

REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



**"Tuvqakiaqluten-llu
yuullgutevnek
piyugngaaqavet.**

**Share possessions
and knowledge with
honor."**

--Bristol Bay Yup'ik Values

Board of Education

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Site Visits & Travel

On November 8-11, Steve attended the AASB Conference in Anchorage with school board members. Sessions were as always informative and included time with legal experts on a variety of topics, work on resolutions, work on the cultural safety grant we are participating in, updates on ESSA, and a great session with Watson and Bentham Ohia on transformational leadership, culture and indigenous language recovery.

The school board, accompanied by Steve, also met with board members from the Lake and Peninsula Borough School District, Bristol Bay Borough School District and Dillingham City School District school boards and superintendents from BBBSD and DCSD. The gathering went very well and there was a good discussion about next steps and the future of our partnership.

Staffing

The search continues to fill the upper elementary classroom teacher opening in Ekwok. Helen Powell, will be returning to us as a long term substitute and will finish the school year in Manokotak. She has done excellent work in the past for our students and we are excited that she will again be joining us. Audra Finkenbinder, Director of Instruction, continues to put in many hours doing a thorough search to find a qualified candidate. Hiring for this positions is a priority for us right now, as it directly affects student learning.

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Our search continues for a permanent Business Office Manager and we will be interviewing another candidate next week. While we work towards filling that position we continue to work with Amanda Trangmoe, as CFO. A big thank you to the Business Office staff who have all stepped up to keep payroll, purchasing, accounts payable and other accounting functions running as smoothly as possible while being short-staffed. A thank you is also in order to Jon Clouse, who has stepped up to handle much of the grant financial work as we get finished with the audit and continue the year. A thank you to all of our site administrators as well, who have been patient with us as we work through this transition. It remains our primary goal to provide support and assistance to staff in our schools so that they can focus on student needs.



Special Education
LeEsia O'Sullivan

Special Education Staff

LeEsia O'Sullivan has moved into the position of Acting Special Education Director. She is currently working with the special education teachers to ensure that the transition is smooth. The special education team is focusing on The Zones of Regulations to support our students in identifying their emotions and giving them tools for coping with those emotions. This program was presented during the October in-service and teachers are slowly implementing it throughout the district. At this time, special education teachers are also starting the planning process to attend the 2019 Alaska State Special Education Conference. Five teachers have applied for professional development funds to attend the conference, and all five received funding to attend. The special education teachers have a scheduled in-service via distance delivery where they are discussing the RTI process, paperwork process, and updating progress on the Zones of Regulations.

SWRSD Pre-Kindergarten Program

At this time, sites are gearing up to start the process of implementing programs throughout the district. We have job descriptions up in many of our communities and hope to have all sites up and operating by the time we return from winter break. The programs are focused on pre-academics and social skills that prepare students for kindergarten. The teachers and paraprofessionals at each site are participating in training with the assessment tool My Teaching Strategies. The 12- hour training tool is provided through an online resource. The training will support teachers with instructing students and observing their abilities. Student progress is reported to the state of Alaska quarterly. LeEsia O'Sullivan recently attended a Division of Early Education conference in Florida. This conference focused on early childhood development and special education. The information obtained through this conference has provided insight that will ensure the pre-elementary program has a great start.



Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director of Yup'ik Studies

YUP F 130 Beginning Yup'ik Grammar with Arnaq Marie Meade

Arnaq Marie Meade, Yugtun Language Trainer is recognized by the First Peoples Fund, Jennifer Eastong Community Spirit Award Honoree, Sunday October 14, 2018 at the Alaska Native Heritage Center. She was presented with the Star Quilt by First Peoples Fund President and staff. Her sons, Pamyua performed with closing ceremonies by the Acilquq Dance Group.

This was an intense session with the following participating

- Cuungaq Melody Noden and Nayangcuk Massa Andrew both of Alaqnaqiq
- Tat'iq Tatianna Andrew and Arnayagaq Pauline Askoak both of Cetuyaraq
- Marluq Melanie King of Iquaq
- Atki'aq Sam Gosuk and Ukayiq Martha Fox of Tuyuryaq
- Tumaralria Elena Johnson and Taluuriq Natalia Ishnook of Qalirneq
- With Alnguksuar Ruben Richards of Saguyaq calling in using the polycom

In addition to focusing on Yugtun grammar the participants were introduced to this love song:

“Uumek-gg- q-qaa
nevilukucungarmek-qaa
Tiiggacungalegmek
Unayarar una “

Arnaq Marie Meade shared that an elder remembers being carried on his grandfather's back while this “song” was sung to him until he fell asleep.

Avurnariuq Tupigkanek : It is Time to Gather Seashore Grass (BBNC Min-Grant)



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We were ready but the weather didn't cooperate. We flew and flew and almost made it to our destination – Platinu, when ice rain blocked our entry. We had to cancel this once in a life-time event (October 29 and October 30).

