

# REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



**"Qigcikluku nunamta atullerkaa.**

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

**--Bristol Bay Yup'ik Values**

## **Board of Education**

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## **Superintendent's Office**

**Steve Noonkesser, Superintendent**

### **Site Visits**

Superintendent Noonkesser was able to attend the first day of school at William 'Sonny' Nelson School in Ekwok. The students were excited to meet new staff and a number of community members also came to the school to meet. Steve was also able to visit Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School during the past few weeks. Schools are off to a good start and we are now already into our first eWeek across the district.

### **Superintendent Travel**

The Alaska Association of School Administrators (ASA) and the Department of Education and Early Development (EED) held their annual Summer Meeting in Juneau on July 28th-30th. On Saturday, Steve attended discussions and sessions held for new and incoming superintendents. The sessions were informative and helpful in a transition to a new role in the district. On Sunday, the meetings continued with discussions about growing our own educators, the Alaska K-12 Broadband Initiative, the Alaska Education Challenge, and an update on federal policy regarding education. The keynote speaker, Dr. David Schuler, National Superintendent of the Year spoke about our responsibility to the public and the importance of promoting the good work being done each day for students across our districts. Later in the afternoon, the group was honored to have some time with Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott. He spoke about our legacy, how history sees us and the work we do with students and

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communities. His comments on how a society treats its elders and youth struck a powerful chord with me, personally.

The meetings continued on Monday at the Department of Education's offices. Commissioner Johnson welcomed the superintendents and provided information regarding changes regulations, reflections on the PEAKS assessment and potential changes coming in that area. There were also sessions presented by Bob Williams, Director of Teaching and Learning, on the state's new accountability system and the intent of the program. There was also a good discussion of CTE programs around the state. The BBRCTE program was one of those highlighted as an example of collaboration. The day ended with an exploration of virtual reality, which has come a long way and become relatively inexpensive. There was also a three-hour session with all DEED staff available for districts to address individual concerns.

## Awards

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

### Classified Employee of the Year

- Denise Gregoire – District Office

### Instructional Aide of the Year

- Richard Togiak - Togiak

### Teacher of the Year

- Amanda Duvall – Togiak

### 40 Years

- Grace Gamechuk – Manokotak
- Tatianna Andrew – New Stuyahok

### 20 Years

- Melody Noden - Aleknagik
- Margaret Hiratsuka - Koliganek
- Vera Blunka – New Stuyahok
- Rick Dallmann – District Office

### 15 Years

- Natalia Ishnook - Koliganek
- Elena Norbert - Koliganek
- Agnes Ceballos - Manokotak
- Leo Kasak - Togiak
- Jessica Mark – Twin Hills

### 10 Years

- Pauline Askoak – New Stuyahok
- Peter Yukluk – New Stuyahok

### 5 Years

- Debra Forkner - Koliganek
- Clayton Lamphear – New Stuyahok
- Kylie Shuneson – New Stuyahok
- Gayle Bartman – Manokotak
- Edward George – Manokotak
- Ariel Gloko - Manokotak
- Rachel Nukwak-King – Manokotak
- Ariana Tikiun - Manokotak
- Evelyn Coopchiak – Togiak
- Louise Franklin - Togiak
- Gary Nicholi - Togiak



## Special Education

### Sherry Becker, Associate Superintendent

#### Special Education Staff

The special education department is pleased to welcome back six special education teachers this school year. This includes two teachers, Ann Marie “Mickey” Pender who has transferred from Twin Hills to Koliganek and Monica Turrentine who has transferred from Ekwok to Togiak. Shannon Jones has also joined the special education team this year. Shannon has been a kindergarten teacher for the past two years in Togiak. We are also happy to welcome “new to our district” special education teachers Naomi Winters and Miranda Bacha. Naomi will also be a general education teacher and principal in Twin Hills and Miranda will be a general education teacher as well as a principal in Aleknagik this year. Finally, Ekwok’s new special education teacher is Katy Smith.

#### Special Education and Early Childhood Education Specialist – LeEsia O’Sullivan

LeEsia is returning to SWRS this year however, in a new position. She is the Special Education and Early Childhood Education Specialist and will be assisting staff throughout the school district. She provided the “new to district” special education teacher inservice in August and continues to provide support to all special education teachers district-wide. LeEsia has also been very busy assisting principals with planning for and starting their school’s pre-kindergarten program.



