

REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



**"Ikayurtarluten
yuullgutevnun.**

**Be helpful to one
another."**

--Bristol Bay Yup'ik Values

Board of Education

Kay Andrews, President
Marie Paul, Vice-President
Ferdinand Sharp, Sec./Treas.
Wassillie Wonhola, Member
Wassillie Gust, Member
Helen Gregorio, Member
Dan Nanalook, Jr., Member



Superintendent's Office **Steve Noonkesser, Superintendent**

Site Visits & Travel

Superintendent Noonkesser visited Aleknagik and Togiak this month. Both schools were running well and staff and students busy with the work of learning. In Aleknagik, activities included attending a parent meeting for student activities and sitting in on several classes. In Togiak over two days, activities included a number of meeting with individual staff and parents, in addition to numerous classroom visits and observations.

On September 26 and 27, Steve attended the ASA Conference in Anchorage. Sessions were as always informative and included updates by EED staff on various programs and work with district legal counsel, John Sedor and meetings with our BBRCTE partner districts, Lake and Peninsula Borough School District and Bristol Bay Borough School District.

While in Anchorage, BBBSD and LPBSD superintendents, Bill Hill, Ty Mase and Steve met with BBEDC staff regarding a funding proposal. Joined by DCSD superintendent Jason Johnson, we met with BBNCEF staff regarding ANSEP camps coming up in the spring. Both meetings went very well and we are optimistic about the potential for partnerships going forward.

Staffing

A search has begun to fill two openings, one at Manokotak and one in Ekwok, for classroom teachers. A long term substitute has been hired at Manokotak and another is in the works already for Ekwok. Audra Finkenbinder, Director of Instruction and Sherry Becker, Associate

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Superintendent have put in many hours doing a thorough search to find a qualified candidate. Hiring for these positions is a priority right now, as it directly affects student learning.

Our search continues for a permanent Business Office Manager and we are talking with a candidate this past few days that may be a good fit. While we work towards filling that position we continue to work with Amanda Trangmoe, who we contracted as CFO to oversee audit preparation and help keep things running smoothly. 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.



Special Education
Sherry Becker, Associate Superintendent

Special Education Staff

The special education teachers attended an inservice in Dillingham on Oct. 5 & 6, 2018. LeEsia O’Sullivan assisted in the planning for this inservice and led the majority of the training sessions. Inservice topics included a variety of team building activities, and Vince Henry’s pre-recorded sessions: “When cognitive, Academic, and Other Evaluations Should be Completed”; “Tips for Interpreting Test Scores”; “Skills to Work on for Students with Cognitive Impairment and Educational Needs”; Potential Effects of Language on Academic and Cognitive Performance”; and Effects of Severe Absences of Young Children. Nicole Wagner presented on the Zones of Regulation Social Emotional curriculum, and Mary Lillie presented on High School/Adult Transition for students with Disabilities.

Fall Superintendent Conference

The Associate Superintendent attended the Fall 2018 Superintendent’s Conference in Anchorage on Sept. 26-27. The focus of this conference was primarily on federal education policy, using research to inform policy, and closing the achievement gap: research, theory and practice. There was also a very interesting session with Elizabeth “Liz” La quen naây Medicine Crow. She presented on “Self Determination in Education: Compacting to Transform Student Outcomes and Strengthen Alaska”.

SWRSD Pre-Kindergarten Program

We are very pleased to announce that SWRS has been awarded a two year pre-elementary grant. Our district has been selected to receive \$282,642.57 in year one and \$244,438.90 in year two. This grant will assist in supporting the SWRSD board goals of providing pre-kindergarten options for all 3-5-year-old children. The goals of this program include preparing these children in being more successful in

kindergarten with the result of increased basic reading and math skills throughout their elementary school years. The Koliganek School has 7 students enrolled in their pre-elementary program and the Twin Hills School currently has 7 students enrolled. “Chief” Ivan Blunka School and Aleknagik School are the next two schools that will be enrolling and providing services for preschool-aged students. Clarks Point, Ekwok, Togiak and Manokotak “Nunaniq” School are currently in the planning phase for getting their programs up and running. This pre-elementary grant would not be possible without the dedication of LeEsia O’Sullivan. She worked tirelessly on this project and has done an outstanding job. We truly appreciate her for ensuring that our pre-elementary children have a solid foundation for their education.



