

REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



**"Caurailngarpeknaci
pingnatugurluci.**

**Always trying, never
without."**

--Bristol Bay Yup'ik Values

Board of Education

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Superintendent's Office David J. Piazza, Superintendent

Staffing

During the past month, the District has participated in job fairs in Portland, OR and Tacoma, WA. Two additional job fairs in Minneapolis, MN are scheduled during the week of the board meeting, so there may be a recruiting status update at the meeting. In addition to the new hires listed in last month's report, the following individuals have been selected to join Southwest Region: LaRon Coleman from Casper, WY will be the Secondary Language Arts/Socials Studies teacher at the Koliganek School; Joshua Vann from Fairbanks, AK will be the Secondary Math and Science teacher at the Koliganek School; and Denise Jarrett from Fishers, IN will be the 4th Grade teacher at the Togiak School.

The District continues to recruit for 8 teaching positions. These include two additional positions that the communities of Clarks Point and Ekwok have requested to provide for two teachers at each of their schools.

Legislature

The 90th day of the Alaska Legislative Session was April 15th. However, at the time of this writing, it appears that the session will extend past that date. Thankfully the talks about major cuts to Public Education have not occurred this year, and there is hope for legislation to be passed still that would help provide resources to the educational system. This may include a slight increase in funding. It does not appear that a long-range fiscal plan will be agreed upon this year, so the debates of the pros and cons of the source of additional revenues will most likely continue next year.

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Superintendent Travel

Superintendent Piazza participated in the Alaska Council of School Administrator's (ACSA) Legislative Fly-In April 8th-11th. Participants included members of the Superintendent's, Elementary Principal's, Secondary Principal's, and Business Official's organizations.

Topics during the meeting phase of the Fly-In included information regarding the Alaska Education Challenge and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) by Commissioner Dr. Michael Johnson from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. Several legislative panels were presented that included legislative leadership from both the House and Senate Education and Finance committees. University of Alaska Southeast Chancellor Dr. Richard Caulfield and the newly appointed Executive Dean of the UA College of Education Dr. Steve Atwater discussed the university's Alaska Strategic Pathway and in particular the restructuring efforts to bring the Education Departments from the Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Southeast campuses under one College of Education.

Director Ken Alper from the Tax Division; Pat Pitney, Director of the Office of Management & Budget; and Mike Navarre, Commissioner of Commerce presented information regarding the state of the economy and the need for additional work towards a comprehensive fiscal plan. Dr. Lisa Skiles Parady the Executive Director for ACSA also provided an update regarding the legislation before both bodies.

Speaker Bryce Edgmon committed a full hour to meet with Robin Jones, "Chief" Ivan Blunka School Principal; Ryan Ayars, Director of Finance; Bill Hill, Bristol Bay Borough School District Superintendent; Ty Mase, Lake and Peninsula Borough Superintendent; as well as, Superintendent Piazza. Participants were able to meet with a number of other legislators to share the positive messages from the region and to encourage the passage of legislation that would help to keep the public educational system fully funded and supported.





Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Associate Superintendent

Steve attended the Spring AASB Spring Academy & Legislative Flyin in Juneau on with school board members on March 24-27. The meetings were informative and at this time it appears that our funding is likely to remain at FY18 levels, although there is a possibility of a small increase to the BSA here in the last days of the session. The trip was very productive and we had excellent talks with many legislators about issues of importance to our district. Another aspect of the trip was that all four of our regions district representatives, both school board members and administrators attended meetings as a team. It was heartening to see that all of us share a number of priorities and all worked well together. This holds much promise for BBRCTE and other joint ventures in the region in future years.

THANK YOU!

Staffing continues to be a major activity for many in district office and at sites this past month as we work to fill openings for next school year. A special thanks to Sherry Becker, David Piazza, Esther Ilutsik, Audra and Randy Finkenbinder, Deb Forkner, Meghan Redmond, Corey Evans and all the other site administrators and district office staff who have traveled to job fairs and worked so tirelessly behind the scenes and all while performing day to day duties to hire quality staff for our schools for the coming year. This work is tiring, and requires long hours as many of the interviews and follow-up reference checks must happen outside the normal day. All involved take the responsibility very seriously as we all know that our choices have a direct impact on our students. Many good candidates have been interviewed and at this time we are slowly filling positions and have some yet to fill. A team heads to Minneapolis for a pair of job fairs this weekend on April 21st with hopes of filling a few more positions. Again, a thank you to all of the staff involved. It is often the hard work most never see happening that makes the largest differences in our students lives.

