

REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



**"Qigcikluku nunamta
atullerkaa.**

**Have respect for our
land and its
resources."**

--Bristol Bay Yup'ik Values

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Superintendent's Office

Steve Noonkesser, Superintendent

Start of a New Year

Superintendent Noonkesser was able to a number of schools in the past few weeks. Visits to Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School, William 'Sonny' Nelson School in Ekwok, Chief Ivan Blunka School in New Stuyahok and Aleknagik school found staff and students hard at work and enjoying a new school year. Schools are off to a good start and we are now almost into our first eWeek across the district.

Things have been busy at District Office since the last week of July as staff returned from summer break and prepared for fall inservice. The inservice held from August 5-15 saw activities for site administrators, new staff, special education staff and finally all certificated staff. Staff was also able to participate in a full day presentation by Linda Chamberlain, a specialist in trauma-informed practices at the all staff meeting. Inservice went smoothly and all were able to return home to site without the weather complications of this past year. Once home, staff spent three days readying classrooms and participating in site activities to prepare for the opening of school.

Other Activities

This has been a busy fall due to a number of unforeseen events and delays. Over the summer serious damage was sustained to a district housing unit at Aleknagik in a utilities malfunction. The unit requires a complete renovation and work is ongoing to address the damage sustained. Work also continues on a housing project at Ekwok to complete a small housing

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unit to provide adequate housing for the teachers on site. This project is also consuming a large part of the maintenance department's time. Maintenance staff also has been engaged in assisting City of Aleknagik staff in addressing some waste water and sewer system issues affecting the school and a number of homes. It has been good to see the level of collaboration and all working to find solutions to some difficult issues. In the Business Office, audit preparations are moving ahead with our auditors due to arrive on September 23 for a week of work. Staff at the District Office has also been working with the community organizations to help ensure our buses are up and running for school. Everyone in the building is busy with activities supporting staff at site and preparing for our first eWeek and BBRCTE session.

Superintendent Noonkesser, Director Jon Clouse and Title Specialist Dianna Schollmeier had the opportunity to meeting our new Zach Stenson, BBRCTE Director and Superintendent Ty Mase from Lake and Peninsula Borough School District, Superintendent Bill Hill from Bristol Bay Borough School District and Superintendent Jason Johnson from Dillingham City School District on the 16th and had a day of good discussion of BBRCTE and collaborative efforts between our organizations.

Awards

The following staff have been recognized at the beginning of the year with staff members of the year and longevity awards for their time working at Southwest Region Schools.

Classified Employee of the Year

- Anecia Johnson - Koliganek

Instructional Aide of the Year

- Alexandra Gumlickpuk - New Stuyahok

Teacher of the Year

- Nicole Wagner - New Stuyahok

35 Years

- Barbara Andrew - New Stuyahok

25 Years

- Anecia Johnson - Koliganek
- Elena Johnson - Koliganek
- Mickia Walcott - New Stuyahok
- John Sharp - Twin Hills
- Steve Noonkesser - District Office

20 Years

- Alice Karasti - Ekwok
- Walter Williams - District Office
- Sam Gosuk - Togiak

15 Years

- Virgina Bartman - Manokotak
- Audrey Gloko-Nanalook
- McCally Petla - New Stuyahok
- Vera Walcott - New Stuyahok

10 Years

- Randy Tinker - Aleknagik
- Cherie Nanalook - Togiak
- Benjamin Griesse - New Stuyahok
- Robin Jones - New Stuyahok

5 Years

- Tyler Nanalook - Manokotak
- Marcella Kritz - Togiak
- Ty Nick - Togiak
- Albert Giordano - District Office
- Cailey Pintande - Aleknagik
- Anastasia Ishnook - Koliganek
- Danielle Dooley - New Stuyahok
- Joshua Gates - New Stuyahok
- Tobe Gurley - Togiak
- Carol Randolph - Togiak



Special Education

LeEsia O'Sullivan

What an exciting time of year. Staff, students, and communities are quickly getting back to routines as school gets up and running. Special Education teachers have been diligently working on getting schedules set, students serviced, and staff trained for a successful year. Pre-K teachers and staff are starting school and making sure they have routines and expectations set up and ready to go for the year.

