

What's Your Story?

news for & from alaska's middle schoolers vol. 8 no. 2

Spring 2012

TEACHING



10

ENERGY EFFICIENCY



4

SOCIAL WORK

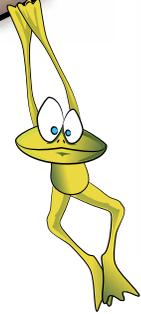


8

ENGINEERING



2



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I want to be a computer engineer, design video games, or run a business.

I want to be a bike mechanic and bike shop owner.

I want to be a pediatrician and volunteer firefighter.



TVETENE CARLSEN

Grade 8: Cantwell School



NIKKI PEIDLOW

Grade 6: Eben Hopson Middle School, Barrow



DANIEL BOATRIGHT

Grade 8: Home School, Nikiski

More stories inside!



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Anchorage, Alaska 99515



I want to be an engineer..

I want to be a mechanical engineer.

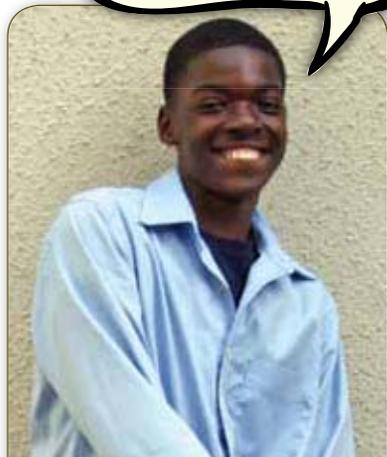


MADELEINE LANG

Grade 7: Begich Middle School, Anchorage



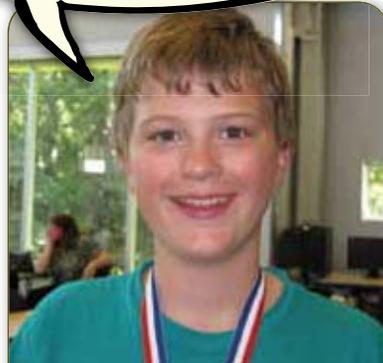
I want to be an engineer, a football player, or a basketball player.



JEREMIAH MCLEOD

Grade 8: Mears Middle School, Anchorage

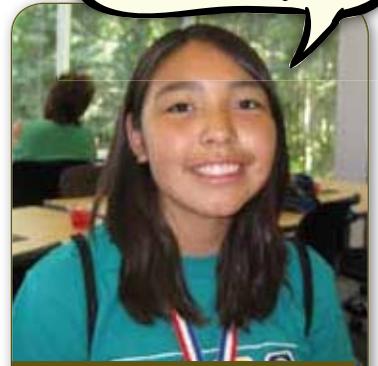
I would like to be a chemical engineer or a computer scientist.



GARY HOPFENWORTH

Grade 7: Romig Middle School, Anchorage

I want to be an environmental or chemical engineer.



TEHYA TUCKER

Grade 8: Nome Beltz Junior High School

I want to be an engineer.



ALFRED OMNIK

Grade 8: Tikigaq School, Point Hope

I want to be a civil engineer to help communities with water and sewer advancements.



NATE ALEXIE

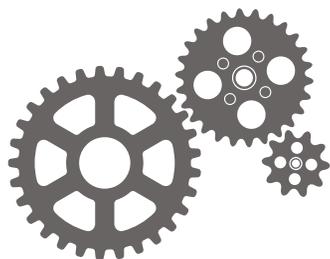
Grade 7: Bethel Regional High School

I want to be an engineer.



BLAYKE BROWER

Grade 8: Mears Middle School, Anchorage



MICHAEL ULROAN

High School Graduated:
Chevak School

Current College:
University of Alaska Anchorage

Major:
Civil Engineering

Minor:
Mathematics



WYS—Tell us a little about yourself.

MU-- I am a Cup'ik Eskimo, born in Bethel and raised in Chevak where cultural practices are still very strong. My childhood hobbies included hunting, piano playing, basketball, and enjoying three months of camping each year. I am the youngest out of five children and all excelled in school. As a middle school student, my favorite subjects were math, writing, and Cup'ik cultural class.

WYS—What did you want to be when you were younger?

MU-- Growing up, I wanted to be a great hunter as my dad is, and that has not changed. Goals added during my educational career are to become the first civil engineer from Chevak and to inspire other rural students through my determination to pursue a high-level baccalaureate degree in college.

WYS—Who influenced you growing up?

MU-- At five years old, my dad sat me down and said 'I want you to go for being the best at everything you do.' That has been my motivation ever since.

WYS—What do find to be most rewarding and most challenging in college?

MU-- I enjoy meeting other students with a wide variety of goals in life and helping each other with our goals. At times however, it can be challenging to find the motivation to spend time on campus studying with other students.

WYS—What advice do you have about life after high school?

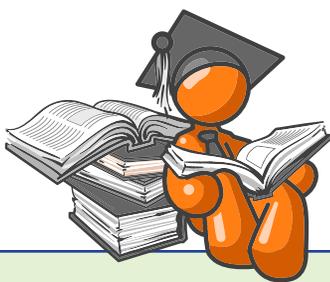
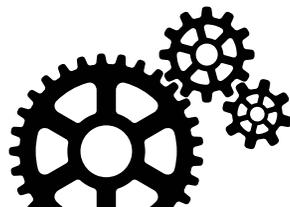
MU-- When you take that first step to the pursuit of a higher education, numerous doors constantly open.