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TEAM



Les Parks
Technology Coordinator



Dianna Schollmeier
Curriculum Specialist



Corey Evans
Technology Specialist



Charles Becker
Curriculum Specialist

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Instruction Notes

The third Exploration Week of the year took place at the end of March. While students have enjoyed the same creative, engaging, and inspiring experiences since the inception of the program, many changes behind the scenes have taken place which will make the program more less time intensive for staff and more cost effective for the district. Staff communication and collaboration within buildings and from site-to-site is helping to reduce the stress for teachers by answering many of the “What if?” questions that previously had to be resolved while in the process of teaching the courses. Earlier course approval and supply order deadlines this semester meant that district office staff was better able to collect materials and deliver them to sites along with food orders and staff traveling, for routine purposes. This has had the effect of lowering the overall cost by sourcing materials from the lowest cost provider and reducing the amount spent on transportation; all of which makes the program more sustainable long-term.

Curriculum Specialist Charles Becker traveled to Ekwok for Exploration Week to teach Hunter Safety. This was a great change of pace for staff and students at one of our smaller sites, where providing various Exploration Week opportunities with a pool of potential activities and instructors that is limited can be difficult. Charles presented the first three days of classroom instruction, then was joined by Terry Fuller and Derek Thompson from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for the last two days of hands-on field exercises and testing. As the district has taken the lead on organizing and teaching the Hunter Safety courses this year, the USFWS along with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game have eagerly offered up training materials, personnel, and incentives to help round out the experience for students.



Technology Team Notes

Recently, Apple made a policy change requiring self-servicing accounts to have a minimum of 1000 deployed devices as well as a certain number of repairs done per month. Policies like this have existed for some time, but Apple unexpectedly shutdown accounts all over the state without warning a couple a few months ago. While most schools in Alaska did not meet these minimums, we have had waivers due to our unique circumstances and trained staff allowing us to do in house repairs and order parts which over the years which has saved the district considerable time and money. Corey has been working with Ryan Shanley from Apple to get our Apple service account re-instated. We have been assured that our service agreements will be re-instated soon.

We are also entering the beginning phases of our annual end of year equipment check-in and summer shutdowns for technology.

Corey has also been working making improvements to our MDM (JSS) server that manages our iPads as well as generating quotes to re-fresh the classroom projectors for sites.

Les has been very busy ensuring that state testing, nearly all of which is now done via computer and internet, goes smoothly. PEAKS went very well, with all sites able to administer the tests without major difficulty due to his preparations of servers, computers and software.

eRate / School BAG Funding Year 2017

- Completed and submitted School BAG End of Year Report to EED.

eRate / School BAG Funding Year 2018 – 2019

- Completed and submitted 10 Mbps School BAG application to EED.

eRate Review

- Received and answered Category 1 PIA questions regarding eligibility of services.
- All Alaska School BAG related FRNs on hold until pending state budget resolved (as per Valerie Oliver, state eRate coordinator).

State Assessments

- Most sites completed or nearly completed. Only a few minor easily resolved issues.

Special Projects

- Working with Rob Carpenter on TOG / KDLG Radio translator and student broadcasting project.
- Placed requests with GCI and Nushtel to move Internet and telephone services from the CLP council house to the school building on or after May 21.

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State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

Career & Technical Education – Bristol Bay Regional CTE program (BBRCTE)

The fourth and final session of the BBRCTE program will be occurring from April 29th through May 3rd. We have another great set of courses for students to apply for including the following:

Post-Secondary Preparation for Allied Health - This course is designed for students with an interest in health careers. Class is designed to help students with post-secondary prep for the Allied Health field. The focus will be on completing the ALEKs, ACCUPLACER, FAFSA, resume, cover letter, BBEDC application, and creating a post-secondary plan. Students will take steps towards completing pre-requisite work that is required for their post-secondary plan. Students will study and take the ALEKs and ACCUPLACER test with a goal of scoring above college developmental levels. **THIS COURSE IS FOR SENIORS!**

