

What's Your Story?

news for & from alaska's middle schoolers vol. 7 no. 1

Fall 2010

I want to be an electrician & a professional soccer player.

PAGE 5

I want to be the founder of a space tourism company or a genetic engineer.

PAGE 10

I want to be a doctor.

PAGE 6

I want to be an aviation engineer, car engineer or work in aviation electronics.

PAGE 2



Alaska Performance SCHOLARSHIP

Did you know there's a new scholarship for college or career training in Alaska that any Alaskan can earn by taking challenging classes in high school and earning good grades and test scores?

The Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) was created in 2010, proposed by Governor Parnell and approved by the Alaska Legislature.

HOW DO YOU GET IT?

Get started off in high school on the right foot! Plan to follow one of these curriculum options for success:

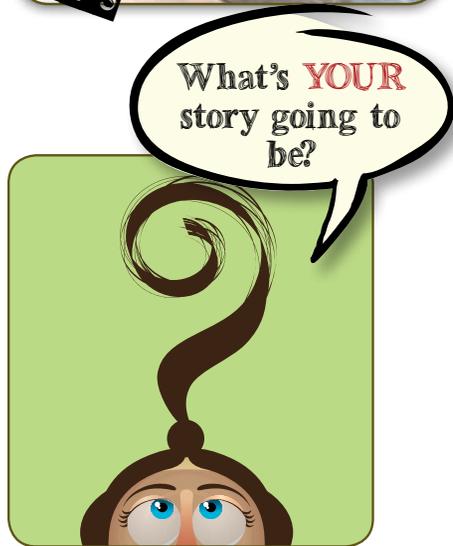
★ **Math and Sciences** - Four years each of math, English, science, and four years of social studies (one of which can be substituted with foreign language, Alaska Native language, fine arts, or cultural heritage).

★ **Social Sciences and Language** - Three years of math, four years of English, three years of science, four years of social studies, and two years of the same foreign language or Alaska Native language.

Make sure you study hard and earn the highest GPA and test scores you can--the better your results, the larger your scholarship! To learn more about the APS, go to aps.alaska.gov.

Inside this issue:

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Want to tell your story?
See back cover for more details.

AKadvantage.alaska.gov



PRSRRT STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ANCHORAGE AK
PERMIT #69

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
800 East Dimond Blvd., Ste. 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99515

I want to work in aviation...



JONATHON KINGSLAND

7th Grade, Seward Middle School, Seward

Twelve year-old “Jonny One-Wheel” loves to ride his unicycle. Jon credits George Peck and his son Chris for inspiring him to become a great unicycle rider. His two friends, Maddy Rea and Peter Mow also motivated him to ride. Johnny also likes to make things out of wire, and really enjoys math and industrial arts.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

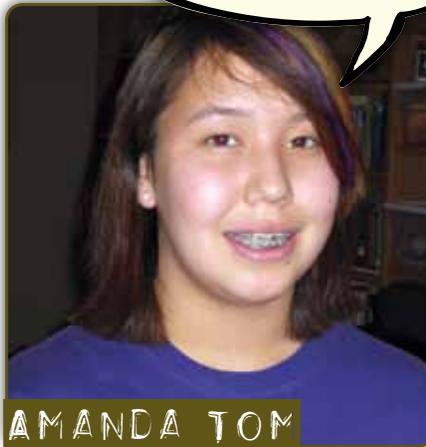
“I want to be an aviation engineer, car engineer or work in aviation electronics.”

Why are you interested in those fields?

“They have to do with fixing engines, electronics and math. They look like fun jobs where I can use my brains and hands.”



I want to be a pilot or a nurse.



AMANDA TOM

8th Grade, Effie Kokrine Charter School, Fairbanks

W O R D

M A T H R E L Y
E B O A P N S M
P I L L F G B E
A V I A T I O N
L I P S O N J A
M S R K L E C S
E C C A R E E R
R H T I F R L E
C O L L E G E F
A O Y V I N T Y
S L B M I L C O
H O D E G R E E

F I N D

Find these words in any direction:

- Career Pilot
- Palmer Aviation
- Alaska Rely
- Engineer Science
- Jobs Air
- Degree School
- College Climb
- Math Cash



“When all else fails, it is your education that you will rely on.”

MELISSA CABILAN

Melissa was born in Kodiak and lived in Cordova, Palmer, Wasilla and Anchorage. She attended Cordova Junior/Senior High School and Colony Middle School and graduated from Palmer High School.

What do you do in your job?

“I am working as an enroute air traffic control specialist. I work with each aircraft after they have departed and see to it that they safely climb to their requested altitude and are cleared on course. It is also my job to monitor aircraft as they fly through my air space to their destination to make sure they do not get too close to another aircraft.”

What’s the best thing about it?

“I like going to work every day and being challenged, everything is constantly moving and changing. No two situations are exactly alike and you have to be able to come up with a plan of action and be willing to change it at a moment’s notice if it is not working.”

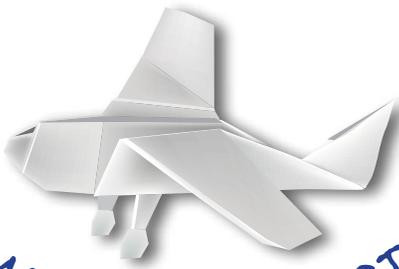
Advice for middle school students?

“Take as many classes and learn as much as you can in high school. If you wait until you get to college, you will have to pay cold hard cash to take some of the same classes. Take education very seriously. When all else fails, it is your education that you will rely on.”



