

# REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



## Superintendent's Office David J. Piazza, Superintendent

### Superintendent Travel

Superintendent Piazza, as well as, all seven school board members and Associate Superintendent Noonkesser attended the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Fall Conference in Anchorage. This year's conference theme of "Empowering the Whole Child" emphasized the importance of ensuring that students' emotional needs and cultural history and traditional ways of learning are considered and met as well.

This year, all SWRS attendees participated in the Advanced Boardsmanship Academy. This one day pre-conference workshop "Trauma Informed School/ Whole Student" introduced board members to the vocabulary of trauma informed practices and a glimpse into several schools or programs across state where this work has been occurring. Together, AASB staff and staff from the First Alaskans Institute provided a mix of round table information sharing, as well as, large group talking circle activities.

The general session of the conference included welcomes from James Fields, Chair of the Alaska State Board of Education; Tam Agosi-Gisler, President of the Anchorage School District; and Lee Stephan, Chief of the Dena'ina from Eklutna. The conference's first keynote speech was delivered by Joe Nelson, Vice Chancellor, University of Alaska Southeast.

Dave participated in a sectional on School Law that focused on student free speech issues. Clint Champion and Allen Clendaniel with the firm Sedor, Wendlandt, Evans, and Filippi, as well as, Michael Caulfield with the law firm of Jermain Dunnagan & Owens, P.C. provided information several

**"Tuvqakiaqluten-llu  
yuullgutevnek  
piyugngaaqavet**

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

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

#### **Board of Education**

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- Marie Paul, Vice-President
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- Wassillie Gust, Member
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cases and points to consider when dealing with student actions or words that may or may not be protected as free speech for students.

## Snapshot Sessions

Dawnyale Bundy-Hale from RurAL CAP discussed the “Classroom Grandparent Program.” This is the elders in the school program that is already successfully in place in Manokotak and New Stuyahok, where elders work with students in the Yup’ik Studies classrooms. The District was able to confirm that discussion is underway to include the funding and get the program up and running in Togiak in the near future.

The “Changing the Mindset for Cultural Proficiency and Equity in Your District” presented by Gerry Briscoe with the Southeast Regional Resource Center (SERRC) discussed the state’s adopted cultural standards and the importance for instructors to include activities that embed cultural awareness and traditional ways of learning within daily lessons to meet the needs of students.

Lauren Kelsey with the Alaska Obesity Prevention & Control Program presented a snapshot session on “Implementing Strong School Wellness Policies.” Federal and state legal changes in this past year require districts to include additional physical activity goals for students within the instructional day. While recess counts as part of the time, students must have the opportunity for additional time to be up and about to meet the new requirements. An Annual Report Checklist was presented to help district’s review their practices to ensure compliance with the law.

The final snapshot session that Dave was able to participate in was “Energy Efficiency in schools – Show me the money!” presented by Tim Leach with the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation. Tim provided insight into several programs that could help to cut energy costs within the schools which would then provide additional financial resources for instruction.

Dave attended in the “Early Learning – a Vital Link to School Success” during the afternoon breakout sessions. Anji Galanos with the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development discussed the Alaska Developmental Profile data collected from all incoming Kindergarten students and provided a look into best practices that would help ensure student growth.

The keynote session, held on the second day of the conference, was presented by Zaretta Hammond. Ms Hammond is a former writing teacher who helps provide equity-focused school coaching and support to schools. She is the author of the book “Culturally Responsive Teaching & THE BRAIN.” Her follow-up breakout session included an activity to help develop playlists of songs that could be brought into the classroom to get students engaged and re-energized to complete learning activities.

The district level administrators in attendance participated in a workshop with AASB’s Executive Director Norm Wooten to enable the members of the Alaska Superintendent’s Association (ASA) and AASB to continue to work closely with each other as the legislative session approaches.

During the final day of the conference, board members dealt with the passage of resolutions that will provide the foundation of AASB’s lobbying agenda for the upcoming Legislative Session.



## Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Associate Superintendent

This past month has been a busy one for us as we have worked to help Clarks Point get fully up and running in facilities that the local council graciously provided for student use and helping maintain programs in Ekwok as we transitioned to new staff.

Students and staff are now set up in the Clarks Point Village Council building in a number of rooms and programs are running in a more routine manner. Les and Corey visited Clarks Point several times to bring up network services and set up the network and computers. The Maintenance department has also visited the site to begin the process of renovating the old school and preparing it for occupancy in the fall of 2018.

Charles Becker, Curriculum Specialist spent a week in Ekwok ensuring students did not miss instruction following the unexpected departure



# INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TEAM



Les Parks  
Technology Coordinator



Dianna Schollmeier  
Curriculum Specialist



Corey Evans  
Technology Specialist



Charles Becker  
Curriculum Specialist

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of a staff member. His quick response and good work to keep things running are much appreciated. Helen Powell, one of our long term substitutes is now in Ewok, covering classes until the arrival of a new staff member in December.

## Travel

Steve traveled with Superintendent Piazza and the board to the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Fall Conference in Anchorage this month. The conference was, as usual, very interesting and packed with sessions and information. This year's conference theme of "Empowering the Whole Child" focused on ensuring that students' emotional needs and cultural history and traditional ways of learning are recognized and met.

