How Digital Publishing connects students to their culture, empowers teachers, and engages communities
Alaska has 20 indigenous languages.
Language revitalization efforts are underway statewide.
Governor Signs Emergency Order to Promote & Preserve Alaska Native Languages
Governor Signs Emergency Order to Promote & Preserve Alaska Native Languages

- Recognizes linguistic emergency: the possible extinction of Alaska’s 20 official Native languages
- Directs DEED Commissioner to:
  - Expand partnerships to address preservation and revitalization.
  - Work with partners to promote indigenous languages in public schools.
What do language and culture have to do with education?

**Integration of Learning & Identity** - Increased access to culturally responsive content and place-based learning at school connects Alaska Native students with their cultural identity.

**Cross-Age Collaboration** - Involvement of parents, elders and community members in student projects and activities provides knowledge and support.

**Improved Student Success** - Strengthening the connection between Native youth and their culture helps improve academic success and well-being.
The Power to Publish

- Smartphones, tablets and computers have transformed the way we access information.
- They have also provided the ability to create and publish it ourselves.
Digital Publishing is in AASB’s DNA

• For over a decade, AASB has been on the forefront of promoting adoption of digital publishing by Alaska educators

• Through onsite “Book Slams” we have assisted school districts with producing 25+ interactive digital books

• The books integrate local stories, languages and culture
What’s a Book Slam?

• A highly focused onsite group workshop

• All content for a single digital book is created during a 2-day onsite workshop.

• The process includes creation of:
  ✦ Storyboard
  ✦ Page illustrations & dioramas
  ✦ Video clips
  ✦ Text & audio narration in English and/or a Native language

• Can also include a Native language vocabulary and other cultural resources
The Book Slam Process

Create Storyboard
The Book Slam Process

Nulato elders Paulina Stickman (left) and Martha Demoski

Hughes elder Madeline Williams, sister of famous musher George Attla

Translation and Narration by Elders
The Book Slam Process

Create Storytelling Elements
The Book Slam Process

Illustrate Page Backgrounds
The Book Slam Process

Create Dioramas
The Book Slam Process

Page Layout
The Book Slam Process

Page Photography
The Book Slam Process

Hunter’s First Hunt

Narrated by Paulina Stickman
Illustrated by the Students of Andrew K. Demoski School

Book Construction & Review by Local Team
CASE STUDY: Yukon-Koyukuk School District

146,000 square miles (about the size of Montana)
The district’s communities are along the Yukon and Koyukuk rivers.
AASB is facilitating the production of 30 YKSD digital books during 2018-2020

These 10 books were completed in 2018
THE STORY

A boat trip down river to a week-long culture camp

BOOK FEATURES

- Translation & Denaakk’e narration by elder
- Interactive “Touch Zones” add Denaakk’e language to student page illustrations
- Interactive “Story Notes” add context to the story
Elder Narration and Story Note

Yoodo' neets'e ts'enaayh ts'uh go zeetoltlee' de ts’eedaal.

We travel down river to our traditional camp site.
The gold rush history of the town of Rampart

BOOK FEATURES

- English narration by students
- Denaakk’e translation and narration by elder
- Video of local traditional Denaakk’e dancing and song
EXAMPLES OF INTERACTIVE FEATURES

Student Narration, Traditional Song & Dance video

Eego eeyet daadletl’eey kkaa hebelo’ hoolaanh. Go k’elel koon k’ohedelkkun’. Ts’e nek’ehe’eden’-’o. Ts’e k’ehe’eldzes koonh.

Art and culture is alive and well in Rampart with fur and skin sewing, beading and dancing.
THE STORY
A young wolf faces challenges on his first hunt

BOOK FEATURES
- Denaakk’e translation and narration by local elders
- English narration by students
- Interactive “Touch Zones” add Denaakk’e language to student page illustrations
- Elder shares stories of local knowledge and history

Andrew K. Demoski School, Nulato, Alaska
EXAMPLES OF INTERACTIVE FEATURES

Native language narration, student narration, interactive “Touch Zones”
THE STORY

