

MUSH ON!

Monthly Newsletter of the Iditarod Education Department

NEWS & FEATURES

December Teaching Ideas & Photo of the Month
PAGE 2

Updates from the Teacher on the Trail
PAGE 3

K9 Reporter: Libby Littles
PAGE 4

Husky Talk & If You "Mush Know"
PAGE 5

Teaching With Insider
PAGE 6

Primary Source of the Month
PAGE 7

Visit Iditarod
PAGE 8

Junior Iditarod
PAGE 9

Virtual Trips with Julia Cross
PAGE 10

Art Contest Winners
PAGE 11

EDU Trail Mail Project & Dates
PAGE 12



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Photo: Mike Kenney

New Year, New Plans

BY JEN REITER

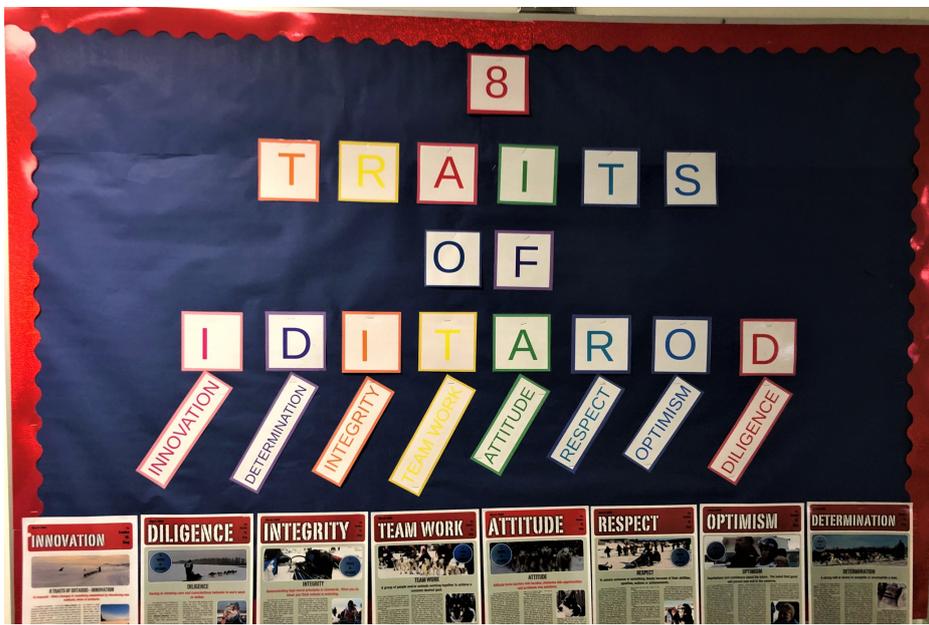
It's hard to believe we are finally putting 2020 behind us. I think the whole world has breathed a sigh of relief and is looking forward to the future.

This time of the year is always a wonderful combination of time honored traditions and looking forward to the future ahead. It's a time to reflect on the year passed and create goals for the upcoming year.

This year's Iditarod is no different. In December, the Iditarod Trail Committee announced the totally unique route for the 2021 race. But, it's a route with a nod to the past. The Gold Trail Loop will take the mushers to the ghost town of Iditarod, out to the town of Flat, and then loop them back to Willow in a one of a kind race.

Ryan Redington recently told me that he was thrilled with this route as it was his Grandpa Joe's first original plan for the race. Part of Joe's purpose in creating the race was to honor the history of the Iditarod Trail.

It's a wonderful chance to teach your kids about the history of the Iditarod Trail, its use by indigenous people, gold seekers, mail carriers, and ultimately sled dog racers! We'll be creating and publishing lessons to help you with this all race season long! Stay tuned!



"But the beauty of the woods, the incredible joy of it is too alluring to be ignored, and I could not stand to be away from it - indeed, still can't - and so I ran dogs simply to run dogs; to be in and part of the forest, the woods."