Introduction to Health Careers - Students in this course will explore a variety of health care related careers and gain knowledge of the roles, responsibilities, and training required for each. Students will also learn the roles and responsibilities of different members/functional units of the health care team; information on related job and educational opportunities; needs and roles of health providers in rural and urban Alaska settings. Through this course, students will also receive a great introduction to some of the basic skills, legal and ethical responsibilities, and medical

terminology that are essential to any of the health care careers. The goal of the course is to introduce students to a wide variety of opportunities in allied health, medical and behavioral health careers. Visioning and confidence building will accompany concrete information about career pathways. Special attention will be given to trends and opportunities. Students will be introduced to core skills according to National Healthcare Skill Standards. These include: building an academic foundation, communication skills, a health care systems overview, employability skills, legal and ethical responsibilities, safety practices, teamwork, provider self-care, technical and information technology applications.

NCCER Core Carpentry - NCCER's Core Curriculum is a prerequisite to all other NCCER Level 1 craft curriculum, and is useful for anyone interested in any aspect of construction. Trainees learn the basic skills needed to continue education in any craft area. 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. Class will begin on the evening of April 29th (Sunday) and students participating in this class will stay in Naknek through the morning of May 6

Western Rivers-Restricted 6 Pack Preparation - The Western Rivers course prepares students to take the

test to receive their Captain's License for the Bristol Bay Region (Restricted Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessel). This is a US Coast Guard approved license strictly for the rivers of Bristol Bay. Students will learn about the "rules of the road" on the rivers, basic safety, and other information related to being a captain.

Intro to Radiation Safety- Non-Destructive Testing - Non-Destructive Testing is used in manufacturing, fabrication and in-service inspections of structures such as pipelines to ensure product integrity and reliability. It is commonly used in forensic engineering, mechanical engineering, petroleum engineering, electrical engineering, civil engineering, systems, medicine and art, and is a growing, high paying field. In this specific course, students will learn the basics of radiation safety, a starting point for studying Non-Destructive Testing.

Title I-C Migrant Education

The migrant program has sent out a plethora of culturally relevant/Alaska themed books to all migrant children through the mail. Age appropriate games were also sent out with the books. These books and games can be used to keep reading and other skills sharp during the summer on the boat, at fish camp, or at home. Students will also be receiving a Scholastic pack of literature to add to their personal libraries. The migrant program has also provided support to a few students needed credit to graduate from high school. Travel to take dual credit courses in order to meet graduation requirements is a focus of the program. The program is also supporting a career exploration trip, an Alaska Student Government Association trip, and another opportunity for an enrichment experience for a migrant student.

Title I-A School Improvement – Togiak

Implementation of the school improvement plan continue to move forward with a focus on the Safe & Civil Schools. There are a number of folks that are involved in the implementation of the improvement plan and a plan has taken shape for next school year's activities. Michael Lee, principal and Tobe Gurley, assistant principal, have been key to making great strides in the improvement process. Vince Henry, school psychologist, has been spending two weeks at a time in Togiak and has been an integral part of the improvements seen at the school. Evelyn Willburn, State System of Support coach is a valued member of the Togiak team and keeps a focus on the goals outlined in the improvement plan. The focus will be to strengthen the foundation of the Safe & Civil School supports with a school-wide focus. Marilyn Rosene will continue to work with Togiak to provide an outside lens regarding implementation, provide support with data analysis and provide coaching for instructional aides.



Student Information & Support Specialist: Kyle Schneider

Alaska Society for Technology in Education

In mid-February Kyle attended the Alaska Society for Technology in Education's annual conference. While there, he presented three sessions for teachers and administrators from around the state. He also met with his peers in other school districts to identify areas where collaboration was possible.

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Kyle received the 2018 Technology Leadership Award for Outstanding Technology Support from the Alaska Society for Technology in Education.

Exploration Week

Kyle has been working with principals to finalize teacher and student schedules for the third and fourth Exploration Weeks. He has also begun working with principals to get 2018-2019 schedules into PowerSchool.

Graduation

Kyle has been preparing diplomas and promotion certificates for school ceremonies at the end of the year. He has also responded to requests from the Governor's office and the Legislature for information about our graduates so they can send congratulatory letters.

