

Site Report – Kokhanok – January, 2026

To: Superintendent Kasie Luke and LPSD School Board Members	From: Colter Barnes, Principal
Photos & Description of Activities and Events	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Our food-service program (breakfast, snack, lunch) and elder lunch delivery (30+ a day) have been top notch this year. I'd venture a guess that we've served more locally harvested food (salmon, dry fish, dry meat, moose, caribou, berries) than just about any school in the nation; proud & skilled providers here in Kokhanok. This wouldn't be possible without BBNA's support of our elder lunch program (and reimbursement). Our current food-service balance is over \$20,000!2) We continue to include native language instruction & games into our morning meeting routine DAILY. A huge thank you to Beth Hill, Krista Hobson, Connor Romer, and Peducia Andrew for providing such integral learning opportunities. The students' confidence and expressiveness is growing every day.3) Our basketball team traveled to Newhalen for the jamboree/camp January 21st-24th.4) Our PEP squad continued a tradition they started rooted in service. With the money they've made, they purchased items to make goodie bags for each basketball player. A much appreciated sendoff!5) Thanks to the district's support, we were able to hire 3 young men (current students) to do our custodial work. They are taking the responsibility head on, communicating with each other and the rest of the staff, completing a daily checklist, and taking pride in the facility.6) Our kinders, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd-4th graders have been working hard to prepare for the upcoming Battle-of-the-Books competition the first week in February!	

Personnel Update

Elementary (K-1): Krista Hobson (Alum!, 3rd year in this position)

Elementary (2-4): Gabrielle Calhoon (1st year in Kokhanok, 2nd year with the district)

Secondary (6-12) Math & Science: Connor Romer (Alum!, 2nd year in this position)

Secondary (6-12) ELA & SS: Kim Phillips (18th year as a teacher, 2nd in KOK, Student-Government advisor)

Special Education: Kimberly Goode (20+ years in education, 2nd year in KOK, PEP Squad advisor)

Tutor: Maggie DeMare

SPED Paraprofessionals: Agnes Mike, Moses Mike, Ona Wassillie, Seth Breazeale

Preschool/Family/Community Coordinator: Jolene Jackinsky

Secretary & Cook's Helper: Irene Wilson

Cook: Laura Andrew

Custodian: Logan Apokedak (lead), Jacob Newyaka, Lenny Cobb

Maintenance & Bus Driver: Johnny Mike

Night Gym Aide: Smitka Delkittie

Elder Lunch Delivery: Jolene Jackinsky

Substitutes: Corbin DeMare, Annie Hester, Roy Andrew, Efftekia Newyaka, Melanie Andrianoff

January Visitors: Anne Hillman (Behavioral Health, Southcentral Foundation)

January Volunteers: none

Classroom Highlights

K-1 classroom highlights: see attached newsletter

2-4 classroom highlights:

2nd, 3rd and 4th grade just wrapped up our middle of the year benchmarks this past month which included MAP state testing in reading, writing, and math and AMPLIFY reading benchmarks. In reading, we have been focusing heavily on doing book studies for Battle of the Books. In math class, we're really fortunate to have Maggie (our student teacher turned tutor!) in our classroom. Our math curriculum spirals, which means that we're able to have Maggie teach a lesson and I teach a lesson, so our students get twice the amount of math lessons a day which is AMAZING for their math scores. I also have my para in during that time, who runs a math game station that gives them a chance to review math concepts in more engaging ways. It's been really awesome to have three-hands on adults supporting a solid hour and 15 minutes of math instruction each and every day.

In science, students are studying forces of motion, gravity, magnets, pushes and pulls. We're applying it to astronomical studies of the Northern lights as well as using pushes and pulls for future studies of dog mushing with the Iditarod coming up.

In writing, we're still working on a lot of the basics. Students are working to identify sentence structure, what makes a complete sentence, and the types of sentence. We're working on opinion pieces in which we will be writing letters to the student government to make strong suggestions for ideas for their funhouse for carnival.

Outside of the classroom, I am always looking for opportunities to support the classroom and get outside resources. Just before winter break, I had a Donors Choose fully funded which got us about \$500 worth of middle level and early reader chapter books. This was really exciting as the kids helped me pick out the books that they wanted to see in the library. Earlier in January, I had another one funded to get some more painting supplies and other art supplies for the art club I run outside of school. That one is sending us about \$700 worth of canvases, paint, and other materials. That club is open to all students on Thursdays from 3:30-5:00pm. I generally have about 8 - 12 students attending regularly.

Secondary ELA/SS highlights:

Levels 6-8 are reading *King George, What Is His Problem?* It's the story of the Revolutionary War and how it began. High school students are reading *Fallout*, which is about what happened after the atomic bomb was built and the beginning of the Cold War. Last semester we read *Bomb*, so this is a continuation of our learning. By reading these books, we are able to hit Reading, Writing, and Social Studies standards. I think most students are enjoying the books (fingers crossed!).

Student government has had two successful fundraisers. The first one was held on January 24th, where we sold sub sandwiches at peewee basketball. The second one was held on January 31st, where we did a drive thru for Indian Tacos. We sold out at both. As we move into February things are going to start picking up. We are going to do at least one more fundraiser before carnival and then prepare for carnival!

Secondary MA/SC highlights:

For an employability community service project, high school students chose to shovel driveways and pack wood for every elder in the community. Students mapped out all 24 households, made phone calls, and created a video of their work. Students will present this video to the LSAC committee.

5th Graders learned how to identify animal tracks, as well as build a story using tracks and multiple animals. Students also learned to identify various animal dung from the local area. The kit was provided by the Museum of the North in Fairbanks.