High School Graduated:
Palmer HS, Palmer, AK
College Graduated:
University of Alaska Anchorage
Current Career:
Enroute Air Traffic Control Specialist





AVIATION PROGRAMS in ALASKA

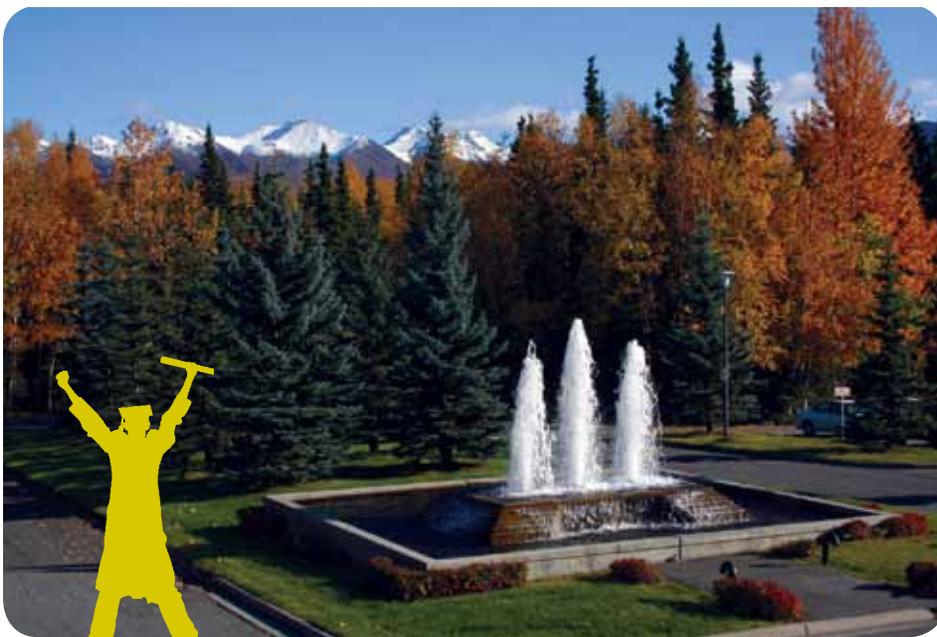
Many of you probably know that Alaska boasts the most pilots per capita in the country. But there are many other careers in the aviation industry in our state, such as aviation mechanics who keep planes functioning properly, or air traffic controllers who direct both small and big planes that fly in and out of Alaska's skies.

Check out these Alaska aviation programs:

- ✓ **University of Alaska Fairbanks** - The aviation maintenance technology program is one of the only FAA-certified, Part-147 school programs in the nation that can be completed in just 12 months. The program offers an associate's degree in aviation maintenance and certificates in airframe and/or powerplant. Check them out at: www.tvc.uaf.edu/programs/amt/index.html.
- ✓ **University of Alaska Anchorage** - The aviation technology program offers an associate (two-year degree) of applied science and bachelors (four-year degree) of science in air traffic control, aviation administration and professional piloting. They also offer a certificate in aviation maintenance. For more information, visit their Web site at: www.uaa.alaska.edu/ctc/programs/academic/aviation/index.cfm.

DO YOU KNOW which Alaska college campus this is?

Can you picture yourself here?



Answer: Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage.

Visit us on MySpace or Facebook!

We have updates on events across the state and information about top Alaska careers!

www.myspace.com/alaskadvantage

www.facebook.com/alaskadvantage



Don't forget to get permission from your parents before creating a MySpace/ Facebook account. MySpace and Facebook are for teens 13 and older.



Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 8 | | 6 | |
| 8 | 3 | 1 | | 6 | | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| 6 | | 7 | 1 | | 4 | 2 | | 3 |
| 9 | | 2 | | 8 | 1 | | 5 | |
| 1 | 6 | | 4 | | 5 | 9 | | 8 |
| | | 8 | 2 | | 3 | 7 | 1 | |
| 7 | | 6 | 5 | | 9 | 8 | | 2 |
| | 4 | 5 | 8 | | | 6 | 9 | 1 |
| 2 | 8 | | 3 | 1 | | 4 | 7 | 5 |

How to play: Fill in the blank spaces with the numbers 1 - 9. Every row, column and 3 x 3 box must contain all nine digits with no number repeated.



Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education Your State Higher Education Agency

The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education promotes access to and success in education and career training beyond high school.

This *What's your Story?* middle school newspaper provides encouragement and resources for students about to enter high school.

For more information, please visit our Web site at AKadvantage.alaska.gov.



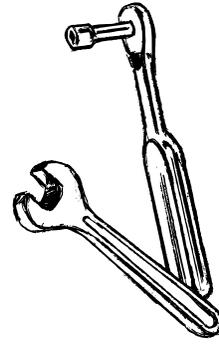
I want a hands-on career...



JAMES ATWOOD

High School Graduated:
Wasilla High School,
Wasilla, AK
Current College:
AVTEC, Seward, AK
Area of Study:
Combination Welding

“I have an excellent instructor & class is fun.”



I want to be an ice road truck driver and auto mechanic.

ETHAN OMAR SCATES

7th Grade, Romig Middle School, Anchorage



“I grew up in Big Lake, Alaska. I have two brothers and two sisters. I went to Big Lake Elementary and graduated from Wasilla High School.”

Any special career interests when growing up?

“When I was young, I wanted to be a lawyer. I loved to argue and that’s what I

thought a lawyer did. As I got older, I realized that there was more to being a lawyer than arguing, and I don’t like pushing paper. When I got out of high school, I decided I wanted to be a diesel mechanic. I spent a year at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA), working on my diesel certification. I spent about two years working in the field and decided that was no longer what I wanted to do.”

Specific area of study at college?

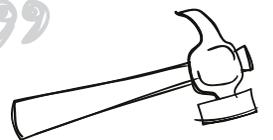
“I am currently in school for welding. I’m enrolled in the AVTEC Combination Welding program. I enjoy everything about welding. I have an excellent instructor, and class is fun. It can be exhausting at times, but it’s worth it.”

CHECK OUT AVTEC!

AVTEC (Alaska’s Institute of Technology), located in Seward (south of Anchorage on the Kenai Peninsula), is a component of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. To learn more about this school and its many programs, visit AVTEC’s Web site at www.avtec.edu.



“Others take note of your hard work and dedication.”



