

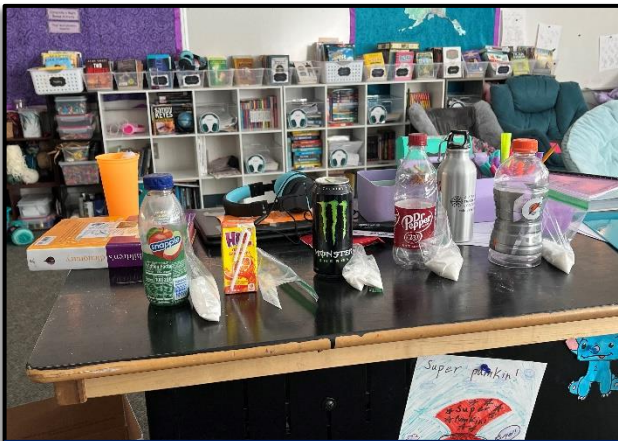
King Cove Teacher Joy Smith Inspires Students to Succeed while Becoming Creative Learners

Teachers who inspire students to learn make a lasting impression in their lives. Knowing how to motivate kids while making learning exciting and fun are exceptional qualities found in an educator. Sixth grade teacher Joy Smith truly embodies these traits. Since 2013, when she began teaching at the King Cove School, she has consistently demonstrated that her creativity and passion for education seems to know no bounds.

“She has such great ideas and goes out of her way to make sure she does what is best for her students,” said parent Hallie Peacock. “Some things I really admire about her and make her stand out as a teacher are her creativity and her overwhelming desire to see her students succeed.”



King Cove 6th grade teacher Joy Smith



In this project, students were shocked to learn how much sugar is contained in many sweetened beverages. Materials provided by ANTHC's cancer program. Photos by Joy Smith.

“Her teaching methods are really hands on and get students interested in each subject,” said parent Allie Yatchmeneff. “She goes above and beyond.”

Smith taught second grade for three years, and has been teaching the sixth grade for the past seven years.

“Joy is a lifelong educator and learner, and that’s what drives her passion for teaching,” Barker said. “Joy’s passions are that she cares about who children are and how she can help them grow.”

“My favorite thing is that she got my kids to read and enjoy doing it,” said parent Carisa Brandell.

Smith said she had always wanted to be a teacher.

“I wanted to bring to my students the same love of learning that had been cultivated in me in upper elementary and junior high,” Smith said. “Not everyone is lucky enough to get that in their lives.”

Parent Riza Bendixen said Smith’s enthusiasm for teaching is one of the qualities she admires most.

“She’s very bright and cheerful every day, raring to show our children something new,” Bendixen said.

Parent Janet Bear said her oldest daughter, Journie Newman, had Smith as a teacher in second and sixth grade. Her other daughter, Trinity, has her as her sixth grade teacher this school year.

“They both enjoy/enjoyed having Joy as a teacher because of her outgoing and upbeat personality as well as her teaching techniques,” Bear said.

Smith grew up in Seldovia, Alaska. She earned her bachelor’s degree in elementary education with a minor in mathematics from UAA. She then went on to get her master’s degree in math and science from Oregon State University. Her favorite subject to teach is social studies because it’s such a diverse topic. She’s also a big fan of ancient history, specifically ancient cultures.

“We cover Alaska Studies in 6th grade,” she said, “and I’ve spent the last several years trying to deepen my understanding of the history and geography of Alaska so I can teach the content deeply as well. I love incorporating social studies into other classes through articles, stories and activities.”

	NAME	Poseidon
	LIVES IN	Mount Olympus/Ocean
	RELATIONSHIP STATUS	Married
	WORK	God of the Sea, Earthquakes and Horses
	EDUCATION	Self taught after ran away from cannibalistic father
ABOUT		I am one of the three most powerful greek gods. I have four children and I'm most important to sailors/fishermen.

Students chose a Greek god or goddess in which to research. They also wrote a social media profile for this project.



Students researched the Greek pantheon during a mythology unit. They each chose a Greek god or goddess for the “It’s all Greek to Us” bulletin board.

