

REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



Superintendent's Office David J. Piazza, Superintendent

Staffing

Sometimes there are situations where a staff member and the District mutually agree to end a contract early in order for the individual to deal with a documented medical emergency. For other cases where a Breach of Contract occurs when a staff member vacates their duties without written consent, the Professional Teaching Practices Commission (PTPC) has procedures to deal with the matter in addition to other financial remedies available to the District. The District takes any and all mid-year departures seriously as the continuity of the students' learning environment is abruptly altered. Every attempt is made to ensure a smooth transition for the new hire, as well as, the students.

At this time, we are pleased to re-welcome Helen Powell back to the District. Helen had previously provided long-term substitute teaching in Twin Hills and Aleknagik a few years ago. She is joined by her husband and will teach 1st Grade in Togiak.

Even though we still have half of the school year to go, this is the time of year that the District Office begins gearing up for next year. The recruitment process begins with the distribution of Intent Forms to all certificated staff. This survey gives staff members an opportunity to communicate to the District whether they intend to return to the District and if they are interested in a different job placement. However, these are non-binding and it is usually not until the middle of March for the District to have a complete picture of what the staffing needs for the District will be.

**Ilaten-Ilu
angussaagucimaluki
kesianek
caiturcetevkenaki.**

**Provide for and take
good care of your
family.**

--Bristol Bay Yup'ik Values

Board of Education

- Kay Andrews, President
- Marie Paul, Vice-President
- Ferdinand Sharp, Sec./Treas.
- Wassillie Wonhola, Member
- Wassillie Gust, Member
- Helen Gregorio, Member
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Job Fairs in Anchorage, Colorado, Portland, Minneapolis, and Tacoma have been scheduled during March and April. The District may need to participate in additional job fairs this Spring to meet the District's recruiting needs. The Anchorage job fair will again lead off the main recruiting season on March 17th.

Impact Aid

This is the time of year for the completion of the annual Impact Aid Application. Impact Aid is the federal program that provides funds to Districts who serve students that reside on land that can't be taxed at the local level. For Southwest Region lands that fall under ANCSA and other parcels of Restricted Indian lands qualify for funding. Unlike other state and federal grant programs, Impact Aid dollars do not have a specific use and become part of the General Fund. As such, the State of Alaska's funding formula allows the District's basic need to be reduced by 90% of the eligible Impact Aid funds. This equates to roughly a 75% decrease of the revenue generated through the program that becomes part of the Basic Need financial funding from the State. Together with the other state general revenue funding, the remaining Impact Aid funds may be used to support the general operation, maintenance, and instructional programs of the District.

The Impact Aid Application requires that the District have a set of Indian Policy and Procedures (IPP) in place to ensure that parents and the tribes have opportunity to review, comment, and make recommendations for the education of Alaska Native and Indian children. While this requirement has not changed from previous years and the District has had the IPPs in place, the adoption of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) has prompted changes to the content, structure and format of the IPPs. One notable change that must be adopted is that responses to comments or recommendations made by parents must be completed at least annually in writing. These responses must also be disseminated to the parents of Indian children and the tribes. The Indian Policy and Procedures must also be reviewed annually by the District with time available for parents and the tribes to comment and make recommendations for changes to the current set of established procedures.

Draft Borough Study

The District has participated in the Bristol Bay Native Association's Task Force grant to develop a feasibility study as to whether or not a Borough form of government would be beneficial within the Dillingham Census Area of the state. Southwest Region Schools was asked to present during the Task Force's December meeting and provided information regarding the District and its communities. The presentation included a summary of the State's funding formula for education as well as tried to provide examples of the impact on the Quality of education and the level of funding that might be established under a borough governmental structure.



Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Associate Superintendent

Reflections

In response to board requests for updates on programs and progress and as part of our normal mid-winter reflection on our instructional programs, we have taken a close look at a variety of data sources to keep our understanding of progress toward our goals in reading and other instructional areas current. This is an extraordinarily difficult task for several reasons. In the past ten years there have been numerous changes to standards in language arts and mathematics, state mandated assessments have undergone change after change related to new standards and definitions of proficiency. We looked at State of Alaska SBA data (the most recent that could be used for comparison, 2011-2014), NWEA MAP Assessment data (which we were unable to use for reasonable comparison due to inconsistencies in administration early on and later in the changes in both norming and standards being tested), assessments used to place students in our current reading groups and the levels that students were actually being instructed at in our classrooms (which we found to provide the most interesting data) and anecdotal evidence provided by master reading teacher Cindy Paxton, who we have been in consultation with over the past two years as we work to improve our reading instruction district-wide. But test scores do not always give us a very full picture. Many factors impact student learning and program effectiveness. In addition to our look at data, we had many conversations with staff about students who were experiencing challenges. These conversations led us to also ask questions about what impacts attendance might be on performance.

On the following page you will find small versions of the data samples we will be presenting at the upcoming meeting. Attached in your board packets are full size versions of a number of the graphs and informational items that will be presented at the upcoming meeting to explain our conclusions.