High School Graduated:
East Anchorage HS,
Anchorage, AK

College Graduated:
AVTEC, Seward, AK

Current Career:
Apprentice Carpenter,
Anchorage

TIM MALCHOFF



“After high school, my plan was to take a year off to kick back and relax back home in Port Graham, a small village on the Kenai Peninsula across the bay from Homer. My parents asked me what my plans were. I didn’t know. I wanted to go to college for business management or go to work in Valdez on an oil response team like my uncle does. But I felt that I wasn’t prepared for all that. By the end of summer, my parents talked me into taking a construction trades class for nine months at AVTEC in Seward.”

Opportunities after college?

“After I finished school in AVTEC, I started working in Cordova, repairing tin roofs for the housing four-plexes. It was a small job that lasted a few months, but I made good money for the winter. I decided I needed more training and am now a second-year apprentice with the Southern Alaska Carpenters Training Center program in Anchorage. It’s a four-year apprenticeship and you work a certain amount of hours towards becoming a journeyman carpenter while taking part-time classes once a year.”

Advice for students?

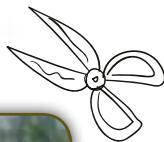
“Don’t give up, I never did. I’ve worked hard and put myself through lots of training and hours to be where I’m at. The more you work, the more satisfied you will be and especially when others take note of your hard work and dedication. When you put yourself through something challenging and complete it, it gives you the confidence and determination to succeed. You may not know it but someone is always looking at you, you set an example to everyone in your community, prove yourself to them that you have what it takes. There’s always going to be rough times and you’re going to deal with a lot of different and sometimes difficult people. But stick it out, don’t give up and give it your all.”

I want to be a Hair Stylist.



MARTHA GALLO

7th Grade, Polaris K-12, Anchorage



Unsure of
What You
Want To Be
When You
Grow Up?



ASK PEOPLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

There are many different careers in our communities. One of the best ways to learn about your options is from people who work in them. That person might be a parent, relative, teacher, or family friend. If you don't know anyone who works in the area that interests you, ask your parents or teachers for some ideas on who you could ask about the work they do.

Here are some questions you can ask them:

What do you do in your career?

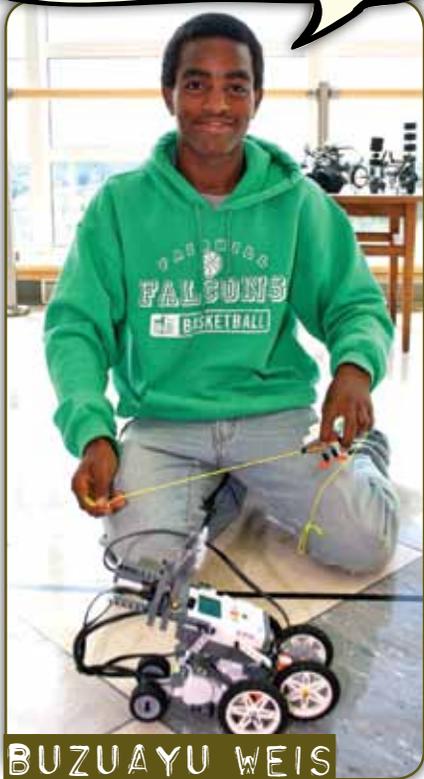
What do you like most and least about your job?

What did you do to prepare for your career?

What subjects/activities will help prepare for this career?

Is there any other advice you can give me?

I want to be an electrician & a professional soccer player.



BUZAYU WEIS

8th Grade, IDEA Home School, Fairbanks



WORD FIND

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | A | T | H | O | A | L | K |
| C | D | K | A | Y | P | P | E |
| A | V | T | E | C | P | K | N |
| R | I | A | R | H | R | Y | A |
| E | C | N | E | O | E | O | I |
| E | E | P | W | M | N | U | F |
| R | W | M | A | E | T | H | E |
| L | E | J | C | R | I | A | K |
| D | L | S | O | T | C | A | C |
| T | D | O | L | B | E | S | L |
| R | I | A | L | A | S | K | A |
| A | N | S | E | M | H | E | S |
| M | G | R | G | S | I | L | S |
| S | P | Y | E | J | P | O | B |

Find these words above in any direction:

- | | |
|----------------|---------|
| AVTEC | Class |
| Career | Fun |
| Advice | Kenai |
| Math | Welding |
| Alaska | Homer |
| College | Smart |
| Work | Ask |
| Job | You |
| Apprenticeship | |



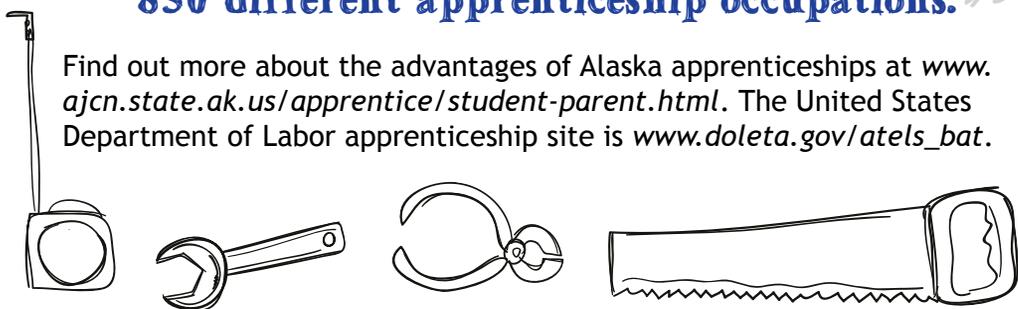
What is a Registered Apprenticeship?

If you like to learn new things in a hands-on way, you may find that an apprenticeship is the perfect career path for you. Apprenticeships provide people with skills and knowledge for specific jobs. Apprentices spend part of their time in the classroom and part of their time on the job. Depending on the occupation, an apprenticeship lasts one to six years.

Apprenticeships are available in many different career fields, including construction, operating engineers/mechanics, electricians, plumbing, culinary arts, and painting.

“Nationally, there are more than 850 different apprenticeship occupations.”

Find out more about the advantages of Alaska apprenticeships at www.ajcn.state.ak.us/apprentice/student-parent.html. The United States Department of Labor apprenticeship site is www.doleta.gov/atels_bat.