LeEsia O’Sullivan  
Special Ed. &  
ECE Specialist

#### SWRSD Pre-Kindergarten Program

SWRSD has been approved by EED to begin a district-wide pre-kindergarten program. This approval has not come with any funding however we are in the process of applying for the recently announced pre-elementary grant funds. LeEsia O’Sullivan is currently working on the application for this grant in collaboration with the Associate Superintendent and BBNA Head Start staff. 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. Curriculum has been purchased for the pre-kindergarten programs, trainings have begun and individual schools are signing up to be added to the program as we have the capacity throughout the school year. Pre-kindergarten programs/services will look different throughout the district however all will be focusing on the same goals/outcomes. The Parents as Teachers grant will be applied for later this school year as well.

#### BBNA Head Start Collaboration

A split-funded certificated teacher, Carly Anderson, has been hired for the New Stuyahok Head Start classroom. SWRSD and BBNA Head Start will share the training and supervision responsibilities of this staff member. We are also in the planning stages for how specifically we will be providing pre-kindergarten

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services for children that are on the waiting list for Head Start and for those children whose parents have chosen not to send their children to Head Start.

## **School Psychologist/Counselor – Vince Henry**

Since the start of the school year, along with planning and prep for this year's round of evaluations, district-wide standards for Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) instruction are being prepared for submission to the board in the near future. The purpose of this proposal would be to provide added support and resources (strategies + curriculum options) for teachers and/or sites that may wish to incorporate SEL as part of their schedule going forward. Additionally, the universal screenings for students' level of social-emotional competency that took place last spring in Togiak & Manokotak are being prepared, with some adjustments, for a full rollout that will hopefully span the entire school year this year. Small group instruction in SEL covering topics such as social skills, self-regulation and learning respect for community, others and self is getting underway in Togiak as well. Much work has also gone into preparing to teach the Youth Mental Health 1st Aid course coming up on October 10th in Dillingham. There will be 13 elders from Togiak, Manokotak & New Stuyahok in attendance through the RuralCAP program as well as members from the general public. Plans are also being made for additional classes around the region.



**Vince Henry**  
**School**  
**Psychologist**

## **Fall Inservice**

Due to weather, our district-wide Fall Inservice was cancelled. We were able to provide two days of inservice with principals, one day for new special education teachers and two days for our "new to district" staff. Topics not covered at the fall inservice will be covered during an alternate professional development schedule throughout the school year.

## **School Safety**

Principals, Directors and district office specialists participated in a full day training on Campus Emergencies Prevention, Response, and Recovery provided by FEMA certified trainers.

## **Spotlights on Excellence**

When you get a chance, please be sure to check out the following: Spotlight of Students Bulletin Board; Spotlight on Staff Bulletin Board; District Office Events Bulletin Board which highlights the District Office Employee of the Month and announces our Monthly Birthday Celebration and our Monthly Payday CrockPot/Potluck events.

## **Social Media**

SWRSD is now on Twitter! Our account is @akswrsd and we have created the following hashtag #swrsdProud. We are taking advantage of social media in this format to highlight the amazing students and staff in our district. Please take a moment to check us out over the next few months – our students and staff are doing some pretty amazing things!





## Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director of Yup'ik Studies

### New Teacher Orientation

The following mentors Umiinaiyuk Joe Coolidge Jr. of Alaqnaq; Kiarpiak Judy George of Saguyaq; Amarculi Mary Ann Mochin of Manuquutaq; Angalkunak of Ingricuar and Atik'aq Sam Gosuk of Tuyuryaq helped with the new teacher orientation session. We touched on the importance of the culture of the Yup'ik region with a special focus on the importance of the salmon and it's special relationship to the people. The mentors will have an opportunity to take the mentees (new teachers) out and introduce them to the village and take them out on a cultural excursion.

### New Yup'ik Studies Instructors

We would like to WELCOME Anguksaur (Ruben Richards) a Cup'ik speaker originally from Mekoryak but currently lives in Saguyaq. He is off to a good start and will be using the K-2nd TPRS Curriculum. He is excited to learn the proper Yup'ik way of speaking here in the Bristol Bay region. Qu yana Angusaur!

Nayangcuk in Alaqnaq will be teaching YCC 101 Introduction to Yugtun. It was a delight to watch as she prepared for her class. The class consisted of all boys. So they have great things planned for the semester. Qu yana Nayangcuk!