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TEAM



Les Parks
Technology Coordinator



Dianna Schollmeier
Elem. Ed. Specialist



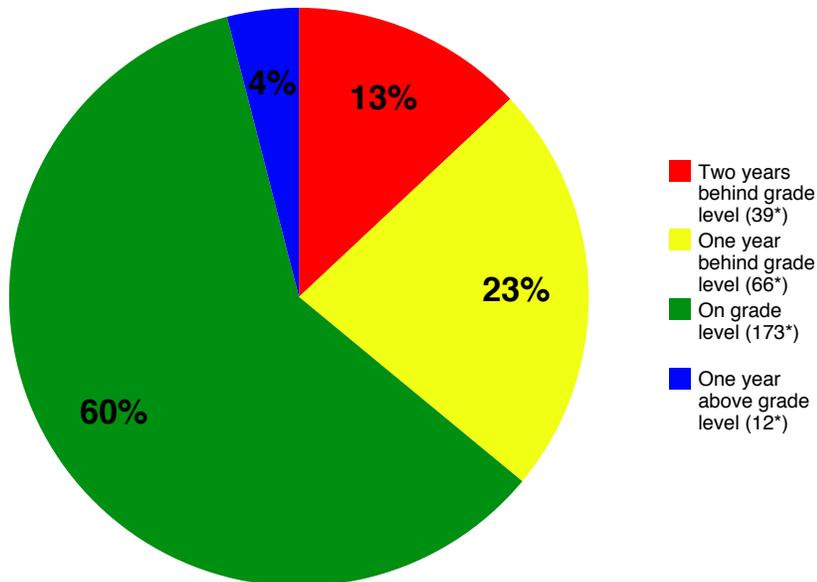
Corey Evans
Technology Specialist



Charles Becker
Sec. Ed. Specialist

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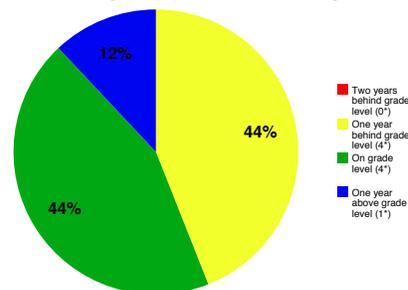
Reading Mastery Placement - SWRSD



*Data Set: 290 Students

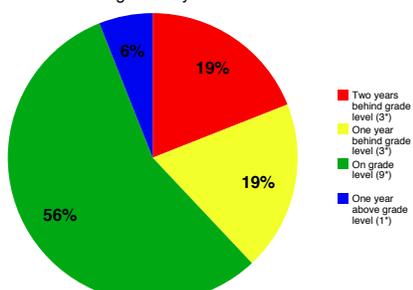
Current Instructional Placement of all SWRS K-5 students in our current reading program based on assessment data.

Reading Mastery Placement - Aleknagik



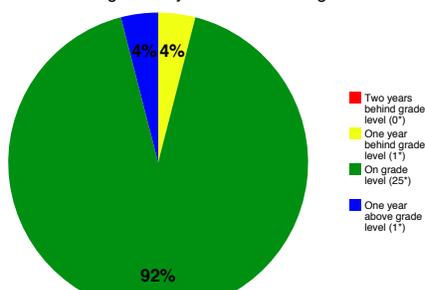
*Data Set: 9 Students

Reading Mastery Placement - Ekwok



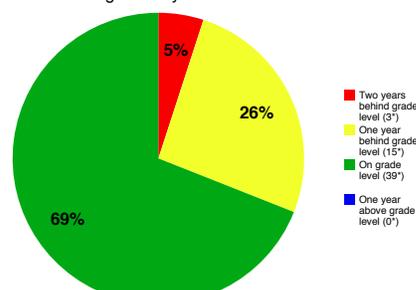
*Data Set: 16 Students

Reading Mastery Placement - Koliganek



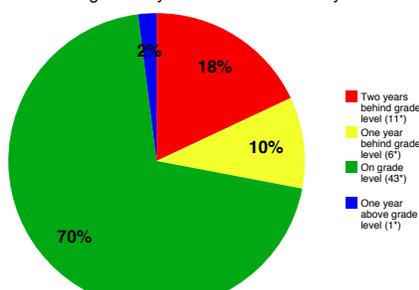
*Data Set: 27 Students

Reading Mastery Placement - Manokotak



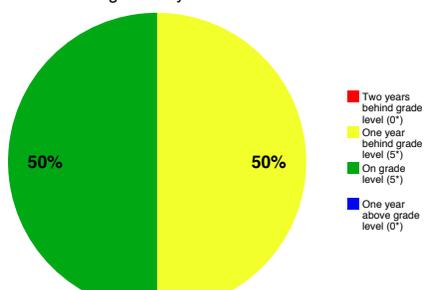
*Data Set: 57 Students

Reading Mastery Placement - New Stuyahok



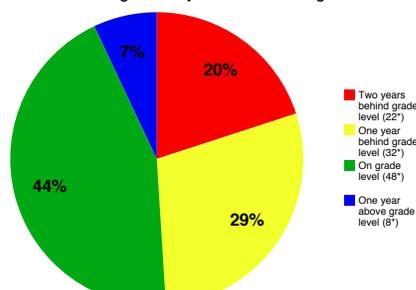
*Data Set: 61 Students

Reading Mastery Placement - Twin Hills



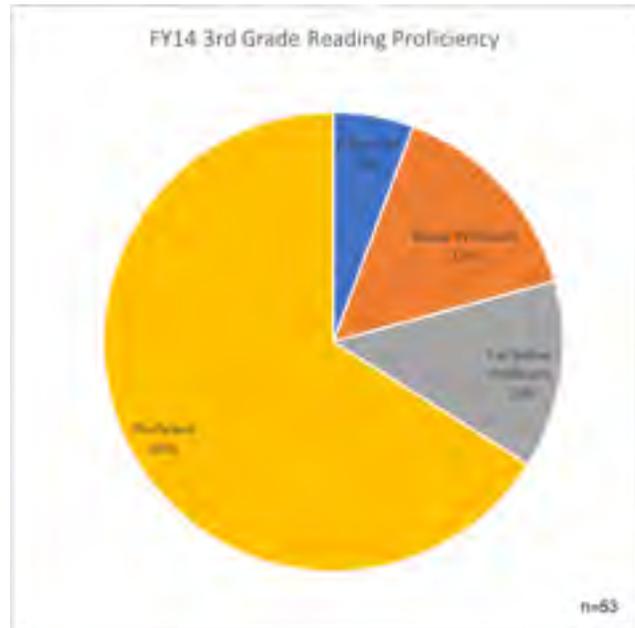
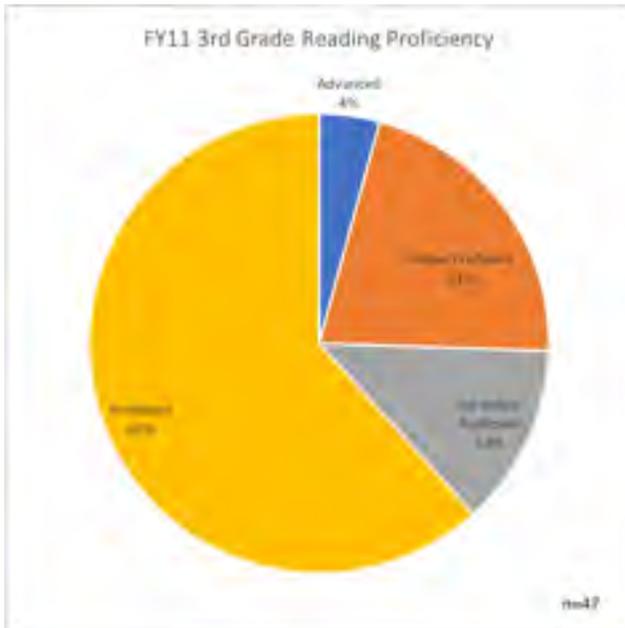
*Data Set: 10 Students