Steve was able to make a site visit to Koliganek, along with Dianna and Corey, where he spent time observing in classrooms, while Dianna worked with staff on instructional strategies and Corey took care of some technology issues. Principal Forkner and staff are working smoothly as a team to ensure student needs are met and the school is marked by a welcoming and productive tone.

10 or more days' usage	Number of Students	Starting Fluency	Current Fluency
<b>Overall Fluency (K – 8 students: all assignments)</b>	122 of 277	48%	66% (+14%)
<b>Grade 2 Goal: addition &amp; subtraction facts</b>	43 of 60	38%	67% (+14%)
<b>Grade 3 Goal: multiplication and division facts 0 – 10</b>	9 of 49	20%	56% (+10%)
<b>Grade 4 Goal: multiplication and division facts 0 – 12</b>	41 of 48	49%	73% (+10%)

## Instructional Team Notes

### Reflex Math

- This past month we increased our student users to 194 students that have been active 10 or more days this year. SWRS has set goals to have all students fluent in addition and subtraction facts by 2nd grade; multiplication and division facts 0 – 10 by third grade; and multiplication and division facts 0 – 12 by fourth grade.

### Math Daily Review

- **Vision:** *Building number sense and computational skills in our students to increase student achievement in Algebra.*
- **Goal:** *Our goal through the implementation of a Math Daily Review including daily mental math practice is to increase a student's RIT points by 1 to 1.5 grade level points in a school year.*

- As part of her efforts to help support quality mathematics instruction, across the district, Dianna is facilitating two one-credit courses through ASDN to provide professional development that aligns with our districts math growth plan.

### **Academic Vocabulary**

- Southwest Region schools continues to promote academic vocabulary district wide. All 6-12 students have a vocabulary.com account that access through PowerSchool and Clever. Each month, the top ten middle school/high school students across the district are honored for the number of words they have mastered. Students are encouraged to use the program at their leisure to increase their tier two and three vocabulary skills. First, second, and third place finishers receive a dollar value prize that each site will transfer to either student store credit or gas credit.
- This past month SWRS offered two one-credit courses through Alaska Staff Development Network focused on academic vocabulary facilitated by Curriculum Specialist, Dianna Schollmeier.
- The September results for most words mastered across the district grades 6-12:
  - 1st Place: Natania Hyexikok 58 words mastered
  - 1st Place: Roslyn Kenrud 58 words mastered
  - 3rd Place: Kading Ferguson 49 words mastered
  - 4th: Maya Geltzer 41 words mastered
  - 5th: Piccola Ferguson 40 words mastered
  - 6th: Roxanne Coopchiak 39 words mastered
  - 7th: Jeramy Petersen 35 words mastered
  - 8th: Landon Toyukak 32 words mastered
  - 8th: Sharla Williams 32 words mastered
  - 10th: Lucy Liskey 31 words mastered

### **Technology Team Notes**

Les and Corey travelled to Clarks Point to move network equipment from the portable building and setting up the network in the Clarks community center that is serving as the school building for this year.

Corey made a site visit to Koliganek with Steve and while there he installed new AppleTV's to allow wireless access of classroom projectors that had previously been using long cables. While there he also worked on several other minor technology issues.

The MAP testing window opens November 27th and runs through December 8th. Corey has completed the upload of the student rosters and is supporting teacher's preparations for the testing session.

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Corey has begun the process of collecting information on site classroom projector needs to put together a possible list for a district-wide digital projector equipment refresh.

The technology team has been busy engaged in many other activities including:

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

- Quarter 1 lessons completed at all sites
- Quarter 2 lesson planning guide sent to site administrators

