



Old Steller Yeller

November 2011

Hello Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you all in good health. It's that time of year when we need to be thinking about what we can all do to stay healthy. The snow is on the ground and the light is waning. It not only affects our moods, but that of our students as well. I try to have a little extra patience with my kids when the season changes, and I ask them to do the same for me. I've set goals to be more active this year than I was last, and I will try and get out and take more advantage of the snow.

Steller will be administering the Workkeys exam to all juniors and seniors who have elected to take it on Wednesday, November 9. There will be one make up day on Friday, November 11, for those who miss the first exam. All teachers have been notified about the exam and students should be able to make up any work missed during the exam without grade repercussions. Just like any other major exam day, please make sure your students are well-rested and have eaten a sensible breakfast.

Please don't forget about the Auction on Saturday, November 12th from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM. If you have items to donate, I thank you in advance. I am sure the Auction Committee is still taking items.

If you like art, there are several items available and worth investing in. Don't just come to the auction by yourself, but invite all your friends. Remember, we need you and your friends to make this a successful event.

December 2nd will be the registration day for second semester. Keep looking at the Steller Flash for an update on the scheduling process. Our goal is to schedule early so we can ensure each student has the best schedule with the fewest of conflicts. Teachers have been working on a comprehensive six-year plan so we can make things better for everyone when setting long range goals.

Last month, Philip's class was featured in the Inside ASD newsletter that goes out internally. It had some pictures of his students working on a bone lab. I was lucky enough to see the lab, and the activity was worthwhile and engaging. Natalie Foley was thanked publicly in the Qyana section of the ASD website. It's nice to see people get a pat on the back when deserved.

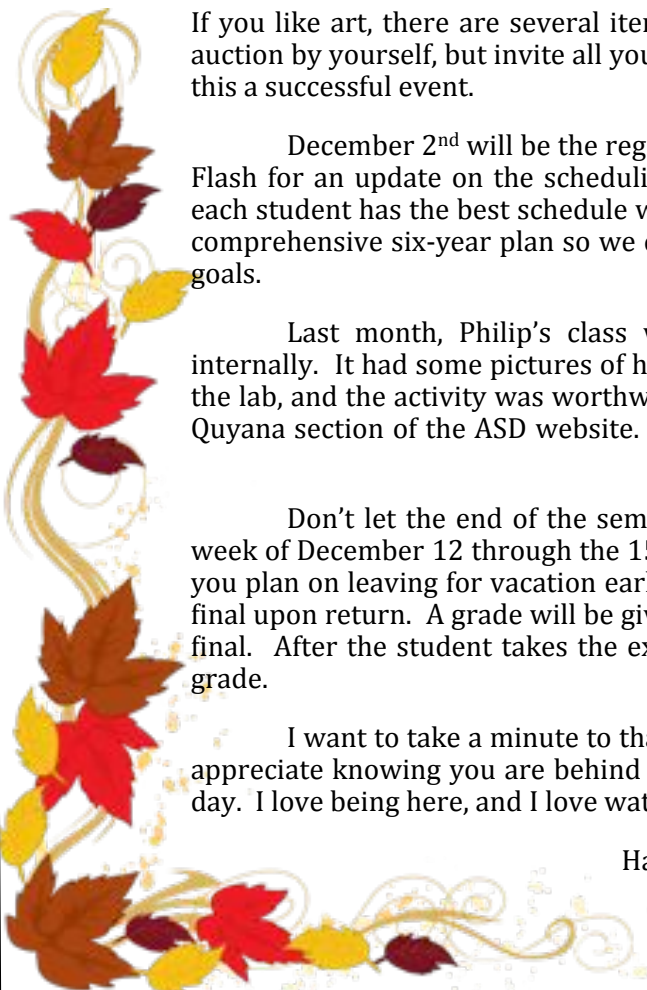
Don't let the end of the semester sneak up on you. It comes fast. Finals will be on the week of December 12 through the 15th. Please keep in mind there will be no early finals given. If you plan on leaving for vacation early, you must make arrangements with the teacher to take the final upon return. A grade will be given based upon the grade your student has with a zero on the final. After the student takes the exam, the grade will be changed to accurately reflect the new grade.

