and expertise during the response to COVID-19. "I am in awe of the way the [health services department] led us through constant change, upheaval, and surprises. It is humbling to win the SNEA award when I see the dedication and hard work of all school nurses during the time of COVID," she said.



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