

Alaska Room 2017-18 End of Year Report

In the 2017-18 School Year the Alaska Room served a total of 4614 students from 196 classes.

<u>Grade</u>	<u># of Students</u>	<u># of classes</u>
6	561	23
5	736	29
4	797	33
3	812	39
2	899	35
1	809	37

All of the classes, with the exception of Salcha and Two Rivers schools attended a 2 hour session in the Alaska Room. The Alaska Room visited both Two Rivers and Salcha and took projects and Power Point presentations to them in May. In addition to the students and teachers we had 313 parent and grandparent volunteers plus various Aides that accompanied classes to the Alaska Room.

We started the year off with visits out to North Pole Middle School with the classes of Mr. Hollet and Mr. LeSage. An Alaska Room Elder, Mrs. Violet Mayo was able to relate and answer questions about her experiences in Boarding Schools, and growing up in Minto, among other things.

The Alaska Room Staff also went out and taught a class in traditional Birch Bark basket making to Mr. Lesh's class at Star of the North Charter School in North Pole. All students in his class were able to make a small (3" by 2") birch bark basket using traditional folding and sewing with birch bark, willow branches and faux sinew.

In November, another of our teaching elders, Mrs. Ida Ross, was invited to visit Mrs. Carosso's class here in Anne Wien. Mrs. Ross took her family artifacts with her to explain subsistence uses and to share personal stories with Mrs. Carosso's class. I count every year Mrs. Ross works with us in the Alaska Room as a particular blessing. Mrs. Ross was also featured in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner in October of this year.

As we have done for the last few years, we spent four consecutive Tuesday afternoons in the months of November and December, with approximately 45 students at the Family Centered Services of Alaska Facility on Lathrop St (Midnight Sun Academy). We spend time teaching

beading skills while also talking about other traditional skills, which enabled the students there to make gifts for the holidays.

In November we had the Alaska Room open to the Anne Wien community for the Anne Wien Literacy Night, and Donna Cole I a story to students, staff and parents using a Story Knife.

This Spring (as we have done for the past several years) we hosted 7 student interns from the University of Alaska, from Mr. Sean Topkok's ED 420 class. Each student schedules time to come into our room, to observe and help with classes, and then at the end of their tenure to teach at least one lesson.

In March we spent two days attending workshops up at the Festival of Native Arts which we use as a Professional Development, to learn more about other Alaska Native Cultures. This year, they had a student instructor who was not able to make it to teach a beading class. The young lady who had volunteered to teach in her stead was tasked with teaching about 40 teen students from both Nenana and Effie Kokrine School. We ended up stepping in to help teach traditional Athabaskan bead embroidery.

In April of this year we spent two afternoons over at Joy Elementary with 4 different classes to participate in their annual Earth Week that Ms. Hinzeman organizes. With the help and input of two of our staff, Mrs. Deanna Houlton and Mrs. Caroline Tritt-Frank, I worked on and developed a subsistence trapping board game for the students to play to demonstrate a traditional land use. The students seemed to enjoy it.

We ended the year by having the Alaska Room open to the public for the annual ANE picnic here at Anne Wien on May 4th.

It was another productive and happy year here in the Alaska Room! We are honored to be able to keep teaching the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District's elementary students about Alaska Native Cultures.

Ana Basee'!

-Donna Cole
Alaska Room Cultural Resource Specialist
451-7500 Ext 27042