Manuquutaq Site Visit – November 1, 2018

It was a delight to be a part of the Yugtun classes being taught in Nunaniq school. Tan'iq's high school class was reviewing singular, dual and plural. I was able to have the students participate in a quick write, "History of Manuquutaq". This will help the district as we begin to look at developing curriculum with a special focus on the villages histories. Also observed Angutekayak's class with the YCC high school classes reading "Atkiq". Her YOR classes demonstrated understanding of Yup'ik commands as outlined in the curriculum. The students had created flash cards of items, and building items that they were focusing on. And it was a delight to see the models as created by the YOR Class year 3 as they learned about the different parts of the fishing boat.





Instruction

Audra Finkenbinder, Director of Instruction

ASDN COURSES

All instructional staff (both certificated and classified) currently have the opportunity to earn up to 7 college level credits through the Alaska Staff Development Network (ASDN). The classes are focusing on ELA and Math and can count toward teacher recertification.

CTE CONFERENCE

Many members of the district attended the Association for Career and Technical Education Conference (ACTE) in Anchorage. Charles Becker attended a tour of the King Technical High School and the University of Alaska Anchorage in addition to the regular sessions. Randy Finkenbinder attended Educators Rising along with numerous other sessions. The CTE Conference always provides the opportunity to see what other schools are doing and sparks staff to invent creative ways in which to bring new and fresh ideas back to SWRSD.

EXPLORATION WEEK

The second of four Exploration Weeks was held November 5th-9th during which time the students had many options from which to select; some options included:

- Culinary arts
- Ceramics
- Legislative process
- Chemical reactions
- Grass weaving
- Quilting
- Sign language
- Music classes (i.e. violin, guitar, piano)

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TEAM



Charles Becker
Curriculum Specialist



Randy Finkenbinder
Curriculum Specialist

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Some last minute adjustments had to be made to the November Exploration Week schedules; but due to the capacity in materials, courses, and training of personnel the district has built over the last two years, the adjustments were very manageable.

The third Exploration Week is scheduled for March 18th-22nd.

SCIENCE TOTES

In addition to the daily upkeep of SWRSD's educational programs, the second semester elementary science totes are being coordinated and put together as time permits. They should be ready to send out before the Holiday season!

SPEECH REVIEW

A review is underway for an updated textbook for the high school Speech class. Samples have been gathered and an initial review made by the Curriculum Department. Teachers will be brought in soon to make a full review with the intent to have a final decision prior to the end of December.





Information Systems

Les Parks, Director of Technology

New Equipment & Upgrades

Les and Corey traveled to Togiak and Twin Hills to update student computers and deploy new student iPads. They also performed various tasks as requested by site personnel, such as installing or moving printers and removing outdated technology.

Jasper Andrews in Togiak and Larry Bartman in Manokotak worked with Les and Corey to perform the student computer updates and to prepare their new iPads. A big thank you to both of them for their help!

Les traveled to Aleknagik to perform student computer updates and also performed various tasks requested by site personnel, such as getting the security camera system back online, addressing some AppleTV issues, and providing some guidance on the use of Apple Remote Desktop.

Corey is in the process of preparing new iPads for Aleknagik and New Stuyahok, which will complete deployment of new iPads (Clark's Point and Koliganek already having newer iPads).

Alaska PEAKS District Office Server Upgrades

Les has deployed and configured new servers for the state testing system at Dillingham, Togiak, Twin Hills, New Stuyahok, Manokotak, and Aleknagik. Servers are also prepared for Clark's Point, Ekwok, and Koliganek, and will be deployed soon. These servers are setup to deliver both PEAKS and WIDA tests.

Once all servers have been deployed and configured, laptop and iPad testing clients will be configured and deployed to each site.

E-Rate and CIPA Activities

All sites have planned and delivered their Quarter 1 CIPA lessons on basic Internet safety. Planning guides have been sent to all sites for Quarter 2 lessons on Social Networking.

E-Rate season is approaching and Les will soon be updating our entity profiles with student counts as determined during the count period in preparation for the upcoming Form 471 filing window.



Corey Evans
Technology
Specialist

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State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director of State & Federal Programs

Title I-C Migrant Education

Migrant Education recruiting has wound down and we have submitted our paperwork to the Alaska Department of Early Education & Development (EED) Migrant Education Office. As of October 31st, EED has approved the paperwork we submitted for 262 children in our villages. This year we were again unable to fill our Togiak Migrant Education Recruiter position and that slowed recruiting considerably. While most years we are able to contact almost every family in the district for recruiting, this year there were many families that we were unable to contact. Due to the decrease in recruiters there was less staff time available to find working phone numbers for all families and to make repeated calls to families who did not return messages.

Letters have been sent to parents to notify them of their child’s eligibility and the services offered under the program once the recruiting window ends on November 15th and the district has the final list of eligible students. After the enrollment period closes, village-based Migrant Education Coordinators will receive lists of eligible students and begin working to provide services.

