

Adventist Education—A Firm Foundation

Quentin Purvis, VP-Secretariat



Quentin Purvis
Vice President, Secretariat

Quentin Purvis, who has served as the Vice President of Administration, Office of the Secretariat, since 2010 has accepted a call to serve as pastor of the Apopka Seventh-day Adventist Church in Orlando, Florida effective March 1, 2018.

The Alaska Conference would like to thank him for his years of dedicated service and ask God's blessing upon Quentin as he returns to the field of ministry.

It is hard to believe that I have served the Alaska Conference eight years. I cannot think of a greater privilege than to have my last thoughts focus on Adventist education. In each district I have pastored I was involved in a church school. I believe Martin Luther's bold admonition is true: "I would advise no one to send his child where the Holy Scriptures are not supreme." Throughout the many years, I have noticed that there are some misconceptions about Adventist Christian education and I would like to set the record straight:

1. Adventist Education is not a place where a few decorations like prayer, chapels, and Bible classes complement a secular education. Genuine Christian education seeks to integrate God's Word into every facet of the curriculum. Charles Bridges wrote in his commentary on Proverbs, "The religious training must not be the border of the garment, which might easily be cut off. It must be the pervading substance throughout."

2. Adventist education encompasses more than the study of religion. Prayer and Bible study are important, but this view is limited. Service is a vital ingredient to the training of students who come into the classroom. Preparing youth to serve and be a tool in the Lord's hands will take their scholastics to a new level.

3. Adventist education is not a safe house from the world. Many well-meaning parents think that because they send their children to our schools that it is a guarantee against sin. The difference is that teachers have more control on what a student can and cannot bring

to school. Cartoon shirts are removed and the wearing of uniforms help navigate through those challenges.

4. Adventist education is not a reform school for families who have exhausted other options to solve their children's problems. It is not a place where parents can put their head in the sand and condone bad behavior. The Adventist school should be their first choice, the place where Christian families, the church and school can prepare students for effective lives of service in God's kingdom.

More than 450 years ago, Martin Luther preached a powerful sermon encouraging his listeners to stand firm in their faith and reminding them of the nature of the conflict: "Powerful warriors are needed, who are thoroughly familiar with the Scriptures and can contradict all false interpretations and take the sword from false teachers. . . each Christian should be so armed that he himself is sure of his belief and of the doctrine and is so equipped with the sayings from the Word of God that he can stand up against the devil and defend himself, when men seek to lead him astray."

Genuine Adventist education works hard to implement the arts that glorifies Jesus Christ. How? By inviting the church community to volunteer their talents of music with students a couple times a week. It may not match up to what the public schools provide, but it does answer an important question: Would one rather be influenced by a world of secularism, or one dominated by the love, reconciliation, and forgiveness of Jesus Christ?

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Alyeskan

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A High Sabbath In Dillingham

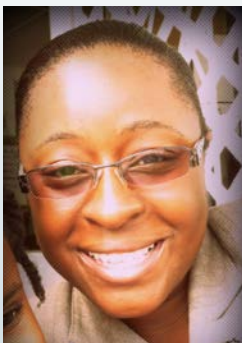
Doni Andregg, Dillingham Adventist School Board Chair

One of only six Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) schools in the Alaska Conference, Dillingham Adventist School (DAS) is the farthest-west, approximately 350 miles from Anchorage and off the road system. The current enrollment is 23 students—representing 15% from the local SDA church and 85% from the community at large. Sueal Cunningham is the principal and has been teaching at DAS for eight years. Coming from Jamaica and its warm climate, Ms. Cunningham has adapted well to life with Alaska's colder temperatures and remoteness. She has a rare gift of compassion and classroom management that endears her to the students.

The "volunteer" teacher this year is Taylor Armstrong from Ukiah, California. Last summer Ms. Armstrong was working at Leoni

Meadows (an outstanding SDA summer camp) in Northern California, when she heard about the opportunity to gain experience in the classroom—and learn about Alaska at the same time. As an elementary education major, she was well-suited to join the staff at DAS and serve God.