Participation Rate

The Participation Rate report includes information about all students who were enrolled on March 26th, 2018 and are in grade levels that take the PEAKS test. This report was submitted to EED on April 3rd, 2018.

PowerSchool

Kyle attended a week-long PowerSchool training at the beginning of March and received training on several new features that will be released this spring. He is currently working on a plan to transition to the new method that PowerSchool will be using to track which adults are associated with students and what their relationships are.



**Counseling & Assessment
Specialist: Steve Ito**

Southwest Region School District testing for grades 3-9 Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools (PEAKS) and the Alaska Science Assessment for grades 4,8 and 10 has been completed. The Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools (PEAKS) and the Alaska Science Assessment are statewide summative assessments that encompass English language arts (ELA), mathematics, and science.

All SWRSD sites and staff need to be applauded for their outstanding effort.

Without the ongoing dedication at all levels within our village schools to ensure well prepared students, and a solid, technologically equipped testing environment, the administration of the PEAKS and the Alaska Science Assessment would have not been successful.

The World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment WIDA ACCESS test has been completed district-wide and submitted for scoring. The ACCESS Test is an assessment of English language acquisition required by EED for identified Limited English Proficient students that focuses on listening, speaking, reading and writing.



Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director

Travel

19TH Annual Native Hawaiian Education Association Convention - I KA PONO KAULIKE O KA LAHUI / The Equal Rights of the Lahui - University of Hawai'i West O'ahu - March 26- 27, 2018

Co-sponsored myself to attend and participate in the 19th Annual Native Hawaiian Education Association Convention. They honored their native educator of the year Christabell Yoshie Paunani Donda Burgess. She is noted for her experiences in community, family and values-based economic development, mediation and storytelling process as part of conflict transformation, and developing community based organizations. She shared that it is important to use ceremonies and rituals and not be afraid to use them. She shared a story of how this young girl observed her grandmother offering prayers and offering to her traditional teachings on Saturday then on Sunday she would go to church and engaged in religious practices. Her granddaughter asked her how was she able to do this without offending both practices. She replied that she had to honor her ancestor's beliefs as well as the one she grew up in. It has not been a conflict but respecting both traditions. So we do need to respect the cultural changes that we are seeing now but to also remember the beliefs and practices of our ancestors. Also, very fascinated with State of Hawaii has a Policy 105-7 on Hawaiian Education.

It states that the Hawaii's public education system should embody Hawaiian values, languages, culture and history as a foundation to prepare students in grades K-12 for success in college, career and communities, locally and globally. Hawaiian language, culture and history should be an integral part of Hawaii's education standards for all students in grades K-12. The State of Hawaii staff was visible within the conference. The Office of Hawaiian Studies Program on a session that focused on standard development where they were actively obtaining input from the Native Hawaiian educators and were looking at the Alaska Cultural Standards as a guide. And also, sat in on the Native Control of Native Education: Designing a Native Hawaiian Research Agenda which was facilitated by the Native Hawaiian Education Council.

YCC 101 Introduction to Yugtun

Kiarpiar Fanny Parker, Tuyuraq; Tat'iq Tatianna Andrew, Cetuyaraq; Angutekayak Louise Gloko and Tan'iq Larry Bartman, Manuquutaq; And Anguk'aq Justin Gumlickpuk, Cetuyaraq who emailed his support of the new YCC 101: Introduction of Yugtun. All participated in a polycom session April 9, 2018 at 2:18 – 3:18 pm to review and approve of the revised YCC 101: Introduction to Yugtun. Please note that we changed the name of the class from YCC 101: Introduction to Yupiaq to YCC 101: Introduction to Yugtun. We felt the aforementioned made it clear and understood that we are introducing the reading and writing of the Yup'ik Language. We also have adopted the textbook, A Practical Grammar of the Central Alaskan Yup'ik Eskimo Language by Steven A. Jacobson, 1995. Please note that only three chapters of the textbook will be utilized in the course. The course will be embedded with readings from our books that the district has published, Pal'aq, Angucinraankuk Kangiplus-Illu, and Atkiq and materials published by other sources. The revised version was unanimously adopted by the committee and will move forward to be approved by our school board. Qu yana cakeq committee members.

