

# Old Steller Yeller

March 2014

From the Principal Dale Evern 742-4964

Hello Steller Community,

Somehow, I feel as though this year is moving faster than I would like it to. We have a lot going on, and we are already at the beginning of our fourth quarter. Just remember, the quarter will go fast with intensives at the end of the year, Activity Day, Parent Conferences, and next year's registration. Make sure you check Zangle regularly. That always helps me to keep my daughter on track with her studies.

It's nice to finally drive to and from work in the sunshine. Students will want to be outside more often, and their thoughts will soon be straying away from schoolwork. It's important we all keep the students focused and on task. Our tenth grade students will be taking an SBA test on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March, and the HSGQE will be on April 1-3. These tests are important, and I know our students will be well rested and prepared to take them.

I would like to take time to recognize and thank all of our School Business Partners for all they do. These are our unsung heroes that help with many school projects, volunteer their time with our students, donate many wonderful things to our school, and bring much of their expertise into our building. Our School Business Partners are truly making a difference. I wish I could have nominated each and every School Business Partner for a Spirit of Tomorrow Award. Even though all our SBP's have done wonderful things for Steller, the business I chose to nominate this year was Fitzgerald Photography. I have spotlighted them later in the newsletter.

I want to also thank all those parents and students who brought dessert for the Talent Show. I was very impressed with all the talent we have at Steller, and it is nice to see what students spend their time doing outside of the school. Parents put on a teacher luncheon that was phenomenal, and I thank them for all they do to keep our morale high. Our next Parent Group Meeting will be on Wednesday, March 5, at 6 PM. It would be nice to see you there.

As a quick reminder for the parents who have other students that would like to enroll at Steller for the Fall of 2014, you must have an online lottery form filled out prior to the last week in March. The drawing will take place on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March. You access the lottery form through your Zangle Parent Connect. Feel free to call and speak with either Michelle or Jaime if you have any questions. I hope you all enjoy your Spring Break. I know I will.

Take Care,

Dale





Thanks to the many parents and students who volunteered at the Prospective Student Fair and Ice Cream Social. A number of you turned out to help answer questions, give tours, serve ice cream, and help create a warm, inviting atmosphere for new families. Since the fair, we have had a lot of students shadow, and we anticipate a large number of students entering the lottery this year. Although this event is aimed at prospective students, it is also a celebration of our school community as the MPR is filled with staff, parents, and students who are excited about sharing their enthusiasm for Steller. It is impressive to watch our students articulate our school's values and the unique aspects of our program.

Speaking of the unique aspects of our program, the staff is finalizing spring intensive offerings next week. We are excited about partnering with outside organizations, such as UAA and Habitat for Humanity, in order to expand opportunities for our students. Course descriptions will be posted the week after spring break and students will register on April 7th during Advisory.

We are now into fourth quarter and would like to remind everyone that we have shifted to semester grading for many of our high school classes since students often benefit from a longer grading period. For semester classes, students receive a progress grade at quarter and parents can view that in Zangle. All middle school classes in the district are quarterlong, so seventh and eighth graders will continue to receive a final grade at the end of each quarter.

#### Counselor's Corner

### School Counseling at Steller

#### Why Students Succeed at Steller and in Life:

Steller Secondary is an extraordinary school with a long history of student success. It continues its strong tradition of fostering an educational learning environment based on student responsibility and freedom that provides students with the opportunities that create independent and self-directed learners. With the help of their advisor, guidance counselor, staff, parents and other advocates supporting their success, they can define their own personal educational path of self-directed goals. Students focus on an educational process that provides opportunities to develop, gain problem solving proficiency, self-assessment abilities, decision-making skills, and goal setting to best ensure the Steller student's success in our community and then throughout life.

#### Today's Young People

The student's at Steller are living in a particularly exciting time, a diverse and mobile society, new technologies, and expanding opportunities. To ensure that they're prepared to become a generation of parents, workers, leaders, and citizens, students need support, guidance, and opportunities during adolescence, a time of rapid growth and change. They face unique and diverse challenges, both personally and developmentally, that impact academic achievement.