~Gary Paulsen

January Teaching Ideas

HEIDI SLOAN

Reading: [Students on the Trail Journalists](#) & [Learning in Nikolai](#)

Have you or your students wished you could communicate with students who live in Iditarod checkpoints? Students from Takotna wrote about their schooling. From the community of Nikolai comes another article on the school there. Encourage your students to read, looking carefully for differences between the schools and then compare and contrast what they learned in a writing project.

Math: [Giving It Meaning](#)

This post from Dew Claw Kennel's site gives teachers real numbers for students to work with, showing them how math is used in real life. Find fascinating information about the planning mushers go through to pack their drop bags for checkpoints! K-3rd grade math activities are included in the article.

Science: [Murder Along the Iditarod Trail](#)

"Murder on the Iditarod Trail" lesson in forensics is for a high school science experience. See how forensic investigation can be woven into the race and engage your students in real life skills!

Fitness/PE: [Checkpoint Fitness](#)

Students go through fitness stations based on Iditarod checkpoints This could be good for a PE class or for movement breaks within a classroom!

Tell the Story

Have the students put speech bubbles over each dog's head. What are they thinking at the moment this photo was taken? What about the gentleman standing in the background? Click [HERE](#) for a larger photo.



Updates from the EDU Trail

Checking in with our EDU Team to see what you can expect this month:

A Sneak Peek at the Upcoming January Teacher on the Trail Posts

Jim Deprez,
2021 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail

I think I can speak for most of us when I say that this has been quite the challenging year. While I am excited about celebrating the upcoming holidays with my family, I am also looking forward to leaving 2020 in the rearview mirror and starting the new year fresh. As we get ready to open the calendar to 2021, it's hard to believe that the 49th running of the Iditarod is only three short months away. The excitement and anticipation are definitely growing and preparations for the race have already begun. We are still in the midst of a global pandemic, and the ITC and its members have worked tirelessly to address the ever-changing situation and to help keep the race on schedule. I applaud their efforts to make adjustments and take the necessary precautions in order to ensure the health and safety of all involved. This is an unprecedented year and everyone is working hard to modify and prepare for a safe and successful race, from race officials to mushers to volunteers.

Moments With Mushers: Equipment

As the mushers start to get ready for the upcoming race, the task of organizing all of their supplies and equipment is beginning to take place. Much like last month's post about their most important piece of clothing, I asked some other mushers about their most valued piece of equipment on the trail. Thinking that many were going to give the same response, (the sled itself), I was very surprised when ONLY ONE of them mentioned it! Check back on the 15th to see some of their most important pieces of equipment, and also hear them talk about how THOSE have changed over the years of racing.



Photo: Terrie Hanke



Photo: Jim Deprez

Classroom Connections: Musher Research (Virtual Lesson Possibility)

One of the things that I love about the Iditarod is the ease in which we can make it more personal for the kids. Each year, the thing that really hooks the students for me is the assigning of a musher to follow on the race. Through this, we use the Iditarod website to learn about our musher and get to know them as a person and not just a name. Many of us already do this and have our students make a poster, write a short biography, or some other way to display this information. However, with many of us still teaching virtually, there needs to be a way to make this easy to present in a new and fun way. I plan on doing just that with my class this year. Check back on the 30th to see how to make this activity different and turn your students into the mushers themselves!



Alaskan or Siberian?

by: Libby Littles

Hi y'all! Libby here! I'm an Alaskan Husky puppy and my Big Goal is to be a Sled Dog. I've learned a lot hanging around the kennel. Not just any dog can become a sled dog. First of all, sled dogs have to love running and pulling sleds, and we need to be able to stay warm in the snow. Huskies, like me, make great sled dogs because we love to pull and we have a double coat of thick, warm fur. If you want a great sled dog, you can't go wrong with a husky!

Many people see dogs like me and say, "that isn't a husky!" Me? Not a husky? It turns out, people often think that huskies are all fluffy, white and black, with blue eyes (or one blue and one brown), pointy ears, and curly tails. They are thinking about Siberian Huskies. They don't realize that Siberian Huskies are just one kind of Husky. I am an Alaskan Husky!