Do the Math—Saving Matters!

No matter what financial assistance may be available in the future, you can take action now to make a difference.

Alaskans are extremely fortunate to have a potential source for saving every year—investing part or all of your Permanent Fund Dividend in a savings account or college savings program is a great financial step to achieving your education and career goals.

Just think—if you start in 7th grade and put just half of your PFD into an investment account you can have almost \$5,000 when you are ready to start college. If you invest the entire dividend you'll have almost \$10,000 to get you on the road to success.*

For more tips on saving smart for college visit Alaska's college savings plan online at www.uacollegesavings.com.

*Based on average PFD of \$1,400 with 5% interest compounded monthly.

I want a career in medicine...



"I want to be an orthodontist, focusing on children. Through my work, I want to give back to society by donating at least two sets of braces each year to kids whose families cannot afford the costs."

MASLIN PALMER-WIRUM

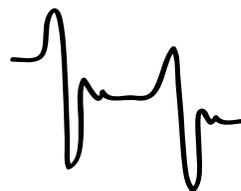
8th Grade, Polaris K-12, Anchorage

I want to be a doctor.



CYNTHIA KIM

7th Grade, Hopson Middle School, Barrow



I want to be a doctor or a child advocacy attorney.



MAKANI ZAIMA

8th Grade, Adak Public School, Adak

I want to be a medical doctor, mechanical engineer, or soccer player.



JAVIER ACUNA

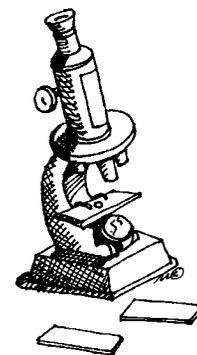
7th Grade, Romig Middle School, Anchorage

I want to be a doctor or dentist.



NICOLE PATTERSON

7th Grade, Hopson Middle School, Barrow



“Life is what you make of it.”



ALEX JORGENSEN

8th Grade, Polaris K-12, Anchorage

"I want to be a doctor. I want to help people in need and save lives. I have always been interested in the human anatomy and how the body functions."



MIHNE KIM



High School Graduated:
Service HS, Anchorage, AK

College Graduated:
University of Alaska Anchorage, B.S. in Mathematics, Minor in Chemistry

Current College:
University of Washington (WWAMI)

Major:
Medical Student

What do Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana & Idaho (WWAMI) have in common?

Universities in these five northwestern states collaborate on a medical school program through the University of Washington.

Alaska became part of this collaboration in 1971.

- Twenty Alaskans are accepted into the program each year.
- Alaska's Medical School ranks No.1 among primary-care medical schools for the 17th straight year.
- Alaskans can complete three out of four years of medical school in Alaska through WWAMI.
- Check out their Web site at *biomed.uaa.alaska.edu* - they have summer enrichment programs for high school students who are interested in medical careers, something to consider when you are in high school.

"I am a first generation Korean-American, born in Anchorage and raised by a single mother. I did not learn English until I started school because at home we spoke Korean. When I wanted to become a doctor, I took part in the mentorship program provided by the Anchorage School District with a pediatrician and an emergency room doctor. I also attended a high school summer program called U-DOC at UAA where I spent six weeks taking classes, shadowing doctors and living in the dorms. When I graduated from high school, I decided to go to UAA after receiving a scholarship through the UA Scholars Program. I am in my first year of medical school through the WWAMI program at UAA."

Biggest influence in life?

"My mom is my biggest role model. She did not grow up with much and she made a lot of sacrifices to make sure my sister and I had everything she never had. She taught me that with hard work and dedication, you can accomplish anything."

Any special career interests when you were younger?

"My career aspirations were constantly changing. I wanted to be a cowgirl and ride a horse into the sunset. I wanted to be an astronaut and travel to Pluto. I wanted to be a fighter pilot and zip through the clouds. But the one career I kept coming back to was being a doctor. I never had any special reasons for becoming a doctor; I just wanted to be one. One doctor best described my feelings perfectly: *A calling means something you simply must do, for reasons you cannot name.*"

Advice for middle school students?

"It is perfectly fine to not know what the rest of your life is going to be like. What is important is to keep your mind open. Start taking advantage of opportunities to explore different professions by joining clubs, volunteering, and/or attending summer educational programs. Life is what you make of it."

I want to be a pediatric doctor, chef, author, nurse or historian.



EMILY BROCKMAN

8th Grade, Seward Middle School, Seward

"I'm originally from Dillingham, Alaska. My favorite subjects in school are social studies, language arts, PE, science and shop. There are a lot of things I'd like to major in but my first priority is in the medical field. I want to be able to help people, to feel like I can make a difference in someone or anyone's life."

What person has inspired you most in your life and why?

"I really don't have just one person that I mainly look up to. It's mostly choices that people all around me make, whether small or extraordinary, that truly inspire me."



High School Graduated:

Homer HS, Homer, AK

College Graduated:

University of Alaska Anchorage; AAS Applied Sciences in Radiologic Technology

Current Career:

Radiologic Technologist, Providence Alaska Medical Center, Anchorage

"I love working with kids..."

High School Graduated:

Service HS, Anchorage, AK

College Graduated:

Colorado State University

Current Career:

Occupational Therapist, Providence Alaska Medical Center, Anchorage

JENNY ARMENTROUT

"I love working with kids and I love that my job allows me to use both my academic/scientific side and my creative side."

What do you currently do in your career?

"I am an occupational therapist (OT) at the children's hospital at Providence and I also supervise the pediatric and neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) therapy teams. As an OT, my job is to help children who, for a variety of reasons, are not able to participate in all of the things children normally do - play, go to school, get dressed in the morning, etc. Some children may have a diagnosis like autism or developmental delay, while others may have an illness or have been in an accident. In order to help a child who has sustained a nerve injury to an arm, I have to understand the anatomy of the arm and how that affects the child's ability to use his/her arm and hand. I also have to think of a game or activity that will be both fun for the child and will work on increasing the hand function. These types of challenges motivate me!"