## **Clarks Point network engineering, installation, and configuration**

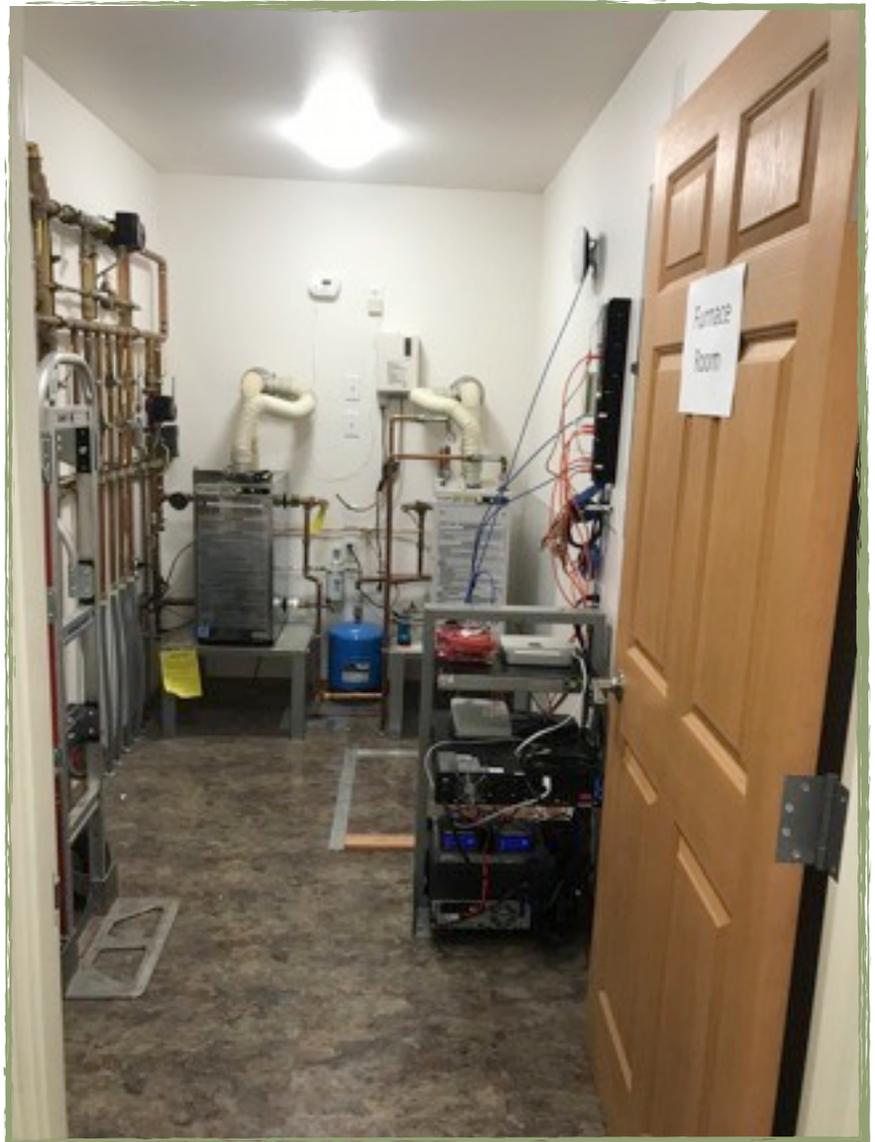
- Moved WAN/Internet circuit, telephone, and fax lines to Village Council building. Set up LAN to rooms being utilized by school for both wired and wireless access.
- Wired in secretary, time clock, and eTherapy desktops and printers. Set up telephone and fax.

## **New Classroom Printers**

- CLP configured, shipped, and installed
- KMO configured, shipped, Larry installed
- TOG configured and shipped, Jasper installing
- KEK configured and shipped
- TWA configured and shipped
- WKK configured, shipped, and installed
- KNW configured, shipped, Mickia installing

## **New Site Workgroup Printers**

- KMO configured, shipment pending
- TOG configured, shipment pending
- KNW configured, shipped, and installed
- WKK configured, shipped, and installed





## State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

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

Title I funds support activities outlined in the Title I Schoolwide Plans that are developed by each of our schools each year. With the exception of Clarks Point, each school reviews the schoolwide plan continuously throughout the year to revise the plan based on stakeholder feedback and to reflect the current needs assessment. Clarks Point will be creating a new schoolwide plan since they don't have plan to revise. Each school has completed or is close to completing the needs assessment for which the plan is based. As part of the schoolwide plan, every school includes a after school program to provide students extra support and tutoring. Schools often use Title I funding to support family engagement activities as well. Title I Schoolwide plans are posted on the district website. The 2017-2018 AK STEPP School Needs Assessments are included in the board packet for your review, as well as, the AK STEPP School Indicator Rubric.

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

The Title VI application is a multi-year project to support the implementation of the Yup'ik Studies program throughout the district. Title VI is a formula grant based on the number of students for which we have eligibility forms on file. Part of the

grant requires annual performance reports (APR) based on the activities outlined in the grant versus implementation of those activities. The ARP for school year 2016-2017 is included in the board packet. It is important to note that the second page of the application indicates that there is not a target population. The reason for this is because the district coordinates with other programs and general budget to support the Yup'ik Studies program.

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

The second phase of the BBRCTE program was completed earlier in November. Thirty-eight students from around the region participated in four different course offerings including Introduction to Nautical Skills, Home Energy Basics, Heavy Equipment Operator, Emergency Trauma Technician, and Medical Terminology courses. SWRSD had students from five of our schools participate in the various sessions. The third phase of the BBRCTE program will occur in March. Unfortunately, the Certified Nursing Assistant courses will not be offered in the third and fourth phases due to a variety of reasons. In related news, SWRSD, LPSD, and BBBSD have had several meetings related to the development of a consortium to increase efficiency and provide a sustainable model for CTE intensives for the future.

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SWRSD sent a number of staff to attend the Alaska Association of Career & Technical Education conference in Anchorage from October 30 to November 1. Randy Finkenbinder, Aleknagik; Jerry Jones, Togiak; Jodi Galiher, Togiak; Josh Gates, New Stuyahok; and Jon Clouse attended the conference. Josh Gates, John Niebergall from Digital Design & Fabrication Oregon, LLC, Chris Adams, Laser Marking Products, LLC, and three students, Justin Petla, Travis Neketa, and Andrew Petla III from the New Stuyahok Fabricators club presented during the conference during a one-hour break out session regarding the use of fab lab software and equipment to create an entrepreneurial club (New Stuyahok Fabricators). This team presented to a packed room of 20+ teachers, administrators, post-secondary representatives, and a representative from the National ACTE organization. The students were the highlight and had the entire room engaged with their product design, market research, and profit margins, and other entrepreneurship skills. Josh presented on how NSF was started and it's impact on students and student learning. John Niebergall provided insights about professional development and implementation of instructional strategies. Chris Adams was critical in providing the equipment and helping members of the team get to the conference.