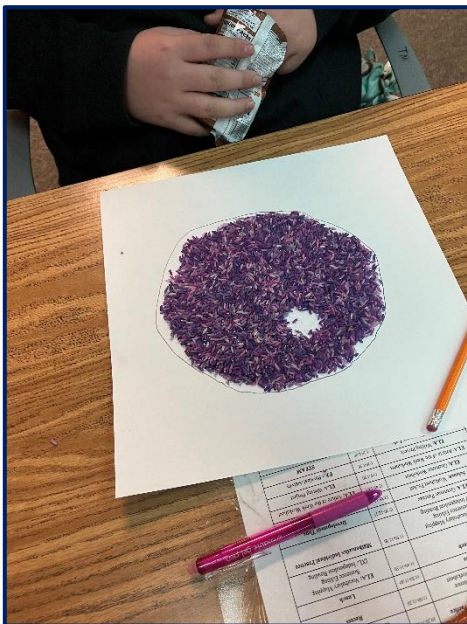
“Joy has done a phenomenal job creating Alaska-specific packets to help keep her students and other teachers learning more about the Native people of Alaska, and their unique history,” Peacock said. “With the Alaska packets, her work is so necessary. “It’s really hard to find accurate and fully fleshed-out documents that are school-age appropriate.”

King Cove Principal Paul Barker said one of the things he admires most about Smith is her hard work and dedication to each individual.

“Joy stands out with her attention to students’ socio-emotional needs,” he added.

Smith remains inspired to teach because she believes that each student and every class is unique, and she applies that principle to her instruction methods.

“I try to focus on giving them the best year I can, which keeps me on my toes because that looks so different for each class,” she said.



Students began their "Create a Country Project" using handfuls of rice. They spread out the designs, molded them into desired forms, then traced the shapes.

Various projects throughout the years keep learning fresh and exciting for her students.

"They've done everything from genies in ancient Egypt to robberies gone wrong to zombie apocalypse," Smith said regarding the stop motion video project. "There have also been some romantic comedy shorts while families spend a day at the park."

Smith's favorite projects include a dinosaur research assignment for her second graders.

"That was so much fun," she said. "They would research dinosaurs, make a poster with a puff paint version of the dinosaur and do a little presentation to all the parents."

Smith invited parents to join in during the creative learning process.

"We got to be paleontologists for an hour," said Bendixen. "Dinosaurs have always been my favorite subject, so I was thrilled to have a mini sand box with toy dinosaur pieces to gently dig up and brush off. We even got to keep our dinosaur finds."

Including parents in her students' learning journey is one of the many reasons parents, as well as students, value her.

"She involves parents in everything, even texting or calling to describe a book the class wants to read and what it's about, as well as thoughts on it as a parent," said Yatchmeneff. "I appreciate it so much."

Bendixen said Smith's caring nature for students shines through with her projects, especially when she introduced cross stitching.

"The ones I have seen were predominantly family portrait stitch work," Bendixen said.

This project taught students to learn patience while emphasizing fine motor skills and the arts, she added. Bendixen said additionally, it also reinforced the importance of family.

"At the end of the school year, she publicly presents and awards students with a personalized cross stitch of each student and an "I survived 6th Grade" certificate," said Bendixen. "It's been three years since then, and I still proudly and lovingly hang these up on my living room wall."

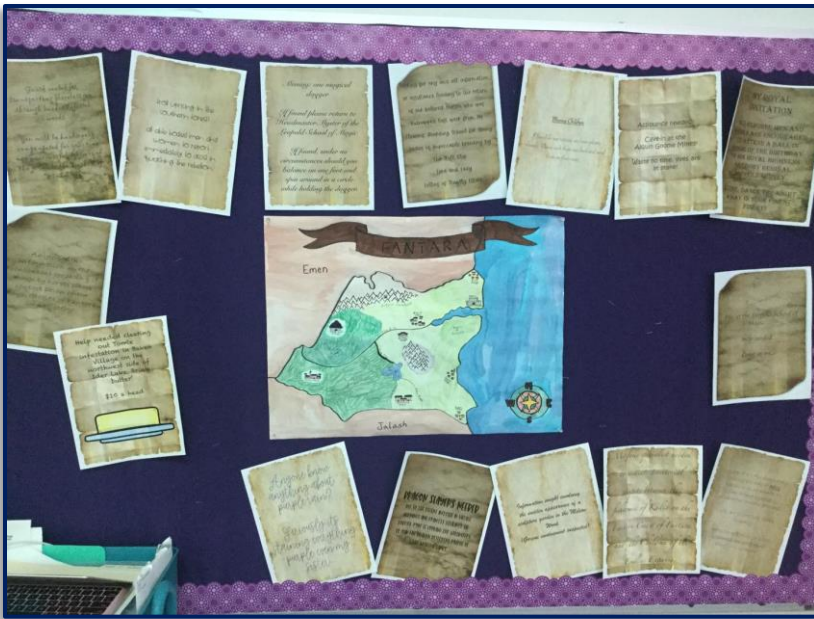
"I think this project gets students excited and looking forward to moving onto junior high," said Bear.

"I remember once when Joy was teaching second grade, she made each of her students as a model made out of clay," Barker said. "The sculptures had aspects in them that reflected the students' strengths and interests."

