

# MUSH ON!

Monthly Newsletter of the Iditarod Education Department

## NEWS & FEATURES

March Teaching Ideas

**PAGE 2**

Sanka W. Dog's Zoom  
Lens Photo

**PAGE 2**

K9 Journalist Corner

**PAGE 3**

Zuma's Rockin'  
Resources

**PAGE 4**

From the Teacher on  
the Trail™

**PAGE 5**

Mandatory Gear  
and Special  
Announcement

**PAGE 6**



**by Jane Holmes**

In this, our 2023 race edition, we are giving you the tools you need to make sure your sled is packed with Iditarod-themed gear complete from A - Z, from art to math, from PreK to high school. Use this edition as a checklist, a reference sheet to find resources. The mushers and their teams are ready - are you? Today, pre-race vet checks are taking place at Iditarod Headquarters, and in 3 days they will take off from 4th and D for the 51st running of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.



## March Teaching Ideas

by Heidi Sloan

### White Mountain Themed Math Lessons

#### [Dog Yard Dilemma](#)

Challenge students in working through how to set up area measures for all the aspects needed in the small community of White Mountain. There are definitely checkpoints such as White Mountain where sleeping bag space is a prime commodity!

### Resources Classes Need to Follow the Race:

#### [Map of the Trail](#)

#### [Tracking Form](#)

#### [Mushers](#)

### Time on the Trail

These short lessons provide articles to read about the importance of time on the Iditarod Trail as well as some math! Students figure out military times for mandatory stops as well as time differentials for the varied start times, giving the teams with later starts equal footing in the race.

#### [Telling Time on the Trail](#)

#### [White Mountain Mandatory Math](#)

#### [24-Hour Rest and Time Differential](#)

### Sanka W. Dog's Zoom Lens Photo

On Thursday, March 2, the annual Musher Meet and Greet and Drawing Banquet returns in full form.



---

There I was at the starting line, a young Swiss kid with old-fashioned wool pants, the infamous U.S. military bunny boots, and a parka made by a friend to keep me warm.

---

~Martin Buser  
in  
"Iditarod: The First Ten Years."  
(pg. 370)



Photo: Terrie Hanke

Click on the image to enlarge it.

# K9 Journalist Corner

by Gypsy



Dear Friends,

It is time for another Iditarod! I would like to introduce you to my dog, or canine, reporter friends. You can look on the [Iditarod.com](http://Iditarod.com) Education tab, Zuma's K9 Journalists, to read updates during the race!

**Gypsy:** (me) I will be reporting on interesting events all along the race, mostly for upper elementary students.

**Zuma:** Zuma will be answering questions you may have during the Iditarod. Send class questions to [geehawzuma@gmail.com](mailto:geehawzuma@gmail.com)

**Sled Dog Ed:** Teachers can click on this reporter to get teaching ideas for the race!

**Libby Littles:** Libby will write for our younger friends in early elementary school.

**Sanka:** Sanka's articles are for older friends, packed with information about Alaska, the race, and character!

I look forward to having you come along, reading our articles as our excited dog teams race across Alaska!

Until next time,

Gypsy



*Sled Dog Ed*



*Libby Littles*



*Zuma*



*Sanka*

# Zuma's Rockin' Resources

Hello Friends, Zuma Here!

Iditarod Fifty-One is right around the corner! I'm so excited to follow the race, I sometimes go right into a tailspin! I'm not sending you on a scavenger hunt this month. Instead, I'm sharing some rockin' resources you can use on your own scavenger hunts during the race. Just click on the blue word links and you're off and running!

**Insider, GPS Tracker and Current Race Standings** will be front and center whenever you log into [www.iditroad.com](http://www.iditroad.com). Select one of the many **Insider** videos to see your favorite musher interviewed or hear about trail conditions and race strategies. **GPS Tracker** lets you see where your musher is, how fast the team is moving and how close other mushers are. **Race Standings** provide details about arrival/departure from checkpoints, dogs in/out and required rest status.



On the right hand side of the Iditarod home page, there are quick access buttons for **Teacher on the Trail**, **Eye on the Trail** and **Faces of Iditarod**.

**Juli Westrich, 2023 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™**,

will post stories and lesson prompts daily starting before the Jr. Iditarod and concluding at the end of the race. **Eye on the Trail** reporter, Terrie Hanke, writes capsule summaries of race events daily beginning with Jr. Iditarod. Iditarod Photo Guy, Jeff Schultz, shares his astounding **Faces of Iditarod** collection of photos and interviews of vets, volunteers, mushers, pilots, villagers and canines for everyone to enjoy and get to know the personalities of the race.



Check out Zuma's **K9 journalists** found on the **EDUCATION** website page, top left. You can see their bios on pg. 3 of this newsletter. Zuma answers student's questions. Send questions to [geehawzuma@gmail.com](mailto:geehawzuma@gmail.com).