It was an incredible presentation and generated a tremendous amount of conversation after the breakout session was done. Folks from around the state came to talk to all the team members throughout the day. Not only that, but the students spent several hours taking providing customized samples of their work by designing custom name tags on the spot.

It is also important to recognize that Josh Gates, Math/CTE teacher at Chief Ivan Blunka School was honored at the Alaska Association of Career & Technical Education conference as the New CTE Teacher of the Year. This



award is for teachers that are new to the CTE field (1-4 years). This is an award that is well-deserved by Josh for his work in creating the New Stuyahok Fabricators entrepreneur-based club and for his ability to bridge fabrication design concepts and equipment into core content classes.



## **Student Information & Support Specialist: Kyle Schneider**

### **Impact Aid**

Kyle is currently working on the Impact Aid report in conjunction with the school secretaries. He has finished preparing data in PowerSchool to create the reports that school secretaries will use to determine' eligibility for Impact Aid funding. On November 1st, secretaries received the information to begin work on their village's Impact Aid report and the maps needed to fill out the forms. Most of that data has been returned by secretaries and the final research to complete the reports is being done. Then forms

will be prepared for signatures by principals, village officials, BBNA, and the state tax assessor.

**Migrant Recruiting**

Migrant Education recruiting has wound down and we have submitted our paperwork to the Alaska Department of Early Education & Development (EED) Migrant Education Office. As of November 14th, EED has approved the paperwork we submitted for 246 children in our villages. We expect to receive paperwork for an additional 3 children.

School Year	Number of Migrant Eligible Children
2017-2018	246-249
2016-2017	264
2015-2016	243
2014-2015	264
2013-2014	260
2012-2013	214
2011-2012	227

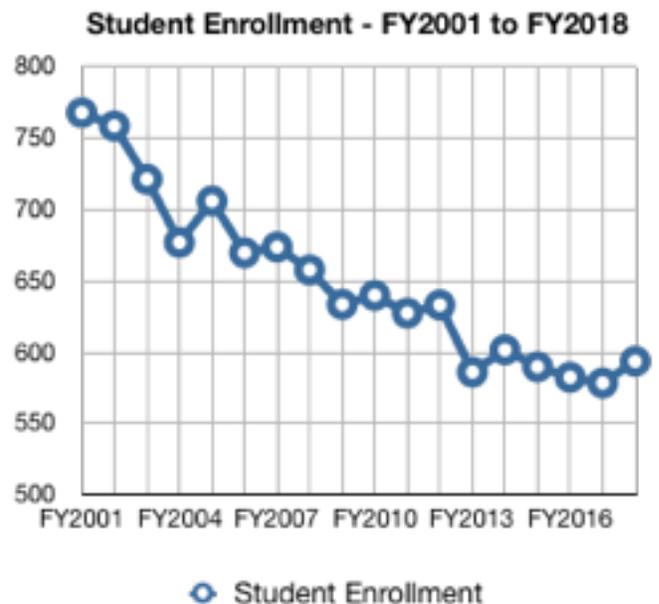
This year there were three fewer Migrant Education recruiters and that slowed recruiting considerably. While most years we are able to contact almost every family in the district for recruiting, this year we were not able to speak to many families. Due to the decrease in recruiters there was less staff time available to find working phone numbers for all families and to make repeated calls to families who did not return messages.

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

**Fall OASIS Report (Count Period)**

Count period ended on the 27th of October and we have submitted our numbers to the EED. We are currently working to resolve some issues with students who were also reported in other school districts, but the enrollment numbers should not change by more than 1/10 of a student district-wide.

The numbers submitted to EED are based on the number of students enrolled from October 2nd through October 27th and are as shown on the following page.



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	Elementary (PK-6)	Secondary (7-12)	Total (PK-12)	Intensive	% Change from Prior Year
Aleknagik School	10	14	<b>24</b>	0	-11.11%
Chief Ivan Blunka School	75.7	59.25	<b>134.95</b>	4	-0.22%
Clarks Point School	11.1	2.9	<b>14</b>	0	N/A
Koliganek School	36.45	20	<b>56.45</b>	0	13.93%
Manokotak School	73.41	51	<b>124.17</b>	3	0.19%
Togiak School	129.40	72.2	<b>205.82</b>	6	-2.05%
Twin Hills School	15.95	8	<b>23.95</b>	1	-4.39%
William "Sonny" Nelson School	12.25	2	<b>1425</b>	1	-12.31%
Total	364.26	229.35	<b>578.45</b>	15	2.62%



**Counseling & Assessment Specialist: Steve Ito**

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.

Completed the EED training requirements for renewal of Alternate Assessment Qualified Mentor Trainer status. The Alternate Assessment exists for students with significant cognitive disabilities to have access to, participate in, and make progress in general education curricula. The Alternate Assessment is based on Alaska standards but measured against alternate achievement standards.

