

# MIR PARENTS

## | Newsletter |

### From the Board:

We, the MIR executive board, apologize for our delay in communicating with you all. We hope you will forgive our lapse, which was due to the stress and strain of this pandemic on our own families. Thank you for your patience and continued support of MIR and its mission to support Russian immersion education.

### Russian Spring Festival

Our Russian Spring Festival was scheduled for Saturday, April 25th. Unfortunately, with the school closures and “social distancing,” this event was canceled. Hopefully, next spring, 2021, we can come together to put on a doubly-huge celebration to make up for this one.

### Reach us via:

Facebook @AnchorageMIR,  
[russianimmersionak@gmail.com](mailto:russianimmersionak@gmail.com),  
and at [mirparents.org](http://mirparents.org)



2020 Russian Immersion Graduates of West High School

## Russia Exchange Trip

Our hearts go out to the 13 families who were affected by the cancellation of the exchange trip to Russia this spring. We know this has been extremely disappointing, frustrating, and a loss financially. We have been informed that the ASD legal department is working on getting some measure of a refund for those who did not travel. MIR Parents also contributed \$9000 towards the trip cost; it remains to be seen if a portion will be refunded.

Three Russian immersion middle school students and their parents, who were previously committed chaperons for the group trip, did indeed continue on the trip, without authorization from the ASD. Their issued visas allowed for their travel since each of the three students were accompanied by a parent(s). Thankfully, they made it to Russia and back safely.



## Congratulations to our 2020 Russian Immersion Graduates!

- ◆ Kamryn Beagley
- ◆ Logan Bloechl
- ◆ Samuel Brandeberry
- ◆ Paige Brown
- ◆ Alexander Carhart
- ◆ Colton Copelin
- ◆ Almudena Dirksen
- ◆ Wesley Eastham
- ◆ Mia Elias
- ◆ Jhojanez Figueroa
- ◆ Jan Foss
- ◆ Ashlee Larson
- ◆ Savannah Lee
- ◆ Brock Luckasson
- ◆ Jule Patten
- ◆ Natalie Piscoya
- ◆ Robert Sedwick
- ◆ Ivan Tillman
- ◆ Lubava Wessels
- ◆ Daria Wilcox



## MIR Officer Elections

MIR is accepting nominations for 2020-22 board members - simply email MIR at [russianimmersionak@gmail.com](mailto:russianimmersionak@gmail.com) to submit your name, or the name of another candidate.

Because of our April 30th membership meeting cancelation, MIR will postpone the election until we can meet again (TBD), but we still NEED nominations today. Being a board member is an amazing opportunity to make a huge difference in your child's educational experience and for all immersion students.

The current 2-year term positions of Vice-President Valerie Ekberg-Brown, Treasurer Karen Biggs, and Secretary Charlotte Hansen are up for election. The remaining officers: Karen Loeffler-Quintieri, President; Vlada Sotskaya, Vice-President; and Olga Pustina, Vice-President will continue their service term into the the 2020-21 school year.

## Спасибо to our 2019-20 Russian Teacher Intern!

**Thank you to Ms. Natalia Bagramian** who contributed SO much to our program. She is no longer employed by MIR for this school year since Amity Institute, the non-profit that worked with MIR for placement, canceled her tenure with MIR due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

If you or your student would like to contact her, please email her at [tashabagramyan@mail.ru](mailto:tashabagramyan@mail.ru).

Ms. Bagramian did an amazing job at Turnagain! Many thanks to her for sharing her talents, friendship, and energy with us!

We recognize that online language education poses a big challenge. We all look forward to the time when on-campus schooling can resume and we can interact and engage in-person. Thank you again for your patience as we walk through this difficult season.



Teacher Intern Natalia Bagramian & student Harper Hansen at a Turnagain school dance this year

## SENIOR "SHOUT-OUT"

Over the coming weeks, MIR will email celebratory installments about each Russian Immersion graduate – a small way we can honor & uplift our amazing students.

Thank you to Mrs. Reep, the 9-12th grade Russian teacher, for putting this together.



## Looking Ahead

May 21 - **Last Day of School**

Sept 12 - **MIR Welcome BBQ & Membership Meeting**



## ATTENTION: Host Families Needed

MIR plans on hosting a Russian teacher intern this coming school year 2020-21. Her name is Polina Avramenko, from Dzerzhinsk, Russia, and she would primarily be working at Turnagain Elementary. She graduates in June, 2020 with her bachelor's degree in Foreign Language Teaching & Philology. Her planned arrival date is Aug. 10, 2020.

We will need 3 host families to accommodate her. If you are interested, please email Brooke Dudley at [brookedmail@gmail.com](mailto:brookedmail@gmail.com).



## Farewell to Teachers moving on...

We wish the following teachers ALL OUR BEST as they transition to new life paths, leaving their current positions teaching within the Russian Immersion Program:



Thank you, Ms. Artemyeva, for your great service!

**Ms. Tatiana Artemyeva**, 7-8th grade Russian teacher since 2015, will be moving out of state this summer. She has been a tireless advocate and volunteer for MIR for 14 years.

**Mrs. Yelena Reep**, 9-12th grade Russian teacher for the past 2 academic years, will be seeking other opportunities this fall. Ms. Nadejda Hess will assume the 9-12th Russian teaching position in the fall, 2020.

**Mrs. Marina Hunter**, 4-5th grade Russian teacher will be retiring this summer. She has been working at Turnagain 17 years, since the inception of the Russian immersion program in 2004, when she started as the Russian kindergarten teacher - wow!

**Mr. Clayton Bronnee**, 6th grade Russian & English teacher, will be seeking other opportunities this fall after teaching 2 years at Turnagain.

THANK YOU, from the bottom of our hearts, to all these teachers for their selfless dedication and service to so many students over the years!!! We can't express enough how appreciative we are for your giving the gift of language and learning. You are amazing!



Thank you, Mrs. Hunter, for your great service!



Thank you, Mr. Bronnee, for your great service!



Thank you, Mrs. Reep, for your great service!

"Do you want to help other MIR families in need? Do you have a need, idea, or an activity you'd like to spearhead?  
Let us know by contacting MIR at [russianimmersionak@gmail.com](mailto:russianimmersionak@gmail.com). We are stronger together.

*If you were wondering...*

*our two masked students above were Ava Cintula and Madison Quintieri, both current 7th graders.*

Have a safe and happy Alaskan spring!!!