On Sabbath, August 26, 2017, there was a special teacher dedication as part of the church service. Pastor George Dronen offered the prayer of dedication and invited the Holy Spirit to especially bless the school staff and upcoming school year. Special music was provided by Joe Chythlook, Lauri and Dennis Rootvik, who sang "No One Ever Cared For Me Like Jesus." The guest speaker was Monte Church preaching on "What It Takes To Be Saved." It was a high Sabbath for sure.



*Sueal Cunningham
Head Teacher*

Dennis Rootvik, Lauri Rootvik and Joe Chythlook



Pastor Monte Church



Dillingham Seventh-day Adventist Church at Dusk



Pastor George Dronen (r) leads a prayer of dedication with Doni Andregg, Taylor Armstrong and Sueal Cunningham (l-r)

DILLINGHAM ADVENTIST SCHOOL

Opened: 1949
Students: 22
Teachers: 1
Volunteer Aide: 1

Students Beat The Board Chair

Nickie Romine, Volunteer, and Lynne Jackson, Treasurer, Juneau Adventist Christian School

Meeting the budget demands for a small school can be an overwhelming task, as most administrators and school board members know. It was certainly no different this year for Juneau Adventist Christian School and as we committed the budget in red to our business meeting, it was with a lot of prayers knowing that the Lord has covered us with His miracles and Jesus math for many years running.

One of the biggest financial boosts for the year comes in our annual holiday wreath and centerpiece fundraiser that starts in October with delivery just before Thanksgiving. With a goal of \$2,000 profit, we knew we were stretching the limits of previous years, but again, committed this to our Lord who knows our every need.

To encourage student participation, teacher Cynthia Lewis challenged the students to “Beat the Board Chair”, Bruce Romine, in sales. If

they won, they were promised a skating day! This was a tall order, for Mr. Romine had quite a list from previous years, and historically most students did only a handful of sales with the school board members doing the majority. The children took the challenge, however, and were off and running. Down to the last few days, the race tightened with Mr. Romine leading by one wreath at 18. However, the weekend and Monday lay ahead and by Monday night the kids blew Mr. Romine right out of the water! Their work brought in more than 25% of the total sales.

In the picture below, you can see students Adam Drzakowski, Megan Frank, Ethan Webb, William Truncale, Joy, Tommy, and Trey Gallagher, Savannah Brohard, and Gwen Lockwood holding the number 60 for their sales. The students and the board once again had an amazing demonstration of God’s faithfulness and mercy, His blessings overflowing!



Juneau students show their number of sales for “Beat the Board Chair”.



Cynthia Lewis
Head Teacher

**Did you know
Adventists schools
were at one time in:**

- Aleknagik
- Bloom Log Camp
- Craig
- Ketchikan
- Nome
- Seldovia
- Togiak
- Vank Island
- Wrangell

Adventist Education—A Firm Foundation

Cont. from Page 1

How I wish I had been given the opportunity to go to an Adventist school growing up. As I leave the place of my heritage, it is my prayer that each member will see the importance of bringing our children to Jesus and view Adventist education as a tool to fulfill this goal. May the Lord of Heaven bless each one of you and if we do not see each other on this planet, that we will be united in the Kingdom of Heaven.

JUNEAU ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Opened: 1956
Students: 9
Teachers: 1

Turkeys Needed in Alaska!

Kerri Thomason, Amazing Grace Academy Teacher

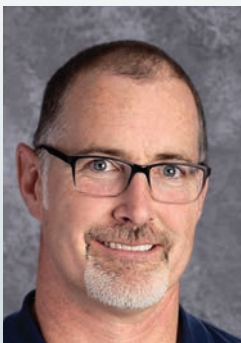
“Lord, I need turkeys!” I cried in desperation. “You have promised that if I ask, You will provide. I need You to provide 35 turkeys.” Amazing Grace Academy (AGA) in Palmer, the only Pre-K through 12-grade Adventist school in Alaska, had their second annual project, *Feed the Need*, in full swing.