"Joy does so much to makes learning fun, and is hands on," said Yatchmeneff. "She can find the way each student learns best and switch up her teaching methods."



Cross-stitch portraits displayed on Riza Bendixen's wall. Photo courtesy: Riza Bendixen.



Students in Joy Smith's class enjoyed working on Fantara, a project in which they created their own country, accompanied by maps and informational flyers. Photos by Joy Smith.

Both of Yatchmeneff's kids, Shaylee Nevzuroff and Dezmin Yatchmeneff, have enjoyed learning from Smith, and loved her project called "The Best of Me."

"It really had students think about all of their wonderful traits," she said. "They would pick what they think is the best part of them. They learned that each person is created differently but everyone has something they are great at and proud of."

"Joy has had her students create their own countries, which was a huge hit," said Peacock. "They learn all sorts of different facts about a country and then apply them to their own country. They created maps, flags and summaries that could be like an informational flyer about their country. My son really loved this project."

Another project Smith assigned to her students included a creative writing unit using Playmobil toy sets.

"It was such a unique approach to story writing, being able to manipulate things in conjunction with creating a story to go along with it," said Peacock. "He (my son) really enjoyed being able to manipulate and create things to represent what he was thinking. He liked seeing it come to life. It was a chance for him to be as creative as he wanted without worrying about making it fit in with something or being realistic."

Both Smith's current and former students thoroughly enjoy her classes.

"They remark about how they miss her class and her, specifically," Barker said. "Parents also love Joy because they trust her."

Bendixen said Smith is supportive of all of King Cove's children – not just those in her class.

"She also does an awesome job advocating for her students and teaching them how to advocate for themselves," said Peacock.

Smith does an exceptional job bridging the gap between elementary and secondary education, Peacock said.

"She provides her students with a chance to safely explore and take risks that most would be too hesitant to do otherwise," she said.

Peacock's son, Jenner, now 13, had Smith as his sixth grade teacher a couple of years ago when her family first moved to King Cove.



Students enjoyed using Playmobil toy sets to help portray their creative writing stories.



Students filled in their maps with water colors for their "Create a Country Project."

"She was extremely welcoming to him, which was a huge help," she added. "She also did a great job doing differentiated teaching for him, as he was advanced for his age. He's now in 9th grade, being promoted a year, and is in the gifted and talented program. "We owe part of this to her efforts in the classroom as well as advocating for him and his needs."

Peacock said Smith has a way of developing heartwarming relationships with the students from the moment they step into her class.

"It continues beyond their elementary years," she said. "There have been countless times that I walked through the school and have seen high school kids visiting with her, smiling and laughing."

"She has an after-school tutoring program for kids who need help with math," parent Carisa Brandell said.

That was a subject in which she, herself, struggled.

"I was thankful she was able to help my girl with math while she was in school."

Smith has also volunteered her time to help high school students prepare for college entrance exams. Her guidance continues to extend well beyond the secondary level.

"I've worked with high school students to prepare them for their SATs," Smith said. "Over the years, I've had several college students from King Cove Facebook message me pictures of their math homework or share their essays in Google Docs for me to review. I've even had the chance to work in person with a few college students taking distance classes from King Cove."

Smith is also involved with activities within the community through the school, which include the Youth Voting Challenge through the First Alaskans Institute. She's also part of the literacy leadership team for AEBS.



Students worked to prove or disprove the Hot Wheels' claim that the company's toy cars are 1/64th the size of a real car. Each student selected a Hot Wheels car, measured the dimensions, multiplied that figure by 64 to scale their car onto butcher paper, creating a life-sized version of their tiny car.



The Unfamiliar Food/Fresh Foods Project allows students to sample recipes from around the world using fresh ingredients.

"I get to help out with literacy events in King Cove," she said. "I also sell cakes at the local markets. It's a great way to connect with everyone outside of school, especially since I'm not naturally social."

Other programs include an "unfamiliar food/fresh foods" project, which she has developed with the assistance of the managers at the AC Store and guidance from APIA (Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association) as well as ANTHC (Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium).

"We've been able to try out recipes using different fresh ingredients every Wednesday, and we've been able to try out several items, such as chayotes and rambutans," Smith said. "I also subscribe to a monthly snacks from around the world box, so the kids can experience different cultures through their foods."

An additional activity includes the elder pen pal program through APIA, which began within the past year and is run by Rebecca Newman. Seven students participate in the program. Newman found seven elders from the community to participate in writing pen



Smith provides an interactive art center every year with coloring projects or step-by-step projects students can work on during free time.

pal letters back and forth with the students. The kids are learning how different it was for the elders as they were growing up compared to today.