We also welcome Tumaralia Elena Johnson and Taluuraq Natalia Ishnook of Qalirneq will be teaching Yup'ik Only Rule for the middle school students. They have embraced the Yup'ik Only Rule curriculum and will be implementing the activities with students who are eager to learn the conversational skills of the Yup'ik language. Qu yana Tumaralia and Taluuraq!

### TPRS Implemented

Cikiar Genevieve Kapatak will continue to teach at the lower elementary level implementing the TPRS (Total Physical Response Storytelling) curriculum. It was wonderful to observe how engaged the students were in using this method. Qu yana Cikiar!

### Yugtun Language App 2018-2019

Last spring the board approved monies to move forward with the Yugtun Language App. In addition, the University of Alaska Fairbanks/Bristol Bay Campus supported our endeavors with \$35000.00. We are excited and look forward to the end result. Qu yana cakneq!

The following met on August 27, 2018 here in Dillingham to work on the Yugtun Language App- Angutekayak Louise Gloko, Yup'ik Studies Manuquutaq, Tan'iq Larry Bartman, Yup'ik Studies Manuquutaq, Kiarpiar Fanny Parker, Yup'ik Studies Tuyuryaq, Cungass'aq Grace Gamechuk, Yup'ik Studies Manuquutaq, Cuungaq Melody Noden, Yup'ik Studies Alaqnaq, Tat'iq Tatianna Andrew, Yup'ik Studies Cetuyaraq, Ellmikutuar Margie Hasting, BBC and Community Member of Cetuyaraq, Agay'aq Lucy Andrews, Elder Community Member of Tuyuryaq, Tamarqalria Helen Gregorio, SWRSD board member & community member of Tuyuryaq and Arnaq Esther Ilutsik, Director of Yup'ik Studies, Curyung.

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## Travel: Alaska Arts Convergence 2018 in Fairbanks September 6–8

Key Note Speaker: Ernestine Hayes, Alaska State Writer Laureate, American Book Awardee, author of *Blonde Indian*, *The Tao of Raven: An Alaska Native Memoir and Juneau*, and *M.F.A.* Professor of English Arts and Sciences-Humanities with the University of Alaska Southeast gave a powerful key note address. She used the Raven story of how he acquired the light from the cedar bark box. She used this model of the cedar bark box as an analogy and took us through imagining what we might find if we opened different boxes with labels of the different eras and history of our Alaska Native people of what might be revealed. How do we take that knowledge and utilized it to educate our people?

Tat'iq Tatianna Andrews of Cetuyaraq, Cungass'aq Grace Gamechuk of Manuquutaq and Cuungaq Melody Noden of Alaqnaqiq all participated in this conference. An idea evolved out of Ernestine Hayes keynote address. Cungass'aq, Cuungaq and Tat'iq would create a "Box of Knowledge". With the completed box of knowledge they will travel out to the different sites and present the information to other Yup'ik Studies classrooms. The students would be able to experience other Yup'ik Studies instructors in the district. We also visited the Museum of the North and were awed by materials stored ... a sample net made in Cetuyaraq to name a few. Also, we were able to have a private session with Annie Calkins who helped us "Unpack the Alaska State Arts Standards for All". We are looking at cultural kits created by Yurliq Nita Rearden and having her come out and work with the lower elementary staff (Certified and Paraprofessionals). They would help with e-week cultural and arts program.

Quyana, Tat'iq, Cungass'aq and Cuungaq for participating in the Alaska Arts Convergence.





## Instruction

**Audra Finkenbinder, Director of Instruction**

The new school year is underway and already at the midpoint of the first quarter. Every year prior to the first day of school, administrators and teachers from all sites attend inservice in Dillingham. This year however, weather greatly hampered this tradition and only allowed the administrators, new special education teachers, and new-to-district teachers to make it to Dillingham for a brief period of time. Flexibility on everyone's part permitted a change of plans for the fall inservice and some sessions were provided via distance delivery. Between sessions, site specific trainings took place and teachers were able to spend much needed time to prepare their classrooms for the first day of school on August 20th.

In preparation for the new year, Charles Becker attended a Reading Mastery "Train the Trainer" workshop over the summer. This will help the district achieve its goal of "Academic Growth for All and help ensure all students read on grade level by third grade." The Reading Mastery program is in its eighth year of use for grades K-5.

