



# John Fredson School

Principal/Teacher - Ms. Diane Olmstead

## NEWSLETTER

# MARCH



**Native Authors & Guests Arrive**

### What's in this issue

- Native Authors Writing Workshop
- Art Murals Completion
  - Ms. Angie - Gym
  - Ms. Diane - Foyer
- Better Eye Sight Visit
- AK Star Practice Tests
- Photo Gallery
- Staff Spotlight
- Bulletin



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**John Fredson School Vision** – Our vision is to instill knowledge and history, pride in culture, and confidence sufficient to be happy and productive in a modern world (along with a deep appreciation for Gwich'in values).



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## SUMMARY PAGE

### **Native Authors Inspire Students in Venetie**

John Fredson School had the honor of hosting several Native authors who visited the village to share their stories, experiences, and cultural wisdom with our students. The authors read from their published works, spoke about the writing process, and encouraged students to express themselves through storytelling. This special event highlighted the power of Indigenous voices and traditions, sparking meaningful conversations and pride among our Gwich'in learners. Students were excited to engage with the visitors, and the entire school community was uplifted by this memorable celebration of literacy and culture.

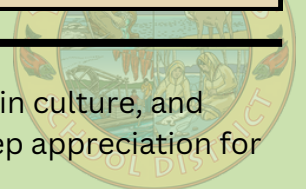
### **Ms. McCarty Returns**

During Spring Break, Ms. Angela McCarty generously returned to John Fredson School to complete the stunning wolf mural in our gymnasium—a project she began with students back in February. Donating her own time, Ms. McCarty brought the mural to life with vibrant colors and meaningful symbolism that reflects the strength and spirit of the Venetie community. Her dedication and artistic talent have left a lasting mark on our school, and we are deeply grateful for the time and heart she poured into this special project.

### **Principal Paints Scenic Mural in School Foyer**

Ms. Diane Olmstead, Principal/Teacher at John Fredson School, brought the beauty of Venetie indoors by painting a stunning mural in the school's front foyer. Inspired by a photo she had taken of the local landscape, the mural captures the natural scenery surrounding the village with vivid detail and heartfelt care. Her artwork reflects not only the breathtaking environment of Venetie but also her deep appreciation for the community she serves. The mural adds a warm, personal touch to the school and offers students and visitors a daily reminder of the land they call home.

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## Photo Gallery

### Better Eyesight Visit

On March 19-20, Better Eyesight Eye Exams visited our school to provide eye exams and eyewear service to students and members of the community. This valuable service helped ensure vision support is here for the community.

### Foyer Mural



### Native Authors Arrive



### Gym Mural 2



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## Staff Spotlight

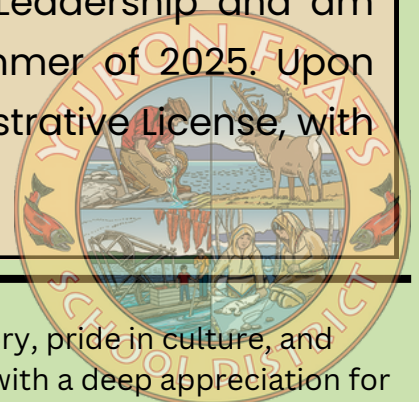
Joel Brooks



I was born and raised in New York City. I consider myself a dedicated educator with almost 27 years of classroom teaching experience. Throughout my career, I have taught all elementary grade levels, from kindergarten through sixth grade, in diverse educational settings across the globe. My teaching journey has taken me to countries including Japan (Tokyo), China (Shanghai), the United Arab Emirates (Abu Dhabi), and Mexico (Torreón), as well as to remote communities here in Alaska (Elim, a village near Nome, and finally here in Venetie). I've been a teacher here in Alaska for about four years, serving in Yupik and Gwich'in communities.

