

Local Creek Benefits From The Students At Polaris K-12

By Polaris SBP Coordinator Kathryn Smith

Students conduct biological, physical and chemical monitoring of Little Campbell Creek as part of the School Business Partnership between Anchorage Waterways Council (AWC) and Polaris K-12. The partnership between AWC exemplifies how organizations can meet their goals while offering opportunities for students to participate in real world science projects.

At AWC's annual meeting in 2006, Kathryn Smith, a teacher at Polaris K-12, noticed an upcoming restoration project for Little Campbell Creek that was only four blocks from the school. Working with Cherie Northon and Holly Kent of AWC, students at Polaris have become versed in chemical, biological and physical properties of the creek and how humans affect the health of the creek. Students participate in a variety of creek-based studies including videographing the state of the creek and conducting scientific studies into its health (such as creation and analysis of a survey for creekside residents).

Through a \$3,000 grant from the Cruise Industry Charitable Foundation, Polaris gained two water quality monitoring kits, a GPS unit, and a digital camera for use in work on the local creeks.

During the AWC 2007 annual meeting, students shared their knowledge of the creek and its problems with council members. Yet another way School/Business Partnerships are "Making Change" in the community.



School Business Partnership was a joint program of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce and the Anchorage School district created in 1989. Today, the program is self-sustained, managed by Tam Agosti-Gisler and boasts more than 400 partnerships. School Business Partnerships is an excellent link between the business and educational communities and the Anchorage Chamber will continue to offer support for its continued success. Thank you to all participants for investing in a strong community.