

PACE STATEWIDE HOMESCHOOL

February, 2025 Newsletter

Happy February!

I want to begin by acknowledging the hard work our students have put in during the first semester. Teachers and parents have worked hard to get the second quarter grades and work samples submitted and entered. If you have not yet finished these important homeschool requirements, please reach out to your contact teacher.

In an effort to improve communication between the school and our families, I will be sending out important notices directly to families through email and the newsletter. Clear, open lines of communication are essential, and I appreciate the feedback I have received from families. If you have any thoughts, concerns, or suggestions about the PACE program or any other aspect of our school, please don't hesitate to reach out..

Beginning this month, I will highlight the activities and learning of our students across the state. Please email me pictures of what your students are doing in homeschool. They may be showcased in a future newsletter!

Thank you again for your support. We look forward to the rest of the year with your child and are excited to continue this journey together.

Sincerely,

Heather Mendonsa, PACE Principal

hmendonsa@craigschools.com

UPCOMING DATES:

- January 31: Work Samples, Reimbursements requests, and Quarter 2 Grades Due
- February 1: 2025 Enrollment Begins
- February 1: Updated Student Handbook takes effect
- February 10-14: Ketchikan student activity - Valentine's Craft. Drop into the office between 10-2.
- February 12: Anchorage student activity - Meet Girdie the Raven from the Bird Treatment Center! 12:00-2:00 Contact the Anchorage office to preregister. Space is limited.
- March 7: Prince of Wales Island student activity - Swim party at the Craig Aquatic Center! It's Big Toy night, so be prepared for some extra bouncy fun!



Celebrating
our
February
birthdays

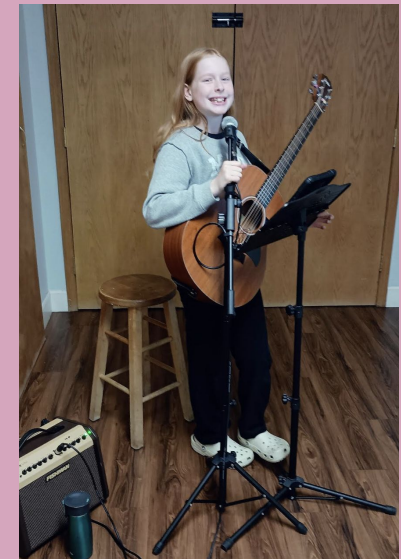


Out and About with Our PACE Students

Want to see your family pictured here? Email a picture with student name(s) and a description to hmendonsa@craigschools.com



Pictured here: (Top left): Hannah mastering her basketweaving skills; (Bottom left): Tate, Payton, and Tyler hiking at Aruu Falls in Northern Uganda; (Bottom middle): Via performing in the Aloha Festival at the Dimond Center; (Bottom right): Ada performing at a community artwalk



Counselor Corner (With Melissa Peavey)



CAREER SPOTLIGHT WEBINAR

Join us to learn about in-
demand careers in Alaska!

February 25–February 27
9:30–11:00 daily

Join us for the whole webinar, or just
tune in for the careers you are
interested in!

atop@serrc.org

♥ The FAFSA Free Application for Federal Student Aid is now available. Follow the link to apply:
<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

♥ The Craig High School will be offering the CollegeBoard SAT test on Saturday, March 8, 2025 in Mrs. Hughes' Language Arts Room starting at 8:00am. Register here by February 21, 2025:
<https://mysat.collegeboard.org/dashboard>
School code is 020020 and testing center is 02125

Alaska Association of School Counselors Trauma-Informed Schools - *As Alaskans we are resilient and on the cutting edge of transforming schools together by supporting the whole student and integrating trauma-engaged practices. New understanding into the impact childhood trauma has on learning and behavior empower schools to provide affected students what they need to succeed and to help break rather than inadvertently perpetuate the cycle of trauma.*