All pre-K staff had an opportunity to come into Dillingham on August 23rd and 24th for pre-k in-service. During their time here, we focused on “My Teaching Strategies” and “Big Day for Pre-K.” We also had an opportunity to cover expectations, routines, and teaching strategies. All pre-k staff returned to site excited and ready to go. At this time, all sites are up and running. This year we have programs in Aleknagik, Manokotak, Twin Hills, Togiak, Koliganek, and New Stu. Clark’s Point is currently serving one student and Ekwok does not currently have any students attending the pre-k program.

LeEsia had an opportunity to travel to a couple of sites this last month to visit and see what is happening. She visited Aleknagik on August 30th where she observed students learning and students that were excited about being in the school setting. The pre-k classroom was set up and ready for students on day one. She had an opportunity to work with a couple of students and mingle with the teachers.

LeEsia visited Manokotak On September 5th. While she was there, she was able to work with the kindergarten and special education teachers and complete all kindergarten hearing and vision screenings. She was also able to check out the new pre-k program in action. It was great to see the collaboration that was taking place with BBNA and SWRS. It was also a pleasure to talk with the parents who waited outside of the classroom while their children were attending the first couple of days of pre-k.

LeEsia also had an opportunity to visit Ekwok on September 10th with the curriculum team. During this time, she was able to interact with the students and teachers. She was able to check out the construction progress on the new teacher housing and make a home visit with students. The school had a pleasant atmosphere where students were learning in a positive educational setting.

Due to travels to the NW Special Education Law Conference and Mandatory Special Education Director training, LeEsia will not be able to be present at the board meeting, but if you have any questions or comments, please contact her.

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Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director of Yup'ik Studies

Bristol Bay Values

Each month we feature a Bristol Bay Value in the board report. Many of our schools are implementing the Bristol Bay Values and aligning the site value with the board one. The teachers guide the students to the understanding of the value. Some of the schools feature art work of those values. Please send in Bristol Bay Value art work that we can feature in the board report. Quyana.

Yugtun App

The Yugtun Language App can be downloaded using either your Apple or Android devices. We have established a Yugtun Language App committee to provide our schools and parents guidance on how to utilize the app. Those on the committee are Cuungaq Melody Noden and Nayangcuk Massa Andrews both of Aleknagik; Arnaq Pauline Askoak, New Stuyahok; Ukayiq Martha Fox, Togiak and Angutekayak Louise Gloko of Manokotak. Our first meeting via polycom is scheduled for September 16, 2019.

The Bristol Bay Campus is sponsoring an open house, Thursday, September 12th from 6 pm – 8pm featuring the Yugtun Language App.



Kara Thornton, Fanny Parker & Don Thornton
Thornton Media Inc. "Language App for Indian Country"



Massa Andrews with Don



Sophie Walcott recording



Moses Kritz with Don

New Teacher Orientation

August 10, 2019 we had nine new teachers. Two site administrators and our central office business manager participate in the one -day crash course on the Yup'ik culture. The participants included the following: Jeffrey May of Aleknagik; Aaron and Jandy Anderson of Clark's Point, Hannah Hewet, Michael Robbin and Carlos Vangas of Manokotak, Karrie Rosemann and Brittany Struvdevant of New Stuyahok; Opal Harris of Togiak; Lisa Hennessey of Twin Hills; Rosanne Maneguín and Hannah Henderson, Business Manager of the district office. Also, pictured are Tatianna Andrew of New Stuyahok, Frances Dock of Togiak and Panta Paul of Manokotak, Site Cultural presenters.



Steve Noonkesser and Panta Paul teach new staff how to identify types of salmon.



Tatianna Andrew, Frances Dock and Ida Noonkesser guide the participants in cutting fish.