I want to take a minute to thank all of you for your support this year. I know the teachers appreciate knowing you are behind them, and so do I. Our community is growing stronger each day. I love being here, and I love watching your students learn and find success.

Have a wonderful November.



From the Principal
Dale Evern
742-4964





Staff Corner



Now that we are more than a quarter of the way through the school year and have had our first set of student-led conferences, we would like to highlight avenues of communication and the different ways to get information or feedback on your student and his/her classes.

At Steller, emphasis is placed on going through the advisor with concerns or questions. For simple class questions for a particular teacher, it's not necessary to go through the advisor; however, it is a good idea to keep the advisor in the loop on larger issues by including them in correspondence. It's important for advisors to be aware of areas in which their advisees may be struggling. If you would like to meet with a particular teacher, you may ask your student's advisor to set up a meeting and to even facilitate.

Zangle is a good way to track student progress in specific classes, and it's important that students access Zangle regularly to make sure what's recorded is accurate to their understanding. Check with your student to be sure they know their password and are regularly checking Zangle. Since teachers/advisors use Zangle to email parents, make sure your contact information is updated in the system.

Another means of obtaining class information is through teacher websites. A number of teachers maintain websites with class due dates and topics covered in class, which can be good discussion starters with your student about their class progress. See the list of teacher names on Steller's district website. Names are linked to individual websites.

For guidance counseling information, watch the flash for announcements. You can also email John Stahl for information regarding college planning or testing.

We hope your student-led conferences went well. We are always looking for ways to improve the process. Please pass feedback along to your advisor or to Elizabeth in the front office. Our next conferences will be at the end of the year, during the last week of school, and will be focused on reviewing the year and looking ahead to next year.





Nurse's Notes



Texting While Driving: A Deadly Combination

What Is Distracted Driving?

There are three main types of distraction:

- ✓ Visual — taking your eyes off the road
- ✓ Manual — taking your hands off the wheel
- ✓ Cognitive — taking your mind off what you're doing

Distracted driving is any non-driving activity a person engages in that has the potential to distract him or her from the primary task of driving and increase the risk of crashing.

While all distractions can endanger drivers' safety, texting is the most alarming because it involves all three types of distraction.

With advances in technology come new worries for parents. One of those worries is texting while driving. Thirty-one states plus the District of Columbia now ban texting while driving, but that hasn't stopped many teens from continuing this dangerous practice. A recent survey showed that 60 percent of teens between the ages of 16-19 claim to text while driving. This is troubling news given that car crashes are the leading cause of death for teenagers in America. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in 2008, 16 percent of drivers in fatal crashes under the age of 20 were due to distracted driving. That age group had the greatest proportion of fatalities due to distracted driving.

To help your teen drive safely, we recommend these tips:

- Talk to your young drivers about their driving before and after they have their permit or license. Set rules for driving and explain the consequences of breaking the rules. Don't be afraid to be tough.
- Alternately, draw up a contract spelling out the rules you expect your child to follow while driving. The rules should stipulate that there be no cell phone use except in an emergency, no drinking and driving, how many passengers allowed, etc. If she breaks the rules, revoke her driving privileges. View an example of a driving contract at teendriving.com/drivingcontract2.htm
- Do not call or text your child while she is driving except in an emergency. If you need to talk, hang up and have her call you back when she has pulled over.
- Tell her she must tell you where she will be driving at all times. If her plans change, she should call you once she is off the road.
- Set a good example. Many teens report that they often see their parents texting and using the cell phone while driving. This sends a message that that kind of behavior is permissible. Put an end to it.

Sources: consumerreports.org; teendriving.com; nhtsa.gov



**Anchorage
School
District**



Walk to school safely!

