

# Students help name new buses

By S. JANE SZABO

Daily News Staff,

Perhaps people prefer passage on the Ptarmigan Ptransporter? Whoever does may get a chance if this name prevails in a contest to name 18 new city buses.

On the eve of the new fleet's arrival, People Mover has invited all the elementary classes in the Anchorage School District to join in a bus-naming contest. Students submitted ideas to a class vote, with the class forwarding its favorite to the city's Transit Department. Entries will be due this week, and the names of the 18 buses will be announced Dec. 15.

By the end of November, with 100 entries in to People Mover, two kindergarten classes had entered Gus the Bus, highlighting

a kindergarten primer of that name. Variations on Binky abounded, as did creative names like Hali-Bus, The Wild Thing, Snowflake Express, Moose Mover and the enigmatic Sugar Bus.

The names will be painted on the buses, along with the name of the winning student and/or school. Each winning class will receive a pizza party (courtesy of Pizza Hut). On Jan. 13, the 18 buses will drive the darlins who dubbed 'em downtown to a "do."

**FirstLast/RomigJunior@thelinq.net:** Anchorage's first music teacher is going back to school — on the Internet. Lorene Harrison and other members of the Anchorage Pioneer's Home will become "cyberpals" with students at Romig Junior High.

A grant that provides a ground for a major computer emphasis at Romig will ease the way for some of Alaska's elders to preserve their memories as history. Harrison, 90, will be able to share gems such as the one where conductor Leonard Bernstein toiled around Anchorage in her shiny blue DeSoto with fins.

"We want the kids to learn how to capture these people's stories," said Darla Jones, Romig's technology coordinator. "They have so many neat stories to tell."

The Pioneer's Home project is only one facet of the \$30,000 grant — part of a program called The Road Ahead, designed by the National Foundation for the

Please see Page F-3, **SCHOOL**

# SCHOOL: Grant will help fund on-line project

Continued from Page F-1

Improvement of Education and funded with the proceeds of a book by Microsoft Corp. head Bill Gates. Romig is one of 22 participants across the nation out of about 450 applicants.

Here are some of the other facets of Romig's program:

- Each of the 600-some students will have an Internet account and e-mail address.
- Parents' concern about questionable content areas has been addressed by use of the LINQ system, which filters information and e-mail and represents a first for the Anchorage School District.
- A group of economically disadvantaged students will be invited to take home word processors and access the Net from there.
- Two seventh-grade social studies classes will form an alliance with the Anchorage Museum of History and Art to create a digitized archive and Web site.
- Parents will be invited to learn how to work the Internet, and teachers will also be trained.
- Homework Help Line tutors will be available.
- Bulletin boards will be set up for teachers, PTA and parents, and eventually the whole school will be networked.
- Ways will be sought to foster school-community efforts.

Set-up was going full throttle last week, and the youth will be able to get on Internet next week. The following week is startup target for the Pioneer's Home program, which involves an eighth-grade language arts-social studies class team-taught by Darla Jones and Chad Sant.

Then Lorene Harrison will almost be back in school.

"I'm not acquainted with all these fancy things like computers — but I guess I will be, maybe," she said. She'll sit down with a student to remember: 1926, when she taught music at the Pioneer Schoolhouse; 1946, when she formed the Anchorage Community Chorus; the '50s, when she hosted a TV show; the '60s, when she chaperoned Miss Alaskas to the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City; the '70s, when she moved her store, The Hat Box, into the then-new University Center; the '90s, when her great-grandchildren were being born.

Now some of them will be able to learn more about their great-grandmother, "Grandma Hat," when they enter Romig in a few years. :