School Year	Number of Migrant Eligible Children
2018-2019	262
2017-2018	267
2016-2017	264
2015-2016	243
2014-2015	264
2013-2014	260
2012-2013	214
2011-2012	227

Impact Aid

Kyle has begun working on the Impact Aid report in conjunction with the school secretaries. He has finished preparing data in PowerSchool to create the reports that school secretaries will use to determine’ eligibility for Impact Aid funding. On November 2nd, secretaries received the information to begin work on their village’s Impact Aid report and the maps needed to fill out the forms. Once forms have been prepared they will be sent for signatures by principals, village officials, BBNA, and the state tax assessor.

STATE & FEDERAL PROGRAMS TEAM



Steve Ito
District Lead
Counselor & Test
Coordinator



Kyle Schneider
Student Support
Specialist

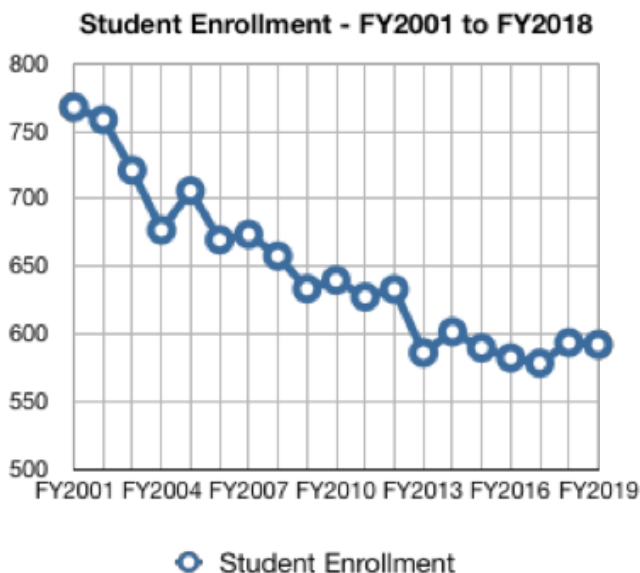


Dianna Schollmeier
Title Services
Specialist

Fall OASIS Report (Count Period)

Count period ended on the 26th of October and we have submitted our numbers to the EED. Once the submission window closes we will work to resolve any issues with students reported by other school districts. The numbers submitted to EED are based on the number of students enrolled from October 1st through October 26th and are as follows:

	PK-6	7-12	Total PK-12	Intensive	% Change from Prior Year
Aleknagik	10.10	13.00	23.10	0	-3.75%
New Stuyahok	82.95	48.65	131.60	5	-2.48%
Clarks Point	13.00	2.00	15	0	7.14%
Koliganek	31.00	21.45	56.45	0	-7.09%
Manokotak	74.70	50.45	124.17	3	0.79%
Togiak	137.05	74.10	205.82	7	2.59%
Twin Hills	10.30	7.30	23.95	1	-26.51%
Ekwok	10.12	6	14.25	1	13.12%
Total	369.22	222.95	592.18	17	2.37%



Assessments

New Stuyahok, Manakotak, Togiak and Koliganek have been chosen to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) also known as "The Nation's Report Card". It is the only nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas. Since 1969, assessments have been conducted periodically in reading, mathematics, science, writing, U.S. history, civics, geography, and the arts.

NAEP 2019 will be given from January 28-March 8, 2019. A representative sample of grade 4 and grade 8 students will take the NAEP in Alaska. No student or school results are given for the NAEP, only state-level results. Since NAEP assessments are administered uniformly using the same sets of test booklets across the nation, NAEP results serve as a common metric for all states and selected urban districts.

The assessment stays essentially the same from year to year, with only carefully documented changes. This permits NAEP to provide a clear picture of student academic progress over time.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is evolving to address the changing educational landscape through its transition to digitally based assessments (DBAs) for the NAEP 2019 administration.

Career & Technical Education: BBRCTE

November 4th will be the kick to session II for BBRCTE. Last session we had a total of 21 applications from SWRS alone. SWRS had 16 applicants this session; a few less than last time. This was expected since we were completing part 2 of medical terminology. However, the number of applications were down across the 3 districts due to extra-curricular activities.

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On the Dillingham side, six students will complete a 3-credit course in Medical Terminology that ran the whole semester. The course is a suggested pre-requisite to entering into the Certified Nurse Program. The Behavioral Health course being taught by AHEC, Area Health Education Centers, and will have nine students in attendance including four from SWRS and five from DCSD. We are very excited that students from DCSD could join us. These students will leave the course with 2 college credits and certified in Mental First Aid. In Naknek, we have two students attending the NCCER certification course, and one student attending Home/Energy Basics.

Career & Technical Education: Conference

A team of teachers and leaders attended the State CTE conference. The theme was centered around collaboration and making connections. There was representation from many industries to support teachers to paving ways to connect student directly to industry careers following high school. The top industry representations were Maritime/Fishing through AVTEC, APICC, and many others. There was also representation for education through Education Rising and Allied Health through HOSA. Ed Rising and HOSA are student organization that support and encourage students interested in these fields.

The grand finale of the conference was the award lunch, and Jon Clouse received the honorable award of Alaska CTE Administrator of the year.



