



AK-TRAILS BOARD REPORT April 2025



Staff Update: AK-TRAILS is expanding! We are pleased to announce the hire of Melanie Pitka as an additional teacher for the 2025-26 school year. Melanie Pitka lives off island, but comes to us with experience in leading the homeschool correspondence program for Hydaburg for the past several years. We look forward

to the many talents Melanie will bring with her to our district!



Sports: AK-TRAILS sent 2 students to the Traditional Games Native Youth Olympics Competition in Juneau this month. This year there were over 270 athletes in attendance from all over Alaska, Canada, and even the lower 48. At the Games, Megan and Tia Christopherson placed first and second in the archery longbow competition, sharing the podium with Bonnie

Campbell from Thorne Bay. Megan also placed first in the wrist carry with a distance of 263' 5". This distance was a new Traditional Games record, shattering the previous record by nearly 70 feet! Altogether, SISD did very well; our high school team placed second overall! While in Juneau, athletes were also able to set aside time to tour UAS and learn about their program offerings.



Testing: State testing and mClass is nearly finished. As anticipated, many AK-TRAILS families opted out. Ones who chose to test completed the assessments at local school sites. Thank you to all who helped orchestrate this—particularly Matt Gore, Robbin Perkins, and Mackenzie Slayton!

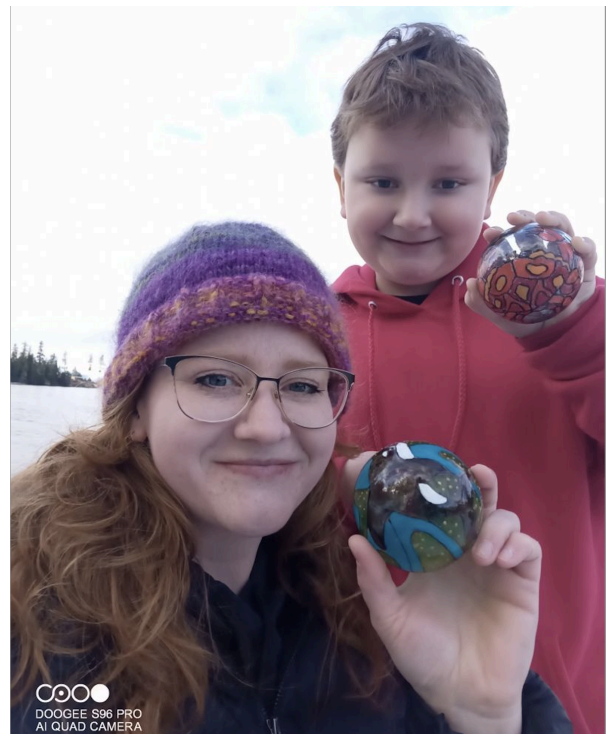
Trips: One AK-TRAILS student is away this week participating in the Alaska Post Secondary Excursion. Some stops include UAF, UAA, Prince William Sound Community College in Valdez, AVTEC, and a carpenter's union. Students in our district have been incredibly lucky to have had these trips available to them these past few years. It gives them an opportunity to see what is out there and develop a more solid plan for their future.

Classes: 3rd quarter has ended. Most families have turned in 3rd quarter work samples, grades, and parent comments. As always, I am so impressed with all that students are learning, the variety of topics that they are exploring, and the

creativity through which families are meeting learning goals! One student plans on becoming a pilot and is in his second year of aviation studies. Another is working on plans to study abroad in Italy as part of an exchange program this coming year. Several students have finished this year's curriculum, and are completing enrichment projects and getting a jumpstart on the next grade. Shown below is a picture of one of our students, Jack Bateman, and his mom, Sarah, exploring the beaches and finding painted glass floats during their P.E. time (don't worry, they only kept one...so the other might still be out there!).

Special News:

- AK-TRAILS has recently inducted 2 students into SISD's gifted & talented program!
- Tia Christopherson applied to attend RAHI (Rural Alaska Honors Institute), and she was selected! RAHI takes place May 27th-July 11th at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Students stay in the dorms, take classes to get a jumpstart on earning college credits, and have opportunities for recreational activities such as river rafting-all for FREE!



Professional Development: Cassandra Christopherson is still finishing up coursework for an Alaska Reads Act Letrs training, and for her class in literacy leadership development. As part of this class, she completed a practicum that included providing literacy coaching guidance to a fellow SISD teacher.

Report Respectfully Submitted by Cassandra Christopherson

SISD Vision:

"Students are equipped to achieve their dreams and aspirations"

SISD Mission:

"Set a foundation by cultivating experiences for students to develop goals and thrive in an ever-changing world."

