

REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



**"Irniaten-Ilu
kenkellerpeggun
qigcikliki.**

**Through love,
respect your
children."**

--Bristol Bay Yup'ik Values

Board of Education

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Staffing

Our team has been very busy with recruiting for next year over the past two months and at present we are only looking for one more teacher to have all positions filled for FY20. This is major accomplishment for the group that has spent countless hours identifying, vetting, and interviewing candidates for positions. We have been busy here at district office with staffing plans for next school year.

We just returned from the Anchorage Alaska Teacher Placement Job Fair where we were able to nearly finish our hiring. The team is currently working to fill our last opening and believe that we have found quality candidates for other openings thanks to the hard work of a team here at the office and site principals. Principals are participating in the hiring process to ensure that candidates are a good fit for the school and community.

Legislative

The uncertainty from Juneau continues as both the Senate and House begin to take up budget issues, but there are some glimmers of hope that neither house of the legislature will allow the Governor's proposal to stand as presented. We believe that this coalition will provide a balanced, and moderate approach as it did this past legislative season.

As mentioned last month, it is still too early to tell how things will finally shake out in Juneau this spring, but we know that our representatives will work hard to protect programs and services, like education, that are vital

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for our region and state. This month, I will be traveling with our Board President, Kay Andrews and Vice President, Marie Paul to meeting with legislators to ensure that they understand the meaning and overwhelmingly negative impacts of the proposed cuts to our students. We continue to move ahead with a status quo approach to budgeting, trusting that our legislature will take a measured approach and will fund education at an adequate level.





Special Education

LeEsia O'Sullivan

Special Education Staff

This month, the Special Education Department has been busy learning. 7 members of the team were able to attend the Alaska State Special Education Conference. During this time, they had an opportunity to collaborate with other special education teachers from around the state as well as attend sessions to support best practices within their program.

The Special Education Director, LeEsia, was able to attend a mandatory meeting for Special Education Directors. During this meeting, she was able to meet other directors from around the state and gain useful information to ensure that the district is in compliance. This was a great opportunity to introduce herself as a representative of the Southwest Region School District and gather important information to share with administrators and classroom teachers.

Two Special education teachers from the district had an opportunity to participate in the Interpreter's Conference in Anchorage. At the conference, they met interpreters as well as other special education teachers that have deaf and hard of hearing students. They had an opportunity to meet and speak with specialist about the state and throughout the United States to provide them with resources to support their students and classroom needs.

Child Find is taking place throughout the district. This year, the district has collaborated with the HeadStart Program and the Infant Learning Program to ensure that our communities are getting the support they need for the children to be successful. All children, ages three through twenty-one, are invited to the schools for screening. The district has hung up posters and advertised through VHF and letters inviting any child and parent with concerns to the school for support. This has been very successful for the schools and has built relationships with families who may not have students within the schools already.

On March 7th, the Special Education Teachers had an opportunity to get together for distance delivery in-service. During the in-service, the team had an opportunity to collaborate about Child Find, discuss the new inventory processes, share experiences from the conferences they attended, and discuss hearing and vision screening that needs to take place throughout each school. These meetings are held once per month and are important for the team to collaborate with one another.

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SWRSD Pre-Kindergarten Program

At this time, all sites, with the exception of Clark's Point, have a Pre-Elementary program started within the school setting. The students, teachers, and community members have all had great feedback from the programs. Some of the programs are still working on gathering their classroom supplies, completing mandatory training and certifications, and establishing routines, but they are all confident that their program will support the students with their journey to kindergarten.

All teachers and paraprofessionals that are supporting the pre-elementary program must acquire Inter-rater Reliability Certification. This certification training is offered through My Teaching Strategies, provided by the state, which trains individuals to observe and collect data to determine students present levels and growth. The Pre-Elementary team has had an opportunity to participate in two, one-hour sessions provided by the state that supports this documentation and reporting. They are scheduled to receive another one-hour session in April to ensure that everyone feels comfortable with the program and are aware of the expectations of the state and district.





Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director of Yup'ik Studies

Dr. Sharon S. Nelson-Barber. EdD, Senior Program Director with Culture and Language in Education with WestEd Visits

I have the privilege of working with Dr. Sharon Nelson-Barber on work focused on Indigenous teacher perspectives on education--STEM education in particular. In the past I have worked with her when I was with the Ciulistet Research Association.

This project is funded by the National Science Foundation and we are working with diverse teachers from rural Indigenous communities (so far New Mexico, Arizona) and urban predominantly African American/Latinx urban schools.