#### Students' Developmental Needs

Middle through high school is the final transition into adulthood and students begin separating from parents to explore and define their independence. Students are deciding who they are, what they do well, imaging and making plans for what they will do when they graduate. During these adolescent years, students are evaluating their strengths, skills and abilities. The biggest influence is their peer group. They are searching for a place to belong and rely on peer acceptance and feedback. They face increased pressures regarding risk behaviors while exploring the boundaries of more acceptable behavior and mature, meaningful relationships. Young people today need guidance to develop the wisdom in making concrete and compounded decisions. They must deal with academic pressures: taking rigorous classes, face high-stakes testing, the challenges of college admissions, the scholarship and financial aid application process and a competitive job market.

#### A School Counselor's Role in Your Child's Life

Students and parents may just what it is school counselors do on a daily basis. Why do we need school counselors anyway? On a daily basis, school counselors are involved in character education, violence prevention, career planning and much more.

Today's school counselors are vital members of the education team. We help all students in the areas of academic achievement; personal/social development and career development, ensuring today's students become tomorrow's productive, well-adjusted adults.

#### Meeting the Challenge

School counselors are professional educators with specific training and a mental health perspective to understand and respond to the challenges of today's diverse student population. Not working in isolation; rather as a part of the big picture, integral to the total educational program. Our role is to provide proactive leadership that engages all stakeholders in the delivery of programs and services to help the student achieve success in school. We align and work with a school's mission to support the academic achievement of all students as they prepare for the ever-changing world. This mission is accomplished through the design, development, implementation and evaluation of a comprehensive, developmental and systematic school-counseling program.



#### Secondary School Counselors Implement the Counseling Program by Providing:

Classroom Guidance	Individual Student	Responsive Services	System Support
<ul> <li>Academic skills support</li> <li>Organizational, study &amp; test-taking skills</li> <li>Post-secondary planning and application process</li> <li>Career planning</li> <li>Education in understanding self &amp; others</li> <li>Coping strategies</li> <li>Peer relationships and effective social skills</li> <li>Communication, problem-solving, decision-making, conflict resolution and study skills</li> <li>Career awareness and the world of work</li> <li>Substance abuse education</li> <li>Multicultural/diversity awareness</li> </ul>	Academic plans     Career plans     Problem solving     Education in understanding of self, including strengths and weaknesses     Transition plans	<ul> <li>Social / Emotional needs</li> <li>Individual and small-group counseling</li> <li>Individual/family/school crisis intervention</li> <li>Peer facilitation</li> <li>Consultation/collaboration</li> <li>Referrals</li> </ul>	• Consultation, collaboration

#### School Counselors Collaborate with:

Students	Parents	Teachers	Administrators	Community
<ul> <li>Academic support services</li> <li>Program planning</li> <li>Peer education program</li> <li>Peer mediation program</li> <li>Crisis management</li> <li>Transition programs</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Academic planning/support</li> <li>Post-secondary planning</li> <li>Scholarship/ financial search process</li> <li>School-to-parent communications</li> <li>School-to-work transition programs</li> <li>One-on-one parent conferencing</li> <li>Referral process</li> </ul>	with post-secondary application process  Classroom guidance lessons on post- secondary planning, study skills, career development, etc  School-to-work transition programs  Academic support, learning style assessment and education to help students succeed academically  Classroom speakers  At-risk student identification and	<ul> <li>School climate</li> <li>Academic support interventions</li> <li>Behavioral management plans</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Job shadowing, worked-based learning, part-time jobs, etc.</li> <li>Crisis interventions</li> <li>Referrals</li> <li>Career education</li> </ul>

#### Why High School Counselors?

High school years are full of growth, promise, excitement, frustration, disappointment and hope. It is the time when students begin to discover what the future holds for them. As a school counselor I can be a part of enhancing the learning process and promote academic achievement. School counseling programs are essential for students to achieve optimal personal growth, acquire positive social skills and values, set appropriate career goals and realize full academic potential to become productive, contributing members of the world community.

the Success Center





# file your FAFSA like a pro

with the help of the College Goal Alaska experts

1/23 | Thursday 7PM Dimond High School

2/1 | Saturday 11AM Bartlett High School

2/19 Wednesday 6:30PM East High School

3/1 | Saturday 3PM Service High School

3/15 | Saturday 2PM Loussac Library

Win a \$700 Scholarship

Attend a College Goal Alaska event for a chance to win.

from Bilan Chiropractic



Be prepared! Pick up a FAFSA Checklist folder!