Daylight hours are decreasing and soon our students will be walking to and from school in the dark. It is always a good time to remind your children about safety. Each year in ASD there are a handful of students who report being approached by strangers. Oftentimes, these strangers have good intentions. They may be offering a ride in sub-zero weather, helping with a heavy backpack or just trying to strike up a conversation. Although these instances are intended to be friendly, they aren't realizing how dangerous the situation could become.

Safety is a top priority for our students. Children should be told, and told often, that they should never accept rides or assistance from strangers. Please talk to your child about stranger danger, safe places to wait for rides from school and other information specific to your situation.

Also, make sure your children know what to do if they get scared. They should immediately run away from the situation, find a safe place and tell a trusted adult. This information should also be reported to the school principal. We will notify authorities and, if necessary, our School Resource Officers will follow up and work to ensure our students are safe before, during and after school.

For more information about student safety, log on to www.asdk12.org/parents/safety.



STELLER AND KALADI BROTHERS COFFEE ARE NOW SCHOOL BUSINESS PARTNERS



Steller Secondary and Kaladi Brothers Coffee have joined together in a school / business partnership. Kaladi has a great reputation of being very civic and community minded and we look forward to the exciting possibilities as we see this relationship grow in the future.

For more details: [click here](#). To read the agreement: [click here](#).

Seniors: Register for the December SAT and SAT Subject Tests by Nov. 8! >

STELLER IS AN OFFICIAL SAT ADMINISTRATION SITE.

ALTHOUGH THE DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER 5TH TEST HAS PAST... YOU CAN STILL SIGN UP FOR THE **DECEMBER 3RD SAT & SAT SUBJECT TESTS** AT [HTTP://SAT.COLLEGEBOARD.ORG/HOME](http://SAT.COLLEGEBOARD.ORG/HOME).

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS TALK TO JOHN.

SAT VS ACT TESTS... WHICH IS THE RIGHT TEST FOR YOU?

Just about everything you may want / need to know about the ACT and SAT tests. If you have any other questions be sure to let me know.

Counselor John

[Click here for the information:](#)



All juniors, and seniors who want to...WorkKeys Assessment – Wednesday November 9th

WorkKeys is a job skills assessment system measuring real-world skills. *WorkKeys* connects work skills, training, and skill testing for educators and employers.

WorkKeys[®]

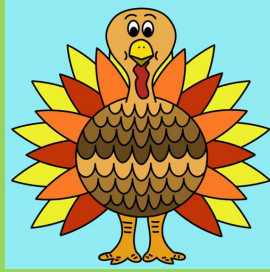


The WorkKeys assessment will be administered to all juniors (and seniors who wish to retake it) on **Wednesday November 9th**.

If you would like to get more information, on-line practice tests, "Search Jobs by Skills" tools, etc visit their web-site @ <http://www.act.org/workkeys/>

1. WorkKeys is a job skills assessment measuring "real world" skills that employers believe are critical to job success. These skills are valuable for any occupation being considered and at any level of education.
2. The State of Alaska regulation 4 AAC 06.717 requires that all Juniors take WorkKeys in three skill area assessments as shown below. WorkKeys scores are expressed in levels that range from 3 to 6 or 7, depending on the assessment.
 - a. Reading for Information = 3 to 7
 - b. Applied Mathematics = 3 to 7
 - c. Locating Information = 3 to 6
3. Regulation 4 AAC 06.717 also allows Seniors the *choice* to take the three WorkKeys skill area assessments during the same time as Juniors at their school. There will be no charge for Seniors choosing to take WorkKeys. Seniors wishing to take WorkKeys must sign-up at their school. A student's best score report will become part of his/her permanent record.
4. Students may receive a nationally recognized credential. This National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) documents their achievement in the three skills areas mentioned above. NCRCs and score reports can be shown to prospective employers and listed on resumes and job applications. Many employers nationwide now look for career readiness certificates.
5. WorkKeys results can be used to qualify for all Alaska Performance Scholarship levels. A WorkKeys score of five (5) in Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information and Locating Information will qualify an otherwise eligible student to receive a scholarship award for attendance in a *Career Technical Education certificate program but not for attendance in a degree program*. Please see your child's school counselor for more information regarding the Alaska Performance Scholarship.
6. More information about WorkKeys is available on the State of Alaska website at <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/workkeysET.html>.