The award speech was delivered by Meghan Redmond... “The dedication of this administrator is demonstrated by his work with Southwest Region School District with eighteen years of service. He is as incredible as he is tall, at 6’6”, and devotes exorbitant amount of time to make sure all students have access to career, technical, and educational opportunities. He encourages students and staff to embrace challenges, celebrate perseverance, and establish a passion for learning. He has been instrumental in developing the Bristol Bay CTE program, that allows countless students the opportunity to explore careers and earn industry certifications. This collaborate work has also been a significant impact including graduation rates, dual credit and career opportunities to students. His hard work and passion inspires natural passion and hard work among his colleagues. He actively develops quality relationship and connections. He is the rock star of our region. It is my honor to present the CTE Administrator of the Year award to Jon Clouse.”

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA a.k.a. Title grants)

Title I funds support activities outlined in the Title I Schoolwide Plans that are developed by each of our schools each year. Each school reviews the schoolwide plan continuously throughout the year to revise the plan based on stakeholder feedback and to reflect the current needs assessment. The timeline for the review of the schoolwide plans is going to change this year in order to make better use of current school year data to identify needs and develop action plans to address those needs. Title I Schoolwide plans are posted on the district website. The AK STEPP School Needs Assessments will be included in a future board meeting. As part of the schoolwide plan, every school includes an after school program to provide students

extra support and tutoring. Schools often use Title I funding to support family engagement activities as well. In addition, some schools are using Title IA funds to implement after school enrichment clubs in the area of STEM using fabrication software and equipment and/or lego based engineering projects. Title IA funds are also be used to support pre-kindergarten family engagement activities in Koliganek to support parents in preparing their young ones for school by incorporating best practices in the home.

The school accountability metrics have been completed and published by the Alaska Department of Education. The overall designations are outlined in the table below and the more detailed results are included in the board packets and are available online at the following weblink: <https://education.alaska.gov/Reporting/Home/Accountability>

The accountability score for each school is calculated using a number of weighted categories including academic achievement, academic growth, English learner progress, chronic absenteeism, grade 3 ELA proficiency, and graduation rate. These categories are weighted differently between the grade spans K-6 and 7-12. The best possible accountability score is 100. There are three designations assigned to schools including universal support, targeted school improvement (TSI), and comprehensive school improvement (CSI). Universal support is simply the designation provided to schools that do not require additional support from school districts and EED. TSI and CSI schools require additional support from school districts and sometimes EED. Clarks Point received an N/A score because the data was statistically unreliable due to the very small number of students that took the PEAKS assessment.

<u>School</u>	<u>Accountability Score</u>	<u>Designation</u>
Aleknagik	36.95	Universal Support
Chief Ivan Blunka	25.49	Universal Support
Clarks Point	N/A	Universal Support
Koliganek	34.04	Universal Support
Manokotak Nunaniq	30.13	Universal Support
Togiak	26.12	Comprehensive Support (CSI) - Graduation Rate
Twin Hills	10.72	Comprehensive Support (CSI) - Lowest 5%
William Sonny	9.62	Comprehensive Support (CSI)- Lowest 5%

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Title VI – Indian, Native Hawaiian, & Alaska Native Education

The Title VI application is a multi-year project to support the implementation of the Yup'ik Studies program throughout the district. Title VI is a formula grant based on the number of students for which we have eligibility forms on file. Part of the grant requires annual performance reports (APR) based on the activities outlined in the grant versus implementation of those activities. The APR for school year 2017-2018 is included in the board packet. It is important to note that the second page of the application indicates that there is no project performance data. The reason for this is because the district coordinates with other programs and general budget to support the Yup'ik Studies program so project performance data is not reported.

Impact Aid – BP 6174.1(a) Education of Native/Indian Children – Indian Policy & Procedures

There are five Indian policy and procedures outlined in BP 6174.1(a) Education of Native/Indian Children. Standard three of this policy indicates that the district will provide and review information about the extent to which Native/Indian children participate on an equal basis with non-Indian children in the district's education program and activities. In addition, this information will be shared with the tribes and parent of Native/Indian children and allow time for review and comment on whether Native/Indian children participate on an equal basis with non-Indian children.

It is up to each district to determine what participation data to review and how to define/calculate participation. The district made all attempts to include academic related data and attendance data. The chart below shows the results of this work and will be shared with parents and tribes for comment. There is no data for extra-curricular activities because the information was not being gathered when this process was being developed. There will be extra-curricular data next year.