CollegeGoalAK.org 800-441-2962

# SBA / HSGQE TESTING

SBA SCIENCE GRADES 8 & 10 Friday, March 28

March 31 (make-ups

SBA READING GRADES 7 - 9 Tuesday, April 1

April 7 - 9 (makeups)

WRITING GRADES 7 - 9 Wednesday, April 2

April 7 - 9 (makeups)

MATH GRADES 7 - 9 Thursday, April 3

April 7 - 9 (makeups)

SBA / HSGQE 10

READING GRADES 10 Tuesday, April 1

NO MAKE UPS

WRITING GRADES 10 Wednesday, April 2

NO MAKE UPS

MATH GRADES 10 Thursday, April 3

NO MAKE UPS

**HSGQE RETAKES** 

READING Tuesday, April 1

NO MAKE UPS

WRITING Wednesday, April 2

NO MAKE UPS

MATH Thursday, April 3

NO MAKE UPS



#### **Nurse's Notes**

#### **Should My Child Stay Home? Guidelines for Deciding Handout**

We have had numerous incidents of nausea, headaches and lightheadedness at Steller since coming back from Winter break. Although, we don't want to encourage adolescents to come to school ill, we don't want them to unnecessarily miss inordinate amounts of time from class either. Some students have missed as many as 12 days this quarter, which puts them in jeopardy of not passing their course work. Please be conscientious about adhering to the following guidelines for keeping your adolescent at home. This information is from an ASD Health Services handout, so the word "child" is used instead of adolescent.

**FEVER** A fever is a warning that the body is fighting an infection that could easily spread to others. A child with a temperature of 100 F should not be sent to school; s/he should stay home until fever free without the use of fever reducing medications like Tylenol. (A temperature less than 100 is not considered a fever and health care providers do not recommend giving a fever reducer unless the temperature is over 101F. A low-grade fever can actually help fight the infection.)

**COLDS** Are more difficult to assess. A slightly runny nose and occasional dry cough is not enough to keep your child home. However, if your child's nose runs constantly, cough is frequent and wet, or your child is experiencing nausea or is too tired and

uncomfortable to function at school, it would be best to keep the child home for a day or two.

**COUGH** If your child has a severe cough, rapid and/or difficult breathing, wheezing, or

bluish tint to the skin or the cough is accompanied by a sore throat or not feeling well, the child should stay home from school.

**DIARRHEA** This is defined as an unusual amount of very liquid stools compared to a child's normal pattern. Child should stay home until able to participate normally at school.

**EARS** If the child has pain, swelling, drainage or difficulty hearing; please see your healthcare provider. Untreated ear infections can cause temporary or permanent hearing loss.

#### **Nurse's Notes Cont'd**

**EYES Red**, itchy eyes with a clear, yellow or green drainage from the eye may be contagious and a sign of bacterial conjunctivitis (pink eye). A child with pink eye can attend school as long as they are able to keep from touching their eyes and show that they can properly wash hands after contact with the infected eye.

**MEDICATIONS** The school district has very specific rules for all medications in school including cough drops. Please see the School Nurse if your child requires any medications while at school.

**RASH** A rash might be the first sign of an illness. If your child has a rash with a fever and behavioral changes, or a rash that is oozing/ open wound, or is tender with the rash worsening, s/he should be evaluated by a healthcare provider.

**SORE THROAT** If your child has a sore throat, have the child gargle with warm salt water. If his/her swallow, please keep the child home. If you notice white spots seen in the back of the throat please contact your doctor, this could be a sign of an infection.

**<u>VOMITING / NAUSEA</u>** Please keep your child home if he or she has vomited more than 2 times in 24 hours or also has a fever or if s/he looks or acts ill.