So, what is the difference between Siberian Huskies and Alaskan Huskies?

Siberians are a "Pure Breed." They belong to Kennel Clubs that have rules about what a Siberian Husky should look like. Humans work hard to make sure their Siberian Huskies fit the rules, or standards. One rule: If you want to be a Siberian Husky, your parents and grandparents and great great grandparents all had to be Siberian Huskies.

We Alaskan Huskies are a mix of different BREEDS. A dog breed is a kind of dog, like beagle, poodle, or pug. Siberian Huskies have always been a great sled dog breed, but many mushers didn't care so much about what we looked like, as long as we loved to run fast, pull sleds, work hard, keep going, eat a lot, and follow directions. Those mushers took Siberians and made a new breed of racing dog.

Mushers started to mix Siberians with dog breeds that have their own "super-powers." I may have some greyhound ancestors to thank for speed, labrador retrievers for friendliness, and border collies for intelligence and focus. If we have moms or dads or grandparents who are not Siberian, we are no longer "pure". We are no longer Siberian Huskies. We are Alaskan Huskies!

Some mushers believe we Alaskan Huskies are better than Siberians. They say we are faster and work harder because we are more serious about our jobs. "Alaskan Huskies live to pull." That may be true for some of us, but Alaskan Huskies are also more VARIABLE than Siberians. That means we have more differences between each other. Some of us are smaller than Siberians, and some are much bigger. We each have our own unique personalities. Siberians and Alaskans are all great sled dogs. We each have our strengths and weaknesses.

You can try your luck at comparing huskies with a game, Libby's Husky Venn: [PowerPoint Version](#) or [Google Slides Version](#). If you want to hear more about the different kinds of huskies, check out the K9 Reporter page! I have some stories to share, and you can meet some of the cool dogs who have been teaching me about being a sled dog.



Left:
Monica Zappa's
Alaskan
Huskies

Right:
Rob Cooke's
Siberian
Huskies

Photos by:
Terrie Hanke



Husky Talk

by: Erin Montgomery



Upcoming episodes: Lisbet Norris and Ryan Redington

What do you know about the dogs that run the Iditarod? We have some excellent guests on Husky Talk that will be talking with us about the difference between Siberian Huskies and Alaskan Huskies.

Our first guest is Lisbet Norris. Lisbet is a 3-time finisher of the Iditarod. She runs Siberian Huskies and is very passionate about the breed. In our episode with Lisbet, she helps us debunk some myths about Siberians and prove some facts about the dogs as well.

Our next guest, Ryan Redington, will talk with us about the Alaskan Husky. Just like Lisbet's family has a rich history with Siberians, Ryan's family has raised Alaskan Huskies for generations. Ryan will help you understand all about the Alaskan Husky.

To get your students ready for these upcoming episodes, take a look at our Alaskan Husky vs. Siberian Husky hyperslide activity: [Google Slides](#) or [PowerPoint](#). Students will be able to explore this interactive slide deck to learn the differences between these two breeds.

If your class wants to be featured on Husky Talk, follow our Iditarod EDU Facebook page to see who future podcasts will be with. Your students can email us at huskytalk1@gmail.com and ask a question they would like us to ask our guest. We will ask their question and say their name. You can also email us if you would like to hear a certain guest on our show.



Lisbet Norris
photo: Terrie Hanke

If You "Mush" Know...

by: Lynne Witte

This question comes from Mrs. Dagenais' Class in Baltimore: How does a musher stop their team of sled dogs?

Gary Paulsen describes in *Dogteam* the beauty of a winter night run with a team of dogs pulling the sled taking you on a wonderful ride along a trail. Paulsen shares the beauty of the energy one feels riding behind a team of dogs.