**RACE CENTER** is a menu filled with all sorts of goodies! Here are a few I use all the time for writing my stories and answering your questions. **Race Archives** is a fan's best friend, including information for all mushers, all races and all checkpoints. The **race rules** can be found by opening **2023 Information for Mushers**. **Race Map** offers more than meets the eye. By clicking on each leg of the race, a trail description written by musher and trail expert Don Bowers Jr. pops up. During the race, Insider photographers share astounding photos from the trail in the **Photo Gallery**. **Special Awards** explains all categories of awards presented on the trail and at the end of the race - Humanitarian to Sportsmanship and Spirit of Iditarod to Red Lantern.

There are a lot of rockin' resources that are ready and waiting to enrich your Iditarod based learning experiences. Dig in and make the most of Iditarod themed education.

# Sneak Peek

**March is all about the race! As you read this I'll be in Alaska, kicking off the in-person portion of my 2023 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™ adventures. Whether on the ground, in a sled, or riding in a plane, my time in Alaska will be well documented with daily posts about all things Iditarod. March 1 is field trip day for the annual Iditarod EDU Winter Educators Conference. It starts with a visit to Iditarod Headquarters to watch the pre-race vet checks. This is a fascinating peek behind the scenes, and really emphasizes the extensive dog care pervading every aspect of the race. Then we will visit Happy Trails Kennel to see how Iditarod legend Martin Buser created dogsledding magic. I'm excited to share details and observations from this great day, and the other events of race week including the Musher Meet and Greet, Gala, my IditaRider experience with rookie musher Hunter Keefe, and the Willow Re-Start!**



by Juli Westrich

## 2023 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™

Click on the images to enlarge.



2020 Teacher on the Trail Kelly Villar is ready to catch a flight between checkpoints. I'm ready to be on, and above, the trail! (photo credit: Iditarod)

Mid-month, when I usually post a lesson plan, I'll be deep into my own hands-on learning and out on the trail. Where will you find me? I don't know the answer to that, but I can guarantee that it will be unlike anywhere I've ever been before. Check back daily to read posts and see photos of my time at the checkpoints as the mushers come through.



2013 Teacher on the Trail™, Linda Fenton, getting her chance as an IditaRider with Jr. Iditarod Champion Noah Pereira. I'm pumped for my chance to ride down 4th Ave! (photo credit: Terrie Hanke)

On March 20 I will be back in Anchorage, the race over, and I will share a wrap up of my time in Alaska. This is the month I have been looking forward to since I first learned I was selected as the 2023 Teacher on the Trail™. This is the month Iditarod mushers, volunteers, fans, and students look forward to all year. I am thrilled to be able to share my journey with you in daily posts for most of March.



2021/2022 Teacher on the Trail™ Jim Deprez at the finish in Nome. Looking forward to my picture under the burl arch. (photo credit: Jim Deprez)

# Mandatory Gear

by Jane Holmes

## Lower 48 Summer 2023 EDU workshop SAVE THE DATE!

Educators - If you were unable to make it to Anchorage for the 2023 Iditarod Winter Educators Conference, no need to worry! Iditarod EDU is planning a summer conference in the lower 48!

Since 2024 is the 25th anniversary of the Teacher on the Trail™ program, you will have the opportunity to meet and talk with many former Teachers on the Trail™, including "Finney", the very first teacher who started the whole program!

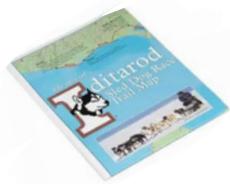
Some of the events will include:

- an afternoon at Nature's Kennel with Iditarod veteran Ed Stielstra and his wife, Tasha
- a full day of presentations, discussions and activities you can use in your classroom
- a full day at MIDOG Kennel with Iditarod veteran Laura Neese

Where: Newberry/Curtis area of Michigan's UP

When: Sunday, June 25 - Tuesday, June 26th

More details to come. And if you'd like to be on the email list for information updates, please send a message to Jane Holmes, Director of Education at: [jane.holmes@iditarod.com](mailto:jane.holmes@iditarod.com)



**EXCLUSIVE**  
**EDUCATORS'**  
**DISCOUNTS**



**Don't miss out on these discounts offered by VOYIJ (either online or in person)**

Click on the banner above to visit the store.

- **50% off on the First 10 Years book with code EDUFIRST10**
- **For teachers who buy teacher supplies in bulk for their classroom, if they spend \$100 or more, we gladly offer 20% off their order with code EDU20**

**Iditarod**® **EDU**

**Editors:**

Linda Fenton  
Jane Holmes

**Contributing Writers:**

Terrie Hanke  
Heidi Sloan

**Photography:**

all by Iditarod.com

Kelly Villar  
Juli Westrich

unless otherwise credited Lynne Witte

Newsletter feedback, questions, or suggestions? email: [jane.holmes@iditarod.com](mailto:jane.holmes@iditarod.com)