WORD FIND

E	O	D	E	S	I	G	N
N	A	K	N	P	N	C	P
L	K	R	G	X	Y	O	U
O	S	C	I	V	I	L	Z
O	A	F	N	A	I	L	Z
H	L	E	E	F	N	E	L
C	A	R	E	E	R	G	E
S	P	T	R	O	Y	E	S

Find these words in any direction:

ENGINEER CAREER
CIVIL ALASKA
COLLEGE SCHOOL
LIFE FIX
TROY NY
DESIGN PUZZLES



What Does an Engineer Do?

Do you like solving problems? Using the very latest technologies? Being creative? Earning competitive pay?

Engineers use their expertise in and understanding of math, science, economics and society to design practical solutions for complex problems. They create the parts that make up the new technologies that change our world. There are many kinds of engineers. Here is a look at four main branches of engineering:

- ◆ **Chemical engineers** find ways to change raw materials or chemicals so that we can use them. They make fuel cells, medicines, plastics, metals, etc.-- all the materials we use to create things.
- ◆ **Civil engineers** design the structures that make up the human landscape. They create the buildings that protect us, the cities that house us, and the roads, bridges and cars that carry us.
- ◆ **Electrical engineers** work in all things electrical and electronic. They give us electricity, new gadgets, and innovative ways to communicate and compute.
- ◆ **Mechanical engineers** deal with machines. They create, maintain, and improve the engines, computers, and robotics that are shaping today's world.

There are as many kinds of engineers as there are things in which to be interested. Whatever you want to fix, improve, or create, there is a related field of engineering.

“Learning takes place both in and out of the classroom.”

ERICA JENSEN

College Graduated:

University of Alaska Anchorage:
Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering; Master of Science in Engineering Management

Career:

Civil Engineer, CRW Engineering Group, Anchorage, AK



WYS—How would you describe your career?

EJ-- The field of civil engineering is very diverse: from roads to water systems to bulk fuel to alternative energy. I mostly work on designing roads and trails in the city of Anchorage. I work on all aspects of a project: public involvement, design drawings, permitting, quantity estimating, and construction. What I like best about civil engineering is that the job is never boring and each day brings something new! In one day, I can write a report, design a trail, meet with clients, attend a project open house, and stop by a construction site to check on a project.

WYS—What education and training did your career require?

EJ-- I received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a master's degree in engineering management. I attended engineering conferences as a student and still today attend conferences and seminars as part of my continuing education.

WYS—What words of wisdom can you share with students about to enter high school?

EJ-- Learning takes place both in and out of the classroom. Get involved in activities outside of class. While learning from a teacher and textbook is very important, it's also important to be involved, learn how to work as a team, and face a variety of challenges - from differing opinions among peers to finding the best solution to a problem. Just get out and be involved!

“I get to solve problems and puzzles...”

DAVID NICOLAI

High School Graduated:
Service High School, Anchorage, AK

College Graduated:
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute,
Troy, NY: Bachelor of Science in
Mechanical Engineering

Career:
Mechanical Engineer, Coffman
Engineers, Anchorage, AK



WYS—Tell us about your childhood and hobbies:

DN-- I grew up in Anchorage and attended Spring Hill Elementary, Steller Secondary School, and Service High School. I have always enjoyed hiking, skiing, hunting, fishing, soccer, and hanging out with my friends.

WYS—What is your career and what do you like best about it?

DN-- As a mechanical engineer, I help design the heating and plumbing in buildings. Getting my bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering was a lot of hard work for a long time, but my effort is paying off! Every day I get to solve problems and puzzles as part of my job. It's so rewarding going to a building under construction and watching people build what I design. The challenge is making sure all the details fit together right.

WYS—Do you have any words of encouragement for students?

DN-- Nothing good comes easy. I have a job I enjoy because I really wanted it, and I was willing to work as hard as I could, as long as I had to, in order to get where I am today!

ANSEP - Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program

The Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP) at UAA offers programs that provide middle school, high school and college students opportunities to strengthen their science and math foundations, gain valuable skills and work experience, earn scholarship money, and complete degree requirements while building friendships and memories to last a lifetime.

Learn more about ANSEP at www.ansep.net



I want to work in energy efficiency...



JERAMIE UBBEN

High School Graduated:
Mt. Edgecumbe High School, Sitka, AK

Career Training:
UA Local 375 Plumbers & Pipefitters Training School
Apprenticeship Program, Fairbanks, AK

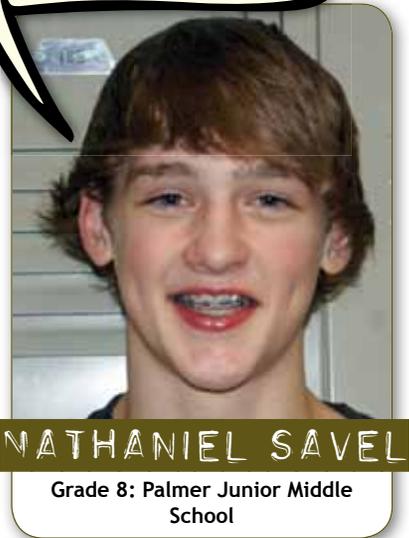
Career:
Plumbing and Pipefitting Apprentice, Fairbanks, AK

WYS—Tell us a little about yourself:

JU-- I grew up in Kotzebue until I was 14, then I went to Mt. Edgecumbe High School in Sitka. As a child I enjoyed four wheeling and riding my snow machine. In high school I took welding classes, plus a lot of math and science. As a fourth-year apprentice with the UA Local 375 Plumbers & Pipefitters Training School, I work a lot of hours. I enjoy the skills I learn and the people I meet.

