



MUSH ON!

YOU CAN LEARN A LOT FROM A TEAM OF DOGS

FEBRUARY 2026

VOL. 6, NO. 6

EDU PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

• IDITAREAD

Come Race into Books!

- Launch your readers on a ride across Alaska.
- Set your own goals for each checkpoint.
- Chart student progress with this online platform.

Click [here](#) to register your class.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February:
13 Trail Mail Due
20 Centerpieces to Anchorage

March:
3-6 [Winter EDU Conference](#)
It's not too late to join us for this Iditarod adventure!
7 Ceremonial Start
8 Iditarod Re-start

What's Next in EDU: Final Call for Musher Banquet Centerpieces



Construction paper, crayons and glue are all you need to create centerpieces for the Musher Banquet. Check it out [here!](#)



KARI'S CORNER TEACHER ON THE TRAIL

This is the month where February's chills fuel the Iditarod thrills! We are getting closer every day to the event we are all anticipating! With winter at its peak, I hope you are ready to mush into the upcoming lessons for the month. The first Monday of February you will find a lesson on comparing and contrasting. It will specifically highlight the Iditarod and the Underground Railroad, but you will find many other topic ideas as well. It is amazing how many subjects can be compared to the Iditarod! On the second Tuesday, we will hear some words from the legendary Jon Van Zyle! Lastly, on the third Friday there will be a fun and exciting activity waiting for your class! From my classroom to yours, I hope you have an amazing month. The next time you read the newsletter I will be writing from Alaska, ready to share the race and all its excitement with you! Down the trail we go! Click [here](#) for Kari's lessons.

February Lesson Ideas

By Heidi Sloan

STEM - Science, Technology, and Math

Do your students need to learn about electrical circuits or measurement? With this lesson, students learn the checkpoints along the trail and measure with scale to create the trail, finally lighting up the checkpoints.

[Light Up the Trail](#)

Math and Research

Students are floored when they learn how much it costs to run the Iditarod! Musers invest a great deal of money into the race, and though the top prizes appear like treasure, an accurate view of expenses vs. winnings might be enlightening for your students. The Supplied for Success and Survival project would work very well for a group of early finishers, or if you have a group who need challenges. Students research, shop, and compute the costs for an Iditarod musher to race.

The Money, Money, Money lesson gives students some Iditarod word problems to solve, preparing them for the bigger project, or it can be its own assignment.

[Money Money Money](#) [Iditarod Options](#)

Reading

Here is a comprehensive list of books that deal with the Iditarod and the arctic for you!

[Recommended Reading List](#)



Follow Iditarod EDU on [Facebook](#)

2027 Teacher on the Trail Finalists

Kari Lawson from Manchester, TN will be joining us for a second time as a finalist. She has recently retired after 26 years of teaching all levels of elementary education. Her mission is "Using Iditarod as a unique experience to motivate and inspire students and teachers throughout the school year."

Tami Schoff from South Berwick, Maine is a 6th grade Language Arts teacher. With 30 years of teaching experience Tami hopes to "inspire a new generation of mushers or Iditarod fanatics."

Danielle Mummelthei is a 4th grade teacher from Waverly, IA. She states, "I have developed a passion for and built a six-week curriculum around Alaskan history, geography, and the Iditarod."

We welcome these teachers to our Iditarod EDU family!



Kari Lawson



Danielle Mummelthei



Tami Schoff

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Iditarod EDU

IKIDAROD



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VOCABULARY WORD OF THE MONTH

FROM MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARY

haw

—used as a direction to turn to the left



Checkpoint of the Month

RAINY PASS

Population: However many people are in the Lodge at the time.

A mere 30 miles from Finger Lake we find the Rainy Pass Checkpoint. It's a beautiful spot on Puntilla Lake surrounded by mountains. Why stop here? Teams have just come from the Happy River Steps. Sanka W. Dog described it best, "Starting position makes a big difference when it comes to the condition of the steps. Every musher is riding the brake while zigzagging down the tight trail to the Happy River. The more mushers that run the steps, the deeper the rut in the trail gets and the more difficult it becomes to navigate."

After the steps, teams need a break - sometimes to repair a break!

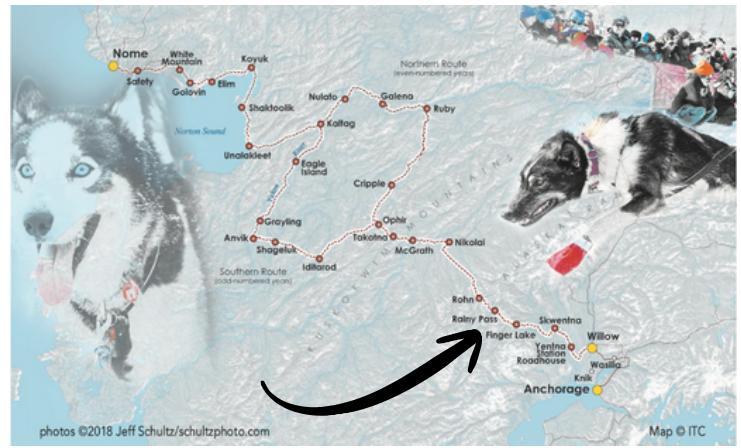
HOW MANY DOGS?

Rule #17: The maximum number of dogs a musher may start the race with is sixteen (16) dogs. A musher must have at least twelve (12) dogs on the line to start the race. At least five (5) dogs must be on the towline at the finish line. No dogs may be added to a team after the restart of the race. All dogs must be either on the towline or hauled ... and cannot be led behind the sled or allowed to run loose. Upon arrival at a checkpoint and as part of the check-in procedure, mushers must announce to the checker the total number of dogs in their team including dogs on the towline, inside their sled bag and any dogs carried within an enclosure not readily visible. A checker, race official or race veterinarian may request that mushers visibly produce all dogs for verification before the check is complete.

How many dog paws? Do the math:

39 teams x 16 dogs =

x 4 paws =



Rainy Pass

COLOR AND ADD A BACKGROUND

Team Milla Porsild