The high school biology class is currently conducting a citizen science project in which they are measuring ice thickness, water depth, and snow thickness at a specific site on Iliamna Lake. Data is sent to UAF, and is used in various research regarding climate change, forecasting, and community safety. The project is called Fresh Eyes on Ice, and is happening across the state. Kit provided by the team at FEOI.

SPED & PEP Club highlights:

Maggie completed her student teaching and college coursework. She now has a bachelor's degree in elementary education and Special Education PK-12. We are fortunate that she decided to return this semester as a tutor.

We are having monthly training sessions for SpEd Paras to help them understand the science of reading (and writing), and strategies to support students in their classes.

We are supporting 10 students in their classrooms and small group tutoring. One student participated in a BBRCTE course last semester. We also have 1 student receiving SpEd support who is on track to graduate next year. The IEP team is supporting the student in earning credits for graduation and gaining experience that is relevant to his transition to adult life.

The PEP Squad has 8-11 students show up to our meetings. We do not meet weekly, but we meet as needed to prepare for pep rallies and games. The most recent meeting was January 20th. We made locker signs and gym signs for the pep rally, prepared spirit gifts for traveling players, and practiced cheers. The pep rally was on January 21. The Pep Squad led the student body and staff in cheers and gave spirit bags to players. We currently have \$155.68 in our account. We will reinvest in more ice cream to sell at carnival. Projected revenue from carnival sales is \$500 which will fund Pep Squad activities in the Fall of 2026.

LSAC Activity

President: Clint Rawls

Vice-President: Megan Klopp

Secretary: Oxenia "Ocky" Mike

Member: Charlene "Babe" Roehl

Member: Brenda Nowatak

Our first LSAC meeting of the new year took place on Wednesday, January 28th at 4:00pm in Ms. Phillips' classroom. We discussed our food-service program, attendance initiatives, weekly extra-curricular opportunities (hot breakfast, PEP club, book club, art club, peewee basketball), and upcoming events (district Battle-of-the-Books, district basketball tournament, winter carnival, 3D printing workshop). We also discussed the upcoming LSAC trainings that will be taking place this spring (2/17, 3/10, 4/21). It was a well attended meeting with lots of great input/discussion.

Professional Development

We moved our weekly staff meeting to Monday's from 3:45-4:15 so it no longer coincides/interferes with the district elementary PLC meeting on Wednesday's. It has been a nice way to prepare and create a shared vision for the week ahead.

Pupil % Attendance K-12

We currently have 40 students (K-12) enrolled, and our attendance rate was 87% in January.



Students work to unscramble words to form a complete sentence during writing



Students with a bridge
They built after learning
About 'arch' bridges



Students working to see how much weight
their paper bridge can support in science



CLASSROOM NEWSLETTER

ms. krista's class

JANUARY NEWS

Our first month in the new year went by so fast! My students have been preparing for the Battle of the Books competition. Quyana to Ms. Maggie who has started Battle Book Club! Keep studying, battles start on February 5th! We have started Social studies this quarter. The first grade learned about maps and made their own maps of our classroom. Kindergarten learned and made a poster about the difference between needs and wants. Dena'ina Language class started and is on Tuesdays and Thursdays online. If you'd like to register I can help. As a reminder students have recess outside every morning. Please send your child to school with winter gear. If any parents or community members would like to come to my class and read a book to the students, you are always welcome to! Quyana!

YUPI'K PHRASES WE'VE LEARNED

This month we learned some food names: *kelipaq*- bread (1), *sagg'aliq*- cracker (1), *masslaq*- butter, *taryaq*- salt, *muluk'uq*- milk. We also reviewed counting up to 6. Quyana to Beth for teaching Yugtun!



CLASSROOM CURRICULUM UPDATE

In math we studied: Kindergarten worked on describing and comparing measurable attributes, classifying objects and counting the number of objects in each category, analyzing, comparing, creating, and composing shapes, composing and decomposing numbers and relating quantities to 5 and 10 on ten frames to develop fact strategies and counting and recognizing numbers 10-19.

First graders finished a unit in Everyday Math and took the end of unit assessment. We started a new unit and are working on measuring lengths indirectly and by iterating length units, making sense of problems and persevering in solving them, and explaining mathematical thinking clearly and precisely.

In reading we studied: Kindergarten for comprehension we worked retelling a photo essay, comparing and contrasting animals and comparing texts. In phonological awareness we worked on identifying and isolating final sounds, and blending onset and rime in words. In vocabulary and grammar we learned about antonyms. We also worked on high frequency words: is, like, look, this

First graders for comprehension we worked comparing texts, reading and analyzing text, active reading, critical thinking and identifying the plot. In phonological awareness we worked on matching and isolating medial sounds, and segmenting sounds and adding sounds. In phonics we worked on learning to blend sounds orally to produce words. We worked on spelling words with the blends: cl, bl and gl. The high frequency words we worked on: does, eat, live, no, see, why

UPCOMING EVENTS

Art Club on Thursdays at 3:30-5:00

Pee-wee basketball Practice: All elementary- Fridays at 3:30-4:30

Book Club: Wednesdays at 3:30-4:30

BATTLE BOOK DATES:

2nd Grade (Jax, Juanita, Edith, Kavi, Bristol) February 5th at 9AM

1st Grade (Hailey, Mary, Gilbert) February 5th at 12:30PM

Kindergarten (Winter, Iris, Abel) February 6th at 9AM
Family and community members are welcome to watch!