Reading Mastery Placement - Togiak

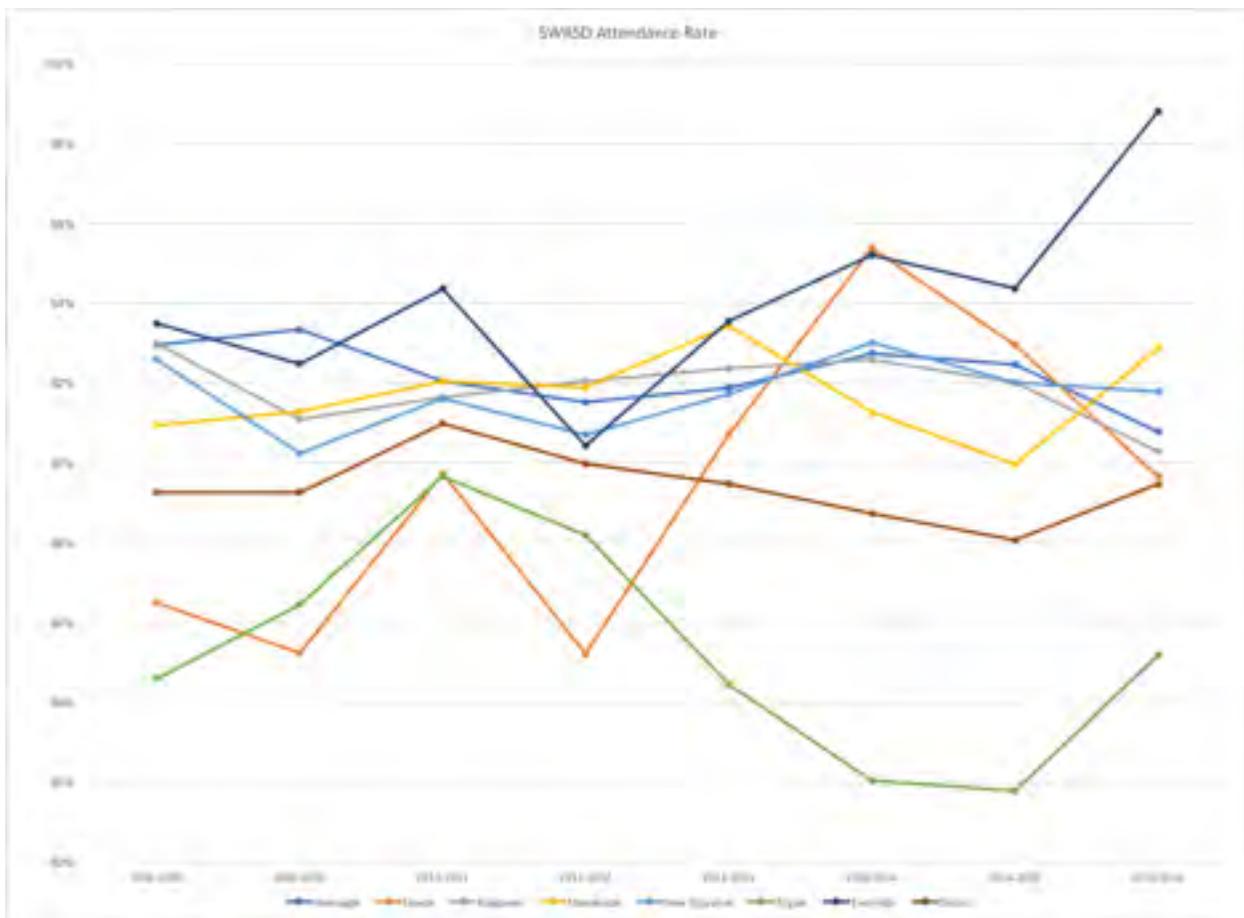


*Data Set: 110 Students

Most recent comparable data from Alaska SBA Assessment. These are district-wide 3rd grade results.