2017–2018 Equal Participation Report

<u>Program/Activity</u>	<u>Native/Indian Children Rates</u>	<u>Non-Native/Indian Children Rates</u>
9th-10th Graders that Participated in Algebra I	85.36% (70/82)	100% (fewer than 5)
9th-10th Graders that Passed Algebra I	48.78% (40/82)	100% (fewer than 5)
9th-10th Graders that Participated in Life Science	92.68% (76/82)	100% (fewer than 5)
9th-10th Graders that Passed Life Science	32.92% (27/82)	100% (fewer than 5)
9th-12th Graders that Participated in CTE Courses	63.75% (95/149)	100% (fewer than 5)
9th-12th Graders that Participated in Yup'ik Courses	91.94% (137/149)	100% (fewer than 5)
Students that Participated in BBRCTE	7.93% (43/542)	43.75% (7/16)
K-8 Attendance Rate Better than 90%	63.71% (302/474)	80% (fewer than 5)



Facilities & Maintenance

Rick Dallmann, Director of Facilities & Maintenance

District-wide

Fuel Deliveries have been made to all sites with the exception of Twin Hills at this time Vitus is scheduled to return from Togiak and make the delivery, we also have freight and a side x side on the barge, should be completed by Nov.19th

Teacher Housing Furniture has been delivered to most sites at this time; we are scheduling airplanes to finish the rest of the orders.

Winterizing all vehicles at sites and the central office, getting studded tires on.

Two positions are posted in Maintenance looking for the best option: a Foreman position which we have not had qualified applicants for yet, and Expeditor.

Clarks Point

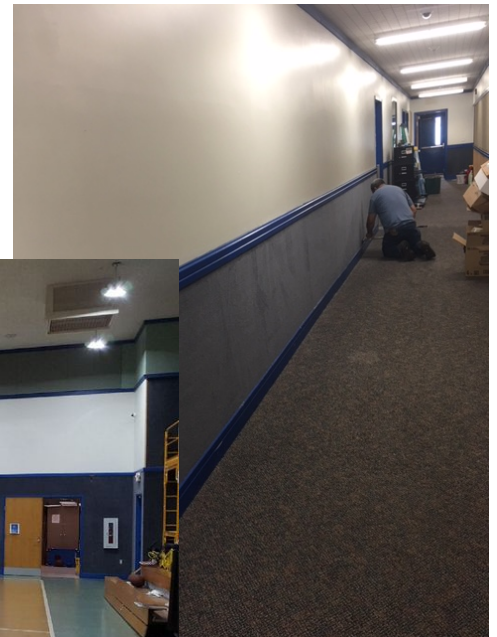
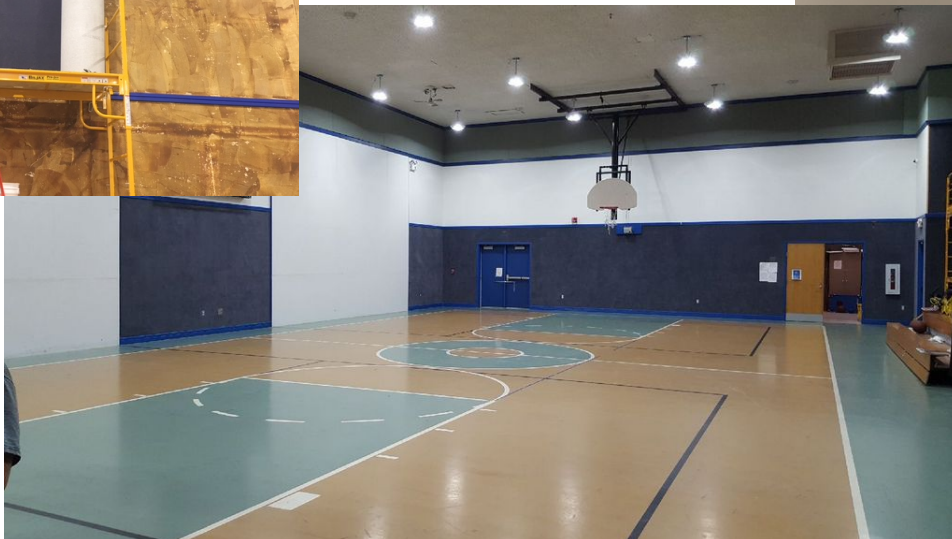
Renovation to the school is completed,

The District is working with AK Energy Authority who is working on upgrades to the Clarks Point Village power plant and are going to run new Waste Heat lines to the school this could reduce fuel consumption by 75% or more.

Koliganek

Art projects are still in the working stages; Installation of the large gym mural should take place during Christmas break or shortly after.

The large tile mural should be scheduled for installation in the same time frame.



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Aleknagik School

Miranda Bacha, Principal/Teacher

Middle and high school students completed the second e-week and learned how to quilt, cook, use wood burning tools to decorate picture frames, make earrings out of antlers, and play the piano. SkiKu is planning to come for our third e-week and the students are looking forward to learning how to cross-country ski again. Dillingham H.S. is planning to come down on the last day for a race which should be fun for the students.

Faculty and staff were busy this month getting the pre-school classroom ready for students. Parents have begun to register their children and are excited to have this opportunity. We are hoping to have students begin attending on November 26th as soon as an instructional aide is hired for the pre-school.