ACT WorkKeys Assessments were sent to participating sites to be administered to grade 12 students. The assessments measure foundational skills required for success in the workplace, and help measure the workplace skills that can affect job performance. The Applied Math assessment measures critical thinking, mathematical reasoning, and problem solving techniques for situations that actually occur in today's workplace. The Graphic Literacy assessment measures the skill needed to locate, synthesize, and use information from workplace graphics. The Workplace Documents assessment measures the skills people use when they read and use written text such as memos, letters, directions, signs, notices, bulletins, policies, and regulations on the job. Individuals who successfully complete the above three assessments earn the WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate, a valuable credential for student and job seekers looking to verify foundational workplace skills.



## Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director

### Ingricuar

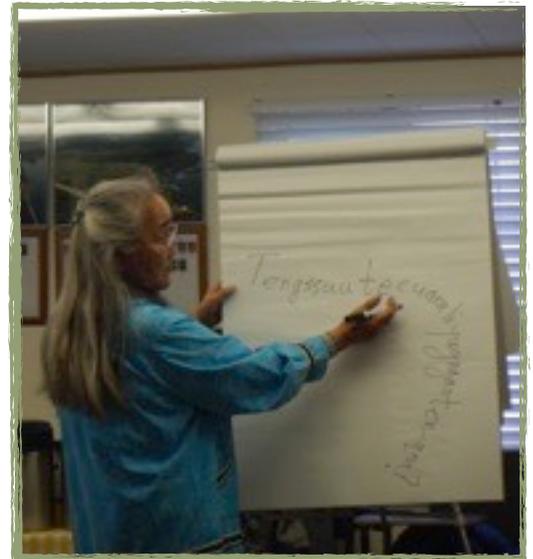
Made a site visit to Ingricuar and worked with Yungsiq (Agnes Gamechuk) the Yup'ik Studies Instructor. It was a special time to go out and interview elders for our Yup'ik Elder photo board. It was delightful to interview Taqikaq, Map'assugaq, Tamarqalria and Tagyuilnguq

Arnappagaq. And have only one last elder left to interview. With the completed interviews they will grace the hallway of the school to remind us of our past and messages from the Elders.

### The Yup'ik Studies Language Work Session

The Yup'ik Studies Language Work session was held Oct 12, 13 and 14, 2017 here in Curyung (Dillingham) with participants from the following villages Tuyuryaq, Manuquutaq, Alaqnaq, and Cetuyaraq present with others calling in from Tuyuryaq, Qalirneq, Ingricuar and Saguyak.

Marie Meade, Yup'ik Professor lead the Yup'ik language work session. In addition, Tan'iq (Larry Bartman) worked with the Yup'ik Studies High School Instructors in creating ways of using technology in promoting and making learning Yup'ik exciting and challenging. Most of the participants signed up to receive one college credit in Conversational Yup'ik. The session will finish with three polycom sessions that will end November 21, 2017.



### 8th Annual Indigenous Language Institute Symposium: Speak First– Read and Write Later (October 23–25, 2017 20 Buffalo Thunder Trail (Pueblo of Pojoaque) Santa Fe, New Mexico)

Ukayiq Martha Fox of Tuyuryaq and I participated in this intense three- day institute. The session began with Stephen Krashen, PH D. his title presentation, “A Forty Years’ War” and his synopsis, “A war has been raging for 40 years, a war, that has generated important research and a re-examination of methods. One one side, the Comprehension Hypothesis claims that comprehensible input is the cause of language acquisition - mastery of grammar and vocabulary is subconsciously acquired, the result of listening to and reading interesting messages. In contrast, the Skill-Building Hypothesis says we must first consciously learn grammar rules and memorize

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vocabulary, and practice them in output. There is strong evidence that the brain is very good at acquiring language through comprehensible input, but not good at acquiring language through skill building.” WE MUST LEARN THE LANGUAGE THROUGH THE NATURAL WAY. Listening – he further emphasized that talking is not practicing but rather talking is the result of comprehensible input. Develop SIMPLE stories in the language. This create comprehensible input thus creating that bridge to learning the language.

He further stated to never test speaking! It will come naturally. . .

It was delightful to watch Beniko Mason, Ed. D, Professor at Shitennoji University Junior Colledge in Osaka, Japan as she explained her Story-Listening Methodology. It was so similar to how we do Yaayuiyaraq (Storyknife) but with an emphasis on words they are learning. This method could be easily adapted to our Yup’ik Studies Curriculum. We will experience this during our Yup’ik Curriculum Development.

Ryan Decaire is Kanien’keha:ko (Mohawk) from Wahya Mohawk Territory, Ontario, Canada. His best practices focus for developing developing advanced oral proficiency in adults. He explained the process he used and reminded me of the process our Yup’ik Linguist Marie Meade uses as she teaches Yup’ik with a special emphasis on polysynthetic nature of our Yup’ik language. He also uses that process as he builds language and vocabulary. He emphasized five steps in contributing to a great program: 1. A good curriculum. 2. A good teacher. 3. A good teaching materials. 4. A good assessment tool and 5. A good student.

Finlay Macleod was born on Lewis in the Western Isles, Scotland and grew up where Scottish Gaelic was the everyday language. However, he did not speak it fluently until age 18 years of self-motivated learning with help from fluent speakers in his extended family. In the late 70s he became the Chief Executive of Comhairle nan Sgoitteam Araich (NNSA), the Gaelic Pre-school Council to promote Gaelic throughout the country. Mr. Macleod founded the Moray Language Centre that offers intensive Gaelic courses for adults. Angutelayak (Louse Gloko) and I have participated in his earlier intensive sessions of which we have produced, Yup’ik Only Rule. During this session he has developed a guide that will have adult (our new Yup’ik teachers with little or no Yup’ik knowledge base) learn the language on own. We will explore this method and technique a bit more to decide whether this would be the correct method and approach to utilize.