<https://education.alaska.gov/apps/traumawebtoolkit/new-framework-page.html>

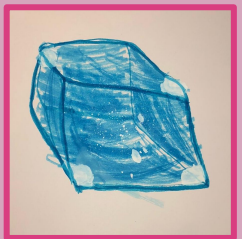
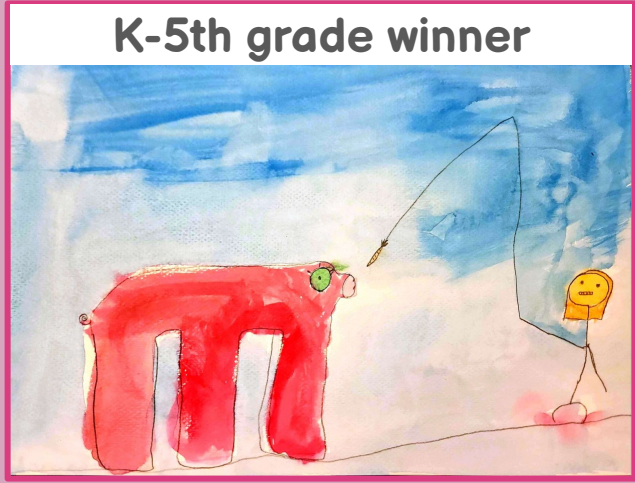
University of Alaska General Scholarship Application: 2025 - 2026:
<https://apply.mykaleidoscope.com/scholarships/AlaskaGeneralApplication2025>

PACE Four-year plan:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dlSa2rqwOnJegIH3ZJZdRpS1AXuHDeIa/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=112792836979559316026&rtpof=true&d=true>

Reach out to me anytime for the latest school counseling resources and scholarship/post-secondary opportunities! Ms. Peavey

Congratulations to our Art Contest Winners!

Here are the winning works of art!
Below are the amazing submissions that made it so difficult for our staff to decide on one winner per grade level category.



Changes to PACE Parent Handbook

January 25, 2025

Dear PACE Families,

We hope this letter finds you well and enjoying the journey of homeschooling with your child(ren). At PACE Statewide Homeschool, we are always striving to improve the educational experience and support we provide to our families. As part of our ongoing commitment to enhancing your homeschool experience while maintaining compliance with state law, we would like to inform you of some important updates to our Parent Handbook. These will take effect on February 1, 2025.

1. Increased Internet Reimbursement: We are pleased to announce an increase in the annual internet reimbursement for each family. Beginning February 1, 2025 you will be eligible for up to \$1,200 per year to help cover the cost of internet access for your homeschool needs. We understand that reliable internet is crucial for remote learning, and we hope this adjustment will provide greater support as you continue to teach and learn at home.

2. Equipment Leasing for Sports and Music: We also encourage families to rent or lease sports and music equipment. This provides an affordable option for students to participate in extracurricular activities without the high upfront costs of purchasing these items. Whether it's a musical instrument or sports gear, leasing ensures your child has the necessary tools for their activities while keeping expenses manageable. These expenses may be reimbursed when they are used directly for instructional purposes as outlined in the student's SLP.

3. Expenditure Limitations: As always, the use of student allotments must align with the instructional needs of the student. We highly recommend that if you are going to make a purchase you are unsure of to contact your teacher and get preapproval. Please be aware of the following limitations when considering how to use student allotments:

- Any item \$99.99 or under is considered to be consumable, unless specified by the PACE Principal. Consumable items are not returned to PACE. PACE will purchase approved items over \$100.00. They will be marked as returnable and remain the property of PACE Statewide Homeschool. They must be returned upon exit from the program.
- Competitive after-school sports/activities will not be reimbursed.
- Personal use items, including but not limited to personal hygiene items, clothing, shoes, toys, legos, and gaming software/media will not be reimbursed.
- Personal household items that would normally be found in a home, including but not limited to furniture, desks, file cabinets, storage units, tools, kitchen items, cookware, utensils, appliances, cleaning supplies, and groceries will not be reimbursed.
- Annual passes or family memberships to a sports or recreational facility. (If the student is provided lessons or is using the facility for instructional time the cost of the pass or membership will be prorated).
- Physical education and music equipment maintenance will not be reimbursed

We encourage you to review the updated handbook to ensure that your expenditures align with these guidelines. If in doubt, call or email your contact teacher. We hope these updates help make your homeschooling experience more enjoyable and accessible. Our goal is to continue supporting your child's education in the best way possible. A copy of the updated handbook is attached to this email, with the changes highlighted for easy viewing.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the numbers below and I am happy to help you.