Corey Evans, Steve Ito and Liam Evans rest after catching and delivering the fish to participants.

POSTER CONTEST

We are sponsoring a Yugtun Language Poster Contest open to middle school students: 6th, 7th and 8th Grade. Please check with your principal and/or teacher for more information.

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Instruction

Audra Finkenbinder, Director of Instruction

The 2019-2020 school year has begun with much enthusiasm! The energy of the new and returning teachers has been contagious and has spread through much of what we do.

The first weeks of every school year tend to lend themselves to a flurry of activities that include fall inservice, new class schedules, student council elections, Exploration Week activities, school pictures, cross country, MAP Assessments, and PEAK Assessment results; to list a few.

This year marks the eighth year of using the science totes for all K-5 students. Science totes were sent out and ready for all elementary teachers for the first day of school. The camaraderie of the instruction team and willingness to do what is best for students has been the driving force behind all our decisions this year. In addition to the science totes, SWRSD has subscribed to the online supplement entitled Mystery Science; both of which will spark interest and engage students in science! GO Math is in its sixth year of use across the district. The students' level of comfort and understanding of GO Math have increased over the years and we look forward to that continuing this year. We will continue utilizing the Math Daily Review activity as well as Reflex Math; the supplemental online math program to assist with fluency in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Reflex Math, Edmentum/Plato and other online programs have been working virtually glitch-free and have required lower maintenance than normal thanks to our great instruction and technology teams here at the district office.

We are embarking on the fourth year of Exploration Weeks with the first E-Week off to a huge success. The curriculum department has approved several new courses that should be intriguing for students. Some of these courses include clock making and introduction to archery, among others. The E-Week ordering process has been more site focused this year and is running very smoothly. We have been in the process of streamlining the shipping of materials out to sites much more efficiently and sites are working together by sharing supplies that they have available. Students across the district look forward to the change of pace and different activities with the arrival of each E-Week, and teachers and administrators are excited and motivated for the upcoming E-Week on September 23rd-27th.

We are all looking forward to a great year!

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TEAM



Ryan O'Sullivan
Curriculum Specialist



Randy Finkenbinder
Curriculum Specialist



Information Systems

Les Parks, Director of Technology

NWEA MAP Testing

The MAP testing window opened the week of 26 August. Initially, the window was to close September 6th. However, it was quickly discovered that a summer change in the testing software required substantial updates to student laptops in order to run the tests. Those updates were completed, but did take time. An additional week was added to the window in order to accommodate the delay. Thank you to the site personnel that worked with the technology department to complete those updates as quickly and efficiently as possible.



Corey Evans
Technology
Specialist

BAG Grant, E-Rate and CIPA Activities

Though we were awarded nearly 162 thousand dollars with last spring's BAG Grant application, we went through the summer and into the first several weeks of this fiscal year with that funding in question due to the state budget delays. The passing of the so called "Reverse Sweep" has now funded that grant, and we expect to receive that revenue soon.

Also within the last month or so we did finally receive a funding commitment decision on our E-Rate Category 1 application. We have now been fully funded the 2.7 million dollar request. This is not revenue we will receive directly, but rather funds that GCI will direct bill to USAC while discounting billing to SWRS by 90%.

Last December 7th we received a Payment Quality Assurance Review concerning payments of 700 thousand dollars of E-Rate support on behalf of SWRS. That review was promptly responded to in full on December 11th. On July 26th we received notification that "based on the documents...provided, an assessment was conducted and no exception was identified." Thank you to our business office, who maintained and provided me payment documentation, site personnel, who delivered and documented CIPA lesson compliance, and the GCI accounting personnel, who provided me additional information. We could not respond in a complete or timely manner to these inquiries without this support.

Additional Activities

Activities in the technology office have ranged from everything to preparing computers and iPads to working on school buses and school/teacher housing sewer systems. We worked on copiers, printers, wireless radios, coffee pots and pencil sharpeners. We have hauled ice to district office and hauled trash away. We have cooked hamburgers, bacon, pancakes, and eggs. So far, it has been just another normal school year...