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

This year marks the seventh year of using the science kits for all K-5 students. The students have enjoyed all the hands-on activities the last six years and that enjoyment will continue as science totes are built to suite each class. In addition to the science totes, SWRSD has received a one-year trial of online Mystery Science lessons; all of which will spark interest and engage students! GO Math is in its fifth year of use across the district. The students' level of comfort and understanding of GO Math have increased over the years and we look forward to that continuing this year. We will continue utilizing the Math Daily Review activity as well as Reflex Math; the supplemental online math program to assist with fluency in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

## INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TEAM



**Charles Becker**  
Curriculum Specialist



**Randy Finkenbinder**  
Curriculum Specialist

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

We are embarking on the third year of Exploration Weeks with the first Exploration Week scheduled for September 17th -21st. In addition to site offerings, high school students also have the opportunity to apply to attend Exploration Weeks in Dillingham and/or Naknek. Not only do the secondary students get to participate in E-Week, elementary students (grades K-5) also get to explore new topics and activities in the afternoon. Students across the district look forward to the change of pace and different activities with the arrival of each Exploration Week. There is now a document available for teachers and the public which outlines the purpose, scope, function, and organization of Exploration Weeks. The document is called “Exploration Week - Frequently Asked Questions” and is the result of teacher input over the last two years, combined with solutions and best practices offered up by principals during the May Leadership Meeting.

We are all looking forward to a great year!







## Information Systems

### Les Parks, Director of Technology

#### New Student Equipment & Upgrades

Les has been working out a strategy to update student laptops to macOS 12.6 so that they once again can be used to administer the NWEA MAP testing. Over the summer NWEA revised their system such that the macOS currently installed on the student laptops was no longer a viable testing solution. As a result, sites have been completing the first MAP tests this year on iPads.

Les now has a solution worked out and is replicating upgrade USB sticks so that this process can be carried out in mass. The next step will be to travel to sites to complete the process.

Corey has been preparing the new iPads, projectors, and Apple TVs for deployment. He has already completed the installation of the Apple TVs and projectors in Aleknagik, where maintenance was installed the necessary power and ceiling mounts for the projectors.



**Corey Evans**  
Technology  
Specialist

#### Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

Most sites have completed and submitting the CIPA lesson planning guide for this first quarter, and some sites have already delivered the lessons to the students. Commonsense Media has thrown us a slight curve by altering the design of their site, thus breaking most of the links to the lessons. In some cases they have eliminated some of the lessons we have long relied upon. We are still able to meet this E-rate requirement using the Commonsense Media site, but these changes have caused a slight

disruption for some sites when lessons were available one day and gone the next.

#### eRate Ineligible Cost Allocation

Head start and preschool students, teachers, and classrooms are not eligible to receive services funded by E-rate subsidies. As we are expanding our services in these areas, it has become necessary to begin to cost allocate accordingly. We have worked out a fair, defensible, and concise method for doing so, and Les will be configuring our networks, documenting the scenario, and cost allocating the ineligible charges out of our E-rate award for the 2018 funding year.

#### Special Projects

The New Stuyahok FabLab is looking to “up their game,” and has a professional graphic artist coming during this first E-week to “share her magic.” Josh Gates, John Clouse, Mickia Walcott, and Les collaborated together to make this endeavor successful by purchasing the required software and installing it on the FabLab iMacs that control the CNC equipment, on Josh Gates teacher laptop, and on the laptops of the students who are taking the W-week course.

Other students will be attending a coding class in Naknek during E-week with Jim Dube of Lake and Peninsula School District. Jim and Les have worked together to ensure Jim will have the necessary administrative access to the SWRS student computers to make the class successful.

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## State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director of State & Federal Programs

### Federal Programs Team

The Federal Programs team is comprised by an incredible group of individuals with skillsets that are a tremendous asset to the district, staff, students, and communities that we serve. Steve Ito has 18 years with SWRSD in a number of capacities. He is currently the District Test Coordinator, Homeless Liaison, Foster Care point of contact, and District Counselor. Kyle Schneider is in his 7th year with the district also has a number of roles including Student Support Specialist and Migrant Records Manager. Dianna Schollmeier is in her 4th year with the district and also has a number of responsibilities related federal programs including Migrant Program Specialist and Title IA Specialist. Jon Clouse is starting his 18th year with the district and is the Federal Programs Director. The team often works on similar projects and so this report is the combination of each team member's efforts since the beginning of the school year. We are excited to be starting another school year and supporting staff and students on their educational journey.