Announcements had been made at church and donations were arriving. Our students had just completed a very successful week-long food drive which netted piles of Thanksgiving food items. We were now two weeks away from delivering complete Thanksgiving meals to 35 families in our community that really needed some extra help.

The only problem was I didn’t have the funds to pull it off. I could feel the panic rising as I worked and reworked the budget. No matter how I worked it, I only had enough money to assist 15 families. I had made the decision that our goal was going to have to be smaller this year. Fifteen families would have to be good enough...but that decision didn’t sit well with me. There was no peace in my soul and I knew it was the wrong decision, yet I couldn’t see any way to feed all 35 families. I began talking to God in earnest and pleading with Him to make a way. I decided that we could purchase everything else that we needed

for 35 boxes except for the turkeys. I stepped out in faith, made the order for the fixings and decided to ask our school and church families to pledge turkeys to fill the boxes. I got up in front of our church Sabbath morning, explained the situation and informed them that we had stepped out in faith. Their response brought me to tears. By Monday, there was enough money to buy the fixings for 45 boxes and the turkey pledges were flowing in rapidly.

2 Cor. 9:11 says, “You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” The Friday before Thanksgiving break our student body came together in our gym to pack the boxes with complete Thanksgiving dinners. By God’s grace we fed 49 families and had money left over which was put on grocery store gift cards and given to three of the families that really tugged on my heart. Leading this community service project has been a beautiful faith building journey. God is waiting for us to step out of our comfortable box and join Him in reaching people. Nothing is too big for Him to make a reality. Step out with God today and experience His blessing!



*Dane Bailey
Principal*



‘Pilgrim’ and second grade student, Alaina Hernandez, helps pack boxes.

Each Thanksgiving dinner was prayed over by the students



AGA student body in the gym for its second annual Feed the Need chapel

AMAZING GRACE ACADEMY

Opened: 1948
Students: 108
Teachers: 8
Staff: 1

“You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”

2 Corinthians 9:11

God Made Me Special

Darné King, Anchorage Junior Academy Principal

No matter what we try to teach or attempt to get through to our students, Christian educators often struggle to instill a sense of self-worth and confidence in the Lord. At Anchorage Seventh-day Adventist Junior Academy (AJA), it is no different. We strive for excellence in God. We strive for purity of mind and soul. We strive to connect our dear students with the Almighty. And as Christian educators, we are blessed every time God gives us a glimpse into the soul growth of one of His precious children. The following story illustrates one of those blessed experiences at AJA.

Being a school in a mid-size city, we receive students from all walks of life. This year, a student came to AJA who had never heard of Jesus or experienced the love that only comes from knowing our loving Savior. Furthermore, for many years, Satan had introduced himself to the student as a viable option and the student chose the path that was presented to him. This student had chosen a life of lying, cheating, stealing, and fire starting. Yes...fire starting! Prior to coming to AJA, many people gave up and counted him as a lost cause. He was shipped to a treatment facility, left by himself with few family members wanting to contact him and no place to call home.

As the Lord saw fit, the student was placed in a therapeutic foster home and enrolled in AJA. The first day of class, as the other students were working on a group project, without

prompting, a fellow student called out this particular student's name and invited him to join their group.

Since that first day, the student's name has been repeatedly called on to be included in the AJA family. From the mothering of Mrs. Enquist to the kind words from Mrs. Purvis, the student has integrated into the AJA family—the family that he never had. And praise the Lord, this family is built on God's love. It all culminated one day as the child was riding home with his foster parent.

As they drove, the child's foster parent told him how well he was doing and that many people on his treatment team believed he would end up back in the treatment facility. The foster parent let the student know that it was not anything against him personally. It was just that they had seen so many situations that ended poorly they expected the same in this case, however the foster parent let him know that he was breaking the mold. The child responded, "That's because God made me special."

