

KCL MONTHLY



Kuskokwim Consortium Library Newsletter



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January 7, 2026

Volume 5 Issue 1

KCL's 2025 Year in Review

By: Theresa Quiner, Library Director

Happy New Year from the Kuskokwim Consortium Library. 2025 was a great year at the library, and we look forward to another year of community and learning in 2026. Library staff sure stayed busy this year with a lot of great programs. Some were long time favorites such as our weekly Toddler Time held at the cultural center and fitness centers. We even invited the littles to our first Toddler Prom last February which was as cute as it sounds! We also had a lot of fun expanding our partnership with the Tundra Women's Coalition's Teens Acting Against Violence program to expand the capacity of both organizations to provide healthy programs for youth. They worked with us on so many projects over the past year including our summer reading programs, Winterfest, and more. We also enjoyed working with new organizations, such as the Alaska Game Developer's Alliance. By working with them we were able to provide a Game Development Expo where Alaska Game Developers, including several from Bethel, were able to showcase their games to the community. They also provided a week-long coding camp, teaching youth basic coding skills to develop a game of their own.



Andre and Wyatt with the Game Dev Alliance teaching kids how to code.

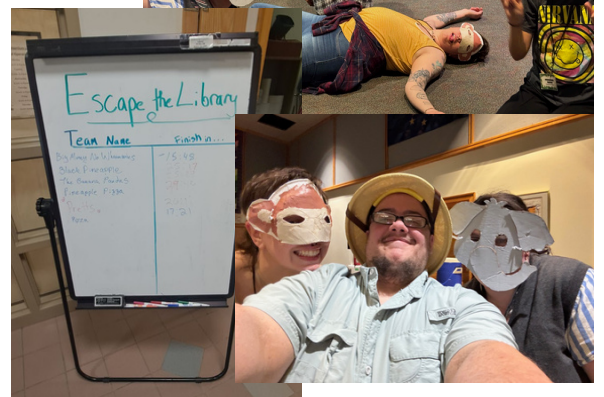
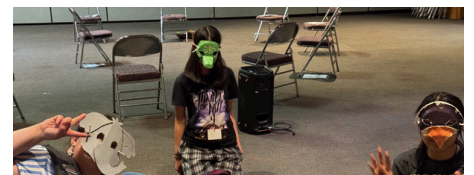
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KCL YEAR IN REVIEW



LEGO BUILD COMPETITION



TAAV and Library partnership "Escape the Library" and "Teen Murder Mystery"

We screened several documentaries throughout the year, including "Alaskan Nets", "Sacred Alaska", "The Librarians" for Banned Books Week, "Free for All: The Public Library" for National Library Week, and the new "Oceans" documentary by David Attenborough. We worked with the Association of Village Council Presidents to screen "Oceans", and held a native foods potluck and discussion after this very relevant film about the health of oceans and fisheries.



A new addition to our monthly programming has been our new radio show "Bethel Book Club". Every month Mikayla and I go on the radio for a live call-in show about books. We highlight books that we have read and are reading, new books in the library, and some months we feature a specific book.



Our Summer Reading Program was one of our best yet, due in large part to the amazing planning and outreach of our Youth Services Librarian Mikayla Miller. Mikayla visited every school and was able to connect with almost every student in Bethel to promote summer reading. As a result we saw an increase in library card registrations and participation in both summer programs and the reading drive. The summer reading challenge this year included a large board game (designed by Mikayla) for each age group where readers competed as they logged pages. This went along with the summer reading theme "Level Up At Your Library". Mikayla has been with the library for five whole years, and her experience planning and implementing programs really stood out this summer. Our End of Summer Reading carnival was one of our best yet, complete with a bounce house, carnival games, more prizes than ever, and of course cake walks.

Our Jesuit Volunteers Scott and Elena have continued to provide fun adult programs throughout the year, including paint nights, crafts, board games, and candle making. Our Jesuit Volunteers also enjoy every year taking our programs outside in the summer for birding, plant walks, and kayaking adventures. We were sad to see Scott go at the end of his service year, and excited to have Elena for the coming year.



Library Staff Thomas, Scott, Theresa and Mikayla showcasing the summer reading board games.

Shipping off Scott and saying welcome to Elena!



This fall as the entire region responded to Typhoon Merbok, we started to see an increase in library use from people impacted by the typhoon. We partnered with AVCP to provide a Thanksgiving Potluck for the evacuees, and had hundreds of people come to eat the many traditional Thanksgiving dishes as well as Native Foods. We also expanded our Project Homeless Connect events and now call them Project Resource Connect, and we added booths for people providing information and services for the evacuees. We had a huge turnout!

We ended the year with our Winterfest Carnival, a holiday craft and movie night, and another week of arts programming with visiting artist Jimmy Riordan. Kids and adults enjoyed making marionettes and other holiday crafts.

Thank you to library staff Mikayla and Thomas and Jesuit Volunteers Scott and Elena for all of your hard work this year. And thank you to our many volunteers and community partners who help with so many things throughout the year. We look forward to the new year!



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KUSKOKWIM CONSORTIUM LIBRARY STAFF

THERESA QUINER, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

MIKAYLA MILLER, YOUTH SERVICES LIBRARIAN

THOMAS DANIEL, CIRCULATION TECHNICIAN

ELENA HAMANN, JESUIT VOLUNTEER/ADULT SERVICES COORDINATOR



@KuskokwimConsortiumLibrary



@BethelAKLibrary



@kcl_brary



907-543-4516



<https://www.uaf.edu/bethellibrary/>

SUNDAY

CLOSED

MONDAY

11 A.M. - 5 P.M.

TUESDAY

11 A.M. - 7 P.M.

WEDNESDAY

11 A.M. - 7 P.M.

THURSDAY

11 A.M. - 7 P.M.

FRIDAY

12 P.M. - 6 P.M.

SATURDAY

11 A.M. - 4 P.M.

JANUARY CALENDAR

Library Closed

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Library Closed	29	30	31	1	2	3
4 Library Closed	5 Toddler Time in the YK Fitness Center pool @ 11 a.m.	6	7	8	9	10
11 Library Closed	12 Toddler Time in the Cultural Center @ 11 a.m.	13	14	15	16	17 Library Closed
18 Library Closed	19 Library Closed	20	21	22	23	24
25 Library Closed	26 Toddler Time at the YK Fitness Center (Pool) @11 a.m.	27 Project Resource Connect 12:00-2:00	28	29	30	31