LeEsia O’Sullivan
Special Ed. &
ECE Specialist

School Safety Summit

The Associate Superintendent attended the Alaska School Safety and Well Being Summit in Anchorage on 9/18-19. Governor Bill Walker, Lt. Governor Bryon Mallot, Commissioner Michael Johnson, and Attorney General Jahna Lindemuth gave updates on the progress that the state is making in improving the safety and well-being in communities across the state including or schools. A student panel spoke about safety: what made them feel safe in school and what made them feel unsafe in school. Their primary response about feeling safe and unsafe was centered on relationships with staff and students. Keynote Marleen Wong, PhD. Form LA USC, spoke about national trends and perspectives in school safety, mental health and trauma informed schools. She asserted that trauma is a public health issue for children. Jenni Lefing and Norm Wooten presented: “Impacting School Safety and Well-Being Through District Policies”. Dr. J. Butler, Chief Medical Officer for Alaska presented on the opioid epidemic. Alaska Department of Education Deputy Commissioner, Sana Efrid presented briefly and discussed the Alaska Education Challenge and stated that none of this can happen without cultivating safety and well-being. She also spoke about the committee that was formed to work on this. The committee came up with three goals: 1) Improve school climate, 2) Expand trauma engaged practices, and 3) Provide direct access to school based nursing and counseling services for all students.

District Office Updates

Dianna Schollmeier was nominated by her peers as the District Office Employee of the Month for October. A picture of our Employee of the Month is posted in the main floor hallway of the district office. Our first Payday Potluck took place on Monday, October 1st. Lots of great food and good company amongst district office staff. Please take a moment to stop in and check out our Spotlight on Students bulletin board next to the front door of the district office. This month’s board has been updated with photos of students participating in our first Exploration Week activities.

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director of Yup'ik Studies

Qalirneq – Soap Stone Carving (BBNC Mini-grant)

Alfred (Twilly) taught soap stone carving 6 hours per day, to two different 6- 12 grade students. Students created a variety of soapstone and a few ivory pieces. Whales and seals were the most popular things to carve. The art work was displayed at the end of the week community assembly.

This was part of the October e-week focus and class.



Subsistence Class in Togiak: Atik'aq's Story

They were practicing moose calling at a place down from Nap'aq's cabin when one of the kids told the others to all call at the same time. All four called and out came the moose. I whispered to them (I was a bit away from them in front of them) tang taukuk! Everyone got down and they kept coming close enough to be shot.

They had a great time. The students got their share except one who said he didn't want any that their freezer had lots of moose in it. We cooked for our presentation and showed the pictures when it was time to present on Friday. Roger did give a comment also during the presentation and had the students demonstrate exactly the call they did that drew the moose out. It was a great experience for everyone and probably something they will never forget. I am glad we were able to take pictures.

The audience liked it and also the parents.



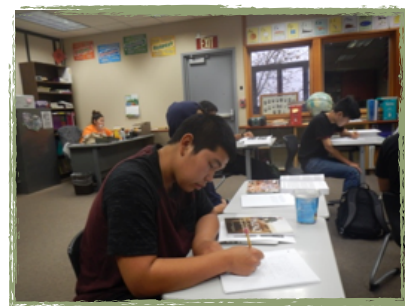
Iquaq – Welcome our new Yup'ik Studies Instructor

Marluq Melanie King was hired as the new Yup'ik Studies instructor. Traveled up to Iquaq on October 1, 2018 to work with Marluq. She will work three classes beginning with K-2 at 1:30- 2:00; 2:00 – 2:30 with the 7th and 8th grade and 3:00- 3:30 with the 4th and 5th grade. She has a total of 16 students. Welcome Marluq!



Alaгнаqіq

YCC 101 taught through the polycom with Yup'ik Studies Instructor Tan'iq Larry Bartman of Manuquuta and Nayangcuk Massas Andrews, Yup'ik Studies Instructional Aide. The students were attentive and knew their expectations and responded with focus and on task. The class went through the review processing using the CD made for the A Practical Grammar of the Central Alaskan Yup'ik Eskimo Language by Steven A. Jacobson with Yup'ik readings by Anna W. Jacobson. I was privilege to give a demonstrated lesson on how to use the Pal'aq's book using the guide, "Snapshot Lessons for Pal'aq".



