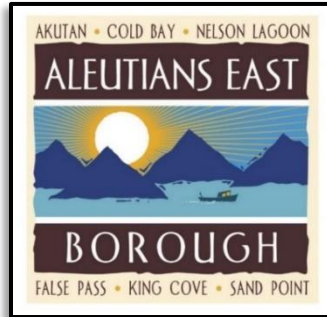


In the Loop



King Cove Teacher Annette Calver Retires after 31 Years

Community Celebrates Her Decades of Educational Service

Almost everyone remembers their favorite teacher when looking back on their childhood.

“If you ask most King Cove students who their favorite teacher was, most of them will say Mrs. Calver,” said King Cove School Principal Paul Barker.

“Her roots in the community and experience as a teacher made her uniquely able to connect with students and understand their needs,” said King Cove high school science teacher and colleague Stephen Dehart.

After 31 years of teaching classes such as Social Studies, English, Art and Home Economics at the King Cove School, respected and beloved educator Annette Calver retired on June 30th to embark on a new chapter in her life. Over the years, she has touched numerous lives, including those of her students, colleagues and principal.

Former student McKenna Gould said some of the qualities that made Calver stand out as a teacher include her confidence, strength, selflessness, kindness and wisdom.

“She went above and beyond to help in any way she could,” said Gould. “She knew how important school was and instilled that in her students. But she also taught us that it’s ok when life happens, because it will. She was always so supportive and positive during tough times.”

“She always cheered us on,” said former student Cora Rocili. “She also taught my older sister, Jennifer, along with my twin sister, Jill and I. We all agree that was one of her best qualities as an educator.”

“Annette understood the importance of teaching the “whole child,” Barker added. “She developed relationships with all her students and made her classes interesting and engaging.”

Colleague Marty Newton echoed Barker’s sentiments.

“She was very dedicated to each student,” Newton said, “She believed fiercely in every student’s immeasurable potential.”

Newton said it was always apparent that Calver’s students were learning due to her interactive bulletin boards and the creative ways she assessed her students’ understanding of the material.

“She has a love of learning that is infectious,” she said. “She’s very patient and has an ability to ignore the nonsense, knowing that ultimately students will rise to the occasion. She made it very clear to her students that they were ultimately responsible for their educational outcome.”

Arlene Wilson (Class of 2005) said she considers herself to be a lucky student since she had Calver both as an advisor and a teacher through junior and high school. Wilson cites Calver’s compassion and unique versatility in the classroom as a few of her top attributes.

“Mrs. Calver is genuinely a one-of-a-kind educator,” she said. “Her teaching strategies make the subjects and the curriculum exciting and relatable, enhancing her classroom environment to support creative learning. I will always cherish the class laughs we had in art and her encouraging statements while she graded my stick figure sketches.”

All of Calver’s students fondly remember the famous bloom ball projects. They were comprised of twelve sides, in which she assigned different subjects with visual requirements.



After 31 years of teaching at the King Cove School, Annette Calver retired on June 30, 2022

“Each face required a graph, illustration or a paragraph to summarize a story or a chapter we were working on,” Wilson said. “Those dodecahedrons haunted my dreams in high school. As I reminisce about them now, I can’t help but smile.”

“Those were always fun,” Rocili agreed.

Etta Kuzakin, Calver’s younger sister, was also one of her students, and later, a colleague at the King Cove School. Kuzakin said she and her classmates from the Class of 1995 still remember how amazing the bloom balls were.

“My classmate, Jennifer Rocili, and I were talking about that and my sister’s retirement. We were both thinking, oh, my gosh! Who’s going to make the bloom balls?” she said. “It’s those kinds of things that have given us such great memories.”

“I also really loved jeopardy, making board games and getting alders to decorate for Christmas senior year,” said Gould. “The most fun I had on a project was making a mummy and tomb. These projects helped me to put a visual on what we were learning.”

Calver said for her, the book projects in her English classes were definitely a favorite.

“I’ve had so many creative book projects, such as a crab pot, or a lighthouse that actually lit up,” she said, “and some of the most amazing drawings of people, places and maps.”

“I have a few favorite paintings, paper mache and book reports that I have kept with me to this day,” said Cora Rocili.

“Mrs. Calver had a flair and passion for the arts,” said Principal Barker. “Her classes often had an artistic element to them. Mrs. Calver’s students created models, board games and wrote poetry. Many of the murals in the King Cove School were completed under her instruction. King Cove is a very artistic community,” Barker added, “and Mrs. Calver undoubtedly facilitated that culture within the community.”

