

JANUARY 2026

MEADE RIVER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Greetings From the Principal's Desk

Meade River School welcomes donations of any picture of our elders. I spend a lot of my day in the lobby and it's always a delight for guests to reminisce about friends, family, and experiences in and around Atqasuk.

Our Iñupiaq value of the month for January is Paammaagiigñiq. Every morning we take a moment to reflect on that value, and share examples of how cooperation is how things work at Meade River School. My sincere congratulations to the Eagles of the Week who demonstrate cooperation in their classes.



Eagles of the Week

Students Honored for Exemplifying Iñupiaq Value of Paammaagiigñiq this Week



Linnea Freitas
ECE / Kindergarten



Aqutaq Bodfish
1st / 2nd Grade



Xenia Frankson
3rd / 4th Grade



Renea Kippi
5th Grade



Mason Panik-Bordeaux
Middle School



Adrian Kippi Kagak
Middle School



Scarlett Bodfish
High School



Levi Boskofsky
High School

Meade River School Highlights

Meade River RoboEagles Soar to Success

The Meade River RoboEagles made our school incredibly proud at the **FIRST LEGO League Challenge Regional Tournament** held on **January 17, 2026**, at Eben Hopson Middle School in Utqiagvik, Alaska. The team earned the **Robot Performance Award and achieved the highest score of 180 points**, a testament to their focus, teamwork, and strong problem-solving skills. The RoboEagles were proudly represented by **Eli** and **Rob**, whose dedication and collaboration stood out to judges and officials alike.

Their impressive performance and exemplary demonstration of FIRST LEGO League Core Values earned them a formal invitation to compete at the **Alaska Robot Rendezvous on February 21, 2026, in Anchorage**. Kathleen Fisher shared her praise, stating, **"The judges and state officials were so impressed with your team and how they modeled the Core Values."** She also noted the excitement and support from district leadership as the team prepares for the state competition.

This remarkable achievement reflects months of hard work, perseverance, and the dedicated guidance of their coach, **Teacher Mecheal**. Congratulations to the Meade River RoboEagles on this outstanding accomplishment and best of luck as they take this exciting next step at the state level!



Teacher Mecheal with Eli and Rob during the regional awarding ceremony, celebrating their well-earned recognition.



NYO Team Brings Home Silver at Last Weekend's Competition

Our NYO team had an exciting and successful showing at the NYO competition concluded last weekend. Representing our community with pride and determination, **Sarah Bodfish** earned second place in the **Dene Stick Pull**, demonstrating strength, skill, and perseverance. The team—composed of **Coach Sean, Sarah Bodfish, Kayanuk, Billy, and Cameron**—worked hard throughout the event and supported one another every step of the way. We are incredibly proud of their effort, sportsmanship, and commitment, and we congratulate them on a job well done.



Strong Performances Highlight Basketball Season

Our basketball teams showcased outstanding effort and growth this season, making our school proud. The girls' team delivered an excellent performance, led by **Scarlett Bodfish**, who scored the highest points in the entire state of Alaska, a remarkable achievement that reflects her skill, dedication, and hard work. The boys' team also demonstrated great performance and noticeable improvement, especially in their most recent game, where their confidence, teamwork, and determination were clearly on display. Both teams showed sportsmanship and perseverance, and we celebrate their accomplishments and continued growth.

Meade River School Highlights: Engaging Activities and Achievements Across All Grades

ECE & KINDERGARTEN WITH TEACHER JULIE

So proud of my PreK and Kindergarten class demonstrating compassion by inclusion. In our classroom, all children are welcomed, valued, and supported regardless of their abilities, background, languages, or learning style. My classroom may appear less structured in the afternoon but to the trained eye, one can see that my students are growing and learning social and emotional learning skill through play and being a good citizen.



1ST & 2ND GRADE WITH TEACHER KRYSTINA

Since returning from winter break, our classroom has jumped right back into learning! Students have begun an exciting astronomy unit, where we are exploring

the sun, moon, and stars while building background knowledge and vocabulary through reading, discussion, and hands-on activities. In math, we are working on measurement by comparing lengths and heights using a variety of tools, encouraging students to estimate, measure, and explain their thinking. It has been wonderful to see students engaged, curious, and eager to share their learning as we start the new year together.