Students and parents have been busy fundraising so the high school students could have the opportunity to take a guitar class beginning in January. The students and parents are very excited and it is great to see the community work together. Other new courses that will be offered for semester 2 include Psychology and Basket Weaving. 'The Hour of Code' is a nationwide initiative by Computer Science Education Week and Code.org aimed at introducing students to computer science and computer programming which are two of the fastest growing fields worldwide. Students in Aleknagik are going to participate in an hour of code this year and they will get to learn how to use basic coding and earn a certificate for completing particular modules.

The high school girls' volleyball team had a good season this year and now it is time to prepare for basketball season. We have enough students this year to have a High School girls' team and a High School boys' team as long as we can get coaches for both. Go Lakers!





Clarks Point School

Shannon Harvilla, Principal/Teacher

The enrollment of Clarks Point School has grown to 17 students. The students of Clarks Point just had their first student activity fundraiser, a Halloween Carnival, that was a hit with children and parents alike.

Exploration week 2 is here. The older students are learning to work with clay, while the younger students are working on sun-catchers.

Clarks Point school is also preparing for M.A.P testing window number two at the end of November. We are confident that all students will show progress toward their academic goals.



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William 'Sonny' Nelson School

Angela Bennett, Lead Teacher

William 'Sonny' Nelson School currently has an enrollment of 15. The students are currently engaged in their 2nd E-Weeks assignments. The 7-8th are in academic improvements and the K-4th are working on holiday cooking. The students have completed their CIPA lessons and are diligently working towards academic improvements. The students are utilizing many resources, including but not limited to, Reflex Math, Spelling City, Edmentum, Exact Path and Khan Academy. Our first student fund raiser, the Halloween carnival was. A huge success and raised a lot of money. The community was a great support in helping us to achieve our goal. In the upcoming week we will have the Alaska Fish and Game in our school to demonstrate the Moose tagging program. Our MAP testing is coming up, we should see an improvement in academic scores, the students have been working very hard on achieving their goals. Our 'Reading down the hall' contest is ongoing, and the winners will be announced Dec. 20th at the end of quarter.





Koliganek School

Deb Forkner, Principal

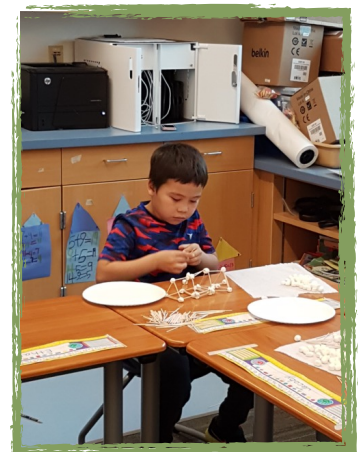
“The Power of Yet” continues to be the focus of Koliganek School staff. Students are beginning to change their thinking from, “I can’t do this” to “I don’t know how to do this yet”. The power of positive thinking and a growth mindset seems to be motivating students to keep trying and always do their best work.

The Fall Carnival was a huge success and a lot of fun. The highlight of the carnival was the teachers and principal getting pied in the face. Families also enjoyed a duck pond, fishing booth, pin the skull on the skeleton, bean bag toss, basketball shoot, cake walks and coin drop games.

Thank you to Pam Johnson and the Pre-school Para Professionals for their focus on family literacy. Pam sent out our first monthly newsletter and Book of the Month to families. For the Book of the Month, Pam read *We’re Going on a Leaf Hunt* to the class and did activities with the students. Then each child was given a copy of the book, some fun manipulatives and a letter sharing ideas for ways parents could use the book to do activities at home with their children. We will also be hosting a Pre-school family night very soon.

Exploration Week 2 has been a great success. The simple meals class learned to make homemade spaghetti sauce, green bean casserole, moose soup, fish pie, bread omelets, potato salad and cookies. Music theory and guitar were offered for those students who wanted to increase their musical talents. The iMovie class created a movie about the legislative process and in the shop, students made beautiful cutting boards with maple in-lay in them.

Classroom walkthroughs and observations have been conducted on an ongoing basis by Principal Forkner. Teachers have done self-assessments and set goals for themselves for the year. Koliganek staff continue to focus on Marzano’s framework for effective teaching.



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



‘Chief’ Ivan Blunka School Robin Jones, Principal

Everything is continuing to go well at Chief Ivan Blunka School! Our students, staff, and community have really taken ownership of the Yup’ik Value of the Month program, which for November is: “Share possessions and knowledge with honor.” It is so great to see everyone demonstrate these incredible values and to be recognized for doing so!

Exploration Week was a huge success in November! We offered the following secondary courses: Subsistence Meat Processing, Wood Burning, American Sign Language II, Hydroponics, Embroidery, Baking, and Basketball Officiating. We were also able to send five students to the BBRCTE sessions and four students to the National Close Up conference in Washington DC. In continuing with the collaboration theme from last session, we have swapped an elementary teacher to instruct a secondary session of Baking with a secondary teacher to instruct an elementary session of Beading. In the elementary we were able to offer: The Art of Ice Cream, Beading, Fish Dissection, Constellation Stories, Musical Instrument Making, Sensory Play-Doh, and Yup’ik Fish Fry! The students and staff were very excited to participate in these highly engaging course offerings!