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State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director of State & Federal Programs

Federal Programs Team

Let me introduce the members of the Federal Programs team! Steve Ito has 19 years with SWRS and currently is the District Test Coordinator, Homeless Liaison, Foster Care point of contact, and District Counselor. Kyle Schneider is in his 8th year with the district also has a number of roles including Student Support Specialist and Migrant Records Manager. Dianna Schollmeier is in her 5th year with the district and also has a number of responsibilities related to federal programs including Migrant Program Specialist and Title IA Specialist. Jon Clouse is in his 19th year with the district and is the Federal Programs Director. The Federal Programs team is comprised of an incredible group of individuals who are dedicated to the success of our students, staff, parents, and communities. The team often works on similar projects and this report a collaborative effort of everyone on the team. We are excited to be starting another school year and supporting staff and students on their educational journey.

Career & Technical Education: SWRS Courses and BBRCTE

This year, we are excited to have all of our CTE teachers back in our schools teaching exciting courses that provide students with the opportunity to engage in hands-on learning and problem solving. Josh Gates (New Stuyahok) is teaching Woodworking I and Welding I; Isaac Twombly (New Stuyahok) is teaching Fabrication & Entrepreneurship and Introduction to CAD and Fabrication; Greg Forkner (Koliganek) is teaching Woodworking I; Jerry Jones (Togiak) is teaching middle school shop, Electrical I, Electrical II, Woodworking I, and Welding I.

The first session of BBRCTE is occurring from September 23 through 27. The courses being offered include Autoshop Bootcamp, Introduction to Behavioral Health, Introduction to Welding, and Introduction to Coding & App Development. There will be an ETT cohort that starts a distance delivery

STATE & FEDERAL PROGRAMS TEAM



Steve Ito
District Lead
Counselor & Test
Coordinator



Kyle Schneider
Student Support
Specialist



Dianna Schollmeier
Title Services
Specialist

portion of the course in October with the skills development and assessment occurring during the second session.

Assessments

The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development has seven mandated assessments during the 2019-20 school year. At some time during the school year, one or more of these assessments may target all grade level students depending on individual demographics, grade level, or ability. The different assessment windows begin in September and end in May. Assessments are used to inform parents, educators, and policy makers how our schools and districts are performing. Effective assessment is the bridge between teaching the standards and ensuring that support is available for all students. It is a key part of student learning, and everything we do as a school district should work toward this goal.

Exploration Weeks

This year's first exploration week will be the week of September 23rd through September 27th. Kyle has coordinated with the Instruction Department and school principals to setup new offerings, and load both teachers' classes and students' selections into PowerSchool.

E-Weeks continue to be an important way for students to earn elective credit towards high school graduation along with exploring interests and learning about new hobbies. High school students can earn up to two elective credits per year through E-Weeks (board policy requires a total of 7.5 elective credits to graduate). Earning credit in this manner has allowed smaller schools to adjust teaching schedules and provide more opportunities for high school students to earn core credits toward graduation.

School Photography

Richard Johnson from Purnell Photography once again traveled around the district to take student, staff, and community portraits. During the week of September 3rd, he visited Koliganek, New Stuyahok, Ekwok, and Clarks Point. The week of September 9th brought him to the District Office, Aleknagik, Manokotak, Twin Hills, and Togiak.

Student Records

Last spring Kyle began a student records modernization project - scanning the final graduation transcripts for any students who existed in PowerSchool, the district's student information system. Student records in PowerSchool exist as far back as the 1997-1998 school year, which means over 600 transcripts had to be located in the district's paper files, scanned, and attached to the correct student in PowerSchool. This means that a request for verification of a graduate's high school diploma for almost everyone that graduated in the past 22 years can be responded to with only a few minutes searching in PowerSchool. This is a significant time savings compared to searching the paper files every time a transcript is needed.