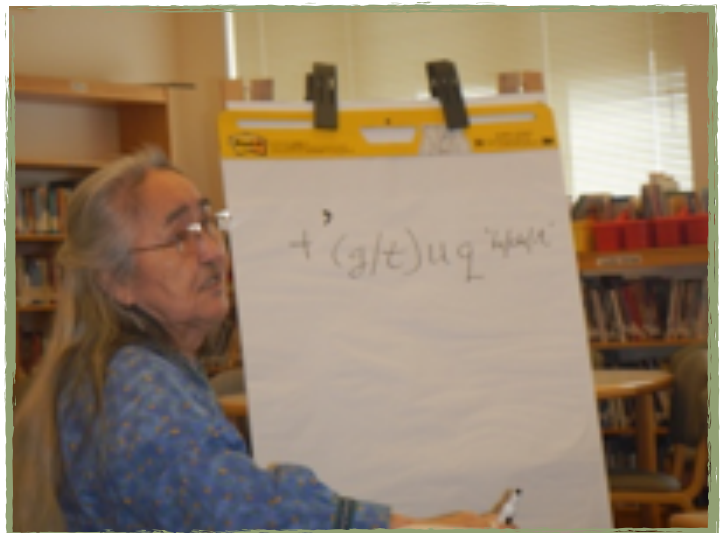
Two classroom teachers in Manokotak were provided the opportunity to work with Dr. Nelson-Barber. Noel Bowe, Secondary Math and Stephine Clark, Kindergarten teacher are the two teachers that met with Dr. Nelson-Barber. She also had a wonderful conversation with Ms. Bowe's high school math students. I sat in on the session and was impressed with the student's cultural math knowledge and how it is a part of their everyday experiences.



YUP F 131 Session in Tuyuryak (Togiak) February 14 - 16, 2019

Kiarpiar (Fanny Parker), Itegmialria (Herbert Lockuk), Naatu (Bertha Pavian-Lockuk). Cangarraq (Cherie Nanalook) and Angutekayak (Louise Gloko) all met in Togiak for the Yup F 131 session with Arnaq (Marie Meade) and Tan'iq (Larry Bartman) and Cungass'aq (Grace Gamechuk) who called in using the polycom. It was an intense two-day session using the A Practical Grammar of the Central Alaskan Yup'ik Eskimo Language book. In addition, the students learned a Yup'ik song that they can teach their young students. We will follow up with two more polycom session – February 22, 2019 and March 29, 2019 from 10 am – 12 noon.

We would like to thank everyone for the wonderful

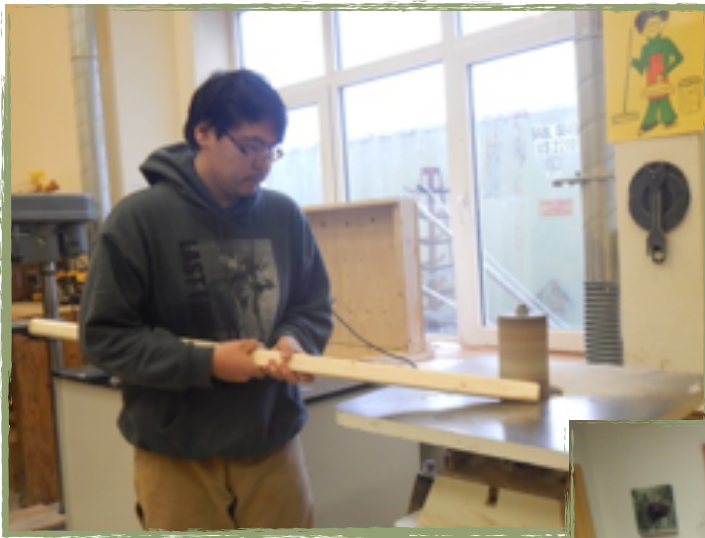


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hospitality that we received. A special quyana to Atik'aq (Sam Gosuk) who prepared us moose soup for lunch both days that we were there and to Kiarpiar (Fanny Parker) for housing Marie Meade and myself and providing herring eggs, fresh baked bread and akutaq, to Itegmialria (Herbert Lockuk) and Naatu (Bertha Pavian-Lockuk) for making Eskimo salad and to Margie Frost for the seal oil and spawned out dried salmon (yum). And quyana to Mike Lee, Principal for making sure that we were comfortable and were set up.