Meade River School Highlights: Engaging Activities and Achievements Across All Grades

3RD & 4TH GRADE WITH TEACHER CARLA

Our class has officially kicked off CKLA Unit 4: **Eureka—Inventions!**, and they are already buzzing with excitement. We began the unit by learning about the biographies of famous inventors, exploring who they were, what inspired them, and how their inventions changed the world. This unit places a strong emphasis on collaboration, giving students many opportunities to work together, share ideas, ask questions, and learn from one another.

Through teamwork, thoughtful discussions, and hands-on activities, students are having a lot of fun while building a deeper understanding of how inventions are created and why innovation matters.



5TH GRADE WITH TEACHER MECHEAL

Students used models and scale to explore how far space is and the objects we find beyond Earth. Using linking cubes, they created scaled models to represent the distances of familiar landmarks and space objects such as Mount Everest, where space begins, the International Space Station, and the Hubble Space Telescope.

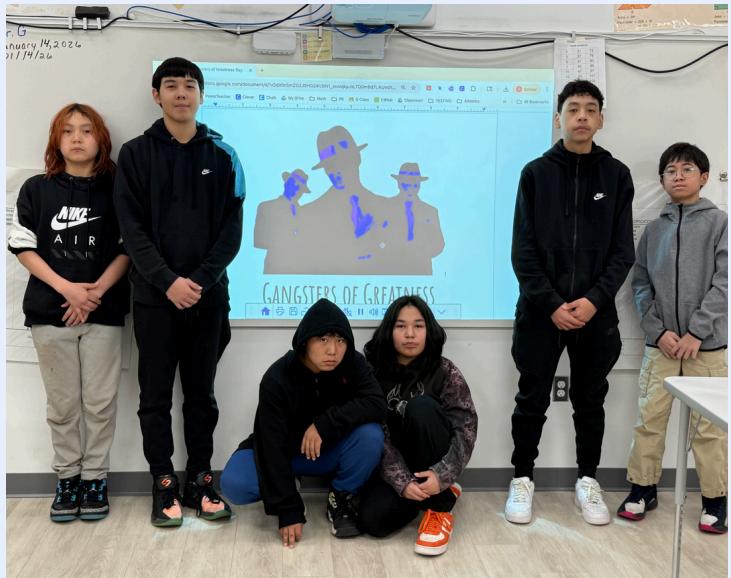
This hands-on activity helped students visualize and compare distances that are normally hard to imagine, deepening their understanding of scale, measurement, and the vastness of space through active exploration and discussion.

Meade River School Highlights: Engaging Activities and Achievements Across All Grades

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL WITH TEACHER GRETA

In our middle school and high school Tumitchiat Sivunmun classes, students have been divided into teams for the semester. One team—made up of Colin Ahkivgak-Agnasagga, Cameron Fishel, Alexis Hopson Brower, Eli Kingik, Adrian Kippi Kagak, Clayborne Kippi, Adam Polte, and Rob Punla—is now working with Dr. G.

This week, students completed a team interest inventory and researched ideas for group names. After thoughtful discussion, they proudly chose the name **“Gangsters of Greatness.”** Their team motto is: *“Together we will conquer them all!”*



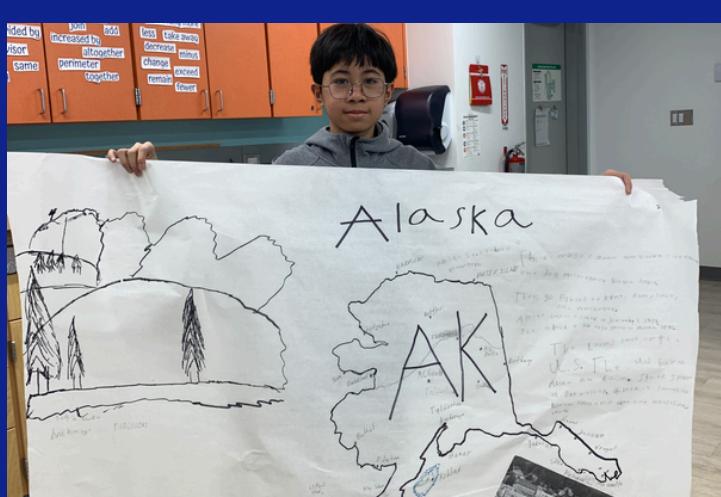
Dr. G's Gangsters of Greatness established three goals for the spring semester:

1. Maintain **90% or higher attendance** each week
2. Earn an **average weekly grade of 80% or higher**
3. Arrive to class on time **94% or more each week**

The team is currently designing a team flag, which will be displayed in the classroom once completed. Dr. G's Gangsters of Greatness are motivated and aiming for a successful spring semester!

