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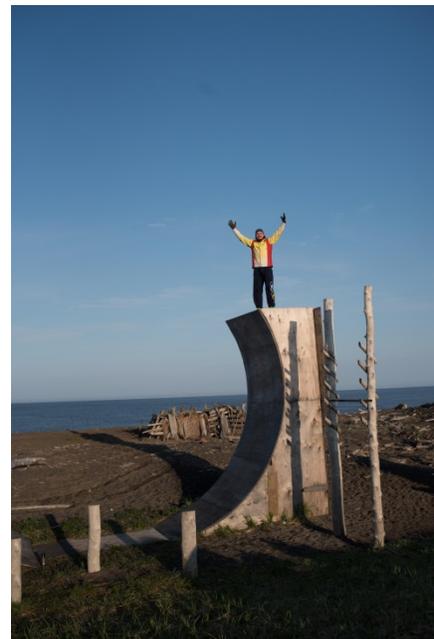
American Ninja Warrior visits Mat-Su schools to challenge kids to obstacle course

Play Every Day, Mat-Su Borough School District work with Nick Hanson to promote physical activity and nutrition, and prevent tobacco and drug abuse

WASILLA — Nick Hanson, the American Ninja Warrior from Unalakleet, has designed an obstacle course and will be challenging students to try it at eight Mat-Su Borough schools on May 2- 4, 2017. One obstacle he will be demonstrating is a 14 1/2-foot curved wall — the same height wall that he climbs during the national TV American Ninja Warrior competition that features creative obstacles.

Hanson is visiting local schools to show young children that daily physical activity is healthy and fun. Hanson also will focus on other choices he makes to stay healthy, including not drinking soda, smoking tobacco or abusing drugs.

For the past two years, Hanson has been a contestant on American Ninja Warrior. Hanson, a world record holder in the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics, has been invited back to compete again this summer. When he's home, Hanson practices every day on the Ninja course he built using driftwood on the beach of Unalakleet.



At his first Mat-Su school visit May 2, Hanson will be joined by the Play Every Day campaign. The State of Alaska campaign partnered with Hanson on [physical activity messages](#) that have been shared with families across the state. Play Every Day (www.playeveryday.alaska.gov) focuses on raising awareness about childhood obesity and inspiring Alaska children and their families to be physically active and choose healthy foods and drinks. About one out of three Alaska children is overweight or obese, which puts them at risk for type 2 diabetes and other serious health problems that can last a lifetime.

- **What:** School assembly that ends with Nick Hanson challenging students to an obstacle course

- **When:** Tuesday, May 2, 2017
10 to 10:30 a.m.— Assembly and obstacle course demonstration
10:30 to 11 a.m. — Hanson will help students try some obstacles
- **Where:** Meadow Lakes Elementary School, 1741 N. Pittman Road, Wasilla
- **Who:** Nick Hanson, American Ninja Warrior from Unalakleet; Meadow Lakes Principal Felica Pridgen; and Play Every Day staff

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