Sled dogs live to run. Their stamina is incredible. So how does a musher stop their team? Leaders and the dogs in the team know the commands to go and trail directional commands of "gee" and "haw". Contrary to what many believe "whoa" is not as easily learned. A dog team does not stop and wait for the musher who fell off to get back on. They may keep going, dragging you along, or pulling an empty sled. A combination of snow hooks, using a claw brake, and a verbal "whoa" will help stop a team. The snow hook is embedded in the snow to stop the sled.

Having the respect of your team is important. Always staying calm and in control is vital. Training with the command "whoa" and practicing using brakes on a training rig or claw brake on a sled during those early learning runs needs to be practiced. When the sled can't be stopped you must lay your sled on its side while hanging on. Never let go!

It is easy to get a team to go when the dogs are jumping and barking with excitement but it's tough to get them to stop.



Photo: Terrie Hanke

Teaching with the Insider

by: Jane Holmes



Summary: On December 18, 2020, the Rookie Musher Meeting took place via ZOOM. Veteran mushers gave their advice on technical aspects, but they also gave great encouragement about embracing the race as it has been changed and enjoying the experience. Being a rookie doesn't mean a musher is inexperienced, it just means a musher hasn't completed the Iditarod yet. These clips feature three of this year's rookies. As you work with your students on embracing change and setting goals for the rest of the school year, share these clips with them.

"Rookie Sean Williams Preps for His First Iditarod" December 5, 2020 11:14 a.m.

Sean explains how he got involved with the Iditarod. This segment shows a level of rookie that comes into the race with professional mushing experience. He has taken the talents and skills he gained over time and focused them on the goal of finishing the Iditarod. At 2:58 he is asked about expectations and he explains training and conditioning for success. *Students can self-evaluate their skills and talents and set goals for themselves to improve them or use them to achieve something new.*



"Joanna Jagow Prepares for the Iditarod" October 29, 2020 10:40 a.m.

Joanna, a full time pediatric nurse, describes how her lifestyle led her to training for the Iditarod. The way she explains the years and decades it took her to build up to where she is now is inspiration for long term goal setting and perseverance in obtaining those goals. At 4:02 she explains that being cold is a real struggle for her! So she is embracing a lifestyle and challenge that is uncomfortable for her, but the payoffs supersede this, another great point to discuss with students. This clip is also full of pictures of her and her family from the past - a good picture of subsistence living. *Students can list challenges they may have to overcome to achieve their goals. Add these to their goals plan and have them monitor how they are dealing with any obstacles they may come up against.*



"Gabe Dunham in Willow" November 6, 2020 12:47 p.m.

Returning rookie Gabe Dunham describes the disappointment she felt when she scratched last year, but then emphasizes the reason being for her dogs and what she learned from her trail experience. And very importantly, she describes the joy in the journey towards her Iditarod finish goal. *Discuss with students that sometimes we have to have plan A, B, or C or even set aside our goals for another time; this isn't a failure, just a "re-set". Every attempt to achieve a new goal is a chance for learning more about themselves and how they can change what they are doing to be more successful the next time.*

SEL lesson ideas: Have students set their goals for Nome/Willow. Then have them align steps to achieve their goals along the race route. As you follow the race, students can reflect on where they are in achieving their goals and make adjustments as needed.

Students can reflect on the changes they have experienced in their lives, some due to the COVID19 pandemic possibly, and how they have or may have to adapt along with a positive attitude needed to make those changes successful.

Here is a clip from Gabe Dunham in 2020 where she talks about embracing change. She talks about how everything has to be right for the game plan to be executed, mentions factors that can be unpredictable and her strategies for running a race unique to her and her team.

"Gabe Dunham Running Her First Iditarod" March 9, 2020 9:10 p.m.

Primary Source of the Month

Jen Reiter

Last month, we looked at the use of the Iditarod Trail as a mail trail by investigating trail mail. This month, we turn our focus to the use of the Iditarod Trail during the Gold Rush Days. The vault of the Miners and Merchants Bank is one of the few structures still standing in Iditarod today! Today's artifact is a deposit slip from 1911. Andrew Palo deposited \$4,751 dollars! Isn't it fun to wonder if that money was from a gold strike or a business in the town?