This year at parent/teacher conferences, we wanted to be intentional about continuing the mission of branding the positive message of our school. So, we created a door prize contest where all parents and students attending could be entered in a contest to win a CIBS sweater. In order to receive a door prize ticket, each parent was asked to share one specific positive comment they heard from any teacher regarding their child. Here are some of the amazing responses we heard from parents:

Positive comments about students as told by their parents:

- “My son is charismatic, energetic, and inquisitive!”
- “My daughter has gained so much confidence from making quilts during e-week!”
- “My grandson is doing better and better every year!”
- “My daughter has a ready to learn attitude and loves to teach us at home!”
- “My son is patient and polite. I am just amazed by how well he treats others!”

We continue to be proud of our student athletes, who have been competing in volleyball and wrestling across the region and state. It has also been great for our program to have such strong interest in athletics at the elementary level. The New Stuyahok Fabricators (NSF) have been very active and recently ordered

a whole new line of spirit gear to personalize and sell. Last but certainly not least, we were so excited to announce that our very own, Meghan Redmond, was named the Assistant Principal of the Year for the entire state of Alaska! We look forward to all of the opportunities we have to be proud of our students and staff throughout the year!

Chief Ivan Blunka School Students of the Month November

Elementary: Summer Anelon – 5th Grade

Middle School: Deonya Apokedak – 8th Grade

High School: Jacob Andrew – 11th Grade

Chief Ivan Blunka School Employee of the Month November

Justin Gumlickpuk & Clayton Lamphear

Chief Ivan Blunka School Yup'ik Value Demonstrators of the Month November

Madeline Christopher & Quintessa Eneyuk



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Dustin Wright, Principal

Nunaniq School has been an exciting and busy place! After recognizing and celebrating a record number of forty students with perfect attendance first quarter, we had an impressive turnout for Parent-Teacher conferences.

Nunaniq extra-curricular activities have focused on wrestling and volleyball. Our small contingency of grapplers have participated in meets at Koliganek, Dillingham, and ACS, and look forward to hosting the SWRS meet before the Thanksgiving break. Both middle and high school volleyball squads have been very active, participating fully in the SWRS schedule as able, and were privileged to host first the SWRS District Tournament to determine the Region qualifier, and then the Togiak middle school team.

Congratulations to CIBS Eagles on their 2018 SWRS District Championship, also sincere appreciation to Aleknagik and Togiak for their attendance.

The Halloween Carnival was well attended, and featured the debut of cotton candy to Manokotak.

Fundraising groups have been active in the Student Store and offering new selections of Lynx Gear (which make great gifts, by the way).

Tutoring services continue as part of our after-school activities, in addition to athletics. After school snacks are offered for all activity participants. Coaches Norman Gloko, Panta Paul, and Gayle Andrew are excitedly preparing for the quickly upcoming basketball season, to commence at the end of November. Exploration Week #2 included the incredible variety of beading, grass baskets, community service, yuraq, trapping, drama, career exploration, hunter safety, sewing, violin, and Italian desserts! We anticipate the Honor Roll to increase as numerous students worked diligently during the Academic Improvement classes during E-Week to improve their course grades. Uniquely this year, our sixth grade students have been fully participating in E-Weeks.

Nunaniq students Kyla Gloko and Lennox Tugatuk served the State of Alaska as Youth Vote Ambassadors on Election Day. All students grades 6-12 voted in a Mock Student Election on November 6, which produced interesting results. Rehanna Moore was called upon to represent SWRS students at the AASB Youth Leadership Institute. Keesha Paul, Vanessa George, and Patrisha Alakayak will attend the BBNC / UTBB Leadership Conference in December. We are also excited to begin a Student Leadership partnership targeting younger students with Knik Tribal Council, a recommendation for which was made by former Superintendent Piazza.

As the holidays approach, our senior class is excited to host a Thanksgiving Basketball Tournament in their ongoing fundraising efforts. Our outstanding Yugtun instructional team of Louise Gloko, Grace Gamechuk, and Larry Bartman will attend training with Marie Meade. Before the semester ends, we'll have another phase of MAPS testing, anticipating continued growth, and the senior class continues their preparation to also take the ACT.

We continue a busy, eventful, and exciting year at Nunaniq School, and hope for a "safe and smart" holiday season for all.



Togiak School

Michael Lee, Principal

I heard a student say, “I can’t believe the it is November. It is almost Christmas already.” It is amazing how fast time has been flying by this year. Despite the challenges that we have experienced as a community and school, this has been an amazing year for our students. It is amazing to think what all has been accomplished in just 3 short months. As we just finished exploration week 2, the staff and I were reflecting on what all has been accomplished by our students this year. As always we have areas that we need to improve, but I am so proud of how far they have come. They never fail to rise up to meet the ever increasing demands that have been put on them. It makes me so proud to be their principal. So let’s look at what we have been doing.

