

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION  
AGENDA STATEMENT

No. 3

MEETING OF May 11, 2022

ITEM TITLE: **PUBLIC RECOGNITION**

Information on the following is attached:

- Asia-Pacific Heritage Month
- Mental Health Awareness Month
- John Brown – Gold Pass Award
- Teacher Appreciation
- National School Principals Day
- KGBSD Retired Teachers



What is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month?

May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month – a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. A rather broad term, Asian/Pacific encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island).

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AAPI Heritage Month) is an annual celebration that recognizes the historical and cultural contributions of individuals and groups of Asian and Pacific Islander descent to the United States. The AAPI umbrella term includes [cultures](#) from the entire Asian continent—including East, Southeast and South Asia—and the Pacific Islands of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. As of 2019, there were about [22.9 million people](#) of Asian or Pacific Islander descent in the United States. According to the [Pew Research Center](#), AAPI people are a diverse and growing population that make up about 7 percent of the total U.S. population. AAPI Heritage Month 2022 will take place from Sunday, May 1 to Tuesday, May 31.

<https://asianpacificheritage.gov/about/>



What is Mental Health Awareness Month?

May is [Mental Health Awareness Month](#), also known as Mental Health Month. It has been observed each May in the United States since 1949. It has never been more important than now to recognize that mental health is an essential component to one's overall health and wellbeing, and that mental illnesses are common and treatable.

According to the [National Institute of Mental Health \(NIMH\)](#), mental illnesses are commonplace, with nearly one in five adults in America living with a serious mental illness. One-half of all chronic mental illness begins by the age of 14, with three-quarters by the age of 24. An estimated 17.3 million adults in the United States had at least one major depressive episode. An estimated 31.1% of adults will experience an anxiety disorder at some time in their lives. Approximately 7.9 million adults have co-occurring [mental health and addiction disorders](#).

Mental Health Awareness Month provides a timely reminder that mental health is essential and that those living with mental health issues are deserving of care, understanding, compassion, and pathways to hope, healing, recovery, and fulfillment. After all, that is what we all want and need now more than ever– for ourselves, for our loved ones, for our communities, and for our world.

<https://fenwayhealth.org/the-importance-of-mental-health-awareness-month/>

Public Recognition to former Kayhi Graduate John Brown who received the ASAA Gold Pass Award. AASB / ASAA / ASA asked for nominations for individuals who made a contribution to high school activities in Alaska or at the national level by demonstrating leadership at the state or national level for at least 20 years. John Brown was the first name that came to mind from Ketchikan Alaska. He is a 4 time basketball state champion along with coaching 15 years+ at Kayhi. He has coached both boys and girls basketball and often works with youth at 5:30 AM every morning at the Rec Center. John is a servant at heart and gives up his time to make the next generation better. Congratulations John Brown!

# **CONGRATULATIONS to KETCHIKAN'S OWN JOHN BROWN!**

**Recipient  
of ASAA's  
"Gold Pass  
Award"**



The Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA) awards the "Gold Lifetime Pass" to individuals who have made an extraordinary contribution to high school activities in Alaska and/or at the national level by demonstrating leadership at the state/national level for at least 20 years.

As a four-time state basketball champion and coach of Kayhi basketball for 15 years, John is a well-deserved recipient of this honor. Please join us in congratulating John, and thanking him for his service to Ketchikan!

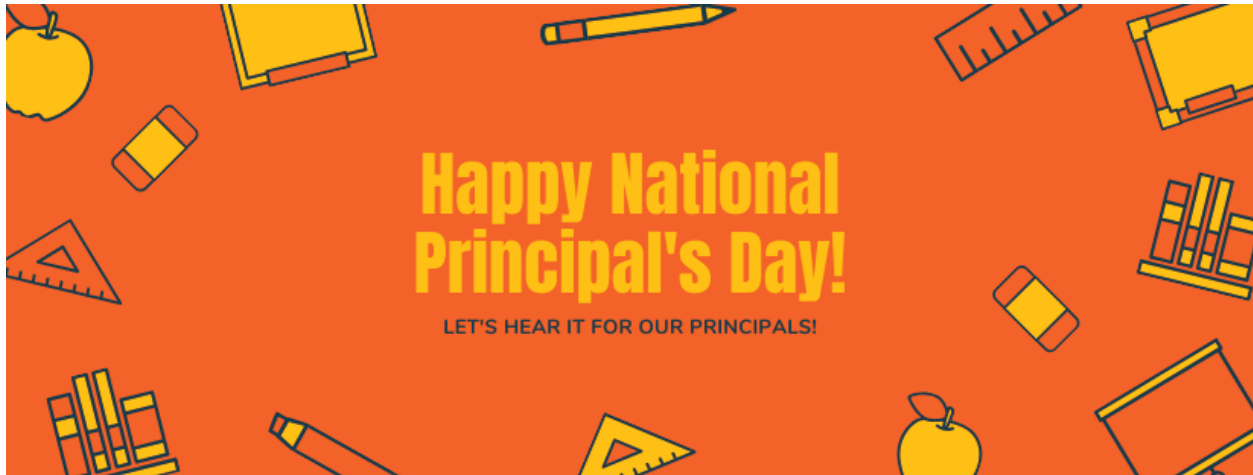


## What is Teacher Appreciation Week?

Teacher Appreciation Week is celebrated in the first full week of May, from May 1 through May 8 in 2022, and is when teachers get the extra credit they deserve. The big day is Teacher Appreciation Day on May 5, but teachers are just so great that they get a whole week to savor our appreciation. Whether you have a teacher, know a teacher, or are a teacher, there are endless ways to give a little extra support to teachers and teachers organizations. Teaching is known to be a time-consuming and challenging profession, so this week is our chance to say thank you to those that play or have played such a huge role in our lives. Who doesn't have a fond memory of a teacher who inspired us in some way?

Teacher Appreciation Day is described by the NEA, which spearheads the weeklong event, as "a day for honoring teachers and recognizing the lasting contributions they make to our lives."

<https://nationaltoday.com/teacher-appreciation-week/>



On May 1st, remember to take the time to thank the educational leaders of the school on School Principals' Day.

Throughout the school year, these educators assume the commitment to lead our young people to a prosperous future. They support and guide quality teachers and staff, resulting in productive learning environments for our children. Whether they lead an elementary, middle, or high school, a principal shows leadership skills while being approachable. Many students see their principals as role models.

Principals guide academic success and set the tone for an entire school. In most settings, they are a visible leader, one the students and teachers see daily.

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/school-principals-day-may-1/>

**The KGBSD will say goodbye to 244 years of service.  
Thank you to the amazing teachers and staff who are  
retiring from the district.**

- Sharon Creasy 19 Years of Service
- Melissa Klesper 19 Years of Service
- Susan Webb 23 Years of Service
- Valerie Brooks 27 years of Service
- Carol Stanton 27 years of Service
- Penny Ranniger 29 Years of Service
- Kerry Watson 31 Years of Service
- Susan Johnson 34 Years of Service
- Lori Ortiz 35 Years of Service