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Special Education

Sherry Becker, Director

Pre-Kindergarten Options for All Students and Families:

Meetings with Headstart staff are taking place in order to begin discussions about improving services for all pre-Kindergarten children and their families in New Stuyahok, Manokotak, and Togiak. We are also beginning discussions about improving pre-Kindergarten services for children and their families in each of the villages that do not currently have a Headstart program. These services would be focusing on parent education, parent support groups, and developmental activities and play groups for children ages 3-5 years of age that are not yet enrolled in Kindergarten. More information will be provided about these plans over the next couple of months. We are excited to be discussing this opportunity and for the collaboration we have with our BBNA Headstart staff.

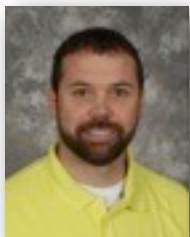
Strong, Dedicated Staff

Multiple interviews and reference checks have filled many hours this past month. Finding teacher candidates that are strong and dedicated to working for our district has been a challenge due to the decreased number of eligible candidates attending job fairs. A lot of time has been spent scouring the Alaska Teacher Placement website for potential candidates. At the time of this report, we currently have 8 teacher positions available.

In an effort to decrease educator turnover and to increase educator retention, we have developed an Exiting Educator survey, a Returning Educator Survey, an Instructional Staff Professional Development Needs Assessment, and an Administrator Professional Development Needs Assessment. These surveys will be sent out to the applicable staff over this next couple of weeks. Surveys are described below.

Exiting Educator Survey: In an effort to reduce staff turnover rate and increase staff retention rate, we are very interested in getting feedback from all exiting staff on the factors that have influenced their decision to leave SWRS. We are also very interested in getting feedback from returning educators on the factors that influenced their decision to return to work in SWRS. We are asking these staff to take a moment and share their insights with us. Responses will be anonymous and private.

Professional Development Needs Assessment: Effective professional development enables educators to develop the knowledge and skills they need to address students' learning challenges. To be effective, professional development requires thoughtful planning followed by careful implementation with feedback to ensure it responds to educators' learning needs. SWRS is asking all instructional staff and administrators for assistance with planning for the upcoming 2018-19 school year professional development needs.



Business Office

Ryan Ayars, Business Manager

A big item for the business office is the annual spring orders. The sites have gotten the majority of their orders in and they have been processed. The decision to hold orders back until fall has not been determined but any straggling orders will probably need to be ordered for the fall. We are in communication with Veritiv and it appears that the freight costs will be lower than was configured on the checklists.

We handed our Semi-Annual Fire/Safety Self-Inspections Checklist from each site over to Cole Cummins, our Loss Control Manager with Alaska Public Entity Insurance. We hope to receive the maximum premium rebate for our efforts.

Third quarter grant reimbursement requests have been completed and submitted to the Department of Education & Early Development. Once reviewed and approved by the DEED program manager reimbursements will be direct deposited.

It is time to for the principals to be thinking of closing out the year-end. We are working to ensure summer receiving is lined up if spring supply orders do not make it in a timely manner.

Reminders are being sent to have all credit card receipts organized and ready to be turned in when they check out. We are looking forward to expanding credit card use next year so we can increase efficiency and our rebate.

Budgets are being finalized and we expect to get a first balance budget drafted as soon as possible. It takes everyone a tremendous effort to produce the budget in times like this and it helps to encourage everyone to be patient and understanding while the numbers play out in Juneau.

Altman, Rogers & Co. will be taking on the task of our audit again this year. The Pre-Audit is scheduled for the Second week of July and the final audit is scheduled September 10th through 14th.

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Aleknagik School

Audra Finkenbinder, Principal/Teacher

As the end of the school year nears, the faster time seems to fly! Since the last report, quite a few activities have taken place: Parent/Teacher Conferences, Migrant Education Nights, Exploration Week, and PEAKS Assessments. Future activities include the end of year assessments: MAP Assessments, AIMSweb Fluency Assessment, and final exams for the older students. In addition to the end-of-year assessments, other upcoming activities include: Exploration Week, kindergarten and eighth grade promotion and awards ceremony, as well as an end-of-year picnic.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences were held on April 4th-5th during which time report cards and Data Folders were presented. This is a great time to discuss academic progress and overall achievement. We encourage students to attend the conferences so that they may hear what is discussed as well as provide them an opportunity to offer extra insight to their academic performance.