Thanksgiving Closure Information

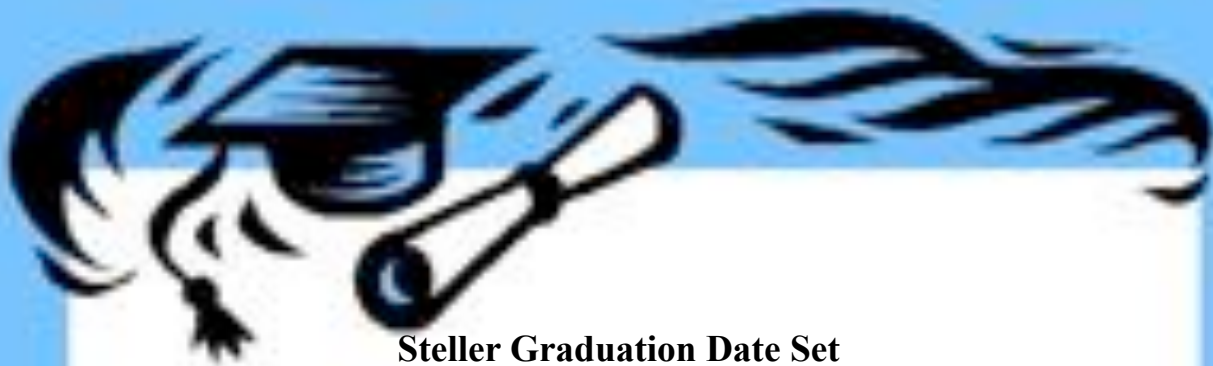


On Wednesday, November 23rd (the day before Thanksgiving), the building will close and the doors will be locked at 3 p.m. Students must be picked up BEFORE 3 p.m.

Please be considerate of the teachers and staff who want to prepare for their holiday, too!

There is no school Thursday or Friday, November 24 – 25.

Thanks.



Steller Graduation Date Set

Mark your calendars for

May 16, 2012

3:00 p.m.

Wendy Williamson Auditorium

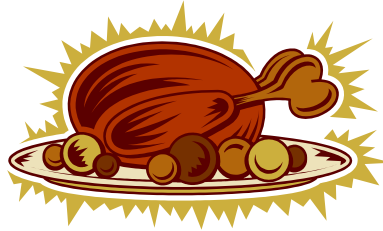
3211 Providence Drive

Anchorage, AK 99508

Thanksgiving Blessing

Be generous and share your food with the poor. You will be blessed for it.

Proverbs 22:9



Bless your hungry neighbors with the gift of food. The faith community is joining together this Thanksgiving to collectively distribute to those in need.

How YOU can help:

Organize a food drive: Invite your church, temple or office to join you in a food collection. We suggest collecting a single item per food drive, i.e. set a goal of 1,000 cans of corn.

Donate funds: 10 dollars will purchase a turkey.

Volunteer: Help set up on Sunday, November 20 or distribute on Monday, November 21.

Have food?

Gifts of food can be dropped off by Friday, November 18 at Food Bank of Alaska (2121 Spar Avenue). Call 907-272-3663 with any questions.

Food Wish List:

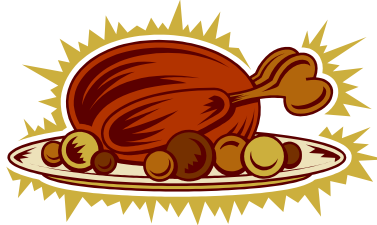
- Aluminum roasting pans
- Canned corn
- Canned green beans
- Canned peas
- Canned sweet potatoes or yams
- Cranberry sauce
- Gravy mix
- Stuffing mix

For information on how you can help,
contact Food Bank of Alaska, 907-272-3663.