If you need assistance in determining whether to keep your adolescent at home or to send him or her to school, please don't hesitate to call me. I am always in my office by 8 am. Thank you for entrusting me with the care of your adolescent(s). It is gratifying to work with such enthusiastic young men and women. Enjoy your spring break and stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely, Anne McCarron, RN Steller Secondary School Nurse Direct line - 742-4963



# **News You Can Use**

#### Alaska 2-1-1 resources available

Alaska 2-1-1 wants you to know that its services are available to anyone. By calling 2-1-1, Alaskans can receive free, confidential referrals for child care, energy assistance, health care, parenting help, senior care, shelter, food assistance, job services, public benefits, legal assistance and more. Alaska 2-1-1 can also help residents sign up for the Health Insurance Marketplace.

#### Alaska Points of Light Youth Leadership Institute accepting applicants

Students in grades 8-12 are invited to apply to attend the Alaska Points of Light Youth Leadership Institute training during spring break, March 10-14. Students will learn more than two dozen skills and tools in creative leadership including personal and project goal setting, self and community assessment, team communication, diversity, decision making, project planning and organizing, problem solving, creativity, service learning, evaluation and reflection. For more information or to apply, contact Beau Bassett at <a href="mailto:friends.of.alaska.pyli@gmail.com">friends.of.alaska.pyli@gmail.com</a>. A limited number of scholarships are available.

"Creative Tide" is the theme of the 42nd Annual Anchorage School District student art exhibition at the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center. An affirmation to the museum's current "Gyre" exhibit, teachers will showcase a theme wall related to marine/costal topics. The exhibition is presented in conjunction with national Youth Art Month, an acknowledgement of the visual arts programs in American schools.

The community is cordially invited to attend the **Opening Reception, February 28 from 6-8pm**. In addition to the exhibit, ASD students will provide live music. During the reception, admission to the museum is complimentary.

#### **Exhibition Sites & Dates:**

Primary Exhibit Location
Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center
February 28 – March 23, 2014

Auxiliary Exhibit Locations

ZJ Loussac Municipal Library
February 27 – March 23, 2014

Chugiak-Eagle River Municipal Library
February 27 – March 22, 2014

The Mall at Sears
March 3 - March 23, 2014

#### 2014 Youth Art Month Committee Members

Elementary: Nicole Cox, Bonnie DeArmoun, Rosie Morgan Secondary: Nancy Brady, Scott Mayfield, Chris Selin

For further information, contact Mary Wilts, Curriculum Coordinator, ASD Music and Fine Arts Department, 742-0151.



# Spotlight on School Business Partnership



I am pleased to nominate Scott Minor, owner of Fitzgerald Photography, for the Spirit of Tomorrow Small Business Award. Scott has been a school business partner with Steller Secondary for the past two years. Mr. Minor serves as the official photographer for Steller Secondary, works with our students who are interested in photography, and he has volunteered his time in the community as well.

On Fridays, Scott comes in during our lunch and gives instruction to any student who would like to learn about photography. We have several students that take advantage of his services and are glad for the information. I have watched on several occasions as Scott patiently shares his knowledge and expertise. His kind manner and humor are an attractant to our students and they willingly give up their lunches to be with him. Scott has been a great School Business Partner and together, we have found ways to help the greater community.



## Spotlight on School Business Partnership cont'd

Last semester, Scott and I were meeting to discuss ways we could serve the Steller Community and ways we could work together to help other people. Scott put together a Family Portrait Night for our school and offered to dramatically reduce the cost of the sitting fee. Scott and I liked the idea of a portrait night so much, we called Northstar Elementary to see if there was something we could do to help them out. As it turned out, Northstar Elementary was holding a Make it, Take it Night where students were able to make decorations and take them home. Scott not only offered to take family portraits for the students who attended the event, but he made sure they didn't have to pay anything. I showed up to help out where I could. I was impressed that each family left with a high quality portrait that Scott printed on site. The partnership between Fitzgerald Photography and Steller Secondary collaborated to give families from the greater community something they could keep forever.