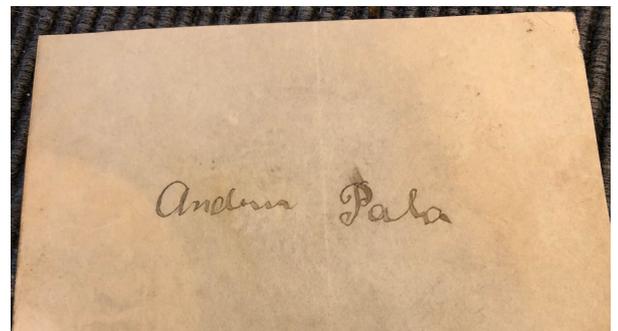


Using the Source With Students

1. Display the object for your students and have them share what they see, think, and wonder about the artifact.
2. Play the song "North to Alaska" by Johnny Horton. Ask them if they know what the lyrics "North to Alaska, we're going north, the rush is on" refer to. [Song Video](#)
3. Introduce them to the idea that the Iditarod Trail was used during the Gold Rush era.
4. If you have more time to spend with this topic, here is a full [lesson plan](#) on the topic. Through this lesson, students investigate the timeline of the Alaskan Gold Rushes and try their hand at a gold panning simulation.

Associated Resources:

- Iditarod: Gold Rush to Ghost Town - article & pictures from Iditarod.com - [Click Here](#)
- Old Newspaper Articles About the Iditarod Gold Rush from the BLM - [Click Here](#)
- Gold and the Iditarod: A PBL Lesson - [Click Here](#)
- Booms and Busts: Iditarod Trail History - [Click Here](#)
- Iditarod: One of the Last Gold Rush Towns - [Click Here](#)



Bank Slip Back



The Bank Vault Today

Get Ready to Visit Iditarod!

By: Jen Reiter

With the Iditarod Trail Committee announcing the historic route for the 2021 Race, The Gold Trail, all attention this year will focus on the historic town and checkpoint of Iditarod. Iditarod came into existence after the Christmas Day, 1908 gold strike on Otter Creek, a tributary of the Iditarod River. By the summer of 1909 gold seekers had arrived, and built a small camp that will be visited by the mushers this year, Flat. After more gold was found, the major stampede was on! The steamboat, Tanana, arrived on June 1, 1910 and the city of Iditarod was founded as a key location for all of the surrounding gold fields.

Iditarod became a Boom Town and in its heyday it supported hotels, cafes, newspapers, a bank, and a store. It had electricity, telephones, cars and even a railway to Flat. By 1930, Iditarod was bust, and the town moved on.

Today, all that remains of the once bustling town is some ruins and the concrete bank vault from the Miners and Merchants Bank.

Enjoy these photos taken by Julien Schroder during the 2019 race of Iditarod.

Clicking on each will take you to a larger photo.

They might make a great jumping off for some creative writing:

- Write a story that takes place in Iditarod during its heyday.
- What ghosts might be in the town? What do they think of the mushers coming through?



Jr. Iditarod Mushers Start the Ball Rolling

Article and Photos by: Terrie Hanke

Ask me when Iditarod starts and I'll always answer, "The last Saturday of February." That's for a couple of reasons. Over the years, many of the Jr. Iditarod mushers have gone on to compete in the Iditarod. Also, the festivities of the Jr. Iditarod occur one week prior to Iditarod and it seems that the Jr. Iditarod sets the ball rolling for the big race. The upcoming race in 2021 will mark the 44th running of the Jr. Iditarod.

As the sun rose on the last Saturday of February, nine teenage contestants readied their teams on Knik Lake just a short distance from the Redington homestead for the 2020 Jr. Iditarod. The field, ages 14-17, included four veterans returning from their rookie run in 2019 as well as five newcomers. Participants from the 2019 race included Bjorn Keller, Anna Coke, Ida Kohnert and Cassidy Meyer. The newcomers included Julia Cross, Calvin Daugherty, Kristal Hanson, Sam Paperman and Nicolas Sousa.