WYS—What advice would you give young Alaskans?

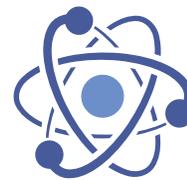
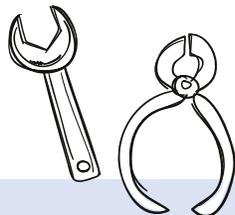
JU-- Stay in high school and get your diploma. Take lots of math and science classes. College classes will help a lot in the career you choose.



NATHANIEL SAVEL

Grade 8: Palmer Junior Middle School

“I enjoy the skills I learn...”



KATIE CONWAY-STAMM

WYS—How would you describe your career and what you love about it?

KCS-- As the Assistant Project Manager of Energy Efficiency & Conservation with the Alaska Energy Authority, my work is to communicate with Alaskans about how to use energy more efficiently. Energy is the life blood of our communities. Without it, we'd live in a much darker, colder place. Energy is also increasingly more costly and I see energy efficiency as an important piece of long-term economic, environmental, and cultural sustainability. I love the creative problem solving aspect of my job: brainstorming new ways to connect with different audiences, finding new organizational partners, and communicating our messages. My reward comes when we see improved energy efficiency as a result of all this.

WYS—What education or training prepared you for your job?

KCS-- My anthropology education honed my skills in communicating across cultural barriers. Previous work experiences as a legislative aide, tour guide, and English teacher in Japan helped me better understand Alaska in a global context. Communication + Understanding = Effective Outreach.

WYS—What words of inspiration do you have for middle school students about to enter high school?

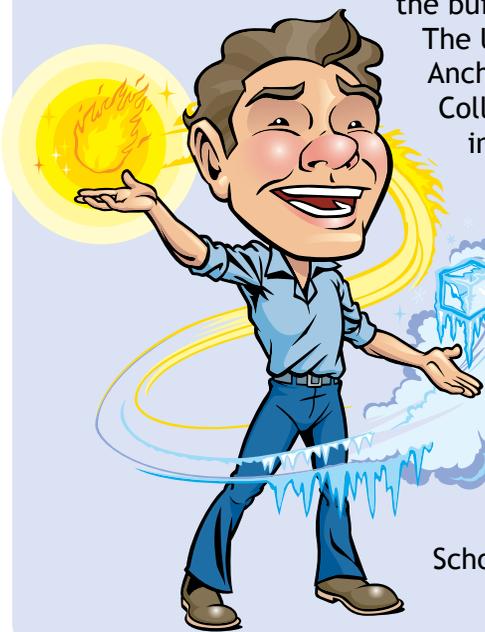
KCS-- High school is just one chapter in your life, albeit a very important one; it's a stepping stone to better things for you, your family, and your community. Think big, work hard, stay focused on your goals, and don't let anyone ever tell you that you aren't capable - You ARE.



What is HVAC/R?

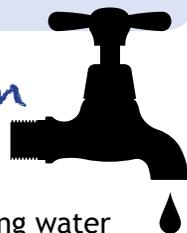
HVAC/R stands for heating, ventilation, air conditioning & refrigeration. An energy-efficient building with proper ventilation has just the right balance between not allowing too much heat to escape while still allowing the building to breathe.

The University of Alaska Anchorage and Mat-Su College both offer Associate in Applied Sciences (AAS Degrees) and Certificates in HVAC/R. Did you know the Alaska Performance Scholarship can be used to help pay for such programs? Read more about the Alaska Performance Scholarship on pg. 11.



Inefficient Plumbing Can Get you in Hot Water!

Did you know that an average home leaks up to 10,000 gallons of wasted water every year? Heating water for those nice long hot showers or that load of laundry with a standard water heater accounts for about 15% of the energy a home uses. Efficient plumbing saves water, energy, and money.



High School Graduated:
Colony High School, Palmer, AK

Colleges Graduated:
Linfield College, Portland, OR: Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology; Bachelor of Arts in Psychology;
Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR: Master of Arts in Applied Anthropology

Career:
Assistant Project Manager of Energy Efficiency & Conservation, Alaska Energy Authority, Anchorage, AK



“Think big, work hard, stay focused on your goals...”



Students Learn About Energy Efficiency in the Great Alaska Energy Challenge

Students and faculty at Palmer Junior Middle School, Palmer High School, Maudrey J. Sommer School (Tanana), Bristol Bay Middle/High School (Naknek), and Cordova Jr./Sr. High School are having fun motivating fellow classmates and teachers to make energy-efficient improvements that will lower overall energy consumption and energy bills. Grand prizes will be given for the Biggest Reduction in Heat, the Biggest Reduction in Electricity, the Least Amount of Heat Used, and the Least Amount of Electricity Used. Eighth graders in Esther Heck's class at Palmer Junior Middle School have posted signs throughout the school encouraging others to close the blinds, turn off computers, keep doors closed, and turn off the lights. With these efficiency measures in place, Palmer Junior Middle School is currently saving just over \$ 1,000 each month. What are YOU doing to decrease your energy consumption?



Josh Parks, Nathaniel Savel and Josh Meyers have placed these posters up all around Palmer Junior Middle School in an effort to raise awareness about energy efficiency and encourage others to turn out the lights and close the blinds when a room is not in use. "Closed blinds make us happy!"