Exploration Week

Migrant Education Nights were held on March 20th and 21st. Those in attendance were welcomed with ‘nacho boats’ with all the fixings in order to quench any hunger so that the focus of the night would be on literacy and fun! During the first Migrant Ed Night, students were taught about the three main types of bridges: arch, truss, and beam. Students were then instructed to design a bridge that would support the most “weight” across the spanned distance. In addition to having to use the supplies that were placed before them, the students had to use engineering vocabulary, precise measurements and instructions to complete the task.

The second Migrant Ed Night taught students several lifelong skills including sanding and burning images into wood. They were able to be creative while using their own skills to produce an art project. Self-esteem and confidence permeated from their ability to work independently through the creation of original artwork! In addition to art, students left with full stomachs after enjoying monster hamburgers, french fries, and root beer floats.

Sponsored by Randy Finkenbinder and assisted by Cialely Pintande and Audra Finkenbinder, the students had a wonderfully enjoyable time with the wonderful food, bridge building, and creative art projects.

Exploration Week was held during the week of March 19th-23rd and included the following activities:

- Making wooden spoons
- Building Maintenance (which included refinishing the gym bleachers)
- Backcountry Travel Safety Skills/Avalanche Safety
- Sewing Baby Booties
- Academic Improvement

Aleknagik also had a HS student participate in the Professionalism in Healthcare class in DLG. The elementary students also participated in E-week activities during the afternoon – this session focused on crocheting and knitting.

PEAKS Assessment

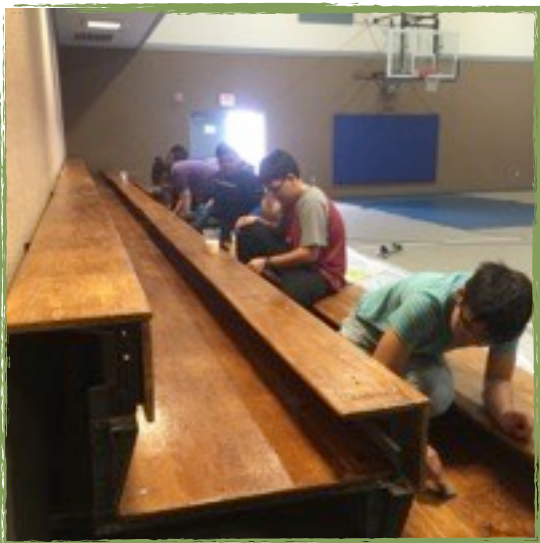
All students in grades 3-10 completed the new online state assessment; Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools (PEAKS). Students were able to complete all sections of the ELA, Math, and Science assessments with minimal to no glitches. We look forward to receiving the PEAKS results at the beginning of next school year.

Students of the Month

We would like to congratulate the Students of the Month:

- K-5: Tristen Andrews
- 6-12: Marki-Lynn Tinker

Keep up the great work!



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Clarks Point School

Shannon Harvilla, Principal/Teacher

Clarks Point School has completed all PEAKS testing. The students are continuing to work on academic success, while learning useful skills. E-week 3 was a resounding success, with the students in 3 to 12 creating wood burnings, while the younger students learned image transfer utilizing Mod-Podge. The District has been working diligently on completing the building for next school year. Clarks Point C.S.C. Elections were held and the new C.S.C. board is set for next year.



William 'Sonny' Nelson School

Monica Turrentine, Principal/Teacher

So far this year our school has finished WIDA testing and the PEAKS testing. We need to do MAPS testing still. For our recent e-week several of our middle school boys successfully finished hunter education. Our elementary students had a couple of elders visit the school and share their life story and/or crafts they make. The elders helped the students sew purses and headdresses. For our upcoming e-week the middle school will do beginning wood carving and beginning knot tying. The elementary students will continue to learn how to bake. We had a successful spring carnival that raised about \$8,000. Our basketball team competed in several away games and we held a home basketball tournament during our spring carnival. We recently developed a plan for lockdowns. The school bought walkie-talkies so that the teachers could communicate without leaving their classroom.