Most rewarding about your career?

"Helping children and their families overcome huge obstacles. Sometimes I have the privilege of working with a child over



The swing Jenny is sitting on is called a bolster swing. It is used to strengthen arm and trunk muscles, as well as to provide a variety of movement experiences to the kids.

the course of several years. This gives me the chance to be an integral part of a child's journey from injury to recovery and it allows me to build lasting relationships with the child and their family."

Most challenging?

"It is often hard to deal with emotions that come up when working with children who have sustained significant injuries or who are sick with a disease like cancer. It always reminds me that life isn't fair and that bad things happen to great people. But, I am also reminded that children are really tough, and that they have an amazing desire to live, play, and just be kids!"

"Helping people is what health care is all about."

TERRY SHROYER

"I was born and raised in Homer. After high school I attended UAA where I received my Associate's Degree of Applied Sciences in Radiologic Technology."

Tell us about your career?

"Prior to becoming an x-ray technician, I worked as a transport team tech where I would get patients from the various floors of the hospital and bring them to their exams. This job allowed me to work with patients first hand and gave me a feel for my dream job as an x-ray tech. I currently work as a radiologic technologist, or x-ray tech, at the Providence Alaska Medical Center. Although we do perform plain



film images, like when someone hurts their arm and they need to know if it is broken, most of our day is spent assisting doctors with surgical cases, as well as special doctors, known as radiologists, in viewing the internal structures of the body using unique x-rays."

Most rewarding and challenging?

"What I like best is working with people as a team, with co-workers and patients. Working with people as patients can be very challenging. You see people at their worst, and they usually are not happy about it. It takes a lot of energy to be in a situation like that, but if you enjoy helping others, you can make their situation better. Helping people is what health care is all about."

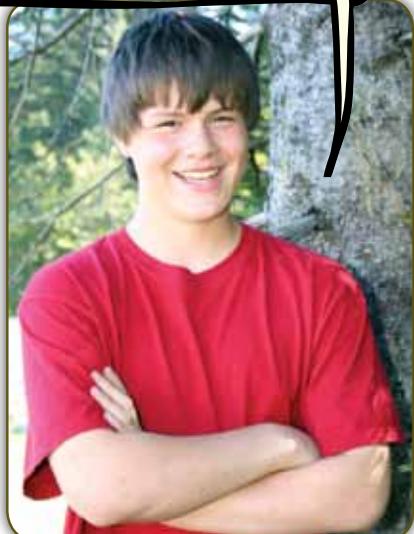
Advice for middle school students?

"You are growing up, but you still have lots of time. Focus on what you like to learn, and what you like to do. There are many programs that will allow you to see if certain fields are more suited to your interests."

I want to work in culinary arts...

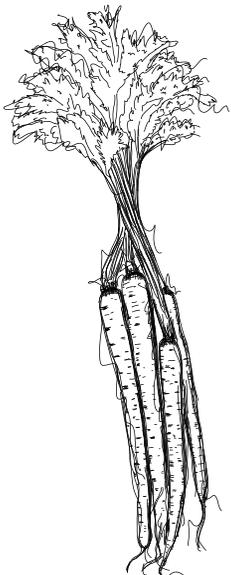


I want to be a chef or join the army, navy or airforce.



JESSE CANTRELL

8th Grade, Seward Middle School, Seward



High School Graduated:
Grace Christian HS, Anchorage, AK

Current College:
AVTEC, Seward

Major:
Culinary Arts



STEPHANIE LEWIS

During her high school years, Stephanie and her classmates went on two mission trips, one to Nulato, a small Athabaskan village on the Yukon River and another to Monjas, Guatemala, visiting an orphanage. These two trips were very different from what she knew living in Anchorage and provided a whole new perspective on different lifestyles and other cultures. She noticed that

people in these two communities have so little, yet are so grateful.

In high school, she enjoyed camping, beading, art and English. Her high school teachers, Mrs. Parker and Mrs. Heritage were influential in her life--they were easy to talk to, they provided support and encouragement. Stephanie wanted to be a masseuse, nurse or early childhood teacher, but eventually chose pastry/baking as her main focus.

“I like the hands-on approach.”

Specific area of study? Enjoy? Difficult?

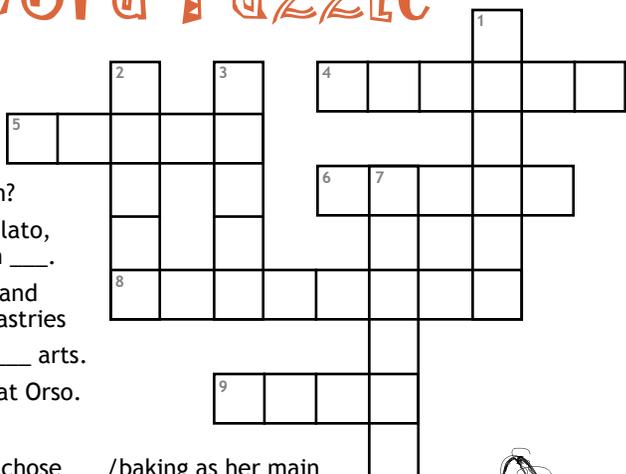
“Pastry and Baking is my main area of study. I enjoy the schedule which is pretty much the same thing every day. The only drawback is the long hours. I like the hands-on approach with my culinary studies.”

Advice?

“You will be much happier in the things you do if you give it your all.”