EMMETT LEFFEL

High School Graduated:
Homer High School

College Attended/Career Training:
University of Alaska Fairbanks: General Studies;
UA Local 375 Plumbers & Pipefitters Training School
Apprenticeship Program, Fairbanks, AK; Alaska Housing
Finance Corporation Energy Rater Training, Anchorage,
AK; Energy Rater Certificate; BEES Compliance Certificate;
Building Performance Institute's Building Analyst Certificate

Career:
Owner, Building Analyst, Thermographer, and Energy Rater,
Alaska Thermal Imaging, LLC, Palmer, AK

“Never stop learning.”

Emmett Leffel is using a balometer to test the air flow through a bathroom fan and make sure that it meets minimum American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) ventilation standards.



Build•ing Per•form•ance measures how well a building provides a comfortable living space, while using the least amount of energy possible.

Weath•er•i•za•tion or En•er•gy Re•tro•fit consists of energy-efficient upgrades made to buildings that increase building performance.

Energy Efficiency CRYPTOGRAM

Answer the question below. Each symbol represents one letter.

What is the Palmer Junior Middle School students' message?



l o _ _ _



b _ _ _ d _



_ a _ e _ s



_ _ _ _ y!

WYS—What does your job entail?

EL-- As a building analyst, I use testing equipment like infrared cameras, blower door equipment, balometers, combustion gas analyzers, gas leak detectors, exhaust flow hoods, and laser measuring devices to help identify how buildings use heat and electricity. I use thermal imaging cameras to visually capture heat leaks in poorly insulated areas. Homeowners and commercial building occupants can then use this information to make energy efficiency improvements that will save them money and provide them more comfort.

WYS—What type of training prepared you for your career?

EL-- My training comes from a combination of different careers such as the five-year/10,000 hour United Association of Plumbers & Pipefitters Apprenticeship program, and construction experience in heating and plumbing. I also completed the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation Certified Energy Rater Training, which gave me a solid foundation in air tightness, combustion safety, cold climate building science, and ventilation standards in Alaska. Today, I am a co-owner of Alaska Thermal Imaging, LLC, where I am a thermographer, energy rater, and building analyst.

WYS—What do you enjoy most about your job?

EL-- Every building is different. Listening to customers is key to determining the unique building conditions that cause occupant complaints and durability issues. The most rewarding part is that, when an occupant feels and/or sees a difference in their home or business, it can literally change their life.

What do you want to be

I want to be a marine trainer at the zoo and work to protect dolphins.



AUTUMN KUZNICKI-BOTHWELL

Grade 8: Tanana Middle School, Fairbanks

I want to be a chiropractor.



JOSH MEYERS

Grade 8: Palmer Junior Middle School

I want to be a bakery chef.



TREVOR FERGUSON

Grade 8: Central Middle School of Science, Anchorage

I want to be a marine biologist.



JOSH PARKS

Grade 8: Palmer Junior Middle School

I want to be an animal photographer & caretaker.



KELSEY MEGANACK

Grade 8: Port Graham School

I want to join the military and play pro football.



MAHASE ASI

Grade 7: Central Middle School of Science, Anchorage

I want to discover medicine to cure cancer and play soccer professionally.



LENNY URENA

Grade 6: Clark Middle School, Anchorage

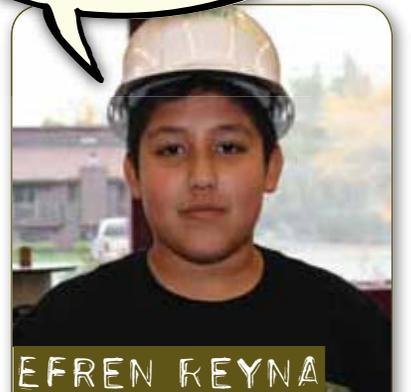
I want to be a historian, a poet, and an illustrator.



MADISON DOOLEY

Grade 7: Clark Middle School, Anchorage

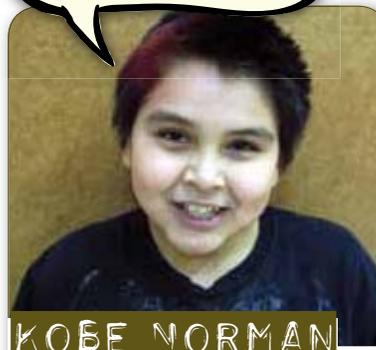
I want to be a police officer and movie critic.



EFREN REYNA

Grade 8: Central Middle School of Science, Anchorage

I want to be a welder and a basketball player.



KOBE NORMAN

Grade 7: Port Graham School

MUSICIAN DOCTOR

CARPENTER

DESIGNER



PLUMBER

ACCOUNTANT

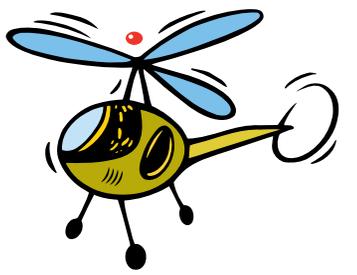
PROFESSOR

Careers, Careers, Careers....

A great source 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 to call the AKCIS Helpline (877) 269-7974 or 269-6929 in Anchorage, or email akcis@alaska.gov.

akcis.org

When you grow up?



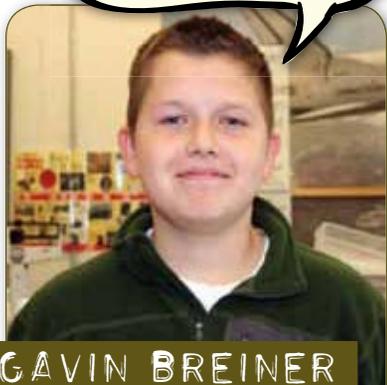
I want to be a bush pilot.