This child is not perfect. He still has dozens of things he needs to work on. But here at AJA, we are glad to have been a part of planting the seed of God's love in this child's heart and watching it grow. (He recently asked for baptismal classes!)

It is our sincere prayer that as Christian educators, we, the teachers and staff at AJA, will provide many opportunities so that every student in our school will be able to build a strong and loving relationship with our Friend, Jesus.

Dedicate your children to God and point them in the way that they should go, and the values they've learned from you will be with them for life.

Proverbs 22:6 TPT



Darné King
Principal

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Class!**

**Sabbath Mornings
at 9:30 a.m.
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Access Code:
53383143#**



AJA students gather around items they collected for families in need this past Christmas

**ANCHORAGE JUNIOR
ACADEMY**

Opened: 1942
Students: 33
Teachers: 4
Staff: 1

Reading Is FUNdamental!

Rosie McDaniel, Head Teacher

The third Friday in January is a day that the students at Golden Heart Christian School look forward to more than just about any day of the year. What makes that day so special, you may ask? That day is our Reading Marathon! For two weeks the students acquire monetary pledges from friends and neighbors for either time blocks (for lower grades) or pages read (advanced readers) to earn money for new school library books. When the day dawns, students arrive at school wearing PJ's and slippers; their arms loaded with a cacophony of stuffed animals, blankets, and pillows. Maybe even a small personal tent! Excitement bubbles from every corner as each student makes their reading spaces comfy-cozy—just right for hours of

reading! After worship there's just enough time for last minute adjustments, books to be organized, and reading positions chosen. The timer starts and silence reigns for 30 minutes while everyone enjoys their favorite book. The rest of the morning is spent alternating between short breaks and 30-minute reading sessions. "I wish we could do this every day!" one boy remarked when it was over. "My daughter has never gotten out of bed so fast," a mother remarked. Yet another mother added, "I love reading days, but my girl had such trouble sleeping! She kept asking if it was time to get up yet!" In the next few days our teachers will have the joy of choosing new books for our small, yet expanding library. Teachers and students alike all love Reading Marathon Day!



Rosie McDaniel

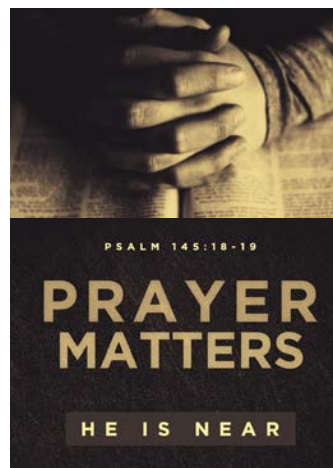


Golden Heart Students prepare for a marathon day of reading



GOLDEN HEART CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Opened: 1956
Students: 9
Teachers: 1
Aide: 1



ALASKA PRAYER TEAM CALL TO PRAYER

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FRIDAYS, 7-8 pm

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Join fellow believers each Friday
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Enter "#", say your name & enter "#"

Ready! Set! Mark Your Calendars!

Tobin Dodge, Youth-Young Adult Director

Mark your calendars for the upcoming youth-focused events sponsored by the Alaska Conference. If you have a question, please contact Pastor Tobin at pastortobin@gmail.com.



Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE), March 10, Palmer SDA Church: A special invitation is extended to all Alaska clubs to attend the Bible Pathfinder Experience event at the Palmer SDA Church. If a club is unable to attend, we can use video conferencing so clubs can still participate. The PBE begins at 2:30 p.m. followed by dinner, fun and games! Contact Pastor Tobin with questions on attending or participating by video conference.