They also identified their top three safety rules:

1. Be aware of your surroundings
2. No horseplay
3. Wear your shoes



In High School Social Studies, students are learning about the history and government that has effected alaska and the North Slope. This week we have focused on Russian colonialism in Alaska, why Russian sold Alaska to the US, the Dawes Act, and Elizabeth Peratovich, a Tlinkit native who gained Alaska natives equal rights before any US state achieved equal rights.

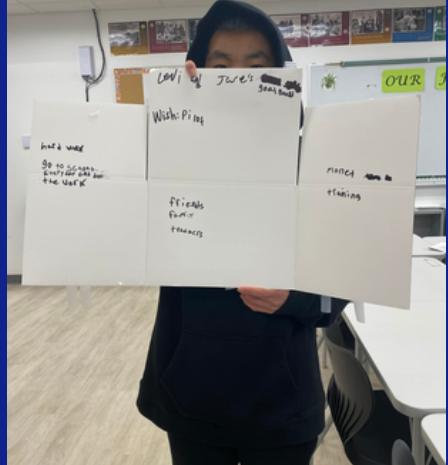
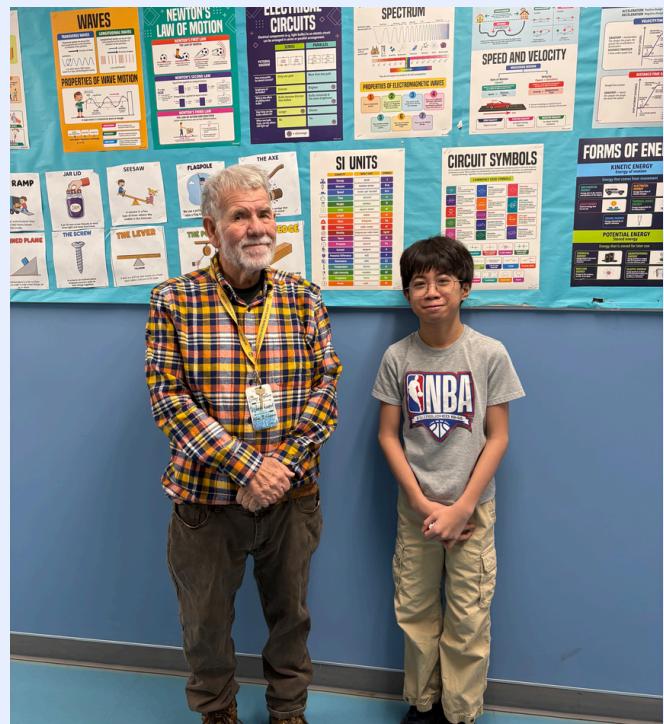
MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH TEACHER JAMES

In Middle School Social Studies, the class is learning about US geography. This week students are working on posters of an individual state. They will include information on important cities, rivers, tourism, and major industries.

Meade River School Highlights: Engaging Activities and Achievements Across All Grades

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL WITH TEACHER JOHN

Mr. John MacNeish is a veteran science and math teacher currently teaching high school and middle school science. His middle school earth and space science classes have been studying rivers and water systems, while his high school physical science classes have been focusing on motion and vectors. Before teaching in Atqasuk, Mr. MacNeish taught for over 30 years in Alaska and South Carolina. Most recently, he served as a missionary teacher in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, bringing a wealth of experience and global perspective to his classroom.



MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL WITH TEACHER ALMA

Group "C" Team Spotlight

Rihanna and her teammates proudly created their group, Happy Gang. Together, they established the following safety rules: no bullying, respect one another, and wear shoes always.

The team set clear goals to guide their success:

- Team Goal 1: Maintain at least 90% attendance each week.
- Team Goal 2: Achieve an average weekly grade of 80% or higher.
- Team Goal 3: Arrive to class on time at least 90% of the time.

Their team motto is "Be Kind — It's Gangster." The team song is "Macarena," and their flag design is currently in progress.