Kuzakin said when Calver displayed the students’ work, she made sure they knew how proud she was of them.

“It was that way with pretty much anything she did,” she said. “I can wholeheartedly say that I love history to this day, and it has a lot to do with her enthusiasm and dedication in making sure we understood the material we were learning.”

“She was always posting great bulletin boards in the hallway outside her classroom that engaged students in Alaska current events,” said Dehart. “I specifically remember each student picking a musher in the Iditarod and tracking their progress daily.

Calver also believed it was important for her students to conduct presentations to classmates and younger students.

“I know students didn’t always like to present, but I truly believe it helps them with self-confidence, and they learn more about their particular topic,” she said.

In addition to the classes she taught, Calver also served as an advisor and took several classes to Washington D.C. and New York for Close Up trips.

One of her favorite things to do was to give the students a checklist of items that they were required to locate.

“They saw all the monuments and memorials, but this gave them a personal challenge,” she said. “I had them find such items as an etching from the Vietnam Memorial, a quote from MLK’s memorial (there were many), JFK’s eternal flame, and they took a picture of the billboard for the Broadway show in New York City or a photo with the Statue of Liberty in the background.”

In addition, Calver took students to Juneau for Alaska Close Up trips.

“I loved it!” she said. “They learned about the workings of our state government.”

As a class advisor, Calver had been involved with multiple fundraisers, including concession stands with snacks and drinks for various events.

“The students knew that in order to go on a senior trip or a Close Up trip, they’d have to work hard and raise the money,” she said. “What made fundraising fun was the chance to work with the students outside of the classroom while still learning. It was always fun and hectic.”

One of Cora Rocili’s favorite memories includes her senior trip to Hawaii and the great time she had with Calver and her classmates.

“I remember our class would make her laugh, and she had one of those wonderfully contagious laughs,” Rocili said.

Initially, plans were made to hold Calver’s retirement party at the baseball field on May 14th. However, wet weather forced the party gatherers to move inside to the gym at the old school.

“We all gathered that day to honor and celebrate our favorite teacher, the best game announcer and the most incredible mentor,” Wilson said.

It was a packed house amongst all the black and gold decorations.

“It was absolutely amazing,” said Kuzakin.

There were about 120 people in attendance, including former students, colleagues and friends.

“A huge number of people turned out for her retirement party, which reflected the impact she has had on the community over the years,” said Dehart.

“Decades of yearbooks centered all the guest tables,” said Wilson. “Past and present students exchanged stories. Laughter and love filled the building.”

“Everyone pitched in to make it a special event,” said Newton.



Retired King Cove teacher Annette Calver dances with Grant Newton during her retirement party on May 14th.

For many, celebrating Calver for her contributions to the King Cove community was something many people wanted to participate in so they could reminisce and wish her well.

“My sister gave everything she had to the community, and the respect I have for her is above and beyond,” Kuzakin said.

Newton said Calver always had an open door when she or anyone else needed to vent or ask for advice. For Dehart, her advice proved to be invaluable and something he will greatly miss.

“During my first two years in King Cove, Annette served as a mentor to me, providing a lot of great teaching advice and helping me better understand the community and the students,” he said. “The start of my teaching career would have been much more difficult and much less successful without her.”

“I will also miss her wicked sense of humor

when you need it most!” Newton added.

Newton’s favorite memory of Calver (unrelated to school) is when the two educators were throwing a 40th birthday party for a dear friend.

“We went into the pantry to light the 40 candles, each of us armed with a lit candle to do the job,” Newton said. “It took us a while to complete the task. She was so pleased with her efforts that she blew out her candle with a flourish, extinguishing at least half the candles on the cake. When we got done laughing, we started over!”

Colleague and retired King Cove teacher Karen Yeager shared another fond memory.

“Annette started announcing the basketball players like a wrestling announcer!” she said.

For Dehart, his favorite memory is how the pair shared their most recent wildlife sightings in the morning and between classes.

“It was always fun to hear about her most recent observations,” he said.

For Gould, it was when she and her class were about to walk into their graduation ceremony.

“We met in her classroom to make sure we had our final touches ready to go, and the feeling of “Wow! We finally did it!” So much of it was because of her. We all got together and took a selfie with her.”

Becoming a teacher was a passion for Calver. After graduating from the King Cove School in 1985, she attended Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Washington. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Education. Her major was social science with a minor in English.

“Once I started taking the social sciences, I fell in love with the subject, and teaching was a way to stay with it,” Calver said.

Afterward, she returned to her home town and put her talents to work.