It was great to able to observe Cuungaq Melody Noden as she taught and was concluding the lesson titled, "Nasaurluq Iqvaryungqellria". The students were able to from, memory, share the story using complete and full sentences. Wow!

Quyana Nayangcuk and Cuungaq.



Highlights of New Teacher Cultural Excursions

Mickia Walcott, Cultural Mentor in New Stuyahok brought Carly Anderson and another teacher up to the old Cetuyaraq village. She was amazed how long the trip was 2.5 hours by skiff. This excursion provided her with an understanding of the connection the Yup'ik people have to the land.

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Instruction

Audra Finkenbinder, Director of Instruction

Time seems to just be flying by - here we are already at the end of the first quarter of the 2018-2019 school year with Parent/Teacher Conferences scheduled for October 18th – 19th.

The last few weeks have been busy for the curriculum and instruction team with the distribution of Science Totes, the completion of the first Exploration Week, and bus driver training.

SCIENCE TOTES

The first set of science totes have been sent to all elementary teachers district-wide with a majority of the focus being life science; biodiversity. The other portion focuses on physical science; properties of matter. With the curriculum team's goal of having the second round of science totes ready and sent to sites around Christmas Break, the elementary teachers have already selected their lessons from the approved list and supply orders have been placed; providing the curriculum team the opportunity to meet the above mentioned goal.



EXPLORATION WEEK

The first of four Exploration Weeks was held September 17th-21st with fun and exciting classes being held across the district for all grade levels. From guitar lessons to hydroponics, teachers and students alike found E-Week enjoyable and inspiring. Some of the feedback provided by teachers includes:

"I had a great time teaching guitar all week. I think the students enjoyed it tremendously, and the concert was successful!"

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TEAM



Charles Becker
Curriculum Specialist



Randy Finkenbinder
Curriculum Specialist

“Within our school there is a strong relationship between the older and younger students. The older students really took on the role of being mentors and teachers to the younger students.”

“Students were consistently engaged in the lessons, participated willingly in conversational practice, and completed the assigned research project and conversation “final.” On multiple occasions, students in this class asked questions that expanded on the vocabulary and grammar presented, and it is this wish to know more to which I most attribute the feeling that this class was successful.”

BUS DRIVER TRAINING

Bus driver training is a difficult task as it requires multiple steps and trainings: the Type S Endorsement, which is the most difficult and elusive, was offered in Dillingham during the week of October 1st-5th. After a lot of research and multiple phone calls, Randy Finkenbinder was able to secure the CDL and Type S Endorsement instructor for the State of Alaska, Dean Blood, to travel to Dillingham. Ten drivers from across the district attended and received their Type S endorsement; three of the ten drivers are now fully licensed and can drive a school bus while the other seven who earned their Type S endorsement are eligible to complete the CDL portion. Randy is now attempting to procure another training session for the seven drivers to earn their CDL so that they too may drive a school bus that contains 16+ passengers.



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Information Systems

Les Parks, Director of Technology

New Equipment & Upgrades

Les and Corey traveled to Koliganek and Ekwok to update student computers and install projectors and AppleTVs. They also performed various tasks as requested by site personnel, such as installing or moving printers, setting up staff to print to copy machines, and removing outdated technology.

Mickia Walcott worked with Les and Corey to perform the student computer updates for New Stuyahok and to install their new projectors. A big thank you to Mickia for getting that done, allowing Les and Corey to concentrate on sites that do not have a tech person on staff.

Les and Corey are planning trips to Togiak and Twin Hills the week of October 15. Meanwhile, Jerry Jones, a qualified electrician on staff in Togiak, is installing the necessary electrical connections to support the new projectors and AppleTV installations. A big thank you to Jerry Jones for this help!

Special Projects

Corey worked with Jason Munster in the maintenance department to purchase, configure, and distribute iPads to maintenance staff across the district. He also facilitated a one-day training for maintenance staff to teach them to use the iPads to communicate in real-time using FaceTime and the camera capabilities so that staff at district office can see the equipment through the eyes of site staff, allowing them to better troubleshoot issues and offer guidance and solutions to problems.

