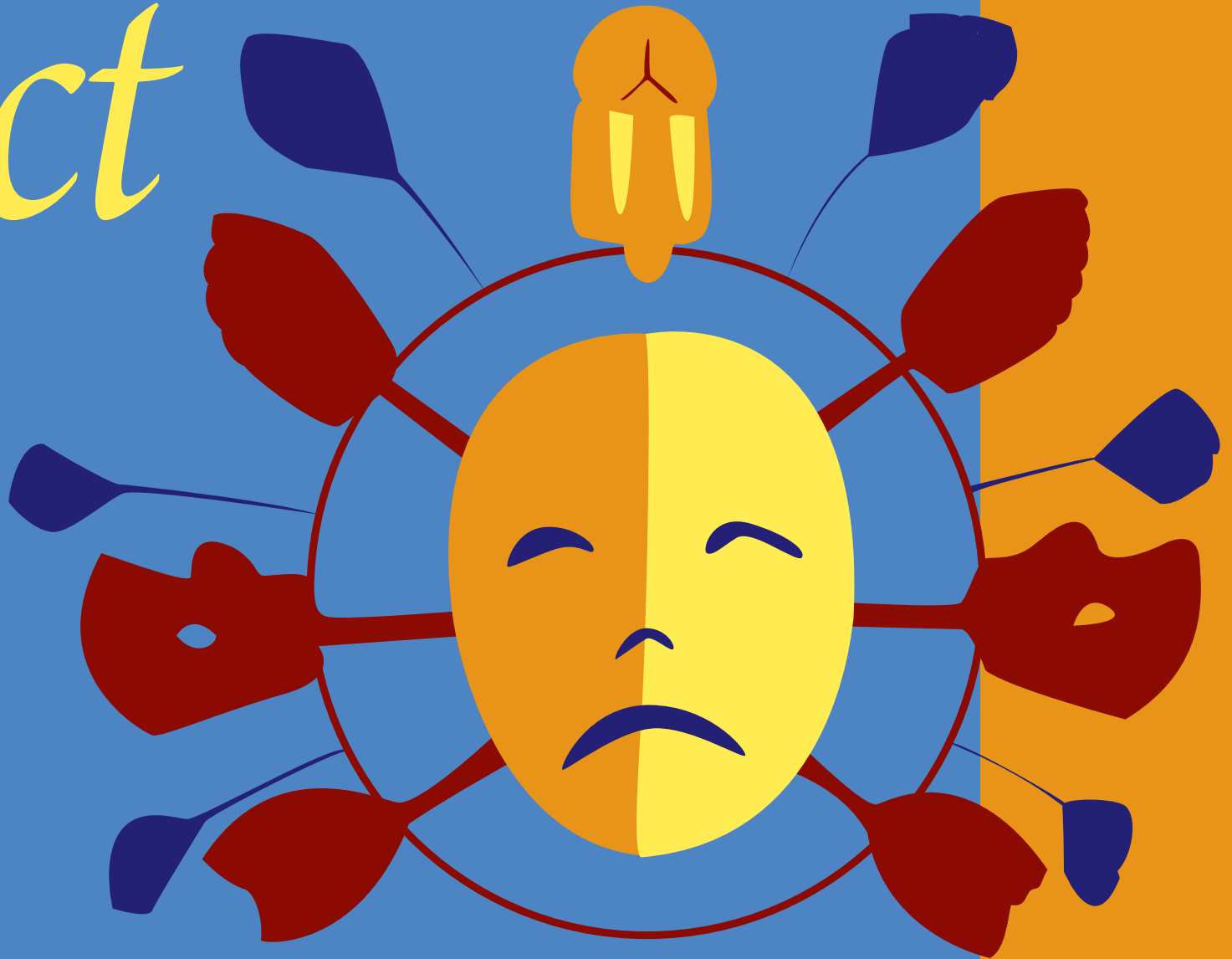


Teach with  
*Respect*  
to the  
traditional  
language  
and culture.



Christopher Petu  
**Koonooka**

*Gambell, Bering Strait*

Born in Nome, Alaska, Mr. Koonooka decided to become a teacher in the third grade so he could help future students continue to speak their language. After high school he continued his education at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He earned a bachelors degree in Yupik and Eskimo studies then moved to Gambell, Alaska where he has been teaching for seven years. As a high school Yupik and Technology teacher Mr. Koonooka helps his students identify who they are and understand their history. Mr. Koonooka's dedication to teaching comes from knowing that knowledge is passed through generations by teaching students to own and appreciate their ancestry.

Mr. Koonooka's advice for students is to, "Never forget who you are and where you came from." His teaching philosophy is to, "Teach with respect to the language and culture." He has a personal passion for helping students to speak Yupik because it identifies who they are. He also tells students of the rich history told through traditional stories and folklore.

Mr. Koonooka's hobbies and past times include but are not limited to, working on the Yupik Language Dictionary, reading Yupik stories, listening to the elders' stories, and making books. He also enjoys making movies, assisting with electronic equipment, working with technology, and photographing nature and wildlife.



Educator Nomination Submitted by the  
Gambell Future Educators of Alaska Club

**Future Educators of Alaska**

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