### Ukayiq Martha Fox of Tuyuryaq Report

Beniko Mason – Story Listening Methodology. I thought Beniko’s story listening method which is not story telling would work in our Yupik classes. We can make the stories a level of any grade. Shorter for younger children and longer for older or more advanced children.

Story listening uses a board to show images and written words to students when teachers introduce new words or language. Beniko Mason stated that we can use folk tales and fairytales. During Beniko’s afternoon breakout session I was able to see how she used her story listening method. It was interesting to watch and looks like it would interest any child even if they did not understand the language. With repetition children will be able to learn a language using her method.

Finlay Macleod-Moray Language Centre, Learning a Language on Your Own. Macleod talked about how spoken word is important. He talked about how listening to two people conversing in a language. He said this can be in a form of a recording. The recording can be listen to for 15 days, two to three times a day. The next 15 days you speak it to the other recorder. He strongly stated that we do not translate language when we are teaching it, but can use gestures. Finlay also shared something interesting to me about language tantrum. This is when a child who spoke and understood a language stops using the language he/she may have learned as a child. They have lost confidence in themselves, but can be built up. He shared that speaking to the young person in a language they learned as a child and telling them to respond it that language will bring their confidence back. In his breakout session he showed us how we can use his method with a class. This I thought could be used in any classroom. He also shared that we have resources in our communities, schools, classrooms that we can apply to teaching any language.

All of the presenters had interesting ways to preserve a language that may be lost or is going away. My personal belief is that we should have a immersion Head Start program, where everything taught in our Yupik language. I thank the district for giving me this opportunity to learn how our language in the schools can be strengthened and taught.

### Interview Mancauq Matróna Javier of Saguyak (Clark’s Point)

Marie Meade, Yup’ik Linguist arrive November 9, 2017 to assist me in interviewing Mancauq Matron Javier who currently lives in Dillingham but is from Saguyak (Clark’s Point). It was a fascinating interview with a lot of information that details the settling of Saguyak (Clark’s Point). We concluded the interview on Saturday November the 11th, 2017.



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## Facilities & Maintenance

**Rick Dallmann, Director**

### ALEKNAGIK

- School and Housing work orders
- Water system testing completed
- Site Characterization of old (2008) day tank fuel spill was completed
- Additional investigation is scheduled for spring. Determination from Conceptual Site Model confirms that there is no risk to the school water well or the neighboring water well. ADEC Concurs with report.

### CLARKS POINT

- Received Final approval from Fire Marshal office to utilize the entire Community Center as classrooms and office space.
- Working on Quitclaim Deeds to transfer old school building back to SWRSD from the City of Clarks Point.
- City has repaired broken water line to old school and power upgrades completed.
- Schedule for Old School remodel work is completed and will be started
- Fire Alarm Replacement Quote has been requested
- Letter of commitment received from Clarks Point Village Council to budget \$200,000 towards reopening of the old school.
- Working with Clarks Point Village Council on Teacher Housing Grant through AHFC to secure funding for additional housing units.

### MANOKOTAK

- School and Housing work orders
- Water system testing completed

### KOLIGANEK

- Fuel has been delivered, new truck is scheduled for delivery on last Vitus trip, truck was off loaded in Ekwok barge could not make it to Koliganek
- Teacher housing Arctic entries are completed.

### TOGIAK

- School and Housing work orders.
- Water System Testing completed

### TWIN HILLS

- Schematic Design work started on Kitchen remodel and secure storage area for next school year.

### NEW STUYAHOK

- Windows for entrance have been ordered and installation scheduled as soon as the windows can be delivered. Weather has delayed shipment of windows
- Fuel and new truck have been delivered
- Insulated arctic pipe barged up for teacher housing waste heat project did not have time to get pipe buried before ground freeze will install in the spring.

### EKWOK

- Old bulk fuel tank farm decommissioned
- Roof repairs have been completed so far no new leaking.
- Fuel and bulk fuel tank delivered.
- Truck destined for Koliganek was off loaded in Ekwok due to low water conditions



## Aleknagik School

### Audra Finkenbinder, Principal/Teacher

The month of October included quite a few events for Aleknagik students, staff, parents, and community members: volleyball tournaments, Quarter One came to a close, Parent/Teacher Conferences were held, and preparations were made for the second Exploration Week in November.

### Volleyball

Laker volleyball season is coming to a close and the high school Lady Lakers have hosted tournaments as well as traveled to Naknek and Togiak. Volleyball practice began in September and Aleknagik hosted a six-team tournament and a three-team tournament in October. The Lady Lakers traveled to Naknek for the Silverboot, to Togiak for a tournament and to Dillingham for the Spikefest. We are very pleased with the Lady Lakers performance as they placed third in the Spikefest! We are very excited to be participating in the Regional Tournament in Dillingham on November 16th-18th. This is the first time Aleknagik has competed in a Regional Tournament in the last thirty or more years as well as since the high school program was re-established in 2016. We wish the Lady Lakers the best of luck for success at Regionals!