Announcements

BARROW "LET'S PLAY BALL" TOURNAMENT 2026

JANUARY 29-31, 2026

TEAMS: NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH ISD -GAMES PLAYED AT BARROW HIGH SCHOOL

ALL TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

ALL HIGH SCHOOL GAMES WILL STREAM ON:

<https://fan.hudl.com/usa/ak/barrow/organization/18523/barrow-high-school?shared=true>



Thursday, January 29, 2026

Second Team Listed - HOME

1:45 PM.....**Meade River HS Girls** vs Alak HS Girls

4:15 PM.....Barrow HS JV Boys vs **Meade River HS Boys**

Friday, January 30, 2026

Second Team Listed - HOME

5:30 PM.....Kali HS Girls vs **Meade River HS Girls**

6:45 PM.....**Meade River HS Boys** vs Nuiqsut HS Boys

Saturday, January 31, 2026

Second Team Listed - HOME

3:00 PM.....Nuiqsut HS Girls vs **Meade River HS Girls**

6:45 PM.....Kali HS Boys vs **Meade River HS Boys**

Link to full schedule of the High School Division of the 3rd Annual Ayuktaqta Invitational.

<https://scheduler.leaguelobster.com/2538045/ayuktaqta-lets-play-ball-hs-tournament/2026/>



Announcements

Middle School Tournament 2026
January 29-31, 2026
Teams: NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH ISD
Games played at HOPSON MS

MIDDLE SCHOOL GAMES MAY BE STREAMED - TBA

Thursday, January 29, 2026
Second Team Listed - HOME

7:00 PM.....**Meade River MS Boys** vs **HMS C Boys**

Friday, January 30, 2026
Second Team Listed - HOME

1:00 PM.....**Tikigaq MS Boys** vs **Meade River MS Boys**

4:00 PM.....**Meade River MS Boys** vs **HMS B MS Boys**

Saturday, January 31, 2026
Second Team Listed - HOME

1:00 PM.....**Meade River MS Boys** vs **Kali MS Boys**

Link to full schedule of the Middle School Division

<https://scheduler.leaguelobster.com/2537846/ayuktaqta-lets-play-ball-ms-tournament/2026/>



MIDDLE SCHOOL RULES:

- Games will be TWO 20-minute running halves with the clock stopping in the last minute of each half.
- 2 timeouts each half and they will not carry over.
- Once a team gets to 5 team fouls, it will be a double bonus for the other team for the rest of that half.

Announcements

Upcoming Tiñmiaqpak Uumman (Eagle Heart) Invitational Basketball Tournament & Spirit Week

Get ready, Eagles! 🦅 On February 13–14, 2026, Meade River School will host our final home basketball tournament of the season, welcoming teams from Point Lay and Anaktuvuk Pass. Game schedules will be shared soon—stay tuned!

To kick off the excitement, we're celebrating Spirit Week leading up to the tournament. Show your school pride and join the fun all week long:

- **Monday:** 🧑‍🤝‍🧑 Twin Day
- **Tuesday:** 😴 Pajama Day
- **Wednesday:** 🔍 Throwback Day
- **Thursday:** 🧦 Crazy Sock Day
- **Friday:** 🦅 Spirit Day – Wear your Meade River shirt
 - 🎉 Pep Rally: Community invited! (Time to be announced)

Let's fill the week with school pride, positive energy, and loud support for our players as we welcome our visiting teams. Go Eagles! ❤️🏀

Announcements

Science Fair Coming Soon!



Our school will be hosting its annual **Science Fair on March 28 in the gym**. This exciting event gives students the opportunity to explore scientific questions, think creatively, and showcase their learning. All classes are expected to participate, and students may complete projects individually, in pairs, or in groups of up to three. We look forward to celebrating our students' curiosity, effort, and innovative ideas—mark your calendars and start planning!

Spring Break Announcement

Mark your calendars! Spring Break is coming up from March 9–13. There will be no school during this time, giving students and families a perfect opportunity to relax, recharge, and enjoy some well-deserved fun. We can't wait to see everyone back at school after the break, refreshed and ready for new adventures in learning!



Little Eagles Basketball



Get ready, basketball fans! **The Little Eagles Basketball** will take place on **March 6, 20, and 27 @ 3:00PM**. Come cheer on our talented young athletes as they showcase their skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship on the court. Don't miss the excitement—let's support our Little Eagles and celebrate their hard work!



2025 - 2026 Meade River School Calendar