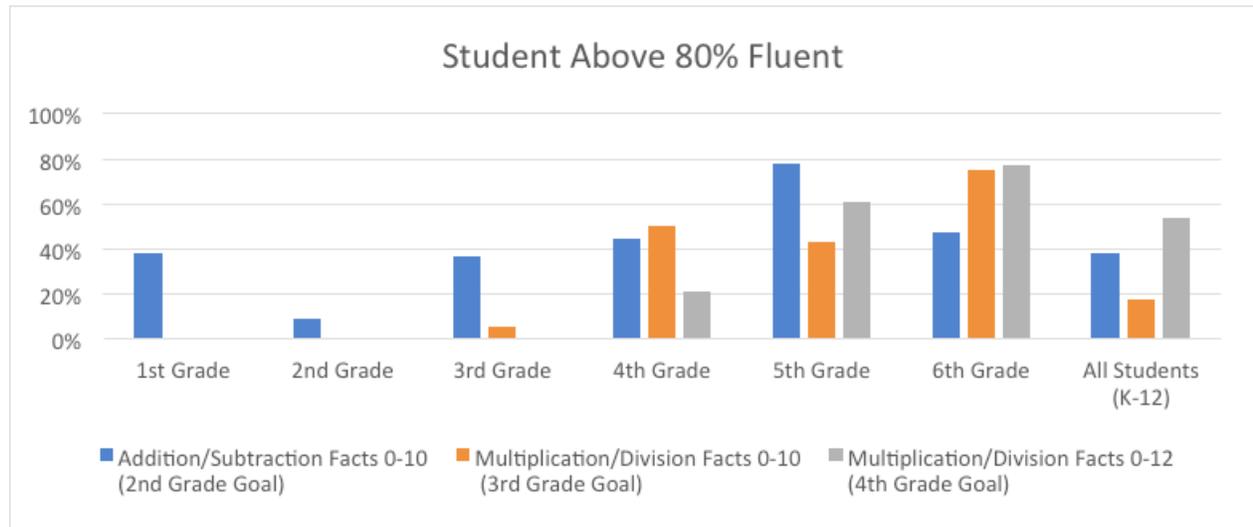
SWRS Attendance rates in recent years.



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Reflex Math

Reflex Math continues to be a popular tool to build math fact fluency around our district. We have seen a continuous overall growth this year in grades K/12. Our current fluency is at 61% with 353 students actively using the program. Some sites will see a drop-in fluency as they move students from one program to the next. Our district goal is for our students to be fluent in addition and subtraction facts by the end of 2nd grade, and multiplication and division facts 0 to 12 facts by the end of 4th grade. Currently, 47% of our students in 1st and 2nd grade are above 80% fluency in their addition and subtraction facts; Five of our 3rd graders are above 80% fluency in multiplication and division facts from 0 to 10, and 21% of our 4th graders are above 80% fluency in multiplication and division facts from 0 to 12. We are continuously promoting this program as a resource to build fluency across our district. These are foundational skills, that will allow our students to increase their computational abilities that are required in mathematics from 5th grade level and above.



Academic Vocabulary:

Students across the district continue to work to increase their academic vocabulary skills. December results for most words mastered across the district grades 6-12:

- 1st: Alfredo Jimenez (TOG) 321 Words Mastered (\$10 Student Store Gift Card)
- 2nd: Frederick Byayuk (TOG) 113 Words Mastered (\$10 Gas Card)
- 3rd: Austin Finkenbinder (WKK) 80 Words Mastered (\$5 Student Store Gift Card)
- 4th: Peter Gust (TOG) 69 Words Mastered
- 5th: Jessie Jones (TOG) 62 Words Mastered
- 6th: Jerahmy Peterson (TOG) 58 Words Mastered
- 7th: Kenneth Futch (TOG) 52 Words Mastered
- 8th: Tevin Evatt (KMO) 50 Words Mastered
- 9th: Treyton Martin (TOG) 49 Words Mastered

Exploration Week Two

The second Exploration Week occurred without any major issues. Teachers and principals are doing an excellent job of preparation for these weeks, by getting course descriptions and material orders well done ahead of time. Students have done a good job of letting principals and teachers know which activities they are most interested in and teachers are doing their best to tailor activities toward these requests.

Among a great variety of courses again this time around students were exposed to a range of new skills. In New Stuyahok, Justin Gumlickpuk's Trapping class caught a fox and in Manokotak Kirk Kofford's trapping class caught a beaver. Both classes had a great experience learning about the animals, skinning and handling of the furs.

Parents we have been in contact with have been very approving and supportive of the exploration week program. One piece of feedback from parents has been a request to better inform parents as to the types of activities their students will be involved in and if/when times are available for the parents to come in and observe the activities. Principals are preparing schedules for the upcoming third exploration week to provide parents with this information.

At most sites this time around, elementary students also took part in their own exploration week activities for the last half of each day. These activities were developed and run by the elementary teachers; some mirrored activities that secondary students were taking part in (cooking and crochet), while others were geared more toward elementary students specifically (collage and storytelling). These elementary activities also provided much excitement and engagement.



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Technology Team Notes

Corey worked with sites to complete the winter MAP test just before Christmas break and has been working on the deployment of the Apple Classroom application and will begin testing it in a live classroom in Togiak in January. Apple Classroom is an application that gives teachers the ability to control student iPads on a basic level, for example teachers can see what each student is doing or lock each iPad to a specific application to help keep instruction focused. We believe that this will give teachers some new classroom tools to better manage student use of iPads during classroom time as well as during online testing.

The Apple Support Essentials course for the exploration has been initially approved by the UAF campus. Corey is still working on navigating the corporate maze of Apple and LearnQuest to get certified to teach Apple courses for our exploration week.

Les has been busy upgrading and keeping our networks up and running and has been engaged in several other activities including:

- **eRate / School BAG Funding Year 2016 ->**
eRate Category 1 Form 471 High Costs Review questions received and answered (typically the last step before funding is issued)
- **eRate / School BAG Funding Year 2017 ->**
eRate Category 1 Form 470 filed for voice services (cellular and local telephone)··· response received from GCI for long distance and cellular services...
- **CIPA Lessons ->**
Quarter 2 lessons completed at all sites
Quarter 3 lessons planning template sent to sites
- **Network Upgrades ->**
Layer-3 network upgrades completed in KMO (now completed at all sites)
IAP firmware updates completed at KEK, WKK, and TWA over Christmas break



