

## 2007 Star Award Honoree



**Anchorage Waterways Council**  
**Contact:** : Cherie Northon  
**Phone:** 561-4627

**Polaris K-12 School**  
**Principal:** Denise Greene-Wilkinson  
**Contact:** Kathryn Smith, SBP Coordinator  
**Phone:** 742-8700

During the annual meeting of the Anchorage Waterways Council (AWC) in 2006, Kathryn Smith, Polaris K-12 teacher, became aware of upcoming restoration projects only a few blocks away from the school.

Holly Kent, Executive Director of AWC, was contacted and a partnership was started. In one short year, students at Polaris have become versed in chemical, biological, and physical properties of Little Campbell Creek and how the health of the creek is affected by humans.

Student projects and activities:

- Spring 2006: Grades 7-12; Infomercial Intensive – Students created videos about the creek.
- Fall 2006: Civics and Ecology Class – Students conducted the creek's scientific/social inquiry, which included chemical and biological sampling, along with an analysis survey for creek residents.
- January 2007: Internships – Two Polaris seniors began semester internships with Nick Branson, AWC Water Monitoring Coordinator, to collect turbidity data on the creek above and below planned restoration projects. Students' baseline data will be used by AWC to determine the impact on the creek's health.
- February 2007: AWC Annual Meeting – Kathryn Smith and Polaris students presented creek displays and videos to the council and Mayor Mark Begich.

Anchorage Waterways Council involvement:

- Spring and Fall 2006: AWC Support: Cherie Northon, AWC's Project Coordinator for Little Campbell Creek, was involved as a classroom speaker and supervisor for Polaris students' field work.
- November 2006: Grant written by AWC provided Polaris with water quality testing equipment and Cherie Northon's expertise.
- AWC Training: Three Polaris parents and four students have been trained in the Citizens Environmental Monitoring Program. They monitor two creek sites once a month, all year round.

The Anchorage Waterways Council has served a vital role in supporting the science curriculum of Polaris K-12 by engaging students in real world science and by being excellent mentors and role models!



*Nick Bronson, Water Monitoring Coordinator with Anchorage Waterways Council, shows Lisa Anders and Celia Miller, seniors at Polaris K-12, how to use the turbidity meter.*

## Schlumberger

### Schlumberger

Contact: Diane Hodges

Phone: 273-1754

### Polaris K-12 School

Principal: Denise

Greene-Wilkinson

Contact: Kathryn Smith,

SBP Coordinator

Phone: 742-8700



Schlumberger has been a valuable partner of Polaris K-12 for several years. The partnership is continually evolving, always taking advantage of current opportunities. Some contributions include the following:

- Four trips to the North Slope for teachers and students
- Cash donations for the school's science and technology programs
- "Lunch N Learn" Program

This year, the "Lunch N Learn" program was instituted. Specifically, one or two Schlumberger employees visit Polaris to present a lunchtime mini lesson on oilfield operations. Careers in the oilfield industry are varied, so engaging students in the many opportunities Schlumberger offers as one of Alaska's largest employers, is a main goal. At each Lunch N Learn, Schlumberger generously provides lunch for the 35-40 student participants.

*Forty-one students participated in the first Lunch N Learn program, part of the Polaris K-12/Schlumberger School Business Partnership. Students learned about the cementing process from Maureen Torrie, WS DESC Engineer; Natasha Sachivichik, WS DESC Engineer; and Dawn Nunley, Human Resources Administrative Assistant.*

"The lunch was really good and I learned something too!"