Corey also helped get the maintenance staff into the online work order system, School Dude, through their new iPads.



Corey Evans
Technology
Specialist





State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director of State & Federal Programs

Title I-C Migrant Education

Recruiters have been working hard to contact every family in every community. A trip to New Stuyahok occurred in September to support Makayla's recruiting efforts. In one day, 45% of New Stuyahok families came to the school to be interviewed. It is family support like this that allowed Makayla to reach out to the rest of the community over the next few days to complete all fall recruiting efforts for New Stuyahok. A migrant recruiting trip is planned to Togiak this October, to hold family migrant interviews during parent teacher conferences. Currently Togiak has about 50% of family interviews completed, and hopes to come close to completing all interviews with this upcoming trip. All other communities are mostly 80% complete with recruiting efforts.

Migrant Services for August and September include:

- Active recruiting efforts are underway so that we can start focusing on services to students.
- Aleknagik has started looking into scholastic orders to support migrant literacy programs.
- Dual credit opportunities were offered to two students seeking college math credit.

- A proposal for National Close-up has been submitted for seniors involved with student council in Togiak.

As of October 9th, 128 students have been approved by the state as eligible for the Migrant Education Program. Another 38 students have been submitted to EED for approval. This number does not include potential migrant students whose paperwork is in progress. The deadline for having students approved as eligible for funding under the Migrant Education program is November 15th.

Letters have been mailed to the parents of all students who have been approved by the Dept. of Education and Early Development as eligible for Migrant Education.

Assessments

Applications have been approved by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) to re-enroll SWRSD sites to the Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS). The Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS) is an annually updated, comprehensive career and educational research and exploration system for teens and adults. AKCIS is a dynamic web-based program that

STATE & FEDERAL PROGRAMS TEAM



Steve Ito
District Lead
Counselor &
Test Coordinator



Kyle Schneider
Student Support
Specialist



Dianna Schollmeier
Title Services
Specialist

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

can easily navigate between occupational information, the related programs of study, with the schools and programs nationwide that offer the training.

The Alaska Developmental Profiles for Kindergarten students were completed district-wide before the EED deadline of November 1st. The purpose of the Alaska Developmental Profile is to identify, record and summarize the skills and behaviors students demonstrate at the beginning of their kindergarten year, based on teacher observations. Kindergarten teachers districtwide did an outstanding job getting this task done in a timely manner.

Career & Technical Education: BBRCTE

BBRCTE session I came to a successful close in September. There are now 9 students in our region that are returning to their communities with Emergency Trauma and Technician certification! Six students started Medical Terminology and will return during session II to complete their Medical Terminology course for 3 credits. Both these courses are supporting our students that hope to pursue careers in the Allied Health field.

Applications have gone out to our students for session II. They will be able to apply for opportunities in health, construction, environmental, and marine fields.

Dillingham will be completing the Medical Terminology course and offering Introduction to Behavioral Health. This course will teach students about key topics in behavioral health including wellness techniques, self-care, grief, and mental health while discovering career paths within the field. Students will explore careers including counselors, psychologists, psychiatrists, behavioral health aides, and other positions within the field of behavioral health and human services, and upon

successful completion, they will receive Mental Health First Aid Certification.

Naknek will offer three courses: Home and Solar Energy, Introduction to Nautical Skills, and NCCER Core Curriculum Training. The two dual-credit course, Home and Solar Energy, presents an overview of space heating, and electricity use and production for Alaskan homes and small businesses, fundamentals of building energy flows, energy efficiency, and methods for decreasing fuel use in your home. AVTEC will join our students to provide USGS Merchant Mariners Credentials via an introduction to nautical skills course. This course will focus on maritime career awareness, chart navigation, safety of life at sea, time/speed/distance problems, nautical courtesy, basic rules of the road, knot tying and the marlin spike. The last course is for students interested in the construction field. Key concepts will include: basic safety, introduction to construction math, introduction to hand tools, introduction to power tools, reading construction/blueprint drawings, basic rigging, basic communication skills, and basic employability skills. Students completing the NCCER core curriculum course will be given a chance to take the NCCER certification exam and receive three dual-credits.

