

This is the last formal newsletter. Continue to look for lessons and activities, but also start checking my journal link more often because you will be finding more frequent messages there.

Teacher Times (the final edition)

AVERAGE TEMPS FOR JANUARY

	HIGH	LOW
ANCHORAGE, AK	21.4	8.4
NOME, AK	14.7	-.7
PHOENIX, AZ	65.9	41.2

Make a "State-ment"

Alaska state tree: sitka spruce
Arizona state tree: palo verde

THIS MONTH'S LESSONS:

6 Traits Writing:
using the trait of
voice

What it Takes:
Insider clips featuring
the character
trait of:
citizenship

Holiday Connection:
Valentine's Day
heart health

**Common Thread
Activity:**
Mapping the Com-
mon Thread Quilt
Project

PREPARATIONS

Well, in about 6 weeks, I will begin my adventure in Alaska. A year ago this month the finalists for the 2008 Teacher on the Trail were notified and earnestly began making plans for the finalist trip to the winter educator's conference and the '07 race start. At the time of this writing, the applicants for the 2009 Teacher on the Trail are waiting to hear who the finalists are. What am I doing to prepare? It seems like a lot, but it pales in comparison to what the mushers must be going through right now. I'm the kind of person who enjoys planning the trip just a little less than actually taking it. I have lists of what to do at school, at home, etc. I have calls to make and equipment to procure, sub plans to make, contact lists to update, calendars to lay out, school and conference presentations to build and a new camera to master. In Nome I will be stationary for a few days, so I'm preparing a small box of clothes to send ahead. I'll have worn pretty much the same thing along the trail from the day I leave. And, of course, my class is preparing to send their quilt to our contact school in Nome. My patch needs sewn onto the sleeping bag...there are many things yet to do, but it will all happen and before I know it—I'll be in Alaska again.

COMMON THREAD QUILT PROJECT UPDATE

All of you Idita-fan teachers have made this project more successful beyond what I'd imagined. It has grown and "sewn" and grown! What you are doing is more important than completing a project and more far-reaching than Alaska. You are putting a face on the map of the United States for the students in Alaska; and you are reaching into people's hearts and minds. This kind of connection is so important in our world today, don't you think?

Quilts have been secured for all of the schools along the northern and southern routes. HOWEVER, there are many more places to which quilts could be sent and would be very welcome. For example, there is a large network of schools in the Mat-Su Valley and Anchorage areas, and they are right in Iditarod race country because of the start and re-start. And then quilts could go to remote places all over Alaska; that adds a whole new dimension to the project. And if it's not a trail school, the mailing "deadline" to have it there before the race comes through isn't a concern. So, if you are still interested in making and sending a quilt to another school in remote Alaska, please let me know. E-mail me at 2008tott@gci.net.



THE 2008 TOTT PATCH