Koliganek School

Deb Forkner, Principal

Another successful Exploration Week is in the books! Elementary students enjoyed learning some music including playing the recorders and boom whackers. They also learned a little about reading music. The high light for middle and high school students was the snow shoe races on Friday afternoon. They also created some cool artwork and made gun racks. Everyone's looking forward to E4 where they will get to learn painting from a professional artist, take the hunter safety class, build a bench for their home or bake all kinds of yummy treats.



Testing season is upon us as students complete the State PEAK testing and final MAP tests for the year. A big thank you to Greg Forkner for cooking hot breakfast for all students on the PEAK testing days.



Scheduling for the 2018-19 has been completed! We are excited to add some new classes for middle and high school students including Yupik for all middle school students and woodworking and a construction class for high school students. Principal Forkner attended teacher recruiting fairs in Anchorage and Portland and was successful in filling all Koliganek's vacant positions for next year.



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‘Chief’ Ivan Blunka School

Robin Jones, Principal

We are so proud to announce that 32 of our students schoolwide had perfect attendance for quarter three and many students were awarded for their achievements in reading, writing, math, and citizenship at our recent assembly. We also had a great turnout and quality conversations with parents during spring conferences. We dedicated a significant amount of time toward tutorials, practice tests, and accessing online tools to prepare for state testing, which went off without a hitch. Students appeared to take the tests with confidence and without difficulty. We are excited to see how well they perform when the results are posted.

We recently finished a very successful exploration week! The following courses were facilitated in the elementary: Skin Sewing Zipper Pulls, Perler Beads, Owl Pellets, Pointillism Painting, Paracord Survival Bracelets, Paper Making, and Pizza Making. In the secondary, we offered: Welding Art, Ice Fishing, Chemical Reactions, Wilderness Survival, Skin Sewing, Spice it Up Cooking, Wood Hauling & Milling, Beginning Knitting, and Certified Basketball Official. The teacher facilitating the Ice Fishing class summed up exploration week best by saying: “95 fish today! Plus s’mores! Best teaching day of my life!” It is an incredible privilege for the staff to be able to offer such highly engaging instruction to the students during explorations weeks!

The opportunities I have had this semester to travel to Washington DC and Juneau to advocate for public education, represent the unique needs of rural Alaska, and showcase the incredible accomplishments of our students have been surreal. I have gotten the sense from our senators, representatives, and legislators that funding public education and school safety are top priorities and that they care deeply for Alaskan students. We also continue to celebrate the 100% retention of our staff and continually use relationship building techniques to strengthen the effectiveness of our team.

Our seniors have been tirelessly fundraising all year and are currently on their senior trip in Hawaii and planning their senior dinner, prom, and graduation. We have also fielded a large NYO team and recently qualified six students athletes for the state championships. We look forward to celebrating their continued success throughout the season.

APRIL

Elementary

Nick John Suskuk – 3rd grade

Middle School

Anya Petla – 6th grade

High School

Tanesha Gust – 9th grade

Employees of the Month

Kylie Shuneson & Clayton Lamphear





Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Lewis Beaver, Principal

Academics:

Our school enrollment, as of April 5, 2018, is as follows: K-6 elementary at 70 students and 7-12 secondary holding at 52 students. It has dropped from the last report. The K-12 grand total is now at 122 students. We had a good turnout of parents attending our parent-teacher conferences. We had a positive PEAKS testing experience with very minor challenges. The after-school tutoring is still active, with good attendance, and is still set for Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:40-4:30 p.m. We are gearing up for E-week Four.

Attendance:

Currently, our schoolwide attendance rate is at 91.6%, a bit higher than last month.

Activities:

We have had a very busy and productive student activity year so far. We are looking forward to the NYO sports season, and our students were very disappointed when KNW cancelled their meet. Again, the staff at KMO needs to be commended for the great work they I cannot say enough at how proud I've been with the work that they have done to support and to enrich the education and lives of our students.



LEARNING IS FUN!

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Togiak School

Michael Lee, Principal

Spring is in the air and the snow is starting to melt. With the longer days and warmer weather comes state testing and lots of fun outdoor activities in the village. It is warm enough to enjoy the beautiful places around Togiak, but still cold enough that travel is possible by snow machine. It can make it challenging to stay focused in school when all of the students and staff have the great outdoors calling their names. We keep reminding everyone, ourselves included, that there is less than a month to go. We intend to finish this year strong.