Combined with a previous digitization project that created images of the transcripts of graduates from 1977 through 1993, the majority of all graduate verifications can be done electronically.

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Title IA

Every school has the opportunity for after school programs or tutoring, as well as, parent engagement activities through the Title IA grant. The team has been working with school leadership to support those after school tutoring programs and parent engagement activities. Everything supported by the Title IA grant at the school level is documented in the Title IA Schoolwide plan, also known as, the AK STEPP plan. The AK STEPP plan is a continuously changing plan designed to support the identified needs of students, staff, and parents. All of our schools are eligible for schoolwide Title IA services, which means all students in the school are eligible for Title IA services regardless of socioeconomic status.

This year, we are partnering with Curyung/4H, SAFE, Public Health, and BBAHC education center to provide a parent-engagement opportunity to young families s in every community through a children’s fair. The fair will bring learning booth style activities that will support the deliverance of early learning information to promote healthy and nutritional lifestyles in the littlest humans in our communities. This parent-engagement event will occur at different times throughout the year with the goal of reaching all communities.

Title IC– Migrant Education

The SWRSD Migrant Education team recently attended the annual Migrant Recruiter/Records Manager training in August. In attendance were the following recruiters, Makayla Walcott (New Stuyahok), Virginia Bartman (Manokotak), Natalia Ishnook (Koliganek), Pam Johnson (Koliganek & Ekwok), and Danielle Johnson (Togiak, Twin Hills, Aleknagik, Clarks Point). In addition, Kyle Schneider, Dianna Schollmeir, and Jon Clouse attended this training. This training is always a great refresher, an opportunity to learn about the changes to recruiting, and to cement the relationships and procedures for our own recruiting processes.

Children’s eligibility is determined by whether or not they have made qualifying “moves”. A “move” means that a child took a trip of more than 20 miles for either commercial or subsistence fishing/berry picking, and stayed away from home for 7 nights / 8 days throughout the year. Children can also qualify if they “move” to another district for the required length of time (this can be for fishing or certain other activities). Most of the students we recruit have either “moved” to fish camp or to Dillingham for commercial or subsistence fishing in the summer.

Contact the Federal Program team to identify the recruiter at your site. District office staff plan to travel to the communities of New Stuyahok (September 20th) and Togiak (October 16 & 17) to support the local recruiting efforts.

This past year, there were 268 children that qualified for the SWRSD Migrant Education Program, roughly 39% of the student population. Each school has a migrant site coordinator to help organize services and act as a liaison for the migrant program. Below is an update of migrant services provided last spring/summer.

- | | | |
|--|---|----------------------------------|
| • Summer book packs were sent out to all migrant students. | • Student selected books | • Dual credit opportunities |
| • Summer school opportunities in KGK, KMO & KNW | • Culturally relevant books and educational games | • Student government exploration |
| | • Educational family events | • National Close-Up |
| | | • ANSEP |



Aleknagik School

Miranda Bacha, Principal/Teacher

We are excited to welcome Mr. Jeffrey May to Aleknagik School this year. He comes to us from Tanana and this is his 3rd year teaching in Alaska. Students are enjoying doing labs in their science classes this year. They have been busy learning about measurement and classification. Elementary students loved learning about gravity and they enjoyed a lab where they calculated how high they can jump on earth as well as how high they would be able to jump on the moon and on Jupiter.

Pre-school started school on September 9th. They attend school four hours per day Mondays through Thursdays and they have been busy learning, playing, and working on gross and fine motor skills. We are so happy to have pre-school in the building again this year!

Middle and high school students are excited for the first Exploration Week. Students will be learning about hunter safety, Spanish, soap stone carving, cooking, and making yearbooks. Elementary students will use their imaginations in working with Legos and using stop motion animation software to make movies.