Fall OASIS (Count Period)

The fall count period began on October 1st and runs through October 26th. School secretaries, principals, and Special Education staff have been assisting by checking the accuracy of student data. The Fall OASIS report must be submitted to the state by November 9th. This report will contain data about every student enrolled in the district. The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development then uses the enrollment data contained in the report to determine funding levels.

IMPACT AID

The Impact Aid count day is October 26th this year. The following week, secretaries will begin confirming data about where students live and the adults they live with. Once students' information is confirmed, the data will be compiled and sent to village entities, BBNA, and the state tax assessor who certify that the information that will be sent to the U.S. Department of Education is correct.

ESSA – Title IA

A parent and Tribal Council survey was sent out in an effort to increase communication and consultation when developing, implementing, and evaluation district programs. Southwest Region School District realizes the importance that parents and Tribal organizations play in the education of our children. The survey will provide critical information in regards to the overall operation of district programs. Tribal representatives will also be invited to attend a public meeting at their respective schools to review educational programs and provide input regarding those programs. In addition, information regarding the equal participation in educational programs and extra-curricular activities of Alaska Native/American Indian students when compared to other students will be presented.

Title IA is involved with pre-K programs in the district through the support of the ECE Specialist and other personnel involved in the development and implementation of pre-K programs. This is an exciting opportunity to partner with other organizations and district departments to support an identified need throughout our communities.



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Aleknagik School

Miranda Bacha, Principal/Teacher

We are very excited to be have extended Kindergarten to full-day this year and the students are getting into their routines now. The students are really benefiting from having the additional time at school. We are also in the process of beginning a part-time Pre-school program this year. Parents have begun to register their children and are excited to have this opportunity in Aleknagik now.

The Aleknagik CSC has been meeting each month and working with the school to plan activities in order to fundraise for a guitar class and next year's high school trip. We really appreciate the community's support.

Middle and high school students completed the first e-week and learned how to latch-hook, deconstruct and build a shed, paint, and take various types of photos and portraits. The second e-week will offer middle and high school students opportunities to learn piano, cooking, quilting, and other crafts such as making earrings using antlers.



Elementary, Middle, and High school students are taking Yupik and they are really enjoying it. It is amazing how quickly they are learning new vocabulary. They are also taking Yupik art and the elementary students are learning how to bead. The high school Yupik class is being taught by distance delivery and Larry Bartman is doing a terrific job!

This is the first year, Aleknagik is offering Pre-Calculus and Theatre and Film Production. Students are excited about taking both courses. Students are learning a lot about functions, solving equations, and graphing in Pre-Calculus. In the Theatre course, students are currently reading scripts and they recently completed a unit on the process of filming, sound, and lighting.

The high school girls' volleyball team has been quite dedicated and practicing every day after school. Go Lakers!



Clarks Point School

Shannon Harvilla, Principal/Teacher

Clarks Point has remained stable at 16 students. The students completed Exploration week 1 at Clarks Point School. Kindergarten to 3rd grade students learned how to cross stitch while the older students built an indoor garden. In addition, the students have started a worm bin, in order to learn about nutrients in the soil. Clarks Point would like to again thank The Board and District Office staff for all the effort that has made school at Clarks Point a fun and rewarding experience for everyone.



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



William 'Sonny' Nelson School

Angela Bennett, Lead Teacher

William 'Sonny' Nelson school has a current enrollment of 15 students. The students completed our first Exploration week in Ekwok. All grade levels participated in the pinewood derby project. In addition, the students went on nature walks, identifying the flora and fauna, as well as identifying bird species that we encountered along the way. Our Elder program is going very well, with elders coming to our school during lunch to eat with the students and also joining the adult/elder's walking class on Tues. and Thurs. Our Yupik studies program was started this week. The Fluoride program on Thursday's is up and running. We have had staff meetings where we are engaging in creating plans for the upcoming Fall Festival and our next Exploration week. We have had a wonderful community environmental meeting discussing environmental impacts on our village. We have implemented the after school extended learning program that is held on, Mon., Wed, ad Fridays. We have started our open gym program and it is going well. The end of quarter is Oct. 12th with report cards going out next week. We will have our Parent Teacher conferences next Thursday and Friday.