### Title I-C Migrant Education

Kyle Schneider traveled to Anchorage with Jon Clouse and Dianna Schollmeier at the end of August to receive training from EED's Migrant Education Program on recruiting and managing Migrant Education records. Staff from Manokotak, New Stuyahok, and Koliganek also traveled into Anchorage to learn about the changes to the Migrant Education recruiting process under ESSA. Migrant recruiting for Togiak and the smaller schools will be conducted from the District Office. Children's eligibility is determined by whether or not they have made qualifying "moves". A "move" means that a child took a trip of more than 20 miles for either commercial or subsistence fishing and stayed away from home for 7 nights / 8 days throughout the year. Children can also qualify if they "move" to another district for the required length of time (this can be for fishing or certain other activities). Most of the students we recruit have either "moved" to fish camp or to Dillingham for commercial or subsistence fishing in the summer.

## STATE & FEDERAL PROGRAMS TEAM



Steve Ito  
District Lead  
Counselor &  
Test Coordinator



Kyle Schneider  
Student Support  
Specialist



Dianna Schollmeier  
Title Services  
Specialist



## Migrant Recruiter Site & Contact Info

- Aleknagik : Dianna Schollmeier 907-842-5287 ext 310
- Clarks Point: Dianna Schollmeier 907-842-5287 ext 310
- Ekwok: Pam Johnson 907-596-3444; pjohnson@swrd.org
- Koliganek: Natalia Ishnook & Pam Johnson 907-596-3444
- Manokotak: Virginia Bartman 907-289-1013
- New Stuyahok: Makayla Walcott 907-693-3144
- Togiak: Dianna Schollmeier 907-842-5287 ext 310
- Twin Hills: Dianna Schollmeier 907-842-5287 ext 310
- Recruiting support: Jon Clouse & Kyle Schneider 907-842-5287

All migrant recruiting for the 2019-2020 school year, needs to be completed by October 15th. District staff plan to travel to the communities of New Stuyahok (September 24th) and Togiak (1st week of October) to support the local recruiting efforts. Below is an update of migrant services provided last spring/summer.

In the beginning of June, a scholastic summer fiction and non-fiction book pack was sent out to all migrant students.

- In May and June, two weeks of summer school services were provided to migrant students in Koliganek with a reading and math focus.
- All qualifying migrant students began receiving a monthly STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) kit. These kits focus on having students read and follow directions to put together an age-appropriate STEM kit and provide an excellent family home activity. The kits change monthly and will continue through December. This is a trial run to see how SWRS migrant families like this activity as one of the migrant services that SWRS provides. : Kiwi Crates [www.kiwico.com](http://www.kiwico.com)

## Assessments

The Alaska Developmental Profile for Kindergarten and first grade students that have not attended a public school will begin within a window from

September 17th to 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. Student skills and behaviors are defined by goals and indicators in five domains Physical Well-Being, Health, and Motor Development; Social and Emotional Development; Approaches to Learning; Cognition and General Knowledge; and Communication, Language, and Literacy. Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Public Schools (PEAKS) Score Reports for grade 3-10 have been disbursed to all sites that participated in testing during the 2017-18 School Year. Statewide summative assessment results at the grade, school, and district level provide information about how the educational system is performing for all students. This information may be used to help inform local decision makers about changes needed to instructional programs, needed additional student support, and professional learning for teachers.

Student performance on the PEAKS assessment is reported in one of four overall achievement levels. On the Alaska Science Assessment reports, these are reported as proficiency levels. These levels describe the performance of the student on the standards tested at the grade level. The four achievement or proficiency levels are: Advanced, Proficient, Below Proficient, and Far Below Proficient.

DEED is working with Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) to plan future assessment designs for all content areas.

## Career & Technical Education: BBRCTE – Session I

BBRCTE is a partnership between LPSD, BBBSD, and SWRS. The goal is to provide career and technical education, certification, and career pathway opportunities to our students in our region.

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Session I of IV, occurring September 16th – 21st, had a great turnout of applications. We received 21 applications across our district. Due to housing restrictions, most sessions have 8 seats available to students in the Bristol Bay Region. Below is information about each course during this first session.

## **Introduction to Fisheries (Naknek)**

Instructors Rachel Donkersloot & Laura Zimin: 2 credits. Exploration of set netting, drift netting, processing, and marketing. The first day of the course will focus on cold water safety and survival, followed by four days of exploring different aspects of the fishing industry.

## **Introduction to Aviation Careers (Naknek)**

Instructor Heather Mase: 2 credits. Exploration of different job opportunities, visiting various facilities involved with aviation, interviewing professionals in the field, and learning the basics of flying and navigation.