Atik'aq's (Sam Gosuk) Classes

I had the opportunity to work with Atik'aq's classroom. We looked at what he was doing in the Yup'ik Only Rule class emphasizing the importance of using their Yup'ik names and to try to stay within the Yup'ik language during the session. More ideas and materials will be sent to him to implement. It impressive to watch how he worked with the Traditional Tools class. They were making gifts that can be used when they are out in the wilderness. Quyana to Atik'aq (Sam Gosuk) and Margie Frost for submitting pictures of old Togiak for the Yugtun Language App.





Instruction

Audra Finkenbinder, Director of Instruction

It is the beginning of spring and with that comes many activities across the district; basketball season has come to a close, the third E-week is in progress, the State Spelling Bee has been held, state assessments are quickly approaching, spring orders are coming up, and preparations for next school year are beginning!

The District Spelling Bee was held on February 20th with sixteen (16) students from across the district competing for the title of Spelling Bee Champion. After eight rounds, the top three finalists were determined and a champion crowned:

- 1st Place Olivia Harvilla (Clarks Point)
- 2nd Place Maximus Gust (New Stuyahok)
- 3rd Place (Twin Hills)

There were three students who tied for 4th:

- Karen Christopher (New Stuyahok)
- Abigail Ilutsik (Aleknagik)
- Thomas Lowe (Togiak)

Olivia Harvilla's next competition is the Alaska State Spelling Bee held at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts' Discovery Theater on Tuesday, March 19th, 2019. Congratulations to all students who competed in the Spelling Bee; they all worked hard and it showed!

Students across the district are also working hard in Reflex Math and have solved over 1.64 million math facts this year! Along with this success, there has also been a district-wide improvement in math fact fluency having improved from 40.4% to 63.3 % so far this year, translating to a gain of almost 23%. Keep up the great work!

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TEAM



Charles Becker
Curriculum Specialist



Randy Finkenbinder
Curriculum Specialist

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Information Systems

Les Parks, Director of Technology

Alaska PEAKS District Office Server Upgrades

All sites are now prepared, or very nearly so, for the 2019 Alaska PEAKS testing. The testing window opens March 25th and remains open until April 26th.

BAG Grant, E-Rate and CIPA Activities

This year's BAG Grant application has been completed and submitted to DEED. This application is for the 10 Mbps service level currently offered. The latest advise from DEED is that if BAG becomes available at the 25 Mbps level of service, it will not be implemented until the 2010-2021 school year.



Corey Evans
Technology
Specialist

We have received our first PIA inquiry regarding our Form 471 E-Rate application for the 2019-2020 Funding Year. That inquiry has been answered and no issues are anticipated. We also received and answered an annual USAC audit inquiry. The only mistakes illuminated by that audit were made by USAC themselves.

Sites have completed their third quarter CIPA lessons, the last of this school year. Thank you to all those who planned, delivered, and documented those lessons!

Additional Activities

The tech department has been assisting with hiring for next school year and has been teaching or helping to teach Pre-Algebra and Science lessons via Polycom to the older students at William "Sonny" Nelson School.



State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director of State & Federal Programs

Title I–C Migrant Education

The SWRSD Migrant Program has been able to provide a variety of services to migrant students simply because our staff is becoming more aware of the program and offering ideas for innovative activities/ services. The migrant program still offers the books, games, and family nights, but has also been involved in the state Close-Up activity, the Alaska Student Government Association, dual credit to meet graduation requirements, and possibly some social emotional learning activities. There continue to be migrant family nights around the district. The turn-out for the family nights have been pretty incredible. The site migrant coordinators do an incredible job organizing and implementing the family nights.

Impact Aid

Kyle worked with secretaries and principals to gather Impact Aid data for the October 28, 2017 count date for this year's Impact Aid submission. The paperwork has been signed by principals, officials in each village, the state tax assessor, and BBNA Land Realty. The final application has been submitted to the U.S. Department of Education with the help of Superintendent Noonkesser and CFO Trangmoe.

Career & Technical Education: BBRCTE

The Bristol Bay Regional CTE program is currently in the third session of this year. In Dillingham there are 14 students participating in either the Introduction to Healthcare Careers or the first ever Certified Nurses Aide cohort. BBRCTE has partnered with the Southwest Area Health Education Center (SW AHEC) and the UAF BB Campus for the Introduction to Healthcare Careers. The CNA cohort is being supported through UAF and BBEDC. This is the first CNA cohort in program history and we are excited for the six students participating in this cohort. There are ten students attending Introduction to Culinary Arts. The students are from all over the Bristol Bay region including the communities of Kokhanok, Newhalen, Perryville, Chignik Lagoosn, Naknek/King Salmon, Togiak, Aleknagik, New Stuyahok, and Manokotak. All of these courses are available for dual credit and offer various certifications.