Student Government, Student Voice

Ashleanne Ishnook, Student District School Board Representative

Notes From Around the District

- It has been a great semester so far and the student body of Southwest Region School District is anxiously looking forward to the great adventures the next semester will hold. Many students have commented about the success of the Exploration Weeks and we are looking forward to the Exploration Weeks that are planned for the second semester. These exploration weeks have provided us opportunities to take classes that we never would have had in our original schedule. It has also allowed us to earn additional elective credits that can assist us in meeting our graduation requirements.
- We are looking forward to the upcoming basketball season, but first we need to review the successes of the 1st semester. Togiak has completed hosting regionals for Volleyball with Dillingham and King Cove attending state. Wrestling regionals were held in New Stuyahok and everyone was very excited. New Stuyahok had many students attend state with Blunka Blunka earning 1st in his weight class. Congratulations to Blunka and New Stuyahok for creating such a strong program. Students from Manokotak and Koliganek attended the youth leadership conference in Anchorage on Dec 7th. It was a very busy semester and even busier month of December. All of the students were excited for the Christmas break and look forward to resting and relaxing before starting at it again.
- Many schools conducted Christmas Programs. Togiak had the privilege of hosting Operation Santa Clause. Santa and his elves arrived using an Air Force plane with soldiers and Airmen from the Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, but Togiak was not the only school in the Christmas spirit. Each school had their unique Christmas Program and some will be continuing with Slavi celebration in early January. All of these activities have helped revive and rejuvenate the students for the hard push that will be needed to complete the second semester of the year.
- Happy New Year to all and thank you for the hard work that you do for us students.



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State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

Title IA AK STEPP – Schoolwide Planning

Every month, there is a focus on several of the 16 indicators that in the AK STEPP plans. These indicators are research based and linked to improvement of academic performance. For the month of December the indicators of focus were 3.03 and 3.04. For the month of January the focus elements are 4.03 and 4.05. Additional information about these indicators is provided below:

- 3.03 – Staff use of research-based instructional practices, programs, and materials.
- 3.04 – Staff regularly measure the effectiveness of instruction using data from formative assessments.
- 4.03 – Staff communicate school-wide behavior expectations that provide positive behavioral supports.
- 4.05 – Staff provide extended learning opportunities, and students in need regularly participate.

Title IC: Migrant Education

Southwest Region School District received a small grant to develop and implement innovative recruiting strategies using technology. Kyle Schneider has been instrumental in updating recruiting procedures and will be leading the way as SWRS pilots the use of iPads for recruiting, specifically for getting parent signatures. The idea is to stream line the process of sending paperwork back and forth from our schools to the district office.

The main timeline for recruiting is over and there are 263 children from ages birth to 20 that have

qualified for the migrant education program. The Literacy in the Home initiative is a priority of the migrant education program. One of the supporting activities is student selected books. Manokotak and Koliganek have already started and/or completed the process of having migrant students enrolled in our schools to select up to \$75 worth of books. Educational games and culturally relevant/Alaska themed books have also been ordered. Be on the look out for fun and excited family nights that promote literacy, math, and other content areas.

Career & Technical Education – Chief Ivan Blunka School

The second session of the Bristol Bay Regional Career & Technical Education (BBRCTE) program occurred during the week of November 13th. Southwest Region School District (SWRSD) had several students attend courses in Naknek including Small Engines, Ground School (Part 2), and Business (job readiness, career preparation, and excel). Students that successfully completed the Small Engines course received \$250 worth of tools, while students that completed the Business course received an iPad.

As part of the BBRCTE program SWRSD hosted an Emergency Trauma Technician course in which eight students from around the region participated including two students from LPSD, BBBSD, DCSD, and SWRSD. Students participated in over 40 hours of instruction and all of them passed the ETT

exam and will receive their ETT patch and certification. In addition, all eight students received an emergency supply kit (backpack) valued at \$150

Jon traveled to Chief Ivan Blunka School to help with the regional wrestling tournament and was able to observe the Fab Lab after school club in action as they worked diligently to customize designs, print the designs, and then press them on the regional wrestling shirts. Under the guidance of Josh Gates and Ben Gartlets, there was anywhere between 10 and 12 students designing, printing, and applying the customizations. . (Board Goal 1 – Instructional Goal 2, 3, 5, & 6)



Student Information & Support Specialist: Kyle Schneider

Alaska Military Youth Academy

Twice a year the district is required to submit a list of students who have dropped out and their contact information to the Alaska Military Youth Academy unless their parents have opted out. Early in January, Kyle submitted this information.

Civil Rights Data Collection

The U.S. Department of Education has released the dates for the submission of the Civil Rights Data Collection for the 2015-2016 school year. Alaska's submission dates are February 8th - April 26th, 2017. Kyle began the process of preparing Southwest's data in late December and anticipates that the district will be able to submit in early March. U.S. D.O.E. estimates that the average district in the country spends 86 hours preparing data for this report.

Impact Aid

Kyle worked with secretaries and principals to gather Impact Aid data for the October 28, 2016 count date for this year's Impact Aid submission. The paperwork has been signed by principals, officials in each village, and the state tax assessor. He is currently working with BBNA to get the final signatures on the documentation the business office needs to submit the district's application.

Migrant Education

After the close of the Migrant Education recruiting window in November, letters were sent out to parents who had not yet been notified to inform them that their children had been approved by the state's Migrant Education Office. These letters included details about the services that would be provided to their children. There are currently 262 students eligible for the Migrant Ed program.

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PowerSchool

Kyle worked with the Instruction Department and a teacher to evaluate a potential replacement for the Schoolnet program we purchase from Pearson. PowerSchool Assessment and PowerSchool Analytics have the potential to do everything our current Schoolnet product does, at a cheaper cost, however, the team decided to stay with Schoolnet for the coming year due to features that are currently missing from the PowerSchool products. The team agreed that the PowerSchool products should be re-examined in the Fall of 2017.

With the end of the first semester, Kyle worked with teachers and principals to ensure that grades were complete prior to storing them. Once grades were stored, principals were able to print their report cards. Kyle also generated honor rolls and perfect attendance lists for schools that requested them.