Upon accepting the contract to become the photographer for our school, Scott was immediately interested in becoming our School Business Partner. He fulfills his contract and responds quickly when asked to do something. Students have commented on how easy he is to work with, and our families have taken advantage of the opportunities he has offered them. Our partnership has been a win-win model from its conception. Fitzgerald Photography is recognized on our web site, in our newsletters, and in any flyer we hand out for registration. We hold events sponsored like Family Portrait Night that benefit both the school and Fitzgerald Photography.

I can't imagine a better partnership. It has been phenomenal working with Scott and his wife Alicia, and I sincerely believe their business deserves an award





# Steller Community

-Be The Change-

Steller ~Be the Change~ is working hard to engage our students with the community. We are always looking for opportunities to get our students into the community and the community into our school. ant to help? Have an interest/passion/career you would be willing to share with a group of students? Do you have a non-profit you are passionate about supporting? Please share with us opportunities for our students to volunteer and engage with our community. Also looking for other parents to help with networking for our students.

Contact information: email <u>stellerbethechange@aol.com</u> or like our Facebook page Steller Community Be The Change

# A BIG THANKS to all of our "partners" (SBP, parents, alumni) that are reaching out to our students!

Four students will represent Steller at the 17th annual **PYLI - Points of Light Youth Leadership Institute** over Spring Break. Thanks to Beau Bassett and our School Business Partners at Alaska PYLI for 17 years inspiring over 800 Alaskan youth to improve their leadership skills and make a positive change in their schools and community.

Two Steller students joined six other students from around the state with Marianne Kerr and our SBP *UAF/CES Anchorage 4-H Program* for a week in Juneau with the Youth in Governance Program.

There is a Summer internship opportunity available for students interested in tourism/travel industry with our SBP - *Anchorage Downtown Partnership*.

Spring intensive with *Habitat for Humanity*. See Danielle or Ashley for more info.

Like coffee? Did you know **TOB** (**Temple of the Bean**) serves coffee and other treats. Student run club, thanks to the support of SBP **Bates Enterprises** and Kyle.

Interested in photography? Bring your questions to **Scott from Fitzgerald Photography** on Fridays at lunch. Big thanks to Scott for mentoring our students and sharing with the Yearbook class.

Big thanks goes out to **Steller alumni Lindsey Childers** of the BP Challengers program for meeting with students and sharing about Engineering Careers.

Big thanks to parent **Pat Rinehart** for meeting with students and presenting about careers in Electrical Engineering.

Big thanks to the *Habitat Restore* for the tour of their facility to Chris' art class and for donating "old stuff" to be used as a canvas for art. Excited to see the finished pieces!



#### **President's Volunteer Service Award**

America has a long and proud tradition of volunteer service. Now more than ever, volunteers are renewing their commitment to helping others and making new connections that bring us closer together as families, as neighbors, as communities, and as a nation.

The President's Volunteer Service Award program is a great way to thank and honor those who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service.

Recognizing and honoring volunteers sets a standard for service, encourages a sustained commitment to civic participation, and inspires others to make service a central part of their lives. The President's Volunteer Service Award recognizes individuals, families, and groups that have achieved a certain standard measured by the number of hours of service during a 12-month period.

Awards are given to youth ages 14 and under who have completed 50 or more hours of volunteer service; to individuals 15 and older who have completed 100 or more hours.

For more information about the President's Volunteer Service Award, visit www.presidentialserviceawards.gov. or email stellerbethechange@aol.com



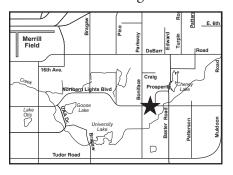
#### **Alternative Programs**





#### Saturday, March 1, 2014 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

# **ASD Education Center** 5530 E. Northern Lights. Blvd.



Online applications due by 3 p.m. Thursday, March 27, 2014.

Spring lottery date: Friday, March 28, 2014.