TIMOTHY SAGOONICK

Grade 8: Unalakleet Middle School

I want to be a multimedia editor and graphic artist.



GAVIN BREINER

Grade 7: Central Middle School of Science, Anchorage



SAVING MATTERS

No matter what financial assistance may be available in the future, you can act 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 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 divided 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.



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 about who you could ask about the work they do.

You can ask:

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 helped prepare you for this career?

Is there any other advice you can give me?

Sudoku

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

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.

I want to help others...



Licensed Professional Counselors:

provide counseling and support services to individuals and families, usually in an area of specialization. Specialties might include: children, teens, adults, families, mental health, behavior, disabilities, or substance abuse. *Minimum Education: Master's Degree*

Psychiatrists:

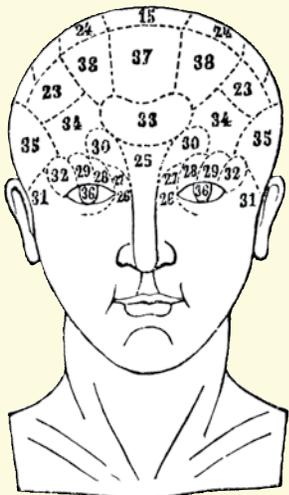
analyze and treat patients with mental illness through regular psychotherapy visits. In some situations, psychiatrists may prescribe medication or recommend hospitalization for a patient. *Minimum Education: Doctor of Medicine (M.D.)*

Psychologists:

observe and interpret the behavior of people, in an effort to diagnose and treat mental disorders and behavior challenges. Psychologists help people understand their own thoughts, emotions and behavior. *Minimum Education: Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) or Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)*

School Counselors:

help students with social, emotional, and personal problems. Elementary school counselors help evaluate a child's strengths, weaknesses, and special needs. Guidance counselors help students identify their academic and career goals and direct them toward courses that will help them meet those goals. High school counselors advise students regarding college and career training options, forms, and application processes. Career counselors help students with interview and resume building job placement skills. *Minimum Education: Master's Degree*



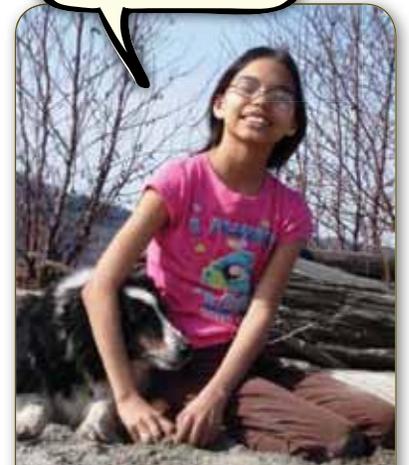
Social Workers:

provide support services to families and individuals, helping them resolve a variety of challenges in their life. *Minimum Education: Bachelor's of Social Work (BSW)*

Substance Abuse Counselors:

help individuals overcome addictions. They often offer support services to families of individuals who are working to overcome an addiction. *Minimum Education: Bachelor's Degree*

I want to be a psychiatrist.



VANESSA DEWILDE

Grade 7: Randy Smith Middle School, Fairbanks

I want to be a behavioral therapist and health coach at Wellspring Camps.



CORA FLAKE

Grade 7: Soldotna Middle School

TONIE MARIE QUAINANCE

High School Graduated:
Service High School, Anchorage, AK

College Graduated:
University of Alaska Anchorage: Bachelor of Arts in Justice; Master of Science in Clinical Psychology

Current College:
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Current Major:
Clinical-Community Psychology with Rural and Indigenous Emphasis



“I really enjoy learning about diverse cultures...”

WYS—What are your career interests and have they changed since childhood?

TQ-- When I was younger I wanted to be an attorney who specialized in Alaska Native/American Indian issues. However, when I realized I would have to leave Alaska to attend law school, I decided to pursue clinical and community psychology with an emphasis on working with Alaska Natives/American Indians in rural communities of Alaska. I really enjoy learning about diverse cultures across the state and getting to know different people.

WYS—Who has been your greatest role model?

TQ-- The person who influenced me the most was Fran Fazio, an attorney I worked for prior to starting my postsecondary education. Fran was a well-educated woman who believed in my abilities more than I believed in myself. She encouraged me to go on with school and do more with my life.

▲ member of the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin, Tonie moved to Alaska when she was seven years old. She attended Muldoon and Abbott Loop Elementary Schools, Hanshaw Middle School, and Service High School. As a child, her favorite activities were bicycle riding, gardening, school chorus, and cross-country running. Her favorite subjects in school were reading, math and science.

“Education is a continuous process...”



AUBREY MARIE WEGELEBEN

Born and raised on Saint Paul Island, Aubrey has spent most of her life enjoying the wonders of her culture and the freedom to roam and explore nature. When not out and about, Aubrey has always enjoyed reading, practicing crafts with her aunts, and sitting with family around her Kooka’s table, listening to memories of days gone by and stories of the WWII evacuation.

WYS—What is your job and what training did you need?