Thanksgiving Blessing

“Let them give thanks...for He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.”

Psalms 107:8-9



Need help providing a Thanksgiving meal for your family? You can get a turkey and all the fixings on:

Monday, November 21, 3pm to 8pm

**Please go to one (and only one) of the following sites, depending on your zip code.
BRING PROOF OF ADDRESS WITH YOU.**

Crosspoint Church (Dimond and Minnesota, in the Burlington Coat Factory mall): 99507, 99511, 99515, 99516, 99518, 99522, 99523, 99540, 99587

Faith Christian Community (4240 Wisconsin in Spenard): 99502, 99517, 99519

Central Lutheran Church (Cordova and 15th): 99501 - addresses WEST of Gambell, 99503, 99510, 99513, 99520, 99524

St. Patrick's Church (2111 Muldoon Road): 99504, 99509, 99521

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (2501 Maplewood, off Northern Lights near Lake Otis): 99501 - addresses EAST of Gambell, 99508 - addresses SOUTH of Glenn Hwy

Mt. View Community Center (315 N. Price, off of Mt. View Drive): 99508 - addresses NORTH of the Glenn Hwy, 99514

Joy Lutheran Church (10111 E. Eagle River Loop Road): 99505, 99506, 99567, 99577

Questions? Call Food Bank of Alaska, 907-272-3663.



Winter Driving Tips

Driving on Snow and Ice

Drive on snow or ice covered streets only when necessary. If you must drive, be familiar with special techniques necessary to minimize the dangers involved. Allow plenty of time to get where you are going.

Beware of glare. When the sun shines snow produces a glare, which can be blinding. Keep a pair of sunglasses or yellow lenses in your car and use them.

Travel at a safe following distance. Stay back at least three seconds.

Plan ahead. Look out for the sudden slowing of traffic. Plan your own stops; slow down well in advance.

Brake carefully. Brake only when traveling in a straight line. Use threshold braking when applying the brakes; do so by pressing gently just before the brakes lock.

Beware of icy spots. Ice patches are 10 times more slippery than dry pavement at 30 degrees F.

Watch out for black ice at intersections, underpasses, shady spots, and bridges.

Negotiate ice hills carefully. When driving up hills, don't slow down or you will lose momentum. When driving down hills, use low gear, not the brakes. If you lose control of your vehicle, head into a snow-bank.

Basic Skid Rules

1. NO GAS – NO BRAKE
2. QUICKLY turn the steering wheel in the direction you want to go and be prepared to steer in the opposite direction if the back of the car changes direction.
3. Remember, NEVER jam on the brakes, squeeze them firmly after you have controlled the skid. If you have ABS brakes squeezing the brakes will stop you sooner.

