

# The Ol' Steller Yeller

## Steller's Peer-Taught Classes



One of the unique aspects of Steller is that students have the opportunity to teach each other. Students who have a speciality in a particular area can propose a peer taught class to the Steller staff and teach it in the coming semester with a sponsor teacher. Peer taught classes vary from language learning, PE, game design, and literature.

This semester Adara Lee is teaching a Creative Writing course. In her class she is having students create worlds

based upon a character they develop. Each week they work on a different aspect of that world - government, species, biospheres, etc. Adara says she is surprised by her students' creativity, their funny ideas, and how difficult it is to get students to turn in their work on time! The students are building folders with all of their ideas to culminate in a short story.

Rowan Pickard is teaching a How to Make a Movie course. Each week he focuses on a different aspect of video production including lighting, audio, and editing. At the end of the semester the students will be divided into two groups to create production crews and produce two short films.

Both students highly recommend teaching a peer taught. They worked hard to prepare for their new role as a teacher and they're learning lots while in that role. They both mentioned developing better leadership skills as well as teaching skills. Adara says that this role is definitely out of her comfort zone, but she psychs herself by being compassionate to herself and her students and being overly prepared.

If you're interested in teaching a peer taught class, please talk to your advisor to start planning. If you're interested in taking a peer taught class, you'll have an opportunity during spring intensives when 3-4 intensives will be offered by students.

### A Glance in the Classroom

#### Coding + Robotics

Coding and Robotics will be making electric messes soon. If you have any interest in helping out with DIY electronics/Arduino, or have extra gear lying around, please contact Brian ([gehring\\_brian@asd.k12.org](mailto:gehring_brian@asd.k12.org)). We will be using Raspberry Pi and Pi Zeros, all kinds of Arduino micro controllers, as well as wires, LEDs, sensors, random electronic toys, soldering irons, etc. Thanks for your help.

## Steller's Auction a Huge Success



The annual Steller Auction took place last week and was an amazing success!

We tried something new this year, and the event was held at 49th State Brewing Company. Almost 200 people attended, and we were able to raise over \$26,000, much more than our original goal.

All money raised by the Steller Parent Group goes to fund projects proposed by Steller students and teachers, including Intensives and Passage projects (including travel scholarships), Souper Steller community lunch, community service outreach projects, and additional student and teacher-proposed projects, equipment, and supplies throughout the school year as requested by the community.

We would like to extend a big thank you to all the members of the Steller community, and the many Anchorage businesses, who so generously donated to our efforts. We'd also like to thank the fifteen adult volunteers who helped out both before and during the event. Finally, we would like to specially commend the seventeen high school students who volunteered their time during the event. They exemplified the Steller spirit with their responsibility and poise.

To find out more about this year's Steller Auction and the plans for next year, please join us at the next Parent Group Meeting Tuesday, February 11 at 6:30.

Steller Auction Committee

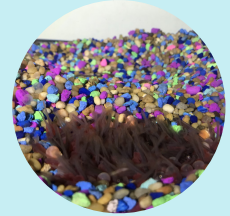
Kari Hall, Tam Johannes, Kirsten Tschofen, Brandon Brooks

### Social Studies



Svetlana's middle school students are learning about the 2020 Census by using maps from around the country with information about population and growth.

### Science Classes



Mike's classes are raising sockeye salmon. They've grown to the alevin stage and are thriving. Come visit his classroom to watch them grow.

## Steller's First Extracurricular Team

### Esports

The Steller Esports team, MiAK (Made in Alaska) finished their fall season this week after making it to the AK state

semifinal match. They were ultimately defeated by

bEast (East High School)

who were their nemesis

during the regular

season as well. The

team competed in

League of Legends

this season which is a

fantasy-based team

combat game where

objective is to destroy

the other team's base. All five

team members are looking to return

for the spring season. We are hoping to

get some new players, as well, to build a

strong foundation to continue this sport

at Steller for years to come. If you are

interested in joining (for League of

Legends,

Rocket

League or

SMITE), talk

to Jason soon

as teams for

the spring

are being

formed now.

The team

logo was

designed by

Philip.



## Passages Highlights

Students are busy working on their second semester passages. Passages include many music related topics - from learning to play the guitar, putting together a band, to fixing broken instruments. Other students are working with non-profits and elementary schools for their community service passages. One student is even creating his own non-profit. Here are descriptions of just some of the exciting passages in the students' own words.

*My passage is about audio engineering. Sound consists of many different frequencies and before being made public the frequencies can be altered in order to sound more pleasant. EQing is what you do to make the frequencies sound good. There are many components to creating sound like compression and reverb. During my passage I'll be creating collections of sounds, like a song, while meeting with someone who has a profession in the audio engineering field. In the end I hope to have a song that uses every technique I listed above with industry level sound.*

- William Cleland, 9th grade

*In my passage I will be working with the community at Rogers Park Elementary School painting a mural of the Iditarod and helping students with individual art projects.*

*During the third quarter my focus will be on the mural. I will be planning, gathering materials, and painting. During the fourth quarter I will work directly with the students in an after school art program. I plan to assist students individually with their art projects. - Lucca Duke, 11th grade*



## From the Principal's Desk

The days are getting longer so I hope you are all out and about enjoying the winter weather. Steller continues to move along, sharing new information, engaging students and teachers while creating learning opportunities. Steller is a wonderful place to be!

The Steller Auction was a fun and successful event this year. Thank you all for the donations, the bidding, the community building, and the monetary contributions to our program. A special thanks to Kari Hall, Tam Johannes, Kirsten Tschofen, and Brandon Brooks for their efforts and leadership.

With a heavy heart, I would like to recognize Gerald Brown for his contribution to Steller. Gerald passed away last week with his wife and son at their home in Wasilla. Gerald started his career with ASD in 1999, after a teaching career in Texas. He was a teacher and advisor at Steller from August 2008 until his retirement in May of 2016. Gerald was a kind soul who knew science well.

Former Steller students organized a memorial for him last Sunday at Steller. Students and colleagues shared their memories of Gerald - a patient listener, an understanding teacher, an experienced woodworker, and always ready with an easy smile and laugh. We will miss Gerald's yearly visits to Steller. Our condolences go out to his family in Texas.

- Reed



## VALENTINE'S DANCE

The Valentine's Dance is coming up on Thursday, February 13th. We are looking for chaperones to make the dance a success! Chaperones are needed for two shifts - 7-9pm and 9-11pm. It's a fun way to be a part of the Steller Community, and, of course, chaperones are invited to dance! Please contact Brian at [gehring\\_brian@asdk12.org](mailto:gehring_brian@asdk12.org), if you'd

## Events to put on your calendar

- Tuesdays throughout February, School Tours 9:30am
- Tuesday, February 11th - Parent Group meeting 6pm
- Thursday, February 13th - Valentine's Dance 7-11pm
- Friday, February 14th - No School - Inservice Day
- Monday, February 17th - No School - Presidents' Day
- Tuesday, February 25th - Evening School Tour 6pm
- Friday, February 28th - End of 3rd quarter (Steller only)
- Friday, March 6th - No School - Inservice Day
- Monday, March 9th - Friday March 13th - No School - Spring Break



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