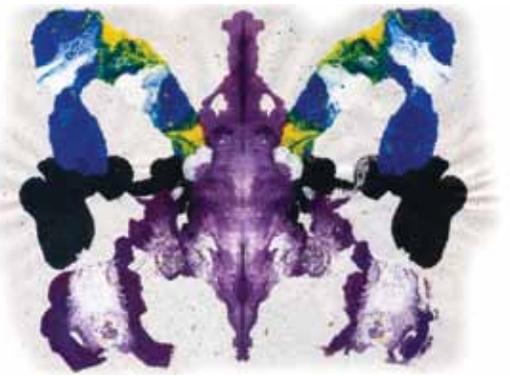
AW-- I attended the University of Alaska Anchorage and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. I’ve come to learn that education is a continuous process throughout one’s career and life. A few years after graduating and working at the Saint Paul Health Center, I attended the Regional Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor Training program to receive my certification as a Counselor Tech and then as a Behavioral Health Aide. Today I am a certified Behavioral Health Practitioner working on my Chemical Dependency Counselor certification.

WYS—What do you enjoy most about your job?

AW-- Growing up I was the nurturer and caregiver and I am glad that I was able to further my education and return home to be an asset within my community. I like that I am able to provide services that are hard to come by on Saint Paul Island. The most rewarding aspect is being a part of the lives of the young children, as my position allows me to provide activities at the school. However, working within one’s own community as a behavioral health provider can definitely be challenging especially in a community with fewer than 500 people.

WYS—What advice can you share about life and learning?

AW-- Life is ahead of you. Be open-minded, make use of all the opportunities that come your way, and treat each moment as a learning experience. Being involved now will definitely benefit you in the long run.



High School Graduated:
Saint Paul School

College Graduated:
University of Alaska Anchorage:
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Career:
Behavioral Health Practitioner, Saint Paul Health Center, Saint Paul, AK



“Life is full of opportunities...”

JAMIE BATTEN

WYS—Tell us about your childhood:

JB-- I grew up in Fairbanks and did a lot of outdoor activities like hiking, camping, and skiing. I also enjoyed crafts and baking.

WYS—What do you do, career wise?

JB-- I am a social worker in the field of child protection. I work with children and families where there are concerns of abuse or neglect. I have worked with the State of Alaska Office of Children’s Services for six years as the initial person who goes out and knocks on doors to determine whether or not a child is unsafe. I have worked with families whose children are in state custody. This involves going to court, providing services to the family, and making decisions about whether a child should return home or be adopted. I am currently working in the intake unit, where I take phone calls from people who need to make a report about child abuse. I then make a decision on whether or not the state will open a case to assess the family.

WYS—What kind of education does your job require?

JB-- I have a bachelor’s degree in social work and have attended trainings through my job and the community. I am a licensed social worker, which means that I need 45 hours of continuing education credits every two years.

WYS—What advice would you give to students thinking about their future?

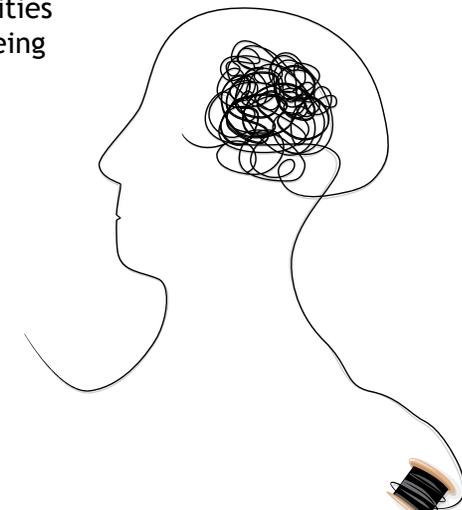
JB-- I went to college not really knowing what I wanted to do, but eventually I found something I enjoyed. Life is full of opportunities and you never know what might come in the future.



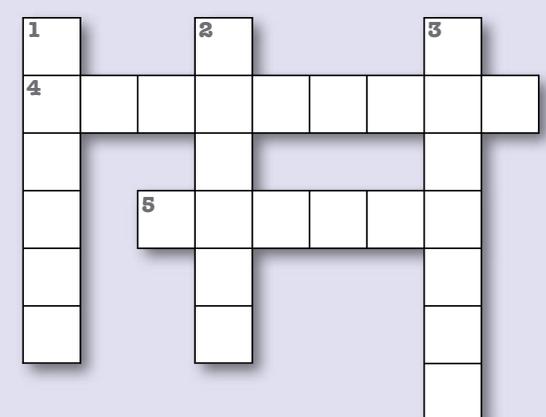
High School Graduated:
Lathrop High School, Fairbanks, AK

Colleges Attended/Graduated:
Penn State University, Sharon, PA: General Studies; University of Alaska Fairbanks: Bachelor of Arts in Social Work

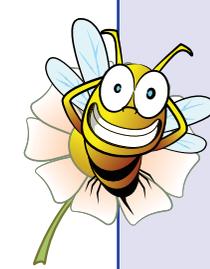
Career:
Social Worker, State of Alaska Office of Children’s Services, Fairbanks, AK



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- Down:**
1. Aubrey is a Behavioral ___ Practitioner.
 2. Vanessa goes to Randy Smith Middle ___.
 3. High school counselors advise students regarding ___ and career training options.
- Across:**
4. “___ is a continuous process...”
 5. Jamie is a ___ Worker.



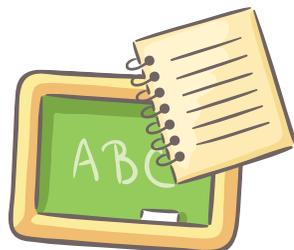
I want to be a teacher...

I want to be a teacher, engineer, game programmer, computer technician, or veterinarian.



NAOMI CHRISTMAS

Grade 8: Clark Middle School, Anchorage



I want to be an art teacher because art is inspiring.