Clarks Point School

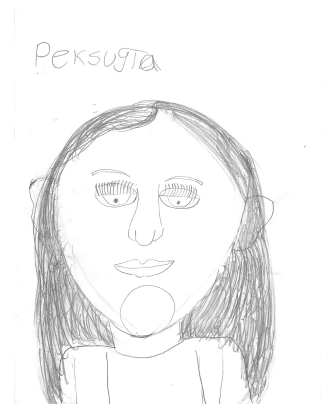
Aaron Anderson, Principal/Teacher

Clark's Point has started the year by welcoming a new principal and teacher to our teaching staff. Our principal, Aaron Anderson, joins us from the village of Gambell, located in the Bering Strait School District, and has helped renew our focus on learning. The new teacher, his wife Jandy Anderson, joins us from Las Vegas, Nevada. Mrs. Anderson has been teaching in the elementary grades for the last 16 years.

With a renewed focus on learning, a returning aide noted that she is pleased with the new changes to empower students and rejuvenate learning. Some of the ongoing changes centered around a morning meeting five minutes before 9 o'clock to start the day. Included in that meeting is a reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence, reciting a power statement, reciting a monthly Yupik Value, and announcements. The power statement we are focusing on is "I will act in such a way that I will be proud of myself and others will be proud of me too." This will help the students review their own behavior and self-correct negative behavior while building self-esteem at the same time. On the first week of school, a Friday open gym for students was started and will be run by Mr. and Mrs. Anderson as another way to encourage attendance and hard work.

Yupik studies has been a new opportunity for learning for our students. In addition to learning how to apply the Yupik Value of Respecting Our Land and Its Resources, each student has been working on using each other's Yupik names and learning greetings. Student drew self-portraits of themselves and their Yupik names. Mr. Anderson was able to share the Gambell Ayveq "Walrus" Dance to help students appreciate Yupik heritage. The students have been excitedly practicing dancing the song and its motions. This has led to further class discussion and learning about Walrus Island and what a precious resource it is.

Our first E-week of the year will be about making bread. The students will rise to learn about various types of bread, the kneading and baking process, the nutritional value of bread, and get the experience of baking their own loaf of bread. This week will definitely be hands on and the students will knead all five of their senses! "There will be no loafing around allowed," says Mr. Anderson!



William ‘Sonny’ Nelson School

Roxanne Menguin, Principal/Teacher

The enrollment for William ‘Sonny’ Nelson School is 15. We have wonderful students who are ready to learn and advance in their academics.

School started back in session on August 19, 2019. We have the students doing something new this year with their classes. All grades are transitioning from one class to another. Each class has its own schedule. This helps to keep the kids moving, be more active and not have to sit in one classroom all day. It is working well and the students seem to like it. It also helps us make sure the students are getting what they need.

I will be teaching reading and language arts. Students come to my classroom for those subjects. Angela will be teaching Math and Science. Alice will be helping out with Social Studies and spelling. David is teaching Yupik in the afternoon for all grades. Mary is helping with Social Studies, as well as her secretarial duties.

Friday, August 23 was our first family night activity. We had parents come in and enjoy pizza and drinks while enjoying watching their kids participate in different games. I always encourage parents to come into the school.

We have finished up with the MAPs testing. According to the scores we saw when the students finished their tests, and comparing the scores with last Spring scores, the majority of students showed a growth in all subjects. We are proud of our students.

Purnell Photography came to the school on September 6th and took all student and staff pictures. Several families came in, as well, to get their family portraits taken.

Our first E-week will be in September and we are planning on doing Tie Dye projects. The week will consist of learning how to do tie dying, three different projects and presenting what the students did, to their parents.

We are currently looking to hire a cook. I have posted the position and will be up until filled.

I am happy to be here and looking forward to watch the students grow academically, as I know they will. We expect to have a great year.

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Koliganek School

Deb Forkner, Principal

Koliganek School is off to a GREAT start with “Pride in our Past and Purpose in our Future”. The first day kicked off with a welcome assembly and all school photo in our new “Husky Pride” shirts.