Crossword Puzzle

(All answers can be found on pages 8 & 9)

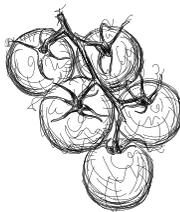


ACROSS:

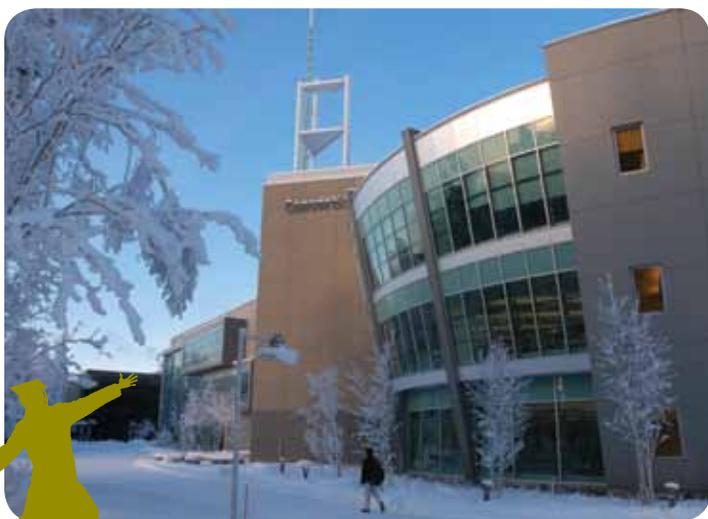
- AVTEC is in what town?
- Stephanie went to Nulato, a village on the Yukon ____.
- Advanced Pastry Arts and a la ____ Breads and Pastries
- Stephanie's major is ____ arts.
- Brian is the lead ____ at Orso.

DOWN:

- Stephanie eventually chose ____ /baking as her main focus.
- Brian graduated from ____.
- Brian first worked in Pantry, then Sauté, then ____, and now Lead.
- The ____ Culinary Academy is located in Seward.



DO YOU KNOW which Alaska college campus this is?



Answer: University of Alaska Anchorage.



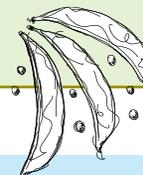
Can you picture yourself here?

WORD FIND

O V A F A I R B A N K S
R T E U S T U D E N T S
T H A T E R E F D H C C
C U L I N A R Y R D O H
O S A V G I V U A F L O
O A J A L N O T W B L O
K R O W I I R A E O E L
O T B P S N S H S C G A
W S C U H G O U R M E T

Find these words in any direction:

- Culinary Training
- AVTEC Cook
- Seward Work
- English Chef
- Job Fairbanks
- UAA UAF
- Students Gourmet
- School Arts
- Orso College

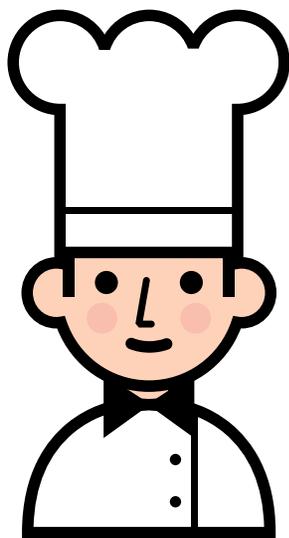


“Develop a work ethic.”

High School Graduated:
Houston HS, Houston, AK

College Graduated:
AVTEC, Seward

Current Career:
Lead Cook, Orso Restaurant, Anchorage



BRIAN MARKIEL

What do you currently do?

“I am working as the evening Lead Cook at ORSO, which is a pretty fun station. It took a lot of dedication and hard work to get to that position. I worked in Pantry making desserts and salads, then up to Sauté which is where the majority of the food comes from, then to Grill, and now Lead.”

What postsecondary training/education did you take to enter your career?

“I did a year of culinary arts training in Seward at AVTEC, which was a great school.”

What do you like best about your career?

“The joy of being able to take pride in the preparation and cooking of the food, which is something I really love to do. The compliments and the reactions of guests when they come and tell us how wonderful their dinner was, are very rewarding.”

What do you find most challenging?

“The stress of having a massive rush of orders that come in all at one time, but then again, that is one of the things I love--the feeling of craziness. Once it is all over, you feel a great sense of accomplishment by just doing a great job.”

What advice would you give young students about to enter their high school years?

“Work hard. In your high school years you learn to develop a work ethic, which is what will help you get a job.”

Culinary Arts in Alaska...



Alaska Culinary Academy (AVTEC) in Seward

The Professional Cooking and Baking Program provides comprehensive training in the technical skills and the professional work habits required for a successful career in the Alaska hospitality industry.

The Academy offers two areas of certification: Cook/Culinarian and Culinary Baker. These certification areas are almost identical. The differences are that the students, after the first four months of their training, choose between the advanced baking classes (Advanced Pastry Arts and a la Carte Breads and Pastries) or the advanced cooking classes (Menu Development, Buffet Catering, International Cuisines and a la Carte Cooking). Each certification area has written and practical finals.

The students may return after the completion of one certificate to upgrade for another certificate.

The Alaska Culinary Academy presents a competency-based training program. The majority of the training is a “hands-on” food production, with the students working individually or in small groups.
www.avtec.labor.state.ak.us/culinary.htm

University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA)

Culinary Arts, Hospitality and Restaurant Management, Dietetics and Nutrition

Culinary Arts & Hospitality is a fun and exciting program based on instruction and hands-on experience. The students share camaraderie and a common goal of excellence. With the generous support from local industry, UAA offers one of the finest culinary educations available in the Pacific Northwest.

www.uaa.alaska.edu/ctc/programs/academic/culinary/

University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Community & Technical College

Culinary Arts Program

The UAF Community and Technical College culinary arts program offers one-year certificates in gourmet cooking and/or gourmet baking and an associate's degree in culinary arts. This program teaches the essential skills required to obtain employment in the culinary industry to include food service operations, principles, and theories. The purpose of the program is to prepare students to become entry-level management, line and pre-cooks, and second and third-level apprentice bakers.

www.tvc.uaf.edu/programs/Culinary/



I want to work in business...

I want to be the senior vice president of iPhone software for Apple, Inc. I like their products and enjoy creating games.



TYLER WINN

8th Grade, Polaris K-12, Anchorage

I want to own a restaurant.



KIMBERLY PIKOK

8th Grade, Hopson Middle School, Barrow

"I would also like to help feed the homeless and people who are less fortunate, through my restaurant or through other methods."



BE THE FIRST PERSON IN YOUR FAMILY TO GO TO COLLEGE!