It has been great watching the team compete in addition to seeing their determination to improve upon their skills. The girls, coach, and spectators have all had a wonderful time and the Lakers look forward to future athletic events!

### Exploration Week

The second of four Exploration Weeks was held in November during which time the students had the following options from which to select:

- Cutting Board Making
- Oar Making
- Grass Weaving
- Driver's Education
- Some students also completed the Medical Terminology class in Dillingham.
- Elementary students also completed E-Week activities in the afternoon which focused on Community Service and Baking for the Elders.

The third Exploration Week is scheduled for March 19th-23rd.



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## Parent/Teacher Conferences

Aleknagik School ended the month of October with Parent Teacher conferences for the first quarter. Parents were able to view and discuss test results and well as current grades.

It is hard to believe that we are already in the month of November and that the middle of the second quarter is upon us! Aleknagik School will be sending home progress reports before the Thanksgiving break and before we know it, the second quarter will conclude on December 20th.

## Thanksgiving

Aleknagik School will be celebrating Thanksgiving on Wednesday, November 22nd with a community potluck. I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and safe travels for those who will be visiting relatives out of town.





## Clarks Point School

Shannon Harvilla, Principal

The month of November in Clarks Point brought about some changes. The school has begun occupying the entire Clarks Point Village Council Building thanks to the selfless efforts of Clarks Point Village Council members and staff.

The enrollment of Clarks Point school is currently at 13 students Grades K to 10. This month the students learned Net Hanging, Photography, and, thanks to 4H, Robotics. In addition, the students are working to get back on grade level in all core subjects.

In addition, all Classified Staff at Clarks Point received glowing 90 day reviews and all staff has been recommended for permanent hire. The dedication of the classified staff to making the school run smoothly is highly commendable.

Finally, Clarks Point Established its C.S.C. The 3-member panel met at the end of October and is currently working to update the student policy manual and creating a long-term plan for our school.



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Koliganek School Deb Forkner, Principal

Holiday season was kicked off with some great holiday foods being prepared during Exploration week. Middle and High School students also enjoyed creating wood burnt signs. The signs ranged from inspirational to a favorite sports team. As part of the sign making class students also learned shop safety, how to use a chop saw and all about sanding and finishing wood projects.

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

There was a good turnout for Parent/Teacher Conferences the end of October, with 90% of parents attending. Plans were developed for students who are struggling to receive extra support during after school tutoring programs.

A very young Middle School volleyball team enjoyed their season with a few wins. They are looking forward to next year and getting better as they grow together. The wrestling team, although small in numbers, have had strong showings at all their meets. We are looking forward to the probability of sending one female wrestler to the state meet in December.





## Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Lewis Beaver, Principal

### **Academics:**

Our current enrollment is now at 74 students for K-6th, it has increased by one student from the last report. We are counting 51 students in grades 7-12th. The grand total is now at 125 students enrolled at our school. Our school's mid-quarter reports are being published on the 15th of November. The after-school tutoring is still set for Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:40-4:30 p.m. The second e-week, for high school students, had more variety of outdoor activities that included hunter safety and trapping classes. We are looking forward to the mid-winter MAP assessments scheduled to open on the week of the 27th of November.

### **Attendance:**

The current schoolwide attendance rate is at 92.36%.

### **Activities:**

We are scheduled to host a wrestling meet the weekend of November 10th. The high school girls' volleyball team is scheduled to attend the Regional Tournament in Dillingham that same weekend. We will leave for Thanksgiving break at the end of the school day of November 22nd and return to school the following Monday. Our athletes are looking forward to basketball practices starting on the 29th of November.

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## ‘Chief’ Ivan Blunka School Robin Jones, Principal

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

Exploration Week was a huge success in November. We offered the following secondary courses: Subsistence Meat Processing, International Cuisine, Wilderness Survival, Pioneering II, Wood Burning, Lure Making Business, American Sign Language, Ulu Making I & II, Intermediate Quilt Making, Advanced Qaspeq Making, and Academic Improvements. We were also able to send ten students to the BBRCTE sessions. In the elementary we were able to offer: Yup'ik Dance, Bot Battles, Rube Goldberg Machines, Coding for Kids, Engineering, Wilderness Exploration, and the Art of Making Fry Bread. The students and staff were very excited to participate in these highly engaging course offerings!



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

Positive comments about students as told by their parents:

- "My daughter's teachers all say that she asks the most intelligent questions."
- "My son's science teacher said that he is a role model to all."
- "My kid's teacher said she is always the first to volunteer to help."
- "My child's teachers say he takes his time and is improving every single day, especially in math."
- "My daughter's teacher said she is so curious about learning and is a sponge for knowledge."

Positive comments from parents regarding what they enjoy about our school:

- "This school is always clean."
- "Kids feel safe here."
- "Teachers are working so hard and kids are learning."
- "Kids want to come to school."

- “You can tell the staff really cares about the students.”
- “You always have fun activities going on for the students.”
- “I like everything about this school, except for all of the paperwork!” :-)

We continue to be proud of our student athletes, who have been competing in volleyball and wrestling across the region and state. It has also been great for our program to have such strong interest in athletics at the elementary level. The New Stuyahok Fabricators (NSF) have been very active and recently presented at the AKCTE conference. We look forward to all of the opportunities we have to be proud of our students throughout the year!