Everything this time of year is very fast paced. Earlier this year, we identified increasing parent teacher conferences attendance as a goal in our school needs assessment. In 2017, we had 20% and then 32% of parents attend the conferences. This year, we set a goal of 40% for the Fall conference and we had 46.7% of the parents attend the conferences. We increased our goal to 50% for the Spring conferences and we made it!! We had 55% of the parents attend the Spring conferences. Many teachers had sent invitations to parents. In many classes students had prepared material to present to their parents. Overall, this was a great success and shows that the community / parent involvement has been trending in a positive direction. We held a hotdog barbeque on the first night of the conferences. It went very well, but we learned that in the future we need to buy more hotdogs.

We have recently completed PEAKS testing. We have a few makeups for some students that were sick, but overall it has been a great success. During the test days, we had parents and staff help with cooking a hot breakfast for the students. This was a way to motivate them to be on time and fuel their brains to do their best. The state testing is almost done, and I am very proud of the students and staff on how hard they worked to perform at their best. The students' hard work and effort make me proud to be a Husky.

We recently completed E-week 3 and are preparing for E-week 4. We were fortunate enough that we had 5 students that qualified for classes in Dillingham. These 5 students learned skills that will benefit them for the rest of their lives. Two students were trained in Mental Health First Aide. We also had 7 staff members take a class together as a group though ASDN and UAA for "Tough Kids." "Tough Kids" are defined as any students that need extra help to be successful beyond what is given to all students. I would have been a "Tough Kid" in school. The 7 staff members just finished the classes and gained valuable skills and interventions to use that will ensure that we can help make every student



successful. This demonstrates the dedication of the staff that they are willing to pursue additional training at night, without compensation, that can be beneficial to the students.

We hosted the first NYO event of the season and it was a great success. We had students from KMO attend. We started the event with a Pep Rally where we awarded our Students of the Month for April to Jonathan Andrews for K-2, Julia Blue for 3-5, George Nanalook for 6-8, and Tevin Evatt for 9-12. We recognized Colynn Isaacson as the employee of the month and Carol Randolph as the employee perfect attendance winner for the month. We are excited to be sending the NYO team over to Dillingham to compete this weekend. We are looking forward to having students qualify for state.

We hosted a Migrant Education family night at the school and completed another book distribution. We worked with Head Start to host a community basketball tournament as a fund raiser for Head Start graduation. There has been a community or school activity at the school every weekend and it does not appear to be slowing down. Student Government is hosting their First Annual “Mameq Conference”. Mameq means “Heal” in Yugtun. The student led events will focus on Yup’ik Dance and Talking Circles and will take place on April 19 and 20 as part of the Global Youth Service Day, (For more details please visit <https://leadasap.ysa.org/start/gysd2018/> and click on the icon over Togiak). The next day, Student Government is traveling to the road system to attend the Alaska Association of Student Governments Spring conference in Healy.



There have been so many other things going on that we cannot possibly list them all. We would like to thank the district office and the school board for all of their support. If you are ever in Togiak, please come by and visit the school and the classrooms. We would love to show off the accomplishments of our wonderful students and staff.





Twin Hills School

Nate Preston, Principal/Teacher

Everything is going nicely at Twin Hills school for March and April. We have completed our second migrant night, the third E-week, State testing, and we are scheduling the third round of MAP testing as well as the fourth and final E-week for later in April and start of May, as we continue to work on Exact Path, Reflex Math and Spelling city.

During the third e-week we did wilderness survival, lure making and wood burning with the high school. The district spelling bee champion went to Anchorage to compete in the State spelling bee. PEAK testing went off without a hitch and we are waiting to see if there is a correlation between the student set goals on MAP and their scores on PEAK and MAP.

Later in April we are planning for the last round of MAP testing and the last E-week for this year. We are anxious to see how the goals set in MAP, and then worked on by our students will affect their scores. In addition, our high school students can't wait to make pinewood derby cars and race them. The 8th grade is looking forward to their trip to Southern California.

Graduation is scheduled for May 15 at 11 and everyone is invited.

E-WEEK!