Koliganek School

Deb Forkner, Principal

Koliganek School STEPP needs assessment has been completed and the school wide goals for this year are

By the end of the 2018-19 school year, 80% of all students will meet their expected growth rate on the MAP reading assessment.

By the end of the 2018-19 school year, 80% of all students will meet their expected growth rate on the MAP math assessment.

At contract offer time, 95% of certified staff members will commit to returning to Koliganek for the 2019-20 school year.

School strengths are that Koliganek School has a very positive school climate. There is a strong consistent core of classified staff, however the turn-over in certified staff members, particularly at the secondary level has affected student achievement. The addition of increased time for Pre-school students, a shop program and enhanced Yupik program this year all will hopefully increase student engagement and the school's connection with the community.

Staff and students are looking forward to the November Exploration week. The Middle and High School students will learn chose from the following classes: cutting board making, intermediate guitar, music theory, simple meals, and governmental procedures. Elementary students will spend time doing STEAM activities like designing and constructing bridges from popsicle sticks.

As the first fourth of the school year comes to an end we look forward to Parent/Teacher Conferences, a Halloween carnival and home volleyball and wrestling meets.

“Pride in Our Past, Purpose in Our Future” continues to be the focus at Koliganek School

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 October is: “Be helpful to one another.” It is so great to see everyone demonstrate these incredible values and to be appropriately recognized for doing so.

Exploration Week was a huge success in September, and we are already planning and looking forward to the November session. We will be offering the following secondary courses in November: Subsistence Meat Processing, Hydroponics, Wood Burning, American Sign Language II, Embroidery, Baking, and Academic Improvements. We are also excited to be sending a large group of students to the National Close Up conference in Washington DC in collaboration with Togiak School and hoping that several students get accepted into the BBRCTE sessions. In the elementary we will be offering: Beading, Constellations, Ice Cream Making, Musical Instrument Construction, Fish Dissection, Sensory, and Yup’ik Cooking. The students and staff are very excited about these highly engaging course offerings!



In our Professional Learning Communities, every staff member has designed a professional growth and development plan. The certified staff uses iObservation and the Marzano teaching framework for their plan while the classified staff uses a tool that has been aligned with the components of their evaluation. Both sets of plans allow staff members to choose target elements, use scales to define a starting point and ending point, design goals and action steps, and reflect on their progress throughout the year. Our hope is that this process will help all of our staff members to collaborate and grow as educators in our continued effort to provide students with an excellent educational experience!

We were so very proud to have four student athletes represent Chief Ivan Blunka School and Southwest Region School District when they competed at the state cross-country championships. Both our high school and middle school volleyball teams just began their season and are looking very strong. The New Stuyahok Fabricators (NSF) have been active and recently utilized their amazing skills to teach the elementary students how to make customized stickers. We have also had a great turnout at wrestling practice for students of all ages, as our head coach is committed to building an excellent program. 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!



Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Dustin Wright, Principal

As we so quickly approach the end of 1st quarter, we have a number of recent highlights at Nunaniq School:

September Students of the Month are Garrett Kashatok, Caldron Nanalook, Trinity Eager, and Riley Rogers, who were recognized at a school-wide assembly that also featured Mr. O'Sullivan receiving a new coif from high-performing PEAK students. Additionally, we acknowledged and celebrated Indigenous Peoples Day, recognizing students Rylan Pavian and Emery Darling and staff member Grace Gamechuk for their outstanding participation and representation



After school activities currently include academic tutoring and wrestling and volleyball team practices. We look forward to once again participating in the after-school snack program to support all students with extra-curricular involvement.

Nunaniq Student Council has been active, approving new business at weekly meetings. President Riley Rogers was a candidate for the District level student government offices of both President and Vice President. Secretary Rehanna Moore will be representing the district as an attendee of the AASB Youth Leadership Institute. Numerous student council members have applied for leadership opportunities and to serve the State of Alaska as Youth Vote Ambassadors in the upcoming election.