Sincerely, Heather Mendonsa PACE Principal
(866) 864-5491 Extension 5005
(907) 373-9701 Extension 5005
hmendonsa@craigschools.com



Effective February 1, 2025 The revisions to the Parent Handbook will take effect. Copy and paste the link below to access the handbook. For your convenience, the changes have been highlighted in yellow. Please email your contact teacher or the principal if you have any questions.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cXHUHLwTpuB6A9YehqQ3mvZ4Eus3M4Ra/view?usp=sharing>

**FEBRUARY
TEACHER TIP:
Heather Mendonsa,
Craig Contact
Teacher**



Elizabeth Peratrovich Day is on February 16. This day commemorates the life and legacy of Elizabeth Peratrovich, a Native American civil rights activist from the Tlingit nation. In 1945, she played a pivotal role in the passage of Alaska's Anti-Discrimination Act, making Alaska the first state in the U.S. to pass such legislation. This law prohibited discrimination based on race, creed, color, or national origin in public places, an important step toward equality for Indigenous people and all Alaskans. Elizabeth's passionate testimony before the Alaska Territorial Legislature was instrumental in overcoming fierce opposition to the bill. Her advocacy not only advanced civil rights for Alaska Natives but also inspired future generations. Elizabeth Peratrovich Day honors her enduring impact on the fight for justice and equality in Alaska.

Here are some ways families across the state can learn more about this important event and inspiring woman in Alaska history:

1. For young children: Molly of Denali meets Elizabeth Peratrovich cartoon:
<https://kcts9.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/mod2-21-soc-mollyelizabeth/molly-elizabeth-molly-of-denali/>
2. For older children: Sealaska put out this informative video:
<https://seestoriesalaska.org/videos/elizabeth-peratrovich-the-story-of-an-incredible-life/>
3. Juneau will celebrate Elizabeth Peratrovich's legacy at the City Museum beginning Friday, February 15. Community members are invited to come to the museum to participate in activities and learn more about Elizabeth Peratrovich.
4. Learn more about Elizabeth Peratrovich's life and history with a written history, timeline, and ideas for learning:
<https://nationaltoday.com/elizabeth-peratrovich-day/>
5. Create an Equality Garden (Students can paint rocks with words like "justice," "equality," and "courage" or symbols inspired by Tlingit art)
6. Drawing an example of fairness or kindness in their community.
7. Have older students perform a scripted reenactment of Elizabeth Peratrovich's testimony during the 1945 debate over the Anti-Discrimination Act (see Teachers Pay Teachers)
8. Indigenous Language Lesson - Teach students a few words or phrases in Tlingit, such as: "Gunalchéesh" (Thank you) or "Haa Shagóon" (Our Ancestors)
9. Discuss the importance of preserving Alaska Native languages and how they connect to Elizabeth's culture.
10. Equality Through Art
11. Symbolic artwork representing equality, like linked hands or scales of justice.
12. Show the Reuniting Our Nation documentary (Can be purchased on Amazon Prime)
13. Poetry or Writing Activity
14. Provide students with the prompt: "What does equality mean to me?"
15. Create a timeline or map in the classroom that shows key events leading to the passage of the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945. (see the link on #4)
16. Organize a tasting of Alaska Native foods, like salmon, fry bread, or berries.
17. Read a children's book like Elizabeth Leads the Way by Dahlov Ipcar or Fighter in Velvet Gloves (for older kids).

These activities can make the celebration engaging, educational, and culturally respectful, ensuring students not only learn about Elizabeth Peratrovich but also embody her values in meaningful ways.