

REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



“Caurailngarpeknaci pingnatugurluci.

Always trying, never without.”

--Bristol Bay Yup'ik Values

Board of Education

Kay Andrews, President
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Superintendent's Office David J. Piazza, Superintendent

Staffing

(Board Goals 1, 4 & 5 • Instruction Goal 3)

Recruiting efforts are ongoing at this time. The District has successfully recruited candidates for 14 of the 22 anticipated vacancies this year. Margaret Gray from Horn Lake, MS will join the Aleknagik School to assist with the expansion of the High School Program as a Language Arts teacher. Michael Lee returns to the District as the Koliganek Principal. Richard Coppin presently in Atqasuk, AK will teach Secondary Language Arts, Social Studies, and CTE courses in Koliganek. Dalton Hawkins from Sandpoint, ID will teach Secondary Science and Math in Koliganek. Jasmin Montgomery from Kenai, AK will join the Manokotak staff to teach in the 5th/6th Grade classroom. Rachel and Raymond Moylan will also teach in Manokotak as the Secondary Language Arts and Secondary Social Studies teachers respectfully. Leah Sizemore from Myerston, PA will teach 1st Grade in New Stuyahok. Hannah Therrell from Perry, GA will also join the “Chief” Ivan Blunka team to teach 3rd Grade. Hannah Barr from Lebanon PA will teach in the 4th/5th Grade classroom. Nicole Wagner from Slatington, PA will provide Special Education instruction in New Stuyahok. Donna Gurley will teach in the Kindergarten in Togiak. Jane Blaile from Florence, SC will teach 5th Grade in Togaik. Jodi Galiher from Superior, MT will teach Secondary Science in Togiak.

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The District will have concluded its last scheduled job fair in Minneapolis before the Board Meeting. Hopefully, additional candidates will be presented for consideration at that time. New candidates are being contacted daily from the list on the Alaska Teacher Placement website as well.

Legislative Report

(Board Goal 2)

April 17th was the scheduled last day of this year's legislative session. The District is still monitoring legislation including the TRS bill to determine its potential effect on the budget for next year. While the District has submitted written testimony, at this time, no public comment sessions have been held. It appears that what ever methods get finalized to balance the state budget, the measures will include the reduction of the \$50 BSA as anticipated.

Superintendent Travel: Superintendent Piazza, Associate Superintendent Noonkesser, School Board President Kay Andrews, and Board Member Ferdinand Sharp participated in the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Spring Boardmanship Academy and Legislative Fly-In. Topics presented included information regarding the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) by Margaret MacKinnon from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. Bob Wicker presented on the "Considerations for Going Digital." The 2016 Alaska Teacher of the Year Amy Jo Meiners spoke and had participants complete a hands-on classification activity that brings Art, culture, and content area learning together. AASB staff member John Greely presented on their latest Salary Survey results that can be used to compare salary and benefits across the state. Lori Grassgreen and Timi Tullis also with AASB presented "What is

Educational Equity?” This presentation included information on Trauma Informed School along with merging social & emotional skills into the Yup’ik Studies curriculum. The second day of the Academy provided information related towards the legislative session. Sessions including “What is Currently Driving the Legislature”, “Legislative Priorities and Bill Review”, and “Developing Strategies on Priorities for the Final Stretch of the Session” focused on helping board members to develop talking points for the time spent in the Capital speaking with legislators. The final two days provided opportunities for district administrators and board members to meet individually with legislators or attend public committee meetings and floor sessions.



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Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Associate Superintendent

Instructional Program

(Board Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 • Instruction Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6)

As we continue to prepare for next year, we have begun work with sites on scheduling and adapting curriculum pacing for next year's changes. Calendars have come in and while we have had some good discussion about the length of Christmas break, we have again come up with a calendar that allows all schools to share resources and staff development time. Sites also reviewed the proposal for a common bell schedule. The site calendars, that include many common dates, and tentative district-wide bell schedule included in this month's board packet shows our CSCs willingness to work together across the district, and their focus on providing the best possible program for all of our students.

As we move ahead with plans to provide high school options at all of our schools, our Maintenance department and Stantec have come up with initial drawings for modifications to both Aleknagik and Twin Hills Schools. We anticipate this work occurring this spring and summer at a very reasonable cost using funding from this school year. Both schools should be ready for increased enrollment next year.