As the teams covered the 70 miles to Yentna Station checkpoint, partly cloudy turned to cloudy and the temperature rose into the teens above zero. Cross, Wearing bib #2 drove the first team into Yentna followed by Sousa, Coke and Kohnert. The trio of Daugherty, Hanson and Meyer arrived later within 11 minutes of each other. Paperman and Keller followed.

Snowfall overnight, 15 inches worth, slowed the homestretch run from Yentna Station to Willow. Julia Cross led all mushers out of Yentna for the 75-mile run. Nicholas Sousa passed Julia on the trail about halfway to Willow and claimed victory as he stretched his lead to nearly 30 minutes and 4 miles over Cross. Following Cross for the first half of the return run, Sousa's dogs stored up energy for a push to the finish. In placing second, Cross claimed the best finish for any Canadian in the Jr. Iditarod. Nicholas' father, Gerry, has finished Iditarod eleven times.

Anna Coke claimed 3rd place and was the only veteran to finish in the top five. Kristal Hanson earned a 4th place finish. Hanson and her father are now both veterans of the Jr. Iditarod. Calvin Daugherty, behind a team of Jim Lanier Northern Whites, finished in fifth place. Calvin's father, Larry, is a three-time Iditarod finisher.

The Celebration of Success for the 2020 Jr. Iditarod was held in the Willow Community Center. While the trail was slower for the inbound run, the mushers and dogs handled it well. To quote Ida Kohnert, "To be out in nature with my best friends is the greatest thing in the world." You notice, she doesn't specify trail conditions. It's about being out in nature and the bond between musher and canine athletes.

The Sportsmanship Award, voted on by the mushers, went to Julia Cross. Her fellow mushers said she was always smiling and encouraged everyone. Cross is a two time Jr. Beargrease champion who intends to pursue a career in veterinary medicine and has her eye on running Iditarod in 2025.

The Humanitarian Award, voted on by the veterinarians, went to Cassidy Meyer who claimed 6th place. Meyer aspires to a career in veterinary medicine and was pleased to receive this recognition. She feels it's the best award a musher can receive.

Red Lantern honors for perseverance went to Ida Kohnert. The award is given to the final finisher prior to the completion of the banquet. Ida, born and raised in Sweden, claimed 7th place. She has handled dogs for her father in the Yukon Quest and intends to run the Quest in 2023.

The Blue Harness Award went to Earhardt, a leader for Julia Cross. Earhardt of Redington and Schouweiler bloodlines is 18 months old, led the entire race and broke trail for 120 miles until Sousa passed Cross. Julia said, "Earhardt is a strong dog with a strong head who works hard all the time."

The final two mushers, Sam Paperman and Bjorn Keller, completed the race after the banquet concluded. Sam is from Seward. He began mushing with his neighbor and Iditarod veteran, Travis Beals. Bjorn grew up in McCarthy and now lives in Wasilla. His father, Jeremy, is an Iditarod veteran. Bjorn and Jeremy work together in training their team.

Following the Jr. Iditarod is an excellent warm up for following the Iditarod. Teachers can use the race to help students understand many race concepts such as start procedure, differential, lay over and awards. Jr. Iditarod provides race archives, musher biographies, race information, GPS tracking, race updates and award recipients at www.jriditarod.com.



Left: #6 Nicholas Sousa, Above #10 Calvin Daugherty

Virtual Field Trips with Julia Cross of CrissCross Racing

Article and Photos by: Terrie Hanke



As teachers meet the needs of students virtually, mushers are stepping up to lend a hand. Julia Cross who is the highest placing Canadian in Jr. Iditarod history has a whole list of field trip topics ready to present to students either pre-recorded or live.

Julia says, "If a teacher would like to set up a virtual field trip, he or she can send me an email and I will coordinate with them a date and format that works. All classes I do a virtual field trip with will receive a letter carried by dogsled in the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon."