In addition to classroom teaching, I have taken on various leadership and enrichment roles, including English teacher (in Japan and China), CHAMPS Coach, Art Coordinator, and Battle of the Books Coordinator. These positions reflect a broad commitment to both academic and extracurricular excellence.

Currently, I am pursuing a Master's degree in School Leadership and am expected to complete my final coursework in the summer of 2025. Upon completion, I plan to apply for an Alaskan Type B Administrative License, with the goal of becoming a school principal by August 2025.





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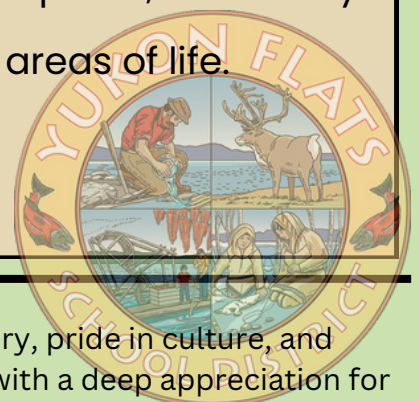
## Staff Spotlight

Joel Brooks

I aspire to be a principal who not only manages but actively upholds and promotes our school's vision and mission. At John Fredson School, our vision is to instill knowledge and history, pride in culture, and confidence sufficient to be happy and productive in a modern world—while fostering a deep appreciation for Gwich'in values. This vision resonates deeply with my own leadership philosophy, which centers on the belief that schools thrive when they prioritize both academic excellence and cultural relevance.

I believe that by fostering collaborative relationships with teachers, support staff, families, and the broader community, we can create a learning environment where every student feels seen, supported, and inspired. This collective approach not only drives academic achievement but also strengthens the cultural identity and confidence our students need to navigate and contribute to the wider world. As a future principal, I am committed to ensuring that every decision I make reflects and advances the school's mission—helping students grow into capable, culturally grounded individuals who are prepared for success in all areas of life.

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## Bulletin

- Mar. 3rd to Mar. 6th - Reading Progress Monitoring #8
- Mar. 6th - End of Quarter 3
- Mar. 7th - District Inservice
- Mar. 9th - Daylight Saving Time Begins "Spring Forward"
- Mar. 10th to Mar. 14th - Spring Break
- Mar. 17th - St. Patrick's Day
- Mar. 17th to Mar. 19th - JFS Hosting Native Authors Writing Workshop
- Mar. 17th to Mar. 21st - Practice Tests and Tutorials for state assessments
- Mar. 18th - Quarter 3 grades due
- Mar. 18th - District Board of Education Meeting 3pm
- Mar. 19th - Community Writing Sharing Event
- Mar. 19th to Mar. 20th - Better Eyesight Eye exams
- Mar. 20th - First Day of Spring
- Mar. 25th to Mar. 28th - AK Star Practice Exams
- Mar. 31st to April 11th - Welding & Construction Workshop in Circle

### John Fredson School Staff

#### **Principal/Teacher**

**- Ms. Diane Olmstead**

Classroom Teacher

- Mr. Joel Brooks

Classroom Teacher

- Mrs. Vanessa Fe Carmona

Classroom Teacher

- Mr. Justine Villasencio

Gwich'in Teacher

- Ms. Kathleen Tritt

Paraprofessional

- Ms. Darlene Christian

Paraprofessional

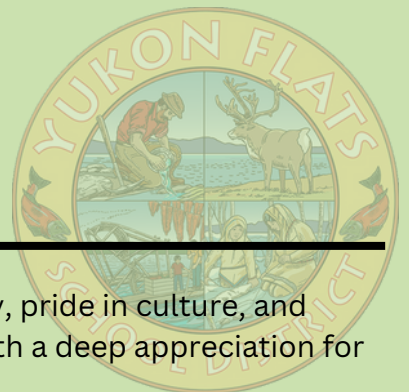
- Ms. Jamie Frank

Maintenance

- Mr. Jeremiah Druck

School Cook

- Ms. Audrey Rolfe



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