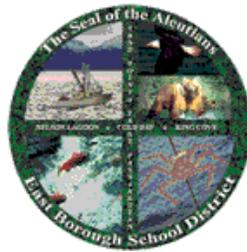
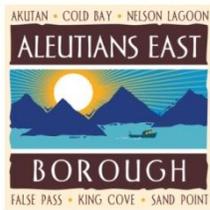


In the Loop



Eastern Aleutian Tribes

Bringing the Aleutians East Borough, the AEB School District and Eastern Aleutian Tribes together by sharing common goals.

AEBSD Athletes Shine at State Cross Country Championships

Imagine running a 5K as fast as you can against more than 100 other top high school cross country athletes from across Alaska. That would be a daunting task for anyone. However, that was only part of the challenge at the state cross country championships last weekend at Bartlett High in Anchorage. The student athletes also found themselves sprinting on muddy, sloppy trails, which included steep climbs in the rain.

“The quality of the course was extremely poor,” said Austin Roof, Sand Point School’s cross country coach. “It had snowed, and the ground froze the week before. Then it thawed out, and it turned into mud. It rained that day, so it was just a complete slip and slide.”

“The course was extremely horrid,” said Etta Kuzakin, King Cove School’s cross country coach. “It was a tough course to run on because it was so muddy and mucky.”

The boggy trails didn’t stop four Aleutians East Borough School District students, three from Sand Point and one from King Cove, from achieving their personal bests. Chloe Gardner, a 12th grade student from Sand Point, had hoped to make it into the top 20 of the 123A girls’ race. She ended up placing 13th. Her unofficial time was 21:01.



Chloe Gardner of Sand Point placed 13th in the girls’ 123A state cross country championships.

“She was very happy about it,” said Roof. “She ran a strong race. There are so many strong runners, and she did great. She was right there in the thick of it. She passed up girls at the end on that final hill in order to get to the spot where she arrived. Everyone was very excited about her finishing time.”

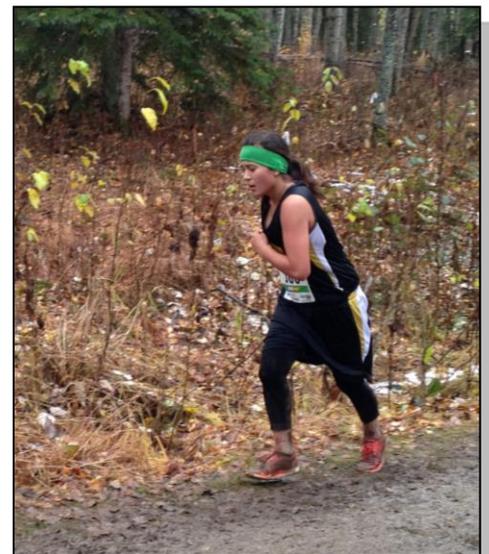


Brittany Gardner of Sand Point placed 93rd at the state cross country championships.

Brittany Gardner, a 9th grade student from Sand Point, placed 93rd with an unofficial time of 26:13.

“To have a freshman in the race in and of itself is amazing,” said Roof. “She worked really hard and put in a lot of effort this season. We’re really proud of the great work that she did.”

Marylee Yatchmeneff, a 12th grade student from King Cove, came in at 106th place with an unofficial time of 27:21.



Marylee Yatchmeneff of King Cove placed 106th at the state championships.

“Mary started the race with a smile and ended with a smile,” said Kuzakin. “She’s very inspirational. She gave 100 percent the entire time. She was disappointed that she didn’t have her cleats on, but we didn’t know the course was going to be so bad. But she’s Mary, and she did what she had to do. I’m really proud of her. She worked very hard.”

Colton Mack, a junior from Sand Point, came in at 89th place in the

123A boys' race with an unofficial time of 20:04.



Colton Mack of Sand Point placed 89th in the 123A boys' race at the state championships. All four AEBSU students are now involved in other sports after the cross country running season wrapped up. Photo by Etta Kuzakin.

“That’s pretty much where he placed last year,” said Roof. “We knew he could have done better. He didn’t have his spikes (cleats) on. A lot of the guys in the race did, and he lost to people that he has beaten this year. I’m fairly certain that if he had been wearing spikes, he probably could have gotten 20 or more spots ahead of where he was.

Still, without cleats on a horrible course, he had a pretty good time. He ran hard and we’re very proud of him.”

All four of these student athletes are continuing to work hard as they transition into other sports now that the cross country running season has wrapped up. Colton, Chloe and Marylee are now wrestling. Brittany has started her volleyball season. However, it’s very likely these athletes will be back next year competing in cross country running and hopefully making it to the state championships again.

“We had a great season,” said Roof. “Hopefully, the program will continue to stay strong.”

Got News?

If you have news you’d like to share or if you’d like to subscribe, please email ltanis@aeboro.org or call Laura Tanis at (907) 274-7579.





Thank you for reading In the Loop. If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe, please send an email to Itanis@aeboro.org. For more information about our communities, our people, and our fisheries, please visit us at www.alutianseast.org and www.aebfish.org. For the latest news, find us on Facebook:

[*Link to AEB's Facebook page*](#)

[*Link to King Cove's Facebook page*](#)