Even if no one in your family ever went to college, that doesn't mean that you can't. It takes just **one person** in a family to act upon that dream and **be the example** for others to follow. It may seem scary at first, but all it takes is a little **courage**, determination, and planning. Talk to your teachers, counselor or principal about what college is and how to prepare. **Ask questions!** Find out what you can do now to get ready. Take high school classes that will help prepare you--did you know there's a **new scholarship** that rewards taking challenging classes? (See front cover.) Find out about mentor or enrichment programs to help you **succeed** in education during and after high school. **Seek** role models. Surround yourself with other people who have succeeded and ask how they did it. You may find someone else who also was also the **first to go** to college!



ABRAHAM NYGREN

7th Grade, Polaris K-12, Anchorage

"I want to be the president and founder of a space tourism company because this is something that will happen in the future. Or I would like to be a genetic engineer so I can improve human physics and mental abilities or bring back extinct animals."

KNOWHOW2GO

knowhow2go.org

Eight out of 10 young people expect to go to college, according to the U.S. Department of Education, but far fewer students go. Especially students from low-income families and those who are the first in their families to go to college are underrepresented on college campuses. Don't be a statistic! Middle school is the best time to start making plans for what happens after high school. Make sure you 'Know How 2 Go' to college.



BEVERLY MELOVIDOV

High School Graduated:
Mt. Edgecumbe HS, Sitka, AK
College Graduated:
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Current Career:
Business Analyst & Member of Board of Directors for Tanadgusix Corporation, Anchorage

"I grew up in St. Paul Island, went to school there until high school, when I went to Mt. Edgecumbe for four years. I then went off to Loyola University Chicago, then to UAF from 2000 to 2007."

What do you currently do?

"I work for Bureau of Land Management (BLM). I started while still in college and managed to work my way up from an administrative assistant to a business analyst. I also on the Board of Directors of our village corporation, Tanadgusix (which means, Our Land) or TDX since 2008. I have a BA in Political Science, a BA in Rural Development, with an emphasis in Tribal and Local Government, and an MA in Rural Development."

What do you like best about your career?

"I enjoy the people that I work with, the firmly established structure, and the fact that I have the ability to remember 45-character financial codes. I am good at what I do. Seeing progress in the right direction is rewarding. I also enjoy helping my organization be more efficient by doing a good job, both on the village corporation board side and with my day-to-day job activities."

MATH can take you there!

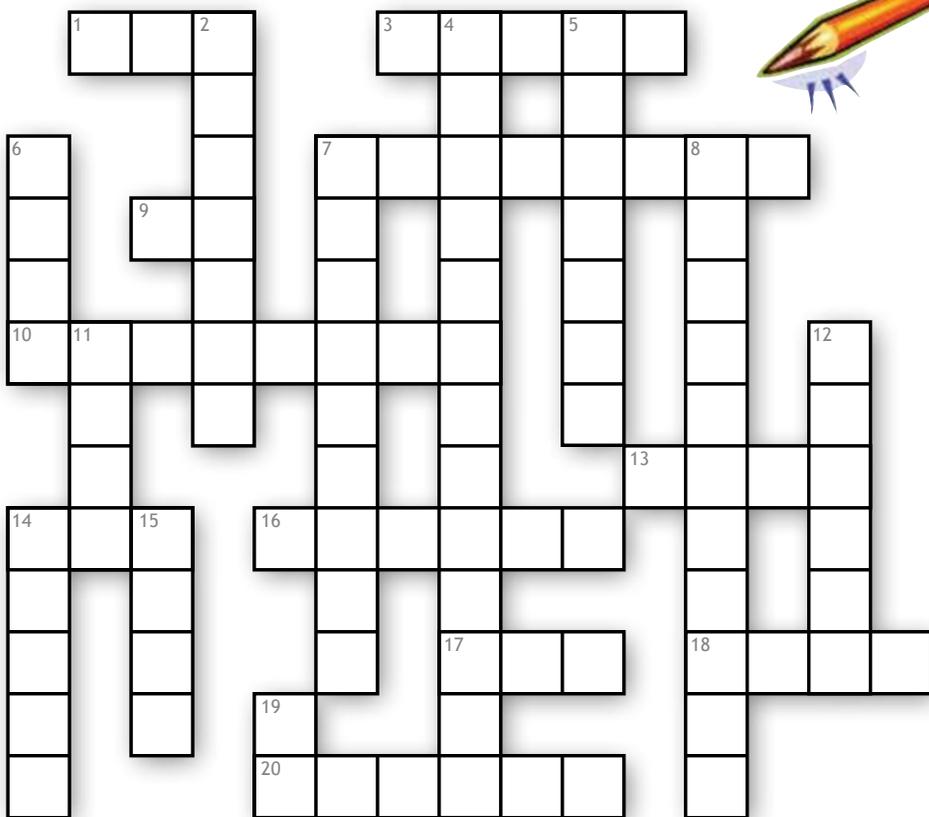
Mathematics is used throughout the world as an essential tool - all cultures have developed their own mathematical methods or forms used in daily life.

Many professionals use advanced math in their jobs! Engineers use geometry to design and build bridges. Wildlife biologists use statistics to monitor changes in the population of brown bears. In the field of aviation, math is needed to determine how much fuel an airplane will need to safely arrive at its destination.

Now there's a new reason to learn as much math as you can—three to four years of math are one part of the challenging high school curriculum that can help you qualify for the Alaska Performance Scholarship! (Read more about the APS, including complete curriculum requirements, on the front page.)



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Want to Learn More about Business as a Middle School Student?

TRY JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

Junior Achievement is the world's largest organization dedicated to educating young people about business, economics, and free enterprise. Programs are taught by volunteers in class and after school.

About Junior Achievement (JA)

JA has several highly effective programs for middle grades students that reinforce the value of workforce readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy. Students are introduced to many economic concepts and useful facts about the working world.

Junior Achievement of Alaska, Inc. Facts:

- ❖ Began operation in Alaska in 1972, with 16 after-school programs serving 277 students.
- ❖ Currently provides program to over 8,400 K-12 students.
- ❖ Provided in 35 communities across Alaska.