DEJA ACOMAN

Grade 7: Clark Middle School, Anchorage

I want to be a 4th, 5th, or 6th grade teacher.



DEIRDRE OSBORN

Grade 7: Tanana Middle School, Fairbanks

I want to be a teacher and join the military.



JOHN WOYAK

Grade 8: Central Middle School of Science, Anchorage



CASEY HARMON



High School Graduated:
East Anchorage High School
Current College:
University of Alaska Anchorage
Major:
Early Childhood Education

“I always knew I wanted to work with people.”

WYS—Tell us about your childhood interests:

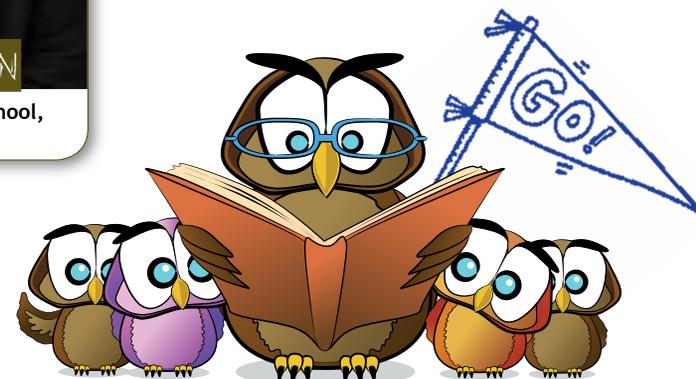
CH-- Growing up, I spent summers with my dad in Seward and lived during the school year with my mom in Anchorage. As a child, I was interested in playing baseball, exploring the outdoors, doing arts and crafts, reading, and playing with my pets and other animals. In school my favorite subjects were social studies, creative writing, and art. It was exciting having my artwork displayed at art shows both at school and in the community. A memorable event was when my 7th-grade social studies class raised money to help build a school in Nicaragua. This helped me gain a better understanding of how people live in different parts of the world.

WYS—Who has been your greatest role model?

CH-- My mom is the most influential person in my life. She is very determined, responsible, and genuine. She taught me to work hard, value education, and treat others and myself with respect. She also inspired my sense of adventure.

WYS—Tell us about your career aspirations:

CH-- I always knew I wanted to work with people. Working in education was part of my destiny. I fell into it at age 14 while working a summer job at a day care. I have been working with children from Anchorage to various parts of Africa and to St. Paul Island, in rural Alaska, ever since. I am currently studying Early Childhood Education, student teaching on St. Paul Island, and planning to teach primary grades.



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 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 and determination**. 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 scholarship that rewards taking **challenging classes**? (See right.) Find out about mentoring or enrichment programs to help you succeed in education during and after high school. Identify **role models**. Seek out people who have succeeded and ask how they did it. You may find someone else who was also the first in their family to **go to college!**



DIJAY KUMAR

High School Graduated:
Bartlett High School, Anchorage, AK

Colleges Graduated:
University of Alaska Anchorage:
Bachelor of Arts in English; Alaska
Pacific University, Anchorage, AK:
CO-OP Education Program K-8 Teaching
Certificate

Career:
Teacher, Anchorage School District



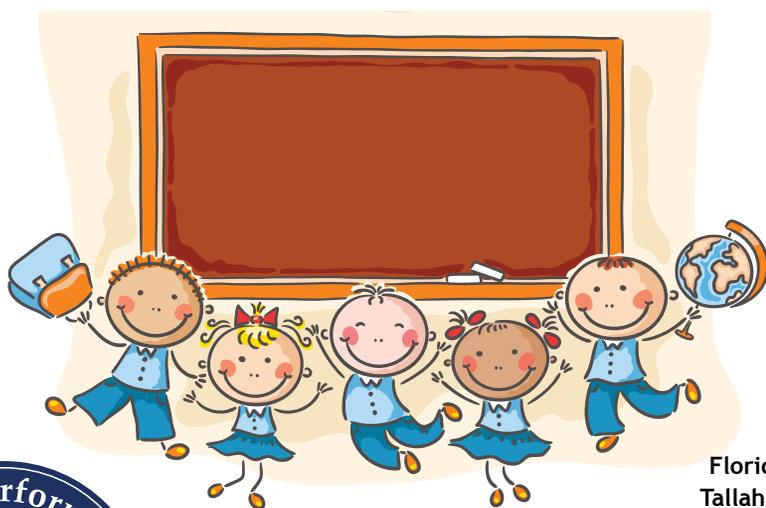
“Dream big and work hard...”

WYS—Tell us a little bit about your job as a teacher:

DK-- I am a second-grade teacher, so I truly have the best job in the world, because my day is filled with the joy of working with elementary kids. The most challenging aspect of teaching is finding time to do everything that I want to do. There aren't enough hours in a school day or in a week to accomplish everything that I want to accomplish. I am a bit ambitious at times. The most rewarding aspect of teaching is seeing the successes in my kids. Their success makes all the long hours that I work worth it.

WYS—What motivational words would you like to share with kids in middle school?

DK-- Dream big and work hard to make your dreams come true. You can do anything that you put your mind to - don't let anybody tell you different. With hard work come big rewards.