It appears that both House and Senate have restored the Broadband Assistance Grant (BAG) funding for next year. At this point it appears that after being cut early on, the funding has been largely restored to this year's funding level. The latest from Juneau looks like we will be receiving the same funding as this year. This will be critical to instructional program support.

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TEAM



Les Parks
Technology Coordinator



Dianna Schollmeier
Elem. Ed. Specialist



Corey Evans
Technology Specialist



Charles Becker
Sec. Ed. Specialist

Instructional Team Notes

Distance Learning & FY17 Instructional Program Review

(Board Goals 4 & 5 • Instruction Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6)

- April has been a month of planning or, “Always getting ready,” for the curriculum department.
- The first project has been compiling supply and book orders for the 2017 school year, including the addition of high school books and materials to the sites that will be expanding next year.
- Plans are in place to hold a week-long planning session in Dillingham the last week of May to work on scheduling details for the expanded high school program and for high school teachers from all sites to become more familiar with the PLATO software.
- Building preparations for expanded program is beginning at Aleknagik and Twin Hills.

Love of Reading & Geography Bee

(Board Goals 4 & 5 • Instruction Goals 1 & 3)

- Another ongoing project has been passing along to students their hard earned rewards in the “Love of Reading” challenge. Some classes from Togiak, Twin Hills, New Stuyahok, and Koliganek have already completed the challenge. Manokotak has had all five of its elementary classes complete the challenge.
- This month will wrap up with the Geography Bowl for 5th grade students, the Alaska Studies Challenge for 4th grade students, and the Science Fair for middle school students.



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Technology Team Notes

The technology team has been busy engaged in the usual support duties, but this month the focus has been on a major project that has been in the works for several months now.

eRate – School BAG Grant FY16

(Board Goal 2)

- April report completed and submitted to Alaska State Library
- Application completed and submitted to Alaska State Library (award notifications due mid-May)

CIPA Lessons

(Instruction Goal 3)

- Quarter 3 lessons completed at all sites
- All CIPA lessons completed for this school year

Apple Repair Certifications & iPad Management

(General Program Support)

- Corey completed his Apple certification for the family of MacBook Air laptops the district is currently deploying and has applied a fix for a long stand issue in the iPad management server (JSS).

Apple Certifications for Students

(Instruction Goal 3)

- This month Corey has been researching the Apple professional certifications that would fit into a technology strand for the focus weeks for the new high school model. So far he has come with a couple options and is working to verify the district's testing center status.

NWEA MAP Testing

(Instruction Goal 3)

- The MAP testing window began on April 18th and Corey is involved with sites ensuring a smooth delivery of this years final MAP testing window.

AMP/KITE & DRC Insight

(Instruction Goal 3)

- All sites have completed DRC Insight testing
 - SWRS was one of few Alaska districts successfully able to complete this testing online
- Testing cancelled by EED due to testing platform unreliability

District-wide Wireless System Upgrades

(General Program Support)

- Equipment ordered for WKK, KEK, TWA, KNW, and TOG
- Installation and configuration scheduled this spring for WKK, KEK, and TWA (Next fall for KNW and TOG)
- New wireless access points installed at district office



State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

(Board Goal 1, 4 & 5 • Instructional Goal 3, 4, & 5)

The Federal Programs Director was invited to participate on a state advisory committee to provide feedback about how to address the changes between NCLB regulations and the new ESSA regulations. Congress unexpectedly authorized ESSA earlier this year, which means that states will have about a year and a half to make any necessary adjustments to three main areas within the ESSA regulations including the following:

- Standards and Assessment
- School and District Accountability
- School Support and Improvement

The main differences between ESSA and NCLB is that there is greater flexibility at the state level when it comes to determining high-quality standards, types of assessments used, and the implementation of educator effectiveness systems. It seems that there is less flexibility for schools and districts but there are discussions centered on the options available to make part of the new accountability for schools and districts more relevant to local measures of student success and school quality. This is another large endeavor that will result in some changes to the accountability system, assessments, and school support.