We hosted a recent visit by BBEDC, who shared information with high school students regarding scholarship and employment opportunities. An upcoming community activity is Rock the Vote with UTBB. We look forward to hosting several district athletic events in November: first, high school volleyball (a tournament to determine the qualifying team for Regions); then, middle school volleyball, and finally, wrestling, which will bring us to the Thanksgiving holiday and the commencement of basketball season.

We offer sincere condolences to the family members, staff, and students at Nunaniq and Togiak Schools that have been so profoundly affected by recent passings. Challenging times like these particularly remind us of the importance of the closeness and connection of our schools and communities.

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Togiak School

Michael Lee, Principal

September has been a great month in Togiak. There have been so many exciting things going on in Togiak. We hosted cross country on August 31. It was an exciting meet with runners from Koliganek, Manokotak, Dillingham, New Stuyahok, and Twin Hills. Twin Hills was able to attend the Pep Rally and witness in the Battle of the Bone spirit contest. It has been great to have our pep rallies led by the student government. The student body of Togiak School has really stepped up and taken a leadership role in the school. It has been wonderful watching the students grow over the years.

Empowering student leadership has been a significant reason for the improvement in the school. In the first exploration week Togiak had 3 students complete the Emergency Trauma Technician course and certification. This is a great complement to the Emergency Behavioral Health certification that several students obtained last year. We are equipping the students to be prepared to be the village leaders of tomorrow. Togiak had two students that ran for the district student government. Maya Geltzer was elected as the president and Alyssa Coopchiak was elected as secretary. We are looking forward to the opportunities for personal growth that this opportunity will have for them. Alyssa Coopchiak and 2 other students will be attending the Youth Leaders Institute in conjunction with Alaska Association of School Board. We would like to thank the School Board and the School Board Association for this opportunity.

Togiak School has partnered with Traditional Council of Togiak and The City of Togiak to send 6 students and 2 chaperones to Alaska Federation of Natives. We are excited for this opportunity for our students to experience their culture and meet others from across Alaska. We also have 2 students traveling to Bates College in Maine to attend a presentation by Bates College about the archeology investigation at Old Togiak. It has been a very beneficial partnership between Togiak Traditional Council, Bates College, The National Science Foundation, and Togiak School. We have 4 students that are traveling to Washington DC with the student government from New Stuyahok to attend Close Up at our Nation's Capital.

The hallways of our elementary look like an ocean wonderland as Kindergarten through 5th grade have been working on the first thematic unit based on ocean life. It has been great to see all of the elementary teachers collaborating together with cross curriculum and multi grade level assignments. The competition for the Cafeteria Fork award has been



fierce. We ended September with a three way tie between 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade. All three grades earned a pizza party for their class.

We also have been working very hard to communicate the Yup'ik Value of the month. Our Yup'ik Value for September was “Qigcikuluku nunamta atullerkaa” which means to “Have respect for our land and its resources.” Students were given extra Husky Bucks for demonstrating the Yup'ik Value of the Month and a video was posted to Facebook with students explaining the value of the month. Many students had an e-week class where they did school and environmental cleanup and improvements. It helps the students take pride in the school and the surrounding community. We have also had elders visiting the classrooms and several parents have earned a volunteer t-shirt.

There have been so many things to celebrate in Togiak. It was a wonderful month and we are thankful for all of the assistance that the School Board provides. You are always welcome to come and visit the school and earn a Husky Volunteer t-shirt.





Twin Hills School

Naomi Winters, Principal/Teacher

We've been working hard in Twin Hills! Our first eWeek sessions are complete. The middle and high school students studied chemical reactions and had a great time completing many different experiments. They also participated in a yearbook class and wrote articles to include in our first yearbook. The elementary students studied chemical reactions in the afternoon and had great fun with making rock candy and exploring chemical reactions by making a volcano.

Our Wolf Cubs program is going well. The students have been focusing on literacy by hearing a story several times during the week, and then acting it out on Friday. Both the elementary and preschool students have loved acting out stories such as Three Billy Goats Gruff and the Three Little Pigs.

Twin Hills was happy to send two students to the Elder and Youth conference in Anchorage. Our village council sent one middle schooler and one Freshman to the conference. They had a great time and shared what they learned with their peers.