## **Introduction to Coding (Naknek)**

Instructor Jim Dube: 2 credits. This course is an introduction to coding using the Swift programming language. Students will learn the fundamentals of programming and will make two simple iOS apps.

## **Medical Terminology (Dillingham)**

2 session course – Instructor Denise Gilliland: 3 credits. This course includes the study of the medical terminology, including analysis and origin of word roots, prefixes, and suffixes. Understanding the word components, students will be able to build, spell, and define medical words. Content will be presented by body systems focusing on terms for anatomy, diagnostic, laboratory and medical specialties. Includes use of a medical dictionary, word punctuation, and abbreviations. Designed for those wanting to go into a healthcare profession.

## **Emergency Trauma Training First Responder (Dillingham)**

Instructor Dave Milligan: 2 credits. This course will provide basic emergency care knowledge and skills for the student who will provide the first emergency care. The objective of the first person on the emergency scene is to recognize the needs of the victim and deliver quality care to the patient, minimizing discomfort and preventing further complications. Successful completion of the course will result in 2 college credits and a credential as a certified ETT first responder and first aid/CPR certification.

## **School Photography**

During the last week of August and the first week of September, Richard Johnson from Purnell Photography traveled to all of our schools and took pictures.

## **Exploration Weeks**

Kyle has been building courses, classes, and preparing student schedules for the exploration week that begin on September 17th.

## **Title IA**

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



## Aleknagik School

Miranda Bacha, Principal/Teacher

During the first four weeks of school, students have been busy with classes and MAP testing. Student Council elections are approaching and students will be presenting their speeches next week for the upcoming student council election.

Elementary students are continuing to utilize Reflex Math, an online fluency program which helps students master addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts. Students are working diligently in the program with the goal of reaching 100% fluency.

Our first exploration week is underway. Some students are working on building maintenance such as painting sheds as well as deconstructing a dilapidated shed and rebuilding it. Some students are learning how to make creative rugs using latch-hooks. Half of the students took part in a photography course where they are learning how to take landscape photos, portraits, and action shots. Elementary students are learning how to make bread, bake cakes, decorate them, and bake pumpkin pies. They are also making puppets and are excited to finish the week by putting on a puppet show to bring their puppets' personalities to life.

### Students of the month

K-5: Abby Ilutsik

6-12: Glenn Andrews



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## Clarks Point School

Shannon Harvilla, Principal/Teacher

Due to the tireless work of the Village of Clarks Point, The Southwest Region School Board, and District office staff, Clarks Point School is officially reopened. The current enrollment at Clarks Point school is 16 students grades K to 8. We are back in our permanent building and everyone here is very excited.

The students of Clarks Point have been enjoying working on “Tinker Crates”, provided to the school, by Deanna Baier at 4H, which introduces the children into the world of engineering. The kids have already constructed and wired a planetarium and have worked on circuits.

This month’s Exploration Week at Clarks Point will feature Kindergarten to 3rd grade learning cross stitch, from the new lower grade teacher Mirabelle Blossom. In addition, the older students will be constructing a hydroponic garden inside the school, with hopes of providing food for local residents.

Thank you very much for all the support you have shown the students and staff of Clarks Point School. We look forward to an exciting and educationally rewarding school year!







## William 'Sonny' Nelson School

Angela Bennett, Lead Teacher

Ekwok School currently has an enrollment of 16 students, Grades K-8th. We have 7 staff members. Ekwok has enjoyed very good weather which has led to great community success with moose hunting and fishing.

During this very busy month, the students have completed their curriculum placement testing, the MAP testing, and the CIPA lessons. The students are enjoying our first EWeeks events, working on the Pine Wood Derby. Printing templates for their cars, cutting them out with the saws, and sanding. The community presentation will be on the Fridays after each EWeeks, with the students preparing the refreshments. The last Derby will take place in March with several other communities joining us here and competing with us. This week, after our daily Derby projects are complete, the students are involved in nature walks and bird watching, identifying the different species of birds and wildlife. We have plans to extend on our current EWeeks projects, by creating bat boxes, bird feeders, and planters during our next EWeeks.

We have the Elders' lunch program in place and is doing well. We also have a walking class for adults and elders twice a week. We have had our CSC meeting and an open gym staff member has been hired as well as a Yupik teacher.

