

MIR Parents News

January 13, 2021



NSA Senior Work-Study Program

Pandemic delays but doesn't stop 1st year roll-out

Two West High School seniors, Jamey Roy and Lauren Biggs, were selected for a work-study internship at the National Security Agency Alaska. The hiring process, which began in February, 2020, was competitive amongst West High School 2019-20 junior applicants enrolled in the Russian language partial-immersion program. The NSA has multiple high school

1

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Тише едешь—дальше
будешь.

2

LITERAL TRANSLATION

The quieter you go, the
further you'll get.

3

ENGLISH MEANING

Slow and steady wins
the race.



International Women's Day:

March 8th - Mark
your calendar.



Kaladi Coffee Fundraiser

Thank you to those
who purchased
coffee!



Stay Tuned...

for more MIR news
as the ASD
transitions students
back into schools.

work-study internships in other U.S. cities; this is the first such program in Alaska. West High staff and Russian immersion families were thrilled to see this opportunity arise for its students. Since the ASD's Russian Immersion program is a K-12 language program, it creates excellent candidates for this type of national security work. The job itself puts the students' Russian language skills to use in support of NSA missions. The experience of working on base at JBER has been one that both Jamey and Lauren recommend to other rising seniors.

What it's like

Jamey and Lauren began working October 26, 2020 (a bit delayed due to COVID) and will continue through the end of the 2020-21 academic school year. They have been mentored by NSA staff, become familiar with "life on base" (JBER), improved their Russian skills, and learned valuable job/life skills. The students work with a variety of professionals and gain valuable exposure to more than just language activities - their daily work involves elements of cybersecurity, international affairs, geopolitics, and support to military operations. Plus, they actually are able to contribute to meaningful outcomes for the nation.

Both Jamey and Lauren will take this golden experience with them as they plan for life-after-high-school. Besides all that, it is a paid 20-hour/week program which includes paid leave and the opportunity for permanent employment upon successful completion of the program. Wow!!!

Looking ahead to 2021-22

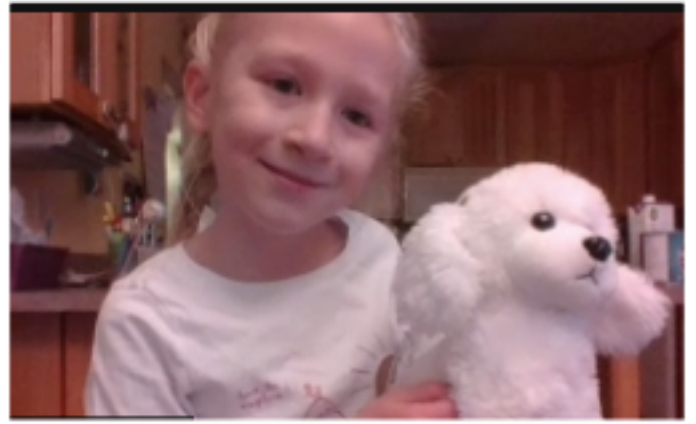
The application for 21-22 participation has closed and several juniors have applied. Expect NSA Alaska reps to host additional info sessions this spring - freshmen and sophomore students and parents should plan to learn more about this excellent and unique opportunity.

Thank you to Mr. Sven Gustafson, West High principal, Mr. Brandon Locke, ASD Language Director, the supportive and awesome NSA Alaska staff, as well as NSA Director General Nakasone for creating this opportunity for our Anchorage students.

Father Frost & Snow Maiden "visited" K-6 immersion students this year via Turnagain's morning announcements. Small gift bags were distributed by MIR Parents volunteers as a special holiday treat.



Student holds his gift bag from Father Frost - Yippee!



**Good cheer from
a few of our 2020-21
kindergarten Russian
immersion class:**





The Dudley boys were the 2020 coffee “elves.”
Thanks, guys!



Point to Ponder for the New Year: “Just as one candle lights another and can light thousands of other candles, so one heart illuminates another heart and can illuminate thousands of other hearts.”
– Leo Tolstoy

My name is Amina Sagel. I am from a small town in Kazakhstan, where I lived for most of my life. I moved to the U.S. a year ago and, to be honest, I love it here, especially in Alaska. I like the nature here, activities, new food, and even the weather. I like how people here co-exist with the wilderness. From this you have probably guessed that I like hiking and seeing new things. I also enjoy reading and watching movies.

Meet-the-Teachers Spotlight...



Ms. Amina Sagel, 3rd Grade Russian Teacher



Ms. Pavla Tyson, 6th Grade Russian Teacher

My name is Pavla Tyson. This is my first year teaching at Turnagain Elementary School. I am the Russian Immersion 6th grade teacher. Wow! What a joy! I have 16 wonderful, bright looking futures, students that have been in the Russian Immersion program since Kindergarten. Third quarter we studied a new unit, Civil Rights Movement, 2nd quarter we covered Immigration, and 1st quarter we covered Economics. Fourth quarter we will cover 20th Century conflicts.

I was born in Woodburn, Oregon but have been in Alaska since I was five years old. I attended the University of Alaska and graduated in 2001 with my Bachelor of Arts in Russian Language. During that time I went to Magadan as an exchange student for a year. Also, I visited Moscow and St. Petersburg while I was an exchange student. In 2006 I graduated with my Master of Arts in Teaching K-6. Then in 2018 I got my type B principal license, Master of Arts Leadership. I have taught Russian for a total of 3 years in the past and officially taught Russian K-to-12th grade. I have been fortunate to have a great career, family and friends. A new chapter begins at Turnagain.