Not to brag, but Koliganek School had 100% of our certified and classified staff return this year. We rolled into the first day of school like there hadn’t even been a summer break.

The entire staff began the year with a day of on-site staff development. The focus continues to be on growth mindset and learning how having a positive mindset affects academic growth. This year we are specifically focusing on how we praise students. Research has shown that effective praise on process, rather than the person has the power to change both student behavior and academic performance.

Person Praise	Process Praise
Great job! You must be smart at this.	Great job! You must have worked really hard.
See, you <i>are</i> good at English. You got an A on your last test.	You really studied for your English test and your improvement shows it.
You got it! I told you that you were smart. <i>Mrs. Winter's Bliss</i>	I like the way you tried all kinds of strategies on that math problem until you finally got it.

Middle and high school students are excited for the first Exploration Week. Students will be doing wood burning, latch hook, subsistence berry picking and music appreciation. Elementary students will be building robots, tie dying t-shirts and learning to play instruments.

We have started a Yupik Value of the Month campaign this year. Each month we focus on a value school wide and honor those caught displaying the value. We are also working to help each student know their Yupik name and the stories behind it.

Koliganek CSC and community are looking forward to the rest of the art work that will be installed in the school soon. Over the summer the community created Husky mural was hung in the hallway. Students, staff and community members enjoy searching for the tile they created. The mural is a great representation of our school and community.



‘Chief’ Ivan Blunka School

Robin Jones, Principal

Everything is going well at Chief Ivan Blunka School! With stakeholder feedback, one of the most positive changes we have made this year was revamping our school vision to #ItTakesAVillage. Our vision means that it will take engagement from everyone and everything to provide an excellent education. We are particularly focused on leveraging community partnerships and resources to enhance our student opportunities. Our students, staff, and community have really taken ownership of the new direction while continuing to celebrate the Yup’ik Value of the Month program, which for September is: “Have respect for our land and its’ resources.”

We are eagerly anticipating our first Exploration Week session. We will be offering the following secondary courses during session one: Subsistence Meat Processing, Introduction to Photography, Beginning Cake Decorating, Latch Hook, Skin Sewing, Crochet, Subsistence Fishing, and Alcohol Ink Painting. In the elementary we will be offering: Fidget Spinners, Scorch Pen Wood Burning, Painting with Physics, Bread Baking, Cat’s Cradle, Mosaic Paper Jar Decorating, & Lotion Making. The students and staff are very excited about these highly engaging course offerings!

In our Professional Learning Communities, every member of our team has designed a growth and development plan. Together, we reviewed all of the student, staff, and community feedback from the end-of-year surveys and the School Climate and Connectedness Survey (SCCS) to identify focus areas. Every team member designed a relationship building, academic, and personal goal with an accountability partner. Throughout the year, we will continue to collaborate and reflect on our progress.

We have a robust cross-country running team this year, and we are excited to see them represent Chief Ivan Blunka School and Southwest Region School District as they compete at Dillingham and Togiak before hosting regionals on our home turf (tundra). We have a jam packed student activities schedule this year, and we look forward to all of the opportunities we have to be proud of our school and students!



Chief Ivan Blunka School

Students of the Month

Elementary

Julienne Gust – 5th Grade

Middle School

Hunter Gumlickpuk – 6th Grade

High School

Travis Neketa – 12th Grade

Employee of the Month

Nickolas Petla & Danielle Dooley

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Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Dustin Wright, Principal

It is hard to believe but how fast time is going by, we are into our 4th week of school and all the students are actively engaged in the learning process. Athletics is already taking place with Cross Country in full swing and Volleyball has started, this year we are going to have HS and JH Volleyball teams. Student Council has been formed and Officers appointed, these students are the future of their communities and it really does show. The Band program is up and running in Manokotak, there are 17 students enrolled into band class at this moment. We are also offering music in the elementary each to each class, our music teacher Katie McNeil spends 1 hour per week with each elementary classroom to help nurture their musical abilities. Overall the level of student learning is nice to see by anyone wishing to visit and see the quality of our staff and really the Quality of our Students.