School Climate and Connectedness Survey

The district has been registered for the Spring 2017 School Climate and Connectedness Survey. School Coordinators have been identified and a sample survey has been sent to secretaries at each site for parents to review. Parents will be notified of the survey with a letter mailed from the District Office. The window for the survey will be in early February.



Counseling & Assessment Specialist: Steve Ito

The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development has selected Data Recognition Corp. (DRC) as its vendor for the new statewide student assessments in English language arts, math, and science. The assessments from DRC will first be administered in spring 2017. Students will take the English language arts and math assessments in grades 3 to 10, and the science assessments in grades 4, 8, and 10. These end-of-year assessments inform policy makers and the public, including parents, about how well students are meeting Alaska's academic standards; provide data to improve schools and to close achievement gaps; and ensure equity in educational opportunity for all students.

Commissioner Michael Johnson has chosen the name PEAKS or Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools for the new statewide summative assessment.

The testing window for The World-class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) Protocol for limited English proficient students begins February 1st. The WIDA assesses student abilities in all four language domains (Listening, Speaking, Writing, and Reading), and evaluates Social and Instructional English as well as academic language corresponding to the subject areas of Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. The assessment tool for the WIDA training is the ACCESS 2.0 for ELLs, which is given annually during a testing window from February 1 through March 31.



Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director

Site Travel

Traveled out to Tuyuryaq (Togiak) to work with the Yup'ik Studies Instructional Aides November 9-11, 2016. The first afternoon I worked with Ukayiq (Martha Fox), Itegmialria (Herbert Lockkuk, Natu (Bertha Pavian-Locukuk) and Cangarraq (Cherie Nanalook). We covered expectations from the mini grant from the Bristol Bay Native Corporation, reviewed the pacing guide and expectations from them and went through a series of modeling TPRS and Poster curriculum materials and methods. On November 10, 2016 I had the opportunity to observe the Yup'ik Studies Instructional Aides in action. The kindergarten students (Cangarra's) class had been working on their yo-yo's with materials funded by a mini-grant from the Bristol Bay Native Corporation/Education Foundation; the kindergarten students (Panik's) class introducing themselves in their Yup'ik names and reciting numbers and colors in Yup'ik; the first grade class (Ukayiq) who were working on their nasqurrun (Yup'ik dance headdress) with materials funded by a mini-grant from the Bristol Bay Native Corporation/Education Foundation and learning the Akutaq dance; the 3rd grade class (Itegmialrai) who were being introduced to Yup'ik terms of the ella (universe): akerta (sun), iraluk (moon) and agyaq (star) and then were introduced to the Akutaq dance. On November 11, 2016 had a private session with Panik (Nora Flores) who was just hired this fall. Introduced her to the TPRS concept and worked on materials she would be utilizing until the Christmas holiday.



Yup'ik Language Apps Committee Meeting

The Yup'ik Language Apps Committee met in Dillingham December 14-16, 2016. The committee consists of the following individuals: Representing Manuquutaq (Manokotak) - Angutekayak (Louise Gloko), Cungass'aq (Grace Gamechuk) and Tan'iq (Larry Bartman); Cetuyaraq (New Stuyahok) - Tat'oq (Tatianna Andrew) and Tuyurak (Togiak)-Itegmialria (Herbert Lockkuk) and Natu (Bertha Pavian-Lockkuk. Tan'iq was unable to attend in person but was beamed in using technology. The Salish and The Alutiiq Languages apps were presented and reviewed. Discussion followed that it would be a benefit to our students to reinforce their language using this technology. So after discussion



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about both the language apps it was recommended to follow the Salish. They have 45 lessons and with the short time we were able to cover 31 of the lessons. We will schedule another meeting in the new year to complete this process.

Upcoming Events

- Yup'ik Drumming and Dancing: January 19, 20 and 21, 2017
- Yup'ik Language Review: February 9, 10, 11, 2017





Special Education

Sherry Becker, Director

The special education director has been working diligently this past month to ensure that all special education paperwork/procedures are in compliance with state and federal laws and that the appropriate district policies/procedures are followed to ensure a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) for all students. At times this means that the special education director sits in on Evaluation Summary and Eligibility Review (ESER), Individualized Education Program (IEP), or Section 504 meetings and at other times, this means that the director is buried in paperwork. The latter seems to be more accurate for the month of December. The district currently has 83 students receiving special education services and another five students on a Section 504 plan. A few students are in the special education referral process or are going through the intervention process (RTI) due to academic and/or behavioral difficulties. It is important for the director to be able to sit in on special education and 504 meetings, even if by video conference, as she then has the opportunity to meet and talk with family members, to hear their concerns first hand, and has the ability to offer them some resources/supports for their child's difficulties. We have an outstanding group of special educators (teachers and paraprofessionals) working with our students and their families on a daily basis. With multiple agencies pulling together (Headstart, BBAHC, Department of Health and Human Services, SERRC, Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Special Education Service Agency, etc.) to assist us, multiple services are being provided and student progress is being attained.

Although this has been a relatively short reporting period, lots of other activities have been occurring in the special education office:

- MOU with BBAHC Behavioral Health finalized
- Three additional students were approved by DEED for Intensive Needs funding
- Travel organized for related services specialists
- Multiple observations of speech/language sessions online with E-Therapy
- Ordering of supplies for special education
- Training of teachers 1:1 as needed
- A new E-Therapy speech/language pathologist was hired to serve our students for the remainder of the school year – and subsequent training was provided on use IEP software program
- Site-specific meetings with site administrators
- Handling special education records requests
- CPI Training scheduling and ordering of supplies
- Beginnings of high school to adult transition collaboration conversations with the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Monitoring suspensions as part of federal Child Find requirements
- Planning and preparations for the upcoming SESA sponsored Positive Behavioral Supports for Early Childhood through Second Grade free training
- Planning and preparations for the RTI conference, and Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference (ASSEC)
- Recruiting for special education teacher opening
- Screening student data for gifted and talented referrals and for students who may be in need of RTI and/or special education referrals

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Aleknagik School

Audra Finkenbinder, Principal/Teacher

Before Aleknagik School staff and students began their Christmas break on December 22, 2016, the volleyball season concluded, basketball practice began, the school held a Christmas Program, the staff and students celebrated with a Secret Santa gift exchange, and the students completed the end-of-semester assessments: MAP, AIMSweb fluency, and STAR Reading.