Our 3rd and 4th grade students are getting involved with the ANTHC nutrition education program. We also have our Fluoride program now in place. Our picture day went well, a school wide photo was taken last year, so we have decided to keep this going every year and place the pictures in the hall for students to view for years to come. The students and staff are doing an amazing job!! We are looking forward to many events and projects in the upcoming months.



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## Koliganek School

Deb Forkner, Principal

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

New staff include:

- LaRon Coleman: MS/HS Lang. Arts & Social Studies
- Josh Vann: MS/HS Math & Science
- Greg Forkner: CTE (woodworking & construction)
- Amil Ishnook: Custodian
- Tia Gumlickpuk: Pre-school Para



We are very excited to be offering extended Pre-school this year and to have moved the Pre-school class into the school building. Currently all three and four year olds in the village are attending school!

The entire staff began the year with a day of on-site staff development. The focus was on growth mindset and learning how having a positive mindset affects learning. Staff members are working to help students see “The Power of Yet”, meaning maybe you can’t do it yet, or I don’t know how, yet, or I haven’t mastered this, yet.

Middle and high school students are excited for the first Exploration Week. Students will be making berry pickers, learning guitar, soap stone carving, and making a documentary film. Elementary students will be participating in subsistence activities such berry picking and learning about native plants. 4th and 5th grade will be learning keyboarding.

Another addition to our curriculum this year is Middle School Yupik class. Elena Johnson and Natalia Ishnook are working together to provide Yupik instruction to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade this year. It’s impressive how quickly the students are learning the vocabulary. We also do the pledge in English and Yupik together as a whole school each morning now. A Koliganek mom recently posted on Facebook, “This momma is PLEASED n thankful that the kids came home from school talking Yupik”.

Koliganek CSC and community are looking forward to the new murals that will be installed in the school soon. CSC also approved for Aileen Walsh to make a hanging fish chandelier for the front entry way, a skiff with net and fish for the hallway and the school motto for our commons area.

A big thank you to our construction class for making picnic tables for the playground and the side boards for our new truck The Husky Hauler is decked out and being put to good use.





## 'Chief' Ivan Blunka School

Robin Jones, Principal

Teacher retention, effective classroom instruction, and institutional knowledge are key to closing achievement gaps and increasing student performance. It takes time for teachers to gain experience and maximize their effectiveness in the classroom. When teachers commit to being consistent year after year, the students gain a sense of continuity and the staff gains strong collegiality and relational trust. Not only was our staff able to celebrate a historical 100% retention of staff this year, but we also had the esteemed privilege of recognizing our Yup'ik Studies Instructor, Tatianna Andrew, for her 40 years of service to Chief Ivan Blunka School. Her positive attitude, knowledge of Yup'ik culture, and the manner in which she develops meaningful relationships with the students and staff are invaluable assets to our school. The culturally sensitive education she provides aligns with our school vision which encourages everyone to embrace challenges, celebrate perseverance, and discover a passion for learning. Her monumental impact is evident throughout the school and critical to student success. She has given us a truly inspirational start to the school year, and we wanted to share the good news!



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Dustin Wright, Principal

It is hard to believe but how fast time is going by, we are into our 4th week of school and all the students are actively engaged in the learning process. Athletics is already taking place with Cross Country in full swing and Volleyball has started, this year we are going to have HS and JH Volleyball teams. Student Council has been formed and Officers appointed, these students are the future of their communities and it really does show. As for academics the PEAKS results came in and we had 12 students test proficient in a category of the test. Mr O'Brien had 8 students' test Proficient their reward will be at our next Pep Assembly his class of 4/5 Graders will get to give him a Mohawk! Overall the level of student learning is nice to see by anyone wishing to visit and see the quality of our staff and really the Quality of our Students.

- Sports Physicals Complete
- Students' of the Month Harley Franklin-Nick, Britney Mochin, Matthew Pavian, And Misty Paul.
- New Teachers David O'Conner Special Ed, Sharon Wilkin 2/3 Grade, New Principal Dustin Wright
- School Picture's taken
- Student Generated Newsletter with monthly Calendar stated
- 30 dedicated Staff members for our 126 wonderful Students



# LEARNING IS FUN!





## Togiak School

Michael Lee, Principal

It has been an amazing start to the 2018-19 school year in Togiak despite the bad weather that made the first few days difficult. We have enjoyed great weather now that moose season has opened and many families have been successful early in the season which has led to a decrease in absences for moose hunting. Congratulations to all that have been successful and good luck to those that are still hunting. The fish were later than normal this year but many families have filled their freezers and drying racks with salmon. Our subsistence class will attempt to finish filling the schools fish rack during the first e-week. We truly are blessed with great resources and beauty in this land. This tied into the Yupik Value of the Month extremely well. Our Yupik Value of the Month for September is “Qigcikluku nunamta atullerkaa”, (Have respect for our land and its resources).