“Through the letters and gatherings that we have had, students are learning how the elders gathered food and wood for their families,” Newman said. “The elders also shared with students what they did for fun by playing Aleut games, using their imaginations to create their own fun by building boats, making mud pies and using rocks for dolls.”

Newman said she believes it’s valuable for each participant.

“It gives the elders a chance to share stories of their childhood and creates an opportunity of transferring knowledge from one generation to the next.”

The respect and caring past and present students have for Smith was readily apparent when she married her high school sweetheart, Josh, in 2018.

“I married my longtime partner in the atrium of the King Cove School,” she said. “My parents flew out for the wedding. Past, present and future

students were invited to be a part of the wedding party. It was perfect.”

Her husband, Josh, is currently working as a title 1 aide and finished his student teaching in King Cove during the fall of 2020 – Spring 2021. He was recently hired by the school district for an elementary teaching position for next year.

Joy Smith’s family and community ties, along with her dedication to teaching and love for King Cove, have combined to forge a strong bond with the community, and one that many residents hope will continue well into the future.

“We hope to have Joy in our school for many more years to come,” Bear said.

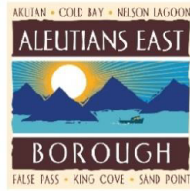
“Joy was, well, a joy to have as a teacher for my son,” said Peacock. “He flourished in her class, and it was great to see.”

“She is a fantastic teacher,” said Bendixen. “We love her. I can’t wait to see what she has in store for my other daughter in a few more years. I truly believe King Cove has found a real treasure in Joy.”

“She is an amazing teacher,” said Newman. “King Cove is very lucky to have her as a teacher and a community member.”



Students grew microgreens in class and used Playmobil scenes in and around the containers to provide size comparisons as plants developed.



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

CONTRACTOR TERM CONTRACT

Issued: Thursday, April 20, 2023

Proposals Due: Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 3:00 PM

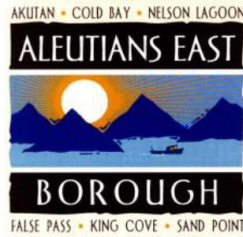
The Aleutians East Borough (AEB) is requesting qualifications and fee information from General Contractors and specialty contractors for multiple construction term contracts in the Aleutians East Borough, Alaska, for construction, renovation, and maintenance of Borough-owned facilities, including schools, airport facilities, housing, and offices.

To receive a full Request for Qualifications packet, please visit the Plans Room or contact:

Neil McMahon

nemcmahon@dowl.com

(907) 865-1231



Aleutians East Borough Surplus Auction by Sealed Bid

Pursuant to the Aleutians East Borough Code, notice is hereby given that surplus items are offered for sale. The date of the sale will be May 19, 2023 at 3:00 P.M. in the Borough's Anchorage Office located at 3380 C Street, Suite 205, Anchorage, Alaska.

Bidders are encouraged to inspect the items prior to the sale. The item is located in Akutan as indicated on the bid item information sheet that is attached. The item can be viewed by appointment only through the designated contact. The item is offered for sale "as is," where is, and no warranties or guarantees of any kind are made or implied. The successful bidder will be required to remove the item within five (5) business days and is responsible for shipping. The Borough reserves the right to reject any bid. Bid deposits of unsuccessful bidders will be returned within three (3) business days.

Auction Instructions

1. Write the item number and the amount of the bid on a piece of paper.
2. Only personal checks, money orders or certified checks will be accepted. NO CASH BIDS are allowed. Make checks payable to the Aleutians East Borough.
3. One bid per envelope. Include your name, address and telephone number **inside the envelope**.
4. Submit sealed bids to the Borough's Anchorage office by May 19, 2023 by 3:00 P.M.
Mail to:

Attn: Glennora Dushkin
Aleutians East Borough
3380 C Street, Suite 205
Anchorage, AK 99503

If you have any questions about the bid process, please contact Glennora Dushkin at gdushkin@aeboro.org or at 907-274-7556. Questions about the bid items and/or to view the bid items, please contact the local contact on the attached bid item information sheet.

Posted May 5, 2023

Item #1

Yamaha F115XB 1500 hp

Minimum Bid: \$1,500.00

Location: Akutan, AK

To view this item, please contact Hugh Pelkey at (907)381-1006



Posted May 5, 2023



Posted May 5, 2023

GCI Ramps Up Work on Au-Aleutians Fiber Project in Sand Point and King Cove

GCI is in the process of installing fiber internet infrastructure in Sand Point and King Cove. The company is currently seeking permission from residents to install fiber equipment in their homes. If interested, click on the following link to fill out an [installation permission form](#).

For more information, visit this [link](#).

For the latest news, check our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/AleutiansEastBoroughAlaska>



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