Since the initial MAP assessment in August, Aleknagik students showed the following progress: 72% of students improved in Reading, 64% of students improved in Math, 62% of students improved in Language Usage, and 53% of students improved in Science. We look forward to continued success and improvement on the spring assessment results.

Basketball

The Lakers are happy to be fielding two basketball teams this year: a co-ed middle school team and a girls' high school team. Both teams will begin their season with away games on January 20th. The high school girls will be traveling to Dillingham for the Sockeye Classic while the co-ed middle school team will be traveling to the tournament in Togiak.

Million Word Challenge

There are currently twelve Lakers participating in the District sponsored Million-Word Challenge. All together the participants have read a total of 1,424,434 words with one participant being very close to meeting the million-word goal!

Vocabulary

Aleknagik School had a student place third in the District sponsored vocabulary competition in November. Austin Finkenbinder mastered 74 words. Way to go!

Students of the Month

K-5: Tristen Andrews

6-12: Reagan Finkenbinder

Keep up the great work!





William 'Sonny' Nelson School

Heath Hawkins, Principal/Teacher

2016 proved to be a busy, exciting and blessed year here at William "Sonny" Nelson School. The month of December was certainly no different. December started off with the whole school in MAP testing mode. Following its' completion, we found that most students either met or exceeded their growth goals for the year in at least one subject area. I received a letter from the Ekwok Native Council inviting the entire school to their monthly meeting. The letter stated that the council had received a leadership fund grant and wanted to talk with the students about the importance of their generation learning leadership skills. The native council picked us up from the school and we attended the meeting. The students were well behaved and enjoyed sitting in an actual council meeting. I want to say thank you Luki Akelkok and to the Ekwok Native Council for providing the students a chance to see what leadership looks like at the local village level. Our Warrior Time snow glasses were completed the Friday before Christmas break. The students were extremely excited about how they turned out and to take their projects home to their parents. I just want to say thank you to George Taylor and David Williams for all the hard work they put into this project. I am looking forward to whatever they have planned for the next project. We ended December with our Christmas program. My wife wrote a play called "An Unplugged Christmas". She recorded students reading their parts to the play using iMovie. The students sang some traditional Christmas songs and also sang a few in native Yup'ik. We had a great turnout for the play and the community seemed to enjoy it. My wife also took Christmas pictures of the students and gave parents digital copies of the photos.



Our students of the month for December were Zabrina Hawkins and Billyboy Hurley. Both of these students have exhibited great attitudes and displayed traits we consider consistent with student citizenship.

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Koliganek School **Michael Lee, Principal**

It has been a great first semester and we look forward to the opportunities that we have during the start of the second semester. During the month of December, we held our winter Scholastic Book Fair. We partnered with our migrant education program to provide additional books for those eligible students. In total we sold approximately 775 books to students and parents in Koliganek. This will greatly increase the amount of literature in the homes and have a long term impact on the students' success. Koliganek School would like to thank Jon Clouse and Pam Johnson for working together with the migrant education program and helping make this book fair such a success and Natalia Ishnook for helping to get the students qualified for migrant education.



It has been a very busy first semester and we would like to take this opportunity to review some of the goals that we established in our needs assessment. We had identified reducing our failure rate as a main goal for grades 9-12. With assistance from the CSC we reached out to the community and asked for assistance in motivating and encouraging the students, and have had great success. There has been a major reduction in the failure rate from 100% of students failing at least one class in 15-16 school year to 9.5% of students failing at least one class in the first semester of 2016-17 school year. We could not have accomplished this with out the parents and community support. Because of the students hard work we are looking forward to having a great basketball season now that we have eligible players. The second semester will surely be fun and exciting.

Although our sports were limited to middle school for first semester, we still competed well and represented our school and district in a positive light. We had cross country runners and wrestlers that competed so far this year. One wrestlers went undefeated and another only lost 1 match the entire



season. Basketball practice has started and this will be a benefit with grades and attendance. We look forward to our first meets for MS and HS on Jan 20th. We will then have games every weekend until regionals in March. It will be a very busy time of year and our Student Athletes are excited about the opportunities this year.

We conducted a Christmas Program with many classes doing songs and presentations for the community. We had a visit from Santa Clause and BBNC provided presents for every child in the village. The middle school students had a cookie decorating activity after the program in the cafeteria and all of the community was invited to participate. There was a craft bazaar after the Christmas program where local crafts were sold and the school had a sale on items purchased for the bazaar. The Christmas program was a great success and an exciting way to end the first semester. We also recognized the November student of the month at the Christmas program. The winners for November were Torrence Andrew (Kindergarten), Paaraq Nelson (5th Grade), Jacob Merlino (3rd Grade), and Elizabeth Norbert (MS/HS).

We had several students that attended a youth leadership conference in Anchorage. Ashleanne Ishnook and Rachel Norbert attended the conference that was being conducted with UAF and BBNC. The students also earned a college credit for the work completed at the conference. We are shaping our future leaders and hope that by empowering them as youth, we are preparing them to be the village leaders of tomorrow.

There has been so much happening that I cannot include everything wonderful in this short summary. Things have been very fast and they will not slow down anytime soon. Thank you for the hard work that you have done in helping provide the best education possible to the students in Koliganek.



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Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Deb Forkner, Principal

The first semester at Manokotak Nunaniq School ended with lots of activities and a graduation. Congratulations to Manokotak's first graduates of the class of 2017, Edward George III, Jeoffrey Gloko and Liana Evon.