Ask your teacher to contact JA of Alaska, Inc. at (888) 578-0101 or in Anchorage (907) 344-0101, fteo@ja-alaska.org, or online at Alaska.ja.org.



“Explore and take many different classes...”



MARIA LARKINA

High School Graduated:
Khabarovsk, Far East Russia

College Graduated:
University of Alaska Anchorage

Current Career:
Staff Auditor at Mikunda, Cottrell and Company, Anchorage

Tell us about your job...

“After college, I was offered a job with Mikunda, Cottrell and Company as a Staff Auditor. Public accounting requires constant learning; no matter how long you have been working in this field, every day you learn something new. Our work sometimes requires long hours and travel, but the most rewarding aspect for me is the feeling that you provide great value for your clients who really appreciate all your hard work and effort.”

Words of advice for students?

“High school is a foundation for your future and career. Try to explore and take many different classes to find out what you like and absorb as much information as you can.”

“I finished high school in Khabarovsk, Far East Russia, and I came to Alaska to go to college about four years ago. In school I enjoyed singing and dancing as much as I liked playing with numbers and doing my homework. I graduated from the University of Alaska Anchorage in December of 2009 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting and business management with top honors. It was not an easy feat, but one that is very rewarding.”

Across:

1. Maria is from Khabarovsk, ___ East Russia.
3. Abraham wants to be the president of a ___ tourism company.
7. Beverly says “Seeing ___ in the right direction is rewarding.”
10. In Junior Achievement, ___ are introduced to many economic concepts.
13. ___ can take you there!
14. Bureau of Land Management (abbr)
16. Tyler wants to be the senior vice president of ___ software.
17. Be the first to go to college: ___ questions!
18. There to four years of math are one part of the rigorous high school curriculum that can ___ you qualify for the APS!
20. 50th state of the USA.

Down:

2. Did you know there's a new scholarship that ___ taking challenging classes?
4. Many ___ use advanced math in their jobs!
5. AKCIS: A great place to learn all about hundreds of different ___.
6. Kimberly want to help feed people who are ___ fortunate.
7. If your teacher or ___ needs more info, they can call the AKCIS Helpline.
8. APS stands for Alaska Performance ___.
11. Mathematics is used throught the world as an essential ___.
12. Junior Achievement programs are taught by volunteers in class and after ___.
14. Beverly is on the ___ of Directors for Tanadgusix Corp.
15. “Explore and take ___ different classes...”
19. Junior Achievement (abbr)

CALL ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGES 10 & 11.

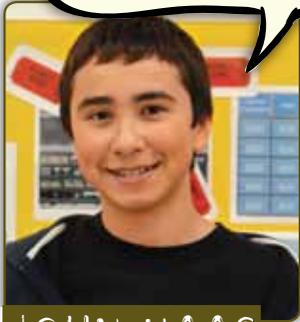


Careers, Careers, Careers....

A great place to learn all about hundreds of different careers. Ask your teacher or counselor if your school is an active member of the AKCIS family in Alaska. AKCIS is free to all Alaska schools! If your teacher or principal needs more information, tell them they can call the AKCIS Helpline (877) 269-7974 or in Anchorage at 269-6929, or by email at akcis@alaska.gov.

akcis.org

I want to be an astronomer or orthodontist.



JOHN HAAS

8th Grade, Hanshaw Middle School, Anchorage

I want to be an actress or piano or cello player.



ELIZABETH GOULD

8th Grade, Randy Smith Middle School, Fairbanks

I want to be a lawyer.



SHAINÉ CASILLA

8th Grade, Hopson Middle School, Barrow

I want to be in the army.



ANTHONY LEKANOF

8th Grade, Seward Middle School, Seward

I want to be a teacher.



QINUGAN SOLOMON

7th Grade, Hopson Middle School, Barrow

I want to be a teacher or principal.



FA'AFUASEI V. PU'U

8th Grade, Clark Middle School, Anchorage

I want to be a psychiatrist.



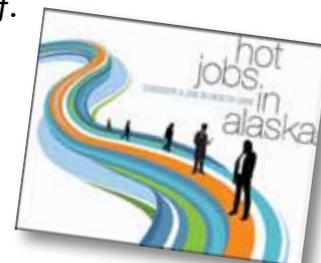
DARIUS ROBINSON

8th Grade, Barnette Magnet School, North Pole

Doctors, Nurses, and a Whole Lot More Check out Healthcare Careers!

Check out the many career possibilities in the healthcare field. Do you know what a medical technologist does? How about a radiographic technologist?

Find out about these careers and others in the "Hot Jobs in Alaska - Consider a Job in Healthcare" publication from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Ask about this booklet at your local Job Center, or find it online at www.jobs.alaska.gov/hotjobs/healthcare.pdf.



What's your story going to be?

Your actions and attitude now can help you create a satisfying and successful life story.

Have you started writing your story? You can start by doing the following:

1. Set goals for your future.
2. Learn and work towards those goals.
3. Ask for help from others (parents, friends, teachers, counselors, principals and anyone who you trust and know) who want to support you in reaching your goals.

Interested in sharing your story? If you will be in middle school during the 2011-2012 school years, we want to hear from you. Ask your teacher or parent to call our Outreach staff at 269-7980 (toll-free outside Anchorage, 877-577-3367) to learn how YOU can be part of the next issue!



Fall 2010: Polaris K-12, Anchorage. Heidi Postishek's class of 7th and 8th graders read the "What's Your Story" newspaper and then wrote their own stories. Find some of them in this issue.

Send us your news!

WHAT ARE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS DOING IN YOUR AREA?

Maybe there is an exciting summer program or camp in your town. There might be a community service project in which middle school students are active and involved. We'd love to include your news in the spring issue of *What's Your Story*?

Call us at 269-7980 (Anchorage area) or toll-free at (877) 577-3367 (outside the Anchorage area) and we'll tell you how to share your news and become part of *What's Your Story*?