STATE & FEDERAL PROGRAMS TEAM



Steve Ito
District Lead
Counselor & Test
Coordinator



Kyle Schneider
Student Support
Specialist



Dianna Schollmeier
Title Services
Specialist

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Aleknagik School

Miranda Bacha, Principal/Teacher

Aleknagik School students have been having a great time in cross country ski club after school. Students can participate on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It's great to see so many students getting outdoors and learning a new skill.



E-week this month includes some exciting courses. Middle school and high school e-week classes include making beaded headdresses, international cooking, cake decorating, and cross-country skiing. Students in the elementary grades are cross-country skiing each day and they participated in a bridge-building activity to work on their engineering skills.



We held our first migrant ed. night of the year and students and parents came to join the fun. Students and parents enjoyed a tasty hamburger before participating in a literacy scavenger hunt and a fraction scavenger hunt where they had to use their knowledge of fractions to find the clues that led them to a hidden surprise. The night concluded with several games, lots of smiles, and making your own sundaes.



Students in the Tupignariuq: A Time for Seashore Grass Weaving class are enjoying the course and are now working on moving up from the bottom of the basket and adding dyed seal gut.

High School students participated in 'The Hour of Code' during the first semester as a one-hour introduction to computer science. Computer science and computer programming are two of the fastest growing fields worldwide. Computer science helps strengthen problem-solving skills and logic. It also offers a creative outlet for students. Several students expressed interest in learning more about computer science after completing 'the Hour of Code' so we decided to offer a Computer Science Fundamentals course after school from March through May.

The Aleknagik Girls' and Boys' Basketball teams had a good season. Both teams played well and more importantly represented us by demonstrating good sportsmanship at each and every game. The girls' basketball team won districts this year and went to Regionals in Newhalen. We are so proud!



Koliganek School

Deb Forkner, Principal

Thanks to a lot of hard work by school staff and volunteers from the community, the annual Koliganek School Carnival was a huge success. Events included: Middle school basketball tournament, adult men and women's basketball tournaments, family night with Eskimo BINGO and games, native dancing, coffee can races, PLINKO, BINGO, raffles and dances. The three days of hard work netted over \$12,000 for the student activity fund.

ROCK ON! was the theme for our second Migrant Education Family Night on March 7. Families enjoyed breaking open geodes, making terrariums, playing a rock identification game and making dirt (pudding with Oreo cookies and gummy worms). We had 100% of our Migrant Ed. families participate in the fun.

Students are looking forward to the third Exploration week. We are happy to have Aileen Walsh coming to teach ceramic classes. During the ceramic class students will be working on a husky mural for the school hallway. Other classes being offered are: beginning embroidery, international cooking, science fair and furniture making.

NYO season has begun. Koliganek has 23 students in grades 4 through 12 participating. We are excited to be hosting a home NYO meet this year on March 29.



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‘Chief’ Ivan Blunka School Robin Jones, Principal

Everything is continuing to go well at Chief Ivan Blunka School. Currently, we are offering what all of the students look forward to the most, which is our 3rd session of exploration week. In the secondary, we will be offering the following courses: Basketball Statistics, Low Fire Clay Ceramics, Candle Making, Cross Stitch, Wood Hauling and Milling, Crochet, Oil Painting Hand Sewing, and Intro to Reporting. In the elementary, we will be offering: Pancake Making, Sign Language, Stop Motion Animation, Yup’ik Dancing, Weaving, Flubber Making, and Sun Catcher Making. We will also have students participating in BBRCTE, and some high school students interning as elementary teachers and helping with the elementary e-week courses.



In our professional learning communities, we recently dedicated time toward reflection on our peer observation program. Staff members were asked to share one aspect they enjoyed about the peer observation experience, one specific way they improved their professional practice based on the feedback they received from their peer, and one suggestion for improving the peer observation program for next semester. Overall, the peer observation experience was very rich, and we have valuable feedback for improving the program in the future. We also continue to celebrate the 100% retention of our staff and continually use relationship building techniques to strengthen the effectiveness of our team.

In activity news, we had a group of students travel to Juneau to participate in Alaska Close Up. Two students, Jacob Andrew and Cameron Andrew, were lucky to participate as government interns this year! We were also privileged to host the Best of Southwest basketball tournament, which was also the district boys and girls tournament. All of our high school and middle school teams also had amazing seasons and made us so proud! We just recently started our NYO (Native Youth Olympics) practice and look forward to celebrating their continued success throughout the season.





