

New walking track for Delta Elementary School



Photo By Michael Paschall

Students from Delta Elementary School get ready to cut the ribbon for a new walking track with help from representatives of Delta Industrial Services, Salcha/Delta Soil and Water Conservation District, Delta/Greely School District, and Delta Elementary School.

By Michael Paschall

On a cold day in October, students at Delta Elementary School celebrated the opening of a new walking track at the school. When the school was constructed last year, no track area was built. Physical Education teacher Cindy Lou Aillaud saw this as a problem.

According to Aillaud, during the 2005-2006 school year students were walked across Nistler

Road to the high school so they could use the track and participate in a walking challenge. Last year the students in each class challenged each other to walk the distance of the Iditarod, over 1150 miles.

This year the students are walking the Trans Alaska Pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez. At the time of the walking track dedication, three classes had already walked a distance equivalent to

the 800 mile pipeline. Each class is expected to walk the distance at least twice.

Students not only walk at school but also home. Family members can also participate in the challenge.

No funding was available from the Delta/Greely School District for the construction of the

See TRACK on page 20

TRACK

from Page 1

track so Aillaud started a volunteer effort to construct the track. Delta Industrial Services offered to assist with the project by providing heavy equipment, operators, and a reduced cost on the gravel needed to finish the track.

While lining up parent volunteers to cut trees, Aillaud was discussing the project with one of the parents, Jeff Durham. Durham, who works for the Salcha/Delta Soil and Water Conservation District, offered to ask the District's Board of Directors for assistance. To Aillaud's delight, the District contributed \$4,500 for the project, which was enough to complete the project.

During the dedication program for the track, classes presented posters they had made to

representatives from Delta Industrial Services and the Salcha/Delta Soil and Water Conservation District.



Physical Education teacher Cindy Lou Aillaud congratulates a student after completing their first lap around the new quarter-mile walking track at Delta Elementary.



Students finish their first lap around the new walking track on October 25.