Youth Prayer Day, April 21: "The Hold Of Grace": Larissa Bitton, Upper Columbia Conference youth and family life assistant, is the featured speaker. The day is designed for youth ages 13-19 and will be held at Amazing Grace Academy in Palmer. The day begins at 10 a.m., Sabbath morning. The conference will provide a school bus for Anchorage youth wanting to attend. Reserve your spot by email to alaskainfo@ac.npuc.org by April 15. Maximum space available is 40 and filled on a first come, first served basis. Please note out-of-area travel is on-your-own.

Pathfinder Camporee, May 24-27, Pioneer Peak Campground, Palmer Alaska: The annual Pathfinder camporee is scheduled for Memorial Day weekend 2018. All Pathfinder clubs are invited and encouraged to attend. The camporee will be at the Palmer Campground where cabins, bath facilities and a cafeteria are ready for use. Clubs, plan to cover transportation costs and meals. The weekend promises to be full of fun and fellowship! All clubs will lead in an event, so come prepared to participate. The weekend kicks off Thursday evening with vespers at 7:00 p.m. followed by Field Day Friday. The weekend continues with a full day of Sabbath-related events.



Tobin Dodge



Looking for work this summer?
Consider Alaska Camps!
For more information visit
www.alaskacamps.org

The conference is launching monthly e-mail communiques with events around Alaska, a message from the president and information on the national Adventist scene, but we need your help!

Send church, school and ministry event information to the conference **the month prior** to your event and we will include it in conference emails as well as promote it on our website and Facebook page closer to the event.

Send email and event information to alaskainfo@ac.npuc.org

ARCTIC CAMP MEETINGS

Nome Camp Meeting

February 23-24, 2018
Nome Seventh-day Adventist Church
501 Round the Clock St
Speaker Monte Church with Steve Huey

St Lawrence Island Camp Meeting

February 23-24, 2018
Speakers Joe Chythlook and Rod Rau
Contact Pastor Leon Ringering for times/
locations: lrdringering@gmail.com

Bristol Bay Camp Meeting

March 9-10, 2018
Dillingham Seventh-day Adventist Church
446 Windmill Hill
Speakers David Shin and Steve Huey

Bethel Camp Meeting

March 23-24, 2018
Bethel SDA Church
446 Windmill Hill
Speaker Tobin Dodge with Steve Evenson



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Christian Education—The Clarion Call

Francine Lee, Tok Church Member

Christian Education is a priority for our children. For years our little company of believers in Tok sought ways to start a church school. No doors opened. But in 2010, after I read the book *Madison, God's Beautiful Farm*, I perceived a way forward. Starting with the resources available, our school could grow as God provided. When Elias, a fourth-grade church member, heard me speak of starting a school, he begged and badgered me at every opportunity. Brainstorming, Elias asked, "Where will we have the school? How much money do we need? When are we starting?"

Finally, in August 2010, we began a 'Cottage School' in our spare bedroom. Initially, we had school half days, leaving me time to work at my store and at Tok Clinic as an R.N. Now school operates 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. four days weekly. Presently the family room is appropriated for devotions, the kitchen for science and hot lunches, upstairs for studies, even closets during hide and seek. Our yard, the garden, the greenhouse, all are used. Since that tiny beginning, fourteen children have received a Christian education here, most from the community. Currently, five children in grades 1 - 7, and Elias, now a Junior, attend. Others express an interest in sending their children to Arctic Light Academy in the future. Though presently I am the only fulltime staff, others assist as able, grading papers, listening to little ones read or instructing as needed. Several donate financially.

These quotes continually motivate me. "The destroying angel is about to go forth again, [as in Egypt of old] ...Parents, if you wish to save your children"... "Gather your children into your own houses; ... Establish church schools" ... "I say again, establish schools for the children wherever there are churches. Where there are those who assemble to worship God, let there be schools for the children. Work as if you were working for your life, to save children from being drowned in the polluting, corrupting influences of this life." Advocate, EGW, May 1, 1900.

We have heard the clarion call.



Arctic Light Academy Students with teacher Francine Lee, far right