The student government has been taking an increasing leadership role in the school over the past 2 years. We have a 2 seniors in Student Government, one is also the student president representative for the School Board. The seniors have stepped up and started mentoring our freshmen in student government to take on the roles as leaders in the school. Student government has led all of our pep rallies and Maya Geltzer has taken the lead role for the past 2 years. Our last pep rally was led by a freshman, Alyssa Coopchiak, who also is the secretary student representative for the school board. Seeing our student leaders mentor younger students and prepare them for future leadership positions shows how far the students have progressed. You are only a success if you leave a successor. Our current seniors continue to push themselves beyond their comfort zones and are preparing the next generation of leaders to take their place. 4 members of student government also had the opportunity to attend Close Up in Washington DC. As I write this they are in Washington exploring the Natural History Museum and looking at artifacts from Yup’ik origins. They were able to share information about their culture and village with others at the museum. What an experience for our students. 2 students from Togiak were able to attend the Youth Leaders Institute hosted by AASB in Anchorage. Togiak School would like to thank the school board for the opportunity that has been given to these students. It will continue to help them improve their leadership skills.



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

For several years we have had Kristen Barnett from Bates College working with Traditional Council of Togiak. While in Togiak each May, they have partnered with the school and provided lessons on archeology and had students examine artifacts from Old Togiak. Several students have gone over to Old Togiak with Dr. Barnett and worked at the site with them. They have learned how to use drones for aerial mapping and worked to get artifacts returned to Togiak that were taken years ago. Dr. Barnett presented Tuyuryaq: a model for decolonizing learning on college campuses at Bates College and invited 2 students to attend. Kaytreana Green and Kalena Sutton attend with Helen Gregorio as the chaperone. I would like to thank Helen for agreeing to chaperone the trip and the school board for their support in approving the trip. It was a great success and exposed the students to a college environment that will hopefully help them make decisions about their future.

We have hosted High School volleyball, Middle School Volleyball, and wrestling this year. The students continue to step up and be student athletes. We did not have to cancel any trips because of eligibility problems. Enough students have maintained eligible grades to be able to participate all events, although we did have one week with too many of the student athletes already traveling for academic trips to field a team. This is a testament to the students' determination, the willingness of the teacher to host tutoring during practices, and the support of the parents and community for the students. The reason for sports is to help ensure that they students stay engaged in school, and to teach character traits such as determination and resilience. Although the sports program at Togiak may not be the best yet, we are definitely moving forward and other teams need to #MakeWayForTogiak.

We hosted our fall carnival. This is a fundraising event that supports many class activities and sports travel. It was a huge success and we had an increase of profit by almost 30% over last year. It was attended by almost the entire village and provided an opportunity to meet with the parents and community in a fun environment. In our e-week Wilderness survival class, Sam Gosuk had several elders come and present stories about how to survive in an accident to the students. They then built an emergency shelter out of different material and learned how to stay warm and start a fire in wet cold weather.

Togiak school partnered with the City of Togiak and Togiak Traditional Council to send 6 students and 2 chaperones to the Youth and Elder's Conference. TNL and Traditional Council each paid for 3 students and the school paid for the 2 chaperones to attend. The students learned a lot and one Togiak Student was selected as the Bristol Bay Regional Representative. Togiak School has also partnered with the Traditional Council of Togiak and now has a Fabrication Lab set up in Togiak School. During Exploration week 2, students worked with traditional Council of Togiak and moved the equipment. We are in the process of getting it all set up and calibrated, but this will be an amazing opportunity for the students. Togiak School students and staff would like to thank the Traditional Council of Togiak for partnering with us. This will have a positive impact on the school and village.

There are so many positive things happening that I cannot sum them all up in a short newsletter. We would like to invite you to come and see us at the school when you are in Togiak. The students, staff, and I thank you for your dedication and support to our students and school. We are all stronger when we work together toward a goal, and we thank you for your support.

October Student of the Month:

K-2 Rick Antone 3-4: Tiger Lily Petersen 6-8: Taylor Andrew 9-12 Sharisse Dock

October Employee of the Month:

Ina Togiak



Twin Hills School

Naomi Winters, Principal/Teacher

Twin Hills had an interesting month with enrollment. We had five students move out of our school, but then had four students move in, so we are holding steady at 23 students PreK-12!

We were honored to have our Principal accepted into the Alaska K-12 New Principal Academy and Transition Support Induction Program hosted by AASSP, AAESP, and others. As part of this new principal cohort Principal Winters will be building her leadership skills and relationships with her principal colleagues to support learning and leading across Alaska. Principal Winters attended the first session October 22nd and 23rd.

Parent Teacher conferences were well attended: only 2 families did not attend because they were out of town, and they have scheduled a time to meet with the teachers. The school staff appreciates the involvement of the parents in our community.



Twin Hills had fun celebrating Halloween with a carnival. We had a cake walk, fishing booth, eyeball races, a costume contests, and piñatas made by the students. Our second eWeek courses are hydroponics and pinewood derby and the students are looking forward to racing their cars and growing plants in the classroom!