Kids disobey parents and get captured by a giant

BOOK FEATURES

• Denaakk’e translation and narration by elder
• Interactive “Touch Zones” add Denaakk’e language to student page illustrations
• Interactive “Story Notes” add context to the story

Ella B. Vernetti School, Koyukuk, Alaska
EXAMPLES OF INTERACTIVE FEATURES

Elder Narration


They were sneaking close to the beach. The boat was there on the beach. They landed quietly. They sneaked up the bank. Right back there they saw a light in an underground house. They started to sneak back there. Her husband snuck up to the top, to the smoke hole.
EXAMPLES OF INTERACTIVE FEATURES

THE STORY

Interactive Native language songbook for children

BOOK FEATURES

• Student “sing-along” videos
• Lyrics translation and narration by elder
• Interactive “Touch Zones” for Months, Seasons and Counting
• Interactive “Song Notes” add context to the songs

Allakaket School, Allakaket, Alaska
EXAMPLES OF INTERACTIVE FEATURES

English / Denaakk’e words for Months and their cultural significance
EXAMPLES OF INTERACTIVE FEATURES

English / Denaakk’e words for Seasons, contextual Song Notes
EXAMPLES OF INTERACTIVE FEATURES

Counting in English & Denaakk’e, Song Note, student song video

K’eelk’ee! Niteek’ee! Tok’ee! Dink’ee!
K’eeltsidala! Neelk’atok’ee!
Neelk’atok’ee k’eelk’ee bidee’onee!
Neelk’adink’ee, neelk’adink’ee k’eelk’ee bidee’onee!
K’ee low daal tonee!

One, two, three, four!
Five, six!
Seven,
Eight, nine!
Ten!
EXAMPLES OF INTERACTIVE FEATURES

Video: Students sing “Happy Birthday” in Denaakk’e language

(Upper Koyukon Athabascan) Birthday Song

Nihoolaaahndizaahn, sodeeldzeeh!
Nihoolaaahndizaahn, sodeeldzeeh!
Nihoolaaahndizaahn, sodeeldzeeh!
Nihoolaaahndizaahn, sodeeldzeeh!

Happy Birthday to you!
Happy Birthday to you!
Happy Birthday to ________!
Happy Birthday to you!
THE STORY

Student “Limerick” poetry about mushing dogs

BOOK FEATURES

• English narration by students
• Translation & Denaakk’e narration by elder - sister of a famous dog musher
• Interpretive videos by local elder recount area’s history

Johnny Oldman School, Hughes, Alaska
Student narrates “Limerick Poetry” about his dog Max

Seleege koonh energetic nelaanh.  
Seleege koonh soodel'ol ts'e athlete koon nelaanh.  
Seleege koon set'ono'edoyh.  
Seleege koon sents'ukk.  
Seleege koon sek'ugh'eho sek'ugh'eho.

My dog is energetic.  
My dog is playful and athletic.  
My dog plays fetch.  
My dog likes to stretch.  
My dog and I are magnetic.
EXAMPLES OF INTERACTIVE FEATURES

Video: local elder describes how “good” mushing dogs are selected.
THE STORY

A boat trip up river to hunt moose, prepare and share the meat with elders.

BOOK FEATURES

- English and Denaakk’e narration by students.
- Interactive “Touch Zones” add Denaakk’e language to student page illustrations.

Kaltag School, Kaltag, Alaska
EXAMPLES OF INTERACTIVE FEATURES

Student narration, interactive English / Denaakk’e “Touch Zones”

When we see a moose everyone yells, “Moose! Moose!”
EXAMPLES OF INTERACTIVE FEATURES

Student narration, interactive Story Note

When we get back to the village the meat is shared with our grandparents and others who no longer hunt. Everyone is happy.
Together these books illustrate regional life, language and culture from a student perspective.
In Conclusion

• AASB strongly supports language revitalization efforts

• Cultural identity is an important element of student success

• Book Slams incorporate multiple academic disciplines, cross-age group collaboration, local languages and cultures

• Digital publishing tools give educators the ability to create engaging personalized materials for today’s tech savvy learners
Read the Y-K books at: https://www.yksd.com/Page/785

Interested in a Book Slam for your district? nwooten@aasb.org or snelson@aasb.org