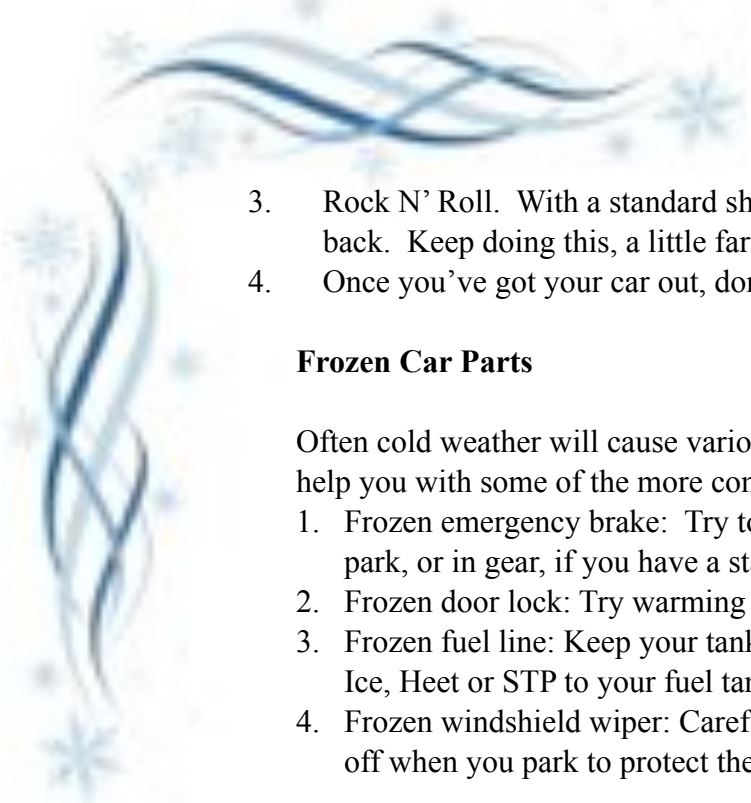
When You Get Stuck, Don't Panic

There may be times when your car becomes stuck in deep snow or on ice. Below are some tips that should help you get going.

If you get stuck on glare ice:

Put your engine in neutral (so tires don't spin). Use sand in front of "drive" tires for traction. Put foot on brake and shift into higher gear. Slowly let off brake and drive slowly.

1. Clear a path. Shovel out the snow from both the front and behind each wheel as well as from under the car. Front wheels should point straight ahead.
2. Gear to go. Use a higher gear so wheels spin less. Standard transmissions should be in second gear, automatics in drive.

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3. Rock N' Roll. With a standard shift ONLY, roll forward a little, step on the clutch, and roll back. Keep doing this, a little farther each time, until the car is out.
 4. Once you've got your car out, don't stop!

Frozen Car Parts

Often cold weather will cause various parts on your car to freeze up. Here are a few hints to help you with some of the more common problems.

1. Frozen emergency brake: Try to rock it free using reverse. Next time leave the car in park, or in gear, if you have a standard transmission car.
2. Frozen door lock: Try warming the key with a match.
3. Frozen fuel line: Keep your tank at least half full. Add gas line antifreeze such as Ban-Ice, Heet or STP to your fuel tank twice each winter.
4. Frozen windshield wiper: Carefully free them of ice and snow. Make sure you turn them off when you park to protect the wiper motor.

What's So Different About Winter Driving? Almost Everything!

When the snow season comes to Alaska, it's like driving in another world.

Suddenly, your car is different. It won't start the same way, steer the same way or stop the same way.

The roads often become treacherous when covered with snow. Slush is often as slippery as ice and both threaten stops and steering.

Winter also affects visibility. Daylight hours are short, and snow glare can blind you. In addition, windshields can become icy or fogged.

But the biggest problems with winter driving are the drivers themselves. Too often drivers are in a hurry, and either they don't worry about road conditions or, or they become tense and nervous.

Cold Weather Equipment

Don't wait until it freezes or snows to load your car with the equipment necessary to combat the elements. Put the following supplies from the checklist below in your glove box or trunk:

- Flashlight
- Brush or broom for snow removal
- Extra fuses for vehicle systems
- A rag for cleaning, headlights or windshield, if you should run out of washer fluid
- Extra washer fluid
- Chains for your tires
- Flares
- Survival candles and matches
- Work Gloves
- A small snow shovel
- A small bag of sand or salt
- A blanket and extra heavy clothing for emergencies
- Booster cables
- Non-perishable food for emergencies
- Tow strap

UPCOMING EVENTS



Saturday, November 12th
Auction

Wednesday, November 23rd
School Closes at 3pm

Wednesday, November 16th
6:00 - 7:30 pm
Parent Group Meeting

Thursday, November 24th - Friday,
November 25th
Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL

Friday, November 18th
7:00 - 11:00 pm
November Dance

STELLER SECONDARY SCHOOL
2508 BLUEBERRY ROAD
ANCHORAGE, AK 99503