“Our dad’s dream was for his kids to come back home and do something for our community,” Kuzakin said.

Kuzakin said her dad was walking on air for a couple of years after Calver returned.

“Oh, my goodness! That’s how proud he was of my sister,” she said.

Yeager said she and Calver met when the pair started teaching at King Cove the same year (1990 – ’91). After teaching for a year, Calver said she realized it was the students that she really loved being around, not just the subject (of social studies).

“She taught Language Arts, waiting for the Social Studies job to open,” Yeager said. “I taught some high school classes and was the counselor, waiting for an elementary job to open. We both got our dream jobs and retired from said dream jobs.”

Yeager said it was obvious that Calver’s community ties went far beyond the classroom.

“She was a great role model for kids wanting to contribute to the community after gaining valued skills in the outside world,” she said.

Her family, friends, colleagues, principal and former students are very thankful for the mark Calver has left on everyone she touched.

“Annette had a great vision for the big picture,” Barker said. “She wanted the best for everyone, including her students and colleagues.”

Former student Cora Rocili said even after she graduated from high school, Calver continued to teach and advise her -- something she treasures to this day.

“I remember speaking to her some years back about what was going on in my life, and she gave me some of the best advice that I still hold close to my heart,” Rocili said. “She never stops educating and loving her students, and that’s so special to me.”



(From left to right) Lillian Sager, Annette Calver and Marty Newton pause for a photo during Calver’s retirement party.

Calver said now that she’s retired, what she misses most about teaching is the kids.

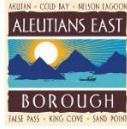
“Mrs. Calver is very appreciated for all that she has done and will continue to do,” said Gould.

Calver’s retirement plans include enjoying time with family and traveling. She and her husband, Joe, have a home in Bremerton, Washington, as well as in King Cove. They have three daughters: Shauna Lidstrom, Kailee Samuelson and Cayla Calver. They also have four grandchildren: Lalana and Amelia, who live in Bremerton; Avaya, who lives in Anchorage; and Owen, who lives in King Cove.

“She deserves an amazing retirement with several bike rides to Belkofski, vacations to Hawaii, trips to Washington and Skagway, and many more precious memories with her family,” said Gould.

“Mrs, Calver, thanks for making my high school experience so much fun!,” said Cora Rocili. “I hope you get to watch all the Seahawks games you want in Washington, too! Congrats, and lots of love to you!”

“Mrs. Calver, you have opened our minds, inspired us, and encouraged us to go out and achieve our dreams,” said Wilson. “The impact you left on all your students shall not be understated. Thank you for everything. You will be greatly missed! Congratulations on your retirement. Go Hawks!”



POSITION AVAILABLE

June 20, 2022

POSITION TITLE: Borough Maintenance Director

CLASSIFICATION: Regular, full-time, exempt position. This position is located in the Borough's Sand Point office.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: Act as the Aleutians East Borough's Maintenance Director for the facilities within the Borough and is required to perform all the major duties outlined in the job description.

DESIRED QUALITIES INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO: KNOWLEDGE OF school facilities and mechanical systems. KNOWLEDGE OF furnaces, boilers, generators, fire control systems, sprinkler systems, and locksmithing. CONSTRUCTION FOREMAN ABILITY: Can supervise skilled and unskilled labor in the repair and/or replacement of facilities or broken equipment, room additions, roof repair/replacement or siding repair/replacement. ORGANIZED IN PURCHASE AND MANAGEMENT of building materials and maintenance supplies. ABILITY to work independently with a minimum amount of direction.

SALARY: Depends on qualifications and experience plus benefits.

APPLICATIONS: The job description and application are available on the Aleutians East Borough's website at: <https://www.aleutianseast.org/jobs/aleutians-east-borough-seeking-a-maintenance-director/>

Interested candidates should complete an Aleutians East Borough Application for Employment and submit a cover letter and resume to:

Borough Maintenance Director
Search Aleutians East Borough
3380 C Street, Suite 205
Anchorage, AK 99503

Application packets may be hand-carried or mailed to above address, faxed to (907) 276-7569, or emailed to abailey@aeboro.org.

For questions, call (907) 274-7555.

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday, July 6, 2022, or until the position is filled.

Note: Incomplete application packets will be summarily rejected.

The Aleutians East Borough is an equal opportunity employer. All application materials submitted will become public information. In order to complete the application process, applicants will be required to provide written authorization (including identifying information such as social security number and date of birth) to enable the Borough to do a full background check, including but not limited to criminal history and credit history.



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