**Elementary**

Kiser Gust – 4th Grade

**Middle School**

Mickia Walcott, IV – 8th Grade

**High School**

Cameron Andrew – 11th Grade

**Employees of the Month**

Hannah Barr & Tatianna Andrew

**Yup'ik Value Demonstrators of the Month**

Vassilie Andrew & Tristan Gumlickpuk

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Togiak School

Michael Lee, Principal

We have just finished up another exciting Exploration Week in Togiak and the excitement for the Holidays is starting to show throughout the building. It has been very busy but it is worth the extra effort to see the benefits starting to show. As we approach the end of the first semester we are pushing the students hard to finish the semester on a positive and passing note.

We had identified parent engagement as a goal in our needs assessment. Our goal was to increase parent attendance at the parent teacher conferences from 32% to 40%. At the conferences held on Oct 26 and 27, we exceeded our goal by having 46.7% of parents or guardians attend the conferences. We have now increased our goal to 50% for the next parent teacher conferences. We need the parents support in improving the school and this is definitely moving in the right direction. We have had parents and community members attend the CSC meetings, our school improvement meetings, and our Foundations teams meeting working on better implementations of Safe and Civil Schools Champs expectations.

Exploration week continues to be an exciting opportunity for students to find new skills and explore additional opportunities across multiple disciplines. In the High school we had one student attend the heavy equipment operator training in Naknek. We also had students make ulu's and harpoons with Sam Gosuk. Students learned to apply previous skills in origami and make full dioramas and photograph them for display. Community members came in and taught crocheting crafts, sewing recycled material, and cooking skills with students. We had students explore creative writing and develop short stories and the beginnings of a novel. We also had students make dream catchers from willow branches. In our elementary we had some excellent artistic work as



students explored the use of line drawings with graphite and water colors. One kindergarten class explored animal adaptations and had a science experiment each day to test various adaptations of animals. The 4<sup>th</sup> graders explored their musical abilities with boom whackers and did a presentation on Friday playing Mary had a Little Lamb and Jingle Bells. Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade class recorded Yupik lessons using vocabulary and the Pledge of Allegiance. The lessons have been shared with all elementary classes to be used as supplemental Yupik lesson material. One 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class covered introduction to conversational Spanish and ended



the week with a fiesta with parents in class. As you can see, there was a lot going on for the week. It is always exhausting, but the students enjoy and are always engaged in the lessons that are provided. We ended the week with a community presentation where the students hard work was displayed for parents to see.

We have completed the drying racks and meat processing area for the subsistence classes and have some fish currently drying. Sam Gosuk and Jerry Jones will continue to partner classes to improve the building and add additional opportunities for students to use their traditional subsistence skills.

We are just wrapping up volleyball and wrestling and getting ready for basketball to start soon. Sports plays a valuable role in the school. It is used as a motivator to keep up grades and attendance, but is also a great way to build esprit de corps. Our student government led a spirit week Oct 30 – Nov 2. We ended the spirit week with a pep rally. It was amazing to see all of the students on the gym floor doing a cheer competition and Bucky the Husky there to award the spirit bone to the group that cheered the loudest. The middle school and high school group, despite being significantly outnumbered, dominated the competition. We hosted high school Volleyball and then had a Homecoming Dance after the games. We have hung all if the previous banners, some handmade and from 1988, in the gym to show the proud history of our school and village. We have also placed the elders' pictures in the hallway beside the mural for everyone to see. The next step is to have the Yupik classes complete a nameplate and short biography of each elder to be placed under the photos. It has been nice to see students showing others their relatives that are no longer with us.

There is so much going on each week that it can be difficult to determine what needs to be included in the reports. There is no way to write about all of the great things that the staff and students are doing in the school. Everyone is always welcome to come and visit the school and visit the classrooms. We want to thank the school board and district office for their continued support for our school and improvement efforts. I also want to thank the community and parents for their assistance in helping our school to be the best that we can be. #TogiakPride



## **Twin Hills School**

**Nate Preston, Principal/Teacher**

Twin Hills is looking forward to a good November. In October, our middle school students went to AFN. We started our after school program and we had a Halloween Carnival on October 31st. In November, we had our second e-week and we are looking forward to the Thanksgiving Potluck.

The middle school students enjoyed their time in Anchorage. They found the Elders and Youth Conference to be very interesting and cannot wait to go again next year. We started our after school program that runs Tuesdays through Thursdays for one hour. Students have the opportunity to work on Exact Path or any course work they need help on. We are specifically focusing on using Exact Path to see if we can boost MAP scores. Some students have moved up more than a year on exact path and we want to see if this leads to a similar gain on MAP scores. In addition, we had a successful Halloween Carnival. All the students came and participated in various fun activities. The cakewalk alone had 14 cakes.

For E-Week the high school and middle school did rock carving, wood burning, international cooking and ornament making. The elementary school did ornament making for its portion of e week. Everyone liked the classes and made lots of fun things to take home. Everyone is invited to come to our school's Thanksgiving Day potluck. The school will be providing three turkeys and three hams to go with stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy. We have a signup list for everything else. We are looking forward to seeing everybody in Twin Hills at the potluck.