We started our year with an in-service for all staff with Karl Schleich from Safe and Civil Schools. Due to electrical problems in the school we had to relocate the training to the Seventh Day Adventist Church downtown, but it was a great training. It helped to reinforce the power of using positive based behavioral interventions. Karl used data collected from Togiak School during the spring of last year to show how significant of an impact implementation of CHAMPS has changed the overall climate of the building.

We held an open house at the end of the first week and served over 500 hotdogs that were grilled by two motivated staff. We had such a great turn out from the community that there were not enough tables and chairs for everyone to sit and eat. We introduced all of the staff and students were able to show off their classrooms and work done the first week. It has been an energetic start to the year. During the second week we hosted a Cross Country meet in Togiak. The highlight was that Twin Hills was able to join us for the pep rally prior to the meet. It was great to be able to include them in the student led pep rally. We had a great meet despite the visit by a bear close to the turnaround point. Things that we get to experience with the nature and our land is amazing.

We were fortunate enough to have the teacher of the year for SWRSD in Togiak, Ms. Amber Duvall. Last year she taught 4th grade and has moved to a Kindergarten / 1st grade position this year. We are focusing on reading on grade level by third grade and we have placed our strongest teachers in the lower elementary and lower grade special education positions. We are excited to see what additional



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

progress the elementary team in Togiak can make this year. We also had the honor of the instructional aide of the year for SWRSD in Togiak with Richard Togiak. Last year the school improvement team identified areas that needed to be improved and Richard consistently stepped up to tackle the challenging areas. He completely led the physical education curriculum in the elementary 2nd semester and also was instrumental in finding solutions to reoccurring problems on the bus. His impact has greatly benefited the school and community.

There have been a few changes that we would like to highlight for this year. We have adjusted our schedule to allow us to pilot a middle school band class this year. This is expanding the afterschool program that we started last year and has had great interest from parents. There used to be a strong band in Togiak and parents want to make that a reality again. Abby Active, an instructional aide in the elementary, has been able to start a basic music appreciation class in the elementary this year. We also have expanded the Yupik classes that are being offered and eagerly await the language app that will come next year. We have more Yup'ik options in the high school for credit than we have ever had in the past. Thanks to the dedicated staff that has agreed to expand the Yup'ik program in Togiak and offer these vital classes to our students. Five staff, certified and classified, have also started working with UAA towards an occupational endorsement in Child Behavioral Health. The skills learned in these classes will help the school overall.



These has been so many great things in such a short time. We are excited to see where this year will lead. We invite all board members to please come visit the school when you are in Togiak and volunteer in the classrooms. Anyone who volunteers 5 hours will receive a free volunteer t-shirt. We already have parents that earned a shirt this year.

Togiak School is also making it a priority to tell about all the good things happening in the school and community it serves. Look for #MakeWayForTogiak on Facebook and Twitter for up to date posts about all the exciting things happening.





## Twin Hills School

Naomi Winters, Principal/Teacher

Twin Hills School has had a great start to the year! Students are getting to know a whole new certified staff and are enjoying the format of the school day. At back to school night, a parent reported her son came home excited after the first day of school, saying “It’s a REAL school mom!” She said she has never seen him so happy to go to school.

This year Twin Hills has its first ever athletic team, with 2 high school boys, 2 middle school boys, and 2 middle school girls going out for Cross Country. Our Middle and High School students and some families traveled to Togiak to support our runners in their first meet.



We are proud to be representing Twin Hills around the district in athletics. We have a redesigned wolf logo to celebrate our new athletic program and our first fundraiser for athletic gear was very successful, raising \$380. We’re using the hash tag #TWAWolfPack to tag our pictures on social media to share our experiences.

Twin Hills also began our Wolf Cub Early Learning program. We are happy to have five 3 and 4 year olds joining us for an hour and a half Tuesdays through Fridays. These students are working on early learning skills and having lunch with our elementary students.

Our Wolf Club for tutoring is going strong after school, meeting Tuesday through Friday, and students are having a blast at open gym on weeknights. We will be starting movie nights soon and have opened our school store. Students with perfect attendance will earn a free pop from the school store!