At 400 miles, the Beargrease is the longest sled dog race in the lower 48 states. The trail begins in Duluth, Minnesota then runs along the north shore of Lake Superior to Grand Portage, just south of the Canadian border, and then returns to Duluth. The namesake of the race carried mail between Two Harbors and Grand Marais between 1879 and 1899 using canoe, boat, horse or dog team. The race takes place the last weekend of January and fans can follow through the [Beargrease webpage](#).

All of the field trip options are interactive. Julia says the most popular topics on the list of available options are Team Building, Meeting the Team, and Stories from the Trail. Other options include Pet Care, Winter Survival, Problem Solving, History of Dog Sledding and Budget/Business Management. During the programs, students are given movement activities and team challenges.

Who is Julia Cross and how has she gained her knowledge about dogs and mushing? Cross, Canada's top junior dog sled racer, owns and manages CrissCross Racing. She's been mushing since the age of five. As a participant in the 2020 Jr. Iditarod Cross claimed 2nd place honors, was the top female finisher, received the Sportsmanship Award and her leader, Earhardt, wore the Blue Harness, an award for the best leader, home to Ontario. Julia has two 1st place finishes and a 2nd place finish in the Junior Beargrease Sled Dog Race and has earned Rookie of the Year, Sportsmanship, and Vet's Choice trophies.

When there's no snow for the sled, Cross participates in bikejoring, claiming the 2019 North American U18 Women's Bikejoring Championship. Outside of racing, Julia is a dog agility and obedience trainer. As a contributor, Julia shares her perspectives on training dogs and mushing with readers of Sled Dogger Magazine. At the present she is living off grid with her sled dogs and training for the Canadian Challenge Race coming this February in Saskatchewan.

Cross is currently attending university, beginning her studies toward a field in veterinary medicine. She is building her racing kennel from impressive bloodlines with her eye on competing in the 2025 Iditarod. This year, she plans to run longer races to qualify for the Iditarod. Julia said in an OWL Connect interview, "I want to race for the rest of my life while having a job that supports it."

Reach out to Julia via email at jules.m.cross@hotmail.com to schedule a virtual field trip for your class. Cross doesn't have a formal charge for her programs however the teacher and class are welcome to support the team. All donations go directly to race costs and dog care costs.



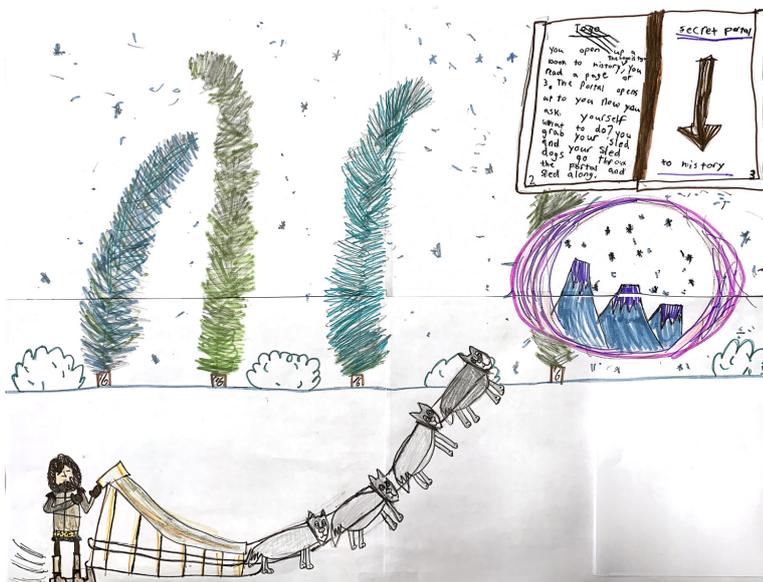
Announcing Our Trail Mail Contest Winners!