#### 18th Annual

#### **K-12 Alternative Programs Fair**

Saturday, March 1, 2014 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Please join us and learn about alternative programs in the Anchorage School District for the 2014-15 school year. Alternative and charter schools will be represented at the ASD Education Center. Participating schools include language immersion, ABC Back to Basics, Open Optional, School-Within-A-School, Montessori, Multi-Sensory Instruction and charter schools.

#### **ASD Alternative Schools and Programs**

Students have varying needs and some learn better in an environment different from that at a standard elementary, middle or high school.

As in neighborhood schools, students in alternative schools and programs attend classes and other activities throughout their school day. While the instructional methods used can vary, high standards are established and maintained regardless of the school structure or philosophy.

Students, parents, counselors or teachers may suggest one program or another, depending on student need and ability. Each program has its own admission requirements. Parents are responsible for providing transportation to alternative programs that are not at their neighborhood schools.

The school district will utilize an online lottery system to provide an equal opportunity for students who request participation in an alternative program or school for which the number of applications exceeds the number of available openings. Approval or denial is based on space availability and grade level and gender balance. Lotteries are held two times each year.



#### **ASD Announcements**



The ASD Evaluation System is a reflection of the Anchorage School District mission to "educate all students for success in life." Students, parents, community members and school staff are given the opportunity to provide information about teacher and administrator performance.

The two forms currently available are the *Evaluation Input Form on Teachers* and the *Evaluation Input Form on Administrators* (whether they are site administrators or central office administrators). If you would like to complete an Evaluation Input Form you have three options:

- Employees can complete the web-based Evaluation Input Forms anonymously by going to the District Connection at <a href="http://home.asdk12.org">http://home.asdk12.org</a>. You will find links to either Evaluation Input Form (teacher or administrator) under the Announcements section.
- Members of the public and employees not wishing to remain anonymous can complete the Web-based Evaluation Input Form by going to either the Parents or Community portal pages on the District's website: <a href="www.asdk12.org/parents">www.asdk12.org/parents</a> or <a href="www.asdk12.org/community/">www.asdk12.org/community/</a>. Links to both Evaluation Input Forms are available under the "Feedback & Questions" heading.

Web-based Evaluation Input Forms will be transmitted electronically by the Human Resources Department (Ginger Moser, HR Specialist) to the appropriate supervisor.

- For those who wish to print a hard copy of the form, PDF versions can be found in the Forms & Publications Library on the District's web site by searching for "Performance Evaluation Input."
  - School sites will also have 'hard copies' of the forms for parents and employees who do not have access to a computer. Each school will determine a location for the form (most likely the main office). Hard copies will be kept confidential and routed by the school to the <a href="immediate">immediate</a> supervisor.

The Evaluation Input Forms are now available on the website and they will remain posted in their web locations through May 1, 2014.



Anchorage School District **Anchorage School Board** 

Tam Agosti-Gisler, president
Natasha von Imhof, vice president
Kameron Perez-Verdia, clerk
Bettye Davis, treasurer
Eric Croft
Pat Higgins
Kathleen Plunkett

Superintendent Ed Graff





# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

WEDNESDAY, MAR 5

PARENT GROUP MEETING 6:00-7:30PM

FRIDAY, MAR 7

IN SERVICE DAY - NO SCHOOL

SATURDAY, MAR 8

**SAT TESTING** 

MONDAY-FRIDAY, MAR 10-14 FRIDAY, MAR 28

SPRING BREAK

THURSDAY, MAR 20

AD BOARD MEETING 6:00-7:30PM

FRIDAY, MAR 21

MARCH DANCE

THURSDAY, DEC 27

**LOTTERY DEADLINE 3:00PM** 

LOTTERY DRAWING ASD













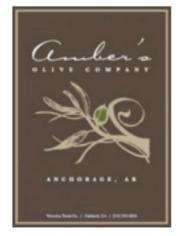
#### Anchorage School Business Partnerships

5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd. Anchorage, AK 99504-3135 www.asdk12.org/depts/sbp/











**ABBOTT** 



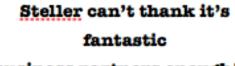
# AIGA Alaska











business partners enough!!! Thank You, Thank You, Thank You