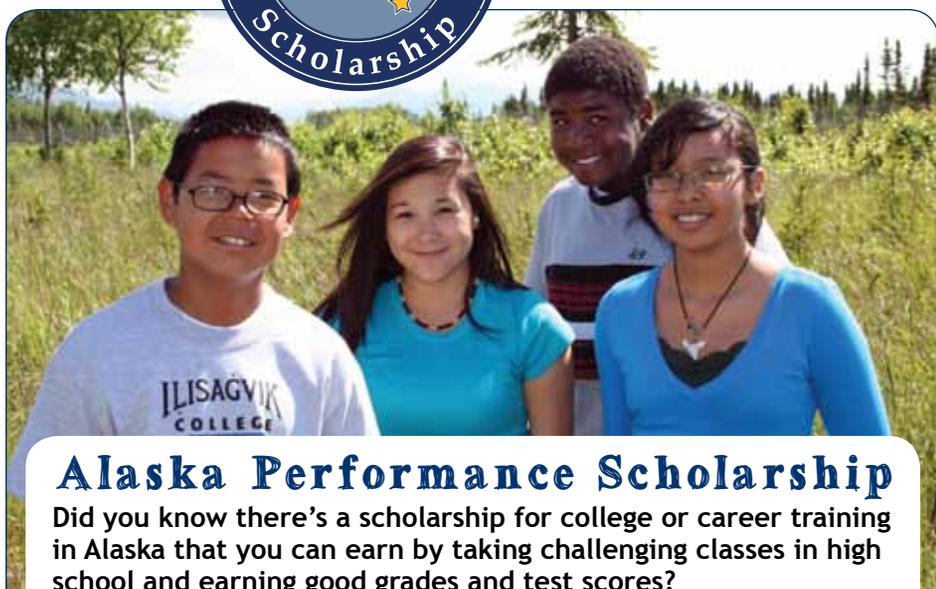
“Spend time exploring...”

TAMIKA DOWDY

High School Graduated:
Stellar Secondary School, Anchorage, AK

College Graduated:
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University,
Tallahassee, FL: Bachelor of Science in Political
Science

Career:
Graduation Coach, Anchorage School District



Alaska Performance Scholarship

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

HOW DO YOU GET IT?

Get started off in high school on the right foot! Plan to follow one of these two pathways to success:

- 👉 **Math and Science:** Four years of math, four years of English, four years of science, and four years of social studies (one of which can be a world language, fine arts, or cultural heritage).
- 👉 **Social Studies 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 world language.

Next, 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 Alaska Performance Scholarship, go to APS.alaska.gov.

WYS—What is your job and what do you enjoy most about it?

TD-- After completing college I developed a passion for assisting people in finding resources and helping them complete their goals. The current position I have as a Graduation Coach gives me exactly that. I get to work with students who often are overlooked or misunderstood. I have the very unique responsibility of helping at-risk high school students successfully complete high school within four years and prepare for life after high school. I am able to be part of a student's journey that may have started several steps behind their peers, but eventually leads them to success in many areas of their life. When I see students achieve what they thought was impossible or far-fetched, I am truly rewarded.

WYS—How did you prepare for your career?

TD-- I studied Political Science for my undergraduate degree, but started working in the field of education right after graduating college. Most of the training I received in the field of education came about during my time working as an educator. I have studied everything from drop-out prevention to the developmental impact of severe head trauma in youth. The type of work I do does not require me to have a special certification in the field of education, but in order for me to be successful in my career I continue to take classes, attend seminars, and find avenues to learn as much as I can about the students I serve.

WYS—What advice can you share about high school?

TD-- Although high school is a short four years of your life, the choices you make during that time can affect the type of life you'll have as an adult. Spend time exploring and learning about the things that interest you. Once you find your passion, keep a constant reminder of it. Life will have its share of hurdles to overcome but staying focused on your goals will help you find purpose in being successful in high school.

Share 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 next issue of *What's Your Story?*

Call us at 269-7972 (Anchorage area) or toll-free outside Anchorage at (877) 577-3367 and we'll tell you how to share your news and become part of *What's Your Story?*

Do you know which Alaska college campus this is?



Answer: University of Alaska Southeast, Juneau.



Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
YOUR STATE HIGHER EDUCATION AGENCY

The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education - funded by the Alaska Student Loan Corporation - promotes access to and success in education and career training beyond high school.

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

AKadvantage.alaska.gov



What will your story be?

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

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

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

Interested in sharing your story?

Ask your teacher or parent to call 269-7972 (or toll-free outside Anchorage at 877-577-3367) to learn how YOU can be part of the next issue!



ANCHORAGE

Anchorage Forensic Science Camp (June 11-15, 2012)
www.alaskatroopermuseum.com/forensic-camp.html

ExxonMobil Bernard Harris Summer Science Camp at ANSEP (July 14-26, 2012)
www.ansep.net/middle-school-academy.html

CORDOVA

Prince William Sound Science Camp (July and August sessions)
www.pwssc.org/blog/summer-programs/science-camps/

DILLINGHAM

Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation Salmon Camp (July 2012)
www.bbtedc.com/web/programs/salmoncamp.html

FAIRBANKS

UAF Alaska Summer Research Academy (June 18-29, 2012)
www.vaf.edu/asra/asra-jr.-2012/

UAF Summer Music Academy (June 4-15, 2012)
www.vafsummersmusicacademy.org/

UAF Justice Academy (May 21-25, 2012)
www.vaf.edu/summer/youth-programs/leadership-academic/

JUNEAU

Summer Theatre Arts Rendezvous (July 9-Aug 12, 2012)
www.perseverancetheatre.org/education/star.html

KENAI

Challenger Learning Center of Alaska Adventure Camps (June and July sessions)
akchallenger.org/Camps/SummerCamps/tabid/170/Default.aspx

SITKA

Sitka Fine Arts Camp (June 17-30, 2012)
fineartscamp.org/