Togiak School

Michael Lee, Principal

As we march into March we are starting to see hints of spring but winter I still trying to keep us in its grasp. The students have been enjoying the growing amounts of daylight with all of the outside activities that they have been participating. It will be May before they realize and it is important that we keep the focus moving forward for the remainder of the year. We use many different positive based rewards to try and keep the student motivated as we now have to compete with the wonderful thought of playing outside instead of focusing in the classrooms. We are continuing using Husky Bucks for students that have been “caught doing good” or showing our Yup’ik Value of the month. The Husky Bucks are turned in each day for a lollipop (we have sugar free versions). Each Friday we draw a Husky Buck winner and they get to choose their prize. We have \$5 gift certificates from the AC, we have free ice cream come certificates donated from Togiak Bay Supply, or slushy and popcorn certificates to use in the student store during afterschool activities. By recognizing positive behaviors and actions of the students, we have been able to improve the overall climate of the building. Students are eager to help each other and to help adults. These actions are contagious and spread through the classes. Way to go Huskies!!

We have 4 students that will have traveled to the Passion to Lead summit in Anchorage over spring break before the board meeting. This was through the Knik Tribe and a SAMSHA grant to promote student leadership and students being more active in positive changes in their village. We are excited for the students to be able to attend this training and to be able to return and apply what they learned in the school and community.

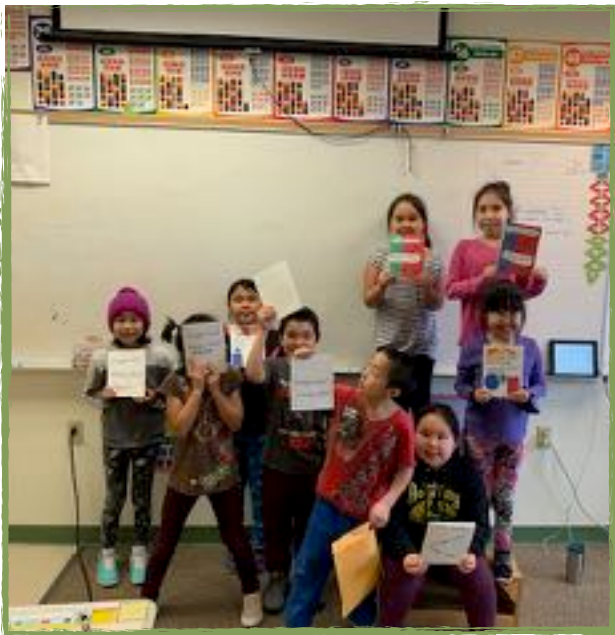
I want to give a huge thanks to our basketball coaches this year. We have maintained very high standards of sportsmanship and used the basketball program to help ensure that the students are successful in and out of school. Although we did not win districts, I still consider our year a huge success. We maintained eligible teams all year and I have seen the teamwork and school pride grow significantly through the course of the season. Good job to all of our players and coaches. Also thanks to all of the parents that assisted with the tournaments and scrimmages that we had for our teams. Without the community and parents support, we would not be able to accomplish all that we have. We also had several scrimmage games for grades 3rd – 5th. The parents and the community had such a great time helping and watching the younger students being able to show off their skills. They all had to be eligible to play and this was a great motivator for the elementary to use the afterschool program opportunities to get any missing work done.

We have had one student accepted to the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program. He has worked hard to meet the eligibility requirements for the program. We also have 4 students that have been selected for BBRCTE classes in e-week 3. Two students will be working towards their CNA certification and two will be completing an introduction to healthcare careers course. We will continue to

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challenge the students to rise up to the challenges that face them and show that they can do anything that they are determined to accomplish.

It will be a very busy rest of the year with 2 e-weeks, state testing, MAPS, Prom, Graduation, Sports Banquet, NYO, and lots of other activities. We always welcome any board members to come and visit the school. We want to thank you for your continued support as we try to make Togiak the best that it can be. If you have not already done so, please follow our Official School Facebook Page to see what great things the students are doing daily. #MakeWayForTogiak





Twin Hills School

Naomi Winters, Principal/Teacher

Twin Hills had a good month. We had three middle students participate in the spelling bee, and were have Trinity Kvamme place third at the district level. studied the words for a short amount of time since moved back to Twin Hills. She worked hard to learn and it showed!

Kaylynn Small was elementary Wolf of the Month for always being a helper in class and doing her best, and “Howdy” Tommy was secondary Wolf of the Month for his academic accomplishments.

The middle school students had fun making and bread for a fundraiser. The community loves when we bread and the students love making it.