By: Jen Reiter

Our first annual Trail Mail Art Contest was a tremendous success! We were thrilled to accept over 40 entries from students in grades 4-12 and from all over the country. A team of Iditarod Educators narrowed the field to ten finalists which were then judged by artists Jon and Jona Van Zyle. The Iditarod Education Department would like to send a special thanks to retired art teacher, Wendy Brott, for her support of this newest iteration of the Trail Mail program. Please join us in congratulating our top finalists! Be sure to sign up for your chance to send a piece of mail down the trail in this year's winning design. See the page 12 for details!

First Place:
Addison W.
age 9
Annapolis, MD

Addison's design was chosen because of the creativity and tie in to the theme of the history of dog sledding and the race.



Second Place:
Anna D.
age 11
Kinnelon, NJ

Anna's work was chosen for her strong concept of honoring history by featuring the race trail.



Third Place:
Michelle C.
age 14
Eagle River, AK

Michelle's work was chosen for the strong graphic nature of the image, and the attention to detail in the drawing.



See more from our finalists on page 13.

Updated: Send a Piece of Mail Down the Trail!

Jen Reiter

We are so excited to announce our new Educational Trail Mail Project to you! This is an amazing chance for your class to send a piece of mail down the trail in one of the 2021 student designed cachets, and help us raise funds for our education programs at the same time!

It's very simple for your class to participate:

1. Head over to this [LINK](#) to purchase your spot on a sled for just \$5.
2. Once your purchase is complete, you will be emailed further directions about how to send your piece of mail to be included. Basically, you will be sending one 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper down the trail. What is on your paper is totally up to you! Your students could write a poem or story, they could create a piece of artwork, they could all include their signatures... Whatever you and your students decide.
3. Once your piece of mail is received by our program coordinator, it will be put into an Educational Trail Mail envelope that will feature this year's winning student art piece.
4. Your now filled cachet will be taken to the Musher Meeting in Anchorage that is held on the Thursday before the race. Your musher will sign the envelope and it will be collected back by our volunteers who will have it postmarked in Anchorage and then packaged for safe travels down the trail.
5. Your mail will next be delivered to your musher at the race restart on Willow Lake and will be packed safely on his or her sled for its roundtrip journey back to Willow!
6. Once it arrives at the finish line, your letter will be postmarked in Willow and put into the mail stream to make its way back to you!

Each musher is limited to carrying Trail Mail from 5 classes, so be sure to take advantage of this opportunity soon! **Sales will end on January 15th (or earlier if the spaces are filled)** and are limited to one piece of mail per class or homeschool family. If you have questions, please email trailmail@iditarod.com

Mark Your Calendar

January 15, 2020: End of Trail Mail Sales (could be earlier if sold out)

January 31, 2020: Last Day Trail Mail Can Be Received to go on the Trail

March 6, 2021, 10am: Iditarod Start

March 7, 2021, 2pm: Iditarod ReStart

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Newsletter Feedback, Questions, or Suggestions?
email: jen.reiter@iditarod.com

Trail Mail Art Contest Finalists

Enjoy this art work from our other finalists!



Aleksandra T.
age 10
Kinnelon, NJ



Karley B.
5th Grade
Virquoa, WI



Mario G.
age 12
DeQueen, AR



Caroline O.
age 11
Kinnelon, NJ



Matthew B.
5th Grade
Viroqua, WI



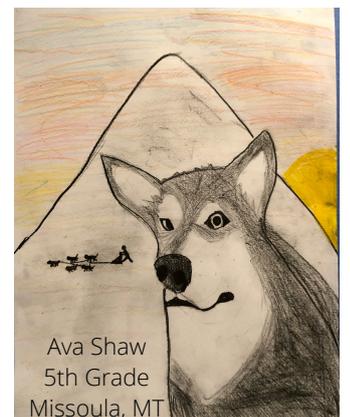
Abigail R.
age 17
Wasilla, AK



Stella F.
5th Grade
Viroqua, WI



Bethany M.
age 14
Wasilla, AK



Ava Shaw
5th Grade
Missoula, MT