Activities in December included: several basketball tournament fundraisers, Holiday Bazaar, Christmas Program with a visit from Santa, Secret Santa gift exchange and a staff Christmas party.

At the December CSC meeting, Mayor Melvin Andrew shared that the Village of Manokotak is planning to set aside funds from fish taxes for education programs at Igushik over the summer. Principal Forkner and Vice-principal Bartman will be putting together a draft plan to present to the village.

The after school food program continues providing meals for students who are involved in after school activities such as tutoring and athletics. Thanks to Dana Bartman for working with Food Bank of Alaska to bring this program to our school.

Returning to work in January, teachers had two in-service days. January 10, was spent learning about Marzano's design element #6: Identifying Critical Content, reflecting on our professional goals, having team meetings and planning for second semester. January 11, district office personnel provided trainings in the morning and the afternoon was spent planning for the March Exploration week.

Upcoming events include: First semester awards on January 13. Juniors and seniors attending the Career Fair in Dillingham, January 20. Principal

Forkner and one teacher will attend the annual RTI Conference in Anchorage January 27-29. We are looking forward to the start of basketball season and hosting the girl's district and boy's regional games in March.





'Chief' Ivan Blunka School

Robin Jones, Principal

Students of the Month
 Mason Eneyuk – 1st Grade
 Gusty Blunka – 8th Grade
 Vanessa Blunka – 11th Grade

Employees of the Month
 Clayton Lamphear
 & Alexandra Gumlickpuk

We celebrated a fantastic first semester at Chief Ivan Blunka School and are excited to begin the second semester. We capped off the year with a fun holiday program and a visit from Santa and the Buddy the Elf. We will honor the first semester accomplishments with an awards assembly when the students return.

In our Professional Learning Communities, we will initiate the 30-Day Happy Teacher Challenge which is designed to help teachers connect with students and build staff rapport while focusing on organization, staying healthy, and positivity. We will also continue to reflect on our teaching practices by identifying areas of pedagogical strength and weakness and collaborating to design strategies for improvement.

We were so incredibly proud of our student athletes last semester as the volleyball team placed 3rd at regionals, and we qualified seven wrestlers for the state championships in Anchorage at the regional tournament we hosted at home. We came away from the wrestling state championships with one state champion (Boys 113lbs), one 3rd place (Girls 132lbs), one 4th place (98lbs), and so many great memories. We look forward to celebrating our students' continued success throughout this semester!



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Togiak School Sam Gosuk, Principal

The village and the school including student are excited about the return of winter after several years of green grass growing in January and February.

Traditional Council was able to work with Togiak School to make Cultural Week happen this year as part of the Exploration Weeks. Experts from the community came and taught skin sewing, survival skills, beading, firearm safety, and harpoon making.

Academic Improvement was one of the exploration classes which as taught also. I had a chance to be the 'expert' elder working with our shop teacher as a harpoon making instructor. In preparing to teach the class, at first I had some doubt about whether the most of the students would be able to finish the project.

During the course of the lessons, we found ways to do the project faster and as a result majority of the students finished their harpoon project. Some of what the Elementary classes did were: story telling, making a fishing line. One of the Elders also talked to the young people about survival in the wilderness, showing them tools and equipment to use in the wilderness. During the middle of the Exploration Week, Operation Santa come to Togiak with Governor Walker and his wife. That ended the Exploration class for the day and the community came to school to see Operation Santa which gave presents to all students and food to the community members. All got a special gift of coffee from Starbucks. The community, the teachers, and the students were very excited about Operation Santa. Every student got a gift during the event. Parents and their children were able to have their pictures taken with Santa. In December we had a good community turn out and students and their teachers demonstrated cultural songs, dances, and plays which they worked and learned patiently with their teachers. The community also sang cultural Yupik Songs with the students about Christmas.



Traditional Council also made a presentation to the elementary for safety since we had shore ice now. Elementary classes from K - 5 were given a short demonstration for safety and instructed to keep away from shore ice since it was still thin and dangerous. They were shown the skill of using a rope with a buddy to check the ice and also instructed how they could back up pulling their buddy to safety. The students were asked, what needs to happen now? Students from previous demonstrations knew to answer that they needed to use grass to be warm stuffed inside their wet clothing.

This idea of learning, practicing, and being able to show what they learned to another is a very good example of education. By listening, watching, and practicing, our students learn. When they apply these to academics they will be successful as our forefathers were.





Twin Hills School

Nate Preston, Principal/Teacher

Twin Hills is returning from winter break. We had a successful December with a Christmas Pageant, finals and MAP Testing. We are looking forward to January, beginning with the semester in-service, new classes for high school students as well as adjusting the schedule for the elementary students. We are also going to start preparing for two new e-weeks, NYO and two migrant nights.

Since the last board report, we completed November E-Week, our Thanksgiving Potluck, MAP Testing, finals and the Christmas Pageant. We were excited to have E-Week onsite and the Elementary students were happy to be included. The baking class cooked pumpkin pies and cookies that were served at the potluck, which was very successful, as evidenced by a packed gym and enough food for everybody. Map Testing showed good improvement over the beginning of the school year. All students completed their finals before the end of the semester and we ended the semester with a Christmas Pageant where students sang Christmas songs in English and Yupik.

January will start off with an in-service, a new high school schedule and a migrant night at the end of the month. During the in-service all educational staff will complete the CPI training. We will schedule all the high school classes to make sure students are on track for graduation; we will look at MAP scores and make sure weak areas are covered as needed. Lastly, we will be doing a migrant night at the end of January.

We are looking to hire an NYO coach and have our first NYO team. We are continuing to work with the community to create alternative options for E-Week classes. Fish and Game as well as BBEDC have agreed to teach classes in Twin Hills. We signed up with the district provided comic illustrator to teach comic book illustrating.

We are looking forward to a successful second semester. We currently have 18 students and are going to get them all involved in the after school program in order to continue and build on the improvements we have seen since the beginning of the school year. I wish everyone a Happy New Year!