- Sports Physical Complete
- New Teachers: Michael Robbins grades 2/3, Carlos Rivera grades 4/5, Hannah Hewwet Secondary Social Studies
- School Pictures taken
- 30 dedicated Staff members for our 126 wonderful Students



Togiak School

Michael Lee, Principal

It has been such an exciting way to start the year in Togiak! We welcomed Lorraine Masterman back to the Land of the Huskies, and she has already proven to be a very valuable member of the pack. She is teaching our Middle School Social Studies classes as well as the Yuuyuuraq classes. We also welcomed Opal Harris as a new staff member as a special education teacher. We were excited that we had such a low turnover rate this last year, but they have proven to be very beneficial members of our team.

We started the year's site based in-service off with a day of training and then followed it up with an evening barbeque on the beach that was attended by many of the staff. The fellowship creates an excellent opportunity for the new members and returning champions to bond, forming an excellent team to provide a high-quality educational experience to our students. During our first week of school, we hosted an open house that was attended by over 200 adults. We had the gym open for students to play in while parents and community members were able to meet and eat with the Togiak School staff.

As we approach the midpoint of our first nine weeks, we are preparing to send progress reports home soon. We continue raising the bar, level of rigor, expectations inside and outside of the classroom. Our communication class is now broadcasting on KTOG 91.9 daily at 2 pm on Monday and 3 pm on Tuesday through Friday. If you are in Togiak be sure to tune in and hear our daily announcements, this day in history, and the Yup'ik Value of the Month. We have also started our afterschool programs that are being supplemented by our school improvement implementation grant. We currently offer music (piano and keyboard lessons), academic tutoring, weight lifting, fabrication lab, and robotics/gaming club as afterschool activities. The attendance has been increasing as students have been discussing the engaging things in the afterschool program. We have a goal of increasing engagement in school and afterschool activities to help raise our graduation rate.



We have started our version of the Iditaread challenge. We have created a bulletin board for our Million Word Club and the start point for the Iditaread. As students have completed books and passed the AR test, we are placing the paw prints around the top of the wall. As we reach each checkpoint, we will celebrate all of their hard work. Although only a few classes have gotten completely started, we have already passed 300 AR test over books read with over 300,000 words by individual students. The sled team is picking up speed, and there is no limit to how far they can make it this year.



Our school improvement team met and helped to establish goals for this school year. We will continue to push for even high parent and community engagement by exceeding 75% of parents attending the parent-teacher conferences this fall. We also are working to improve attendance. We pulled the previous seven years of attendance data, the most available from the state website, and have never been above 85.5%. Last year we ended at 83%. Our goal is to have higher attendance than we have ever recorded by being above 85.5%. Currently, we are at 88% and holding steady.

We thank you for your support and always invite you to come to visit us when you are in Togiak. It is always busy in school, but we will always make time to show you the progress that we have been making.





Twin Hills School

Naomi Winters, Principal/Teacher

We are off to a great start in Twin Hills this school year! We are growing rapidly and currently have 32 students Preschool through twelfth grade! It's our second season with High School Cross Country and we have 6 runners this year. Our team is proud to represent our school in our brand-new uniforms.

Twin Hills is excited to focus on improving attendance again this year and has implemented some incentive programs. One is the Principal's Run with the Pack Club. Students earn tickets and are put on the board. When there are ten in a row, all the students earn a prize. Response has been positive and our attendance rate was at 92% for August.

Our Elementary teacher is focusing on helping students develop a growth mindset and has daily discussions with the students about the power of YET. If students face struggles, they focus on how they don't have the skill YET, instead of saying I CAN'T.

We are happy to welcome a new teacher for our secondary students, Lisa Hennessey. Things are going great and the students are working hard. Lisa is also supporting our attendance goals by providing incentives weekly for students in Middle and High School with no tardies or absences.