Title VII Indian Education

(Board Goal 1 & 5 • Instructional Goal 2 & 4)

Part II of the Indian Education application is now available for submission. The Indian Education was one of several grants that was presented at a number of communities CSC meetings. It was also the grant that generated the most discussion at site CSC meetings. The overall feedback about the use

of these funds has been very positive and would like to continue to see the use of the funds for the development of the district Yup'ik Studies program.

Carl Perkins & CTE

(Board Goal 1 • Instructional Goal 3 & 5)

A need has been identified regarding the educational value of work experience for students. This need has been brought to the attention of the district by school leadership, parents, community members, and district leadership. The result is the creation of a School to Work Experience course that provides the opportunity for students that obtain employment during the summer months to earn elective credit. The course requires a specific number of hours that would earn 0.5 or 1.0 elective credits. Students are required to prove that they worked the required number of hours and write a reflection upon their experience. Additional information is provided in the board packet under SRS-866.

Boarding Home

(Board Goal 3)

The Secondary Boarding Home Program was developed by the state to support students in grades 9-12 who do not have daily access to a school of the appropriate grade level by being transported a reasonable distance” as outlined in 4 AAC 09.050. This program has been available to students residing in Aleknagik, Ekwok, and Twin Hills. However, because these schools will be offering a secondary program (high schools) students living in these communities will not be eligible for the Secondary Boarding Home Program. Notification will be sent to parents of students currently in the Secondary Boarding Home Program, all parents who have students residing in these communities,

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and to school leadership, who will in turn, communicate the information their CSC.

Title IA – School and District Report to the Public

(Board Goal 3)

The School and District Report to the Public have been prepared, posted on the district website, sent to school staff, and mailed to every parent. This is a report required to be completed and communicated to stakeholders. This information is for the 2014-2015 school year. The reports provide information about the academic performance of all students and several subgroups, overall school and district performance, two-year trends, Annual Measurable Objectives, and national assessment results. The reports are typically completed in the fall but the data for the state assessments were not available until late February.

Other Activities

(Board Goal 3)

The Federal Program Director traveled to Twin Hills to administer the ParaPro Assessment to several community members that were interested in an instructional aide position. He also traveled to Aleknagik to attend a migrant family night. The event was styled after the game show Family Feud. The difference is that students worked in teams of two and answered literacy related questions. It was a very fun evening.



Counseling & Assessment Specialist: Steve Ito

(Board Goal 1 & 5)

The Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) and the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) were cancelled on

April 1st. due to technical disruptions. These disruptions rendered affected student tests invalid, which in turn, would not have provided accurate and viable test results. A damaged fiber optic cable at Kansas University caused the technical disruptions. Kansas University is the location of Achievement and Assessment Institute (AAI) the designer and vendor of the AMP and DLM test. The AMP was a computer-based assessment geared to match the technology rich instruction students are currently receiving in our schools. The goal of this assessment was to give students in grades 3-10 an opportunity to take a custom developed assessment that measures the Alaska English Language Arts & Mathematics Standards adopted in 2012. The DLM (also known as the Alternate Assessment) satisfies the requirement for all students in grades 3-10 to participate in statewide assessments. This was a non-diploma track test for students with significant cognitive disabilities based on Alaska standards but measured against alternate achievement goals. The cancellation is an ironic twist of fate since this school year is the last contracted year for these assessments anyway. The department of education will request proposals for a new test to begin in spring 2017.

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



Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director

Yup'ik Studies Cultural Units

(Instructional Goal 4)

Angutekayak (Louise Gloko), Tan'iq (Larry Bartman) and Anguk'aq (Justin Gumlickpu) came in for a one-day session to brainstorm Yup'ik studies cultural topics that would be addressed as part of the intensive sessions being proposed for this next school year. Thirty-six topics were identified. The list will be sent out to each of the sites where the local sites and community members can begin to identify individuals who would have the knowledge background to teach these proposed lessons.

Arctic Indigenous Education Conference 2016

(Instructional Goal 4)

The Arctic Indigenous Education Conference: Revitalization-Challenges and New Perspectives held in Guovdageaidnu, Norway March 14-17th. I was invited to attend and present a paper titled, “Strengthening relationships through cultural and language revitalization” with colleague Yurliq Nita Rearden (retired educator and consultant). Our presentation was well received and participants were fascinated with the process that we have taken in strengthening our relationships through the cultural and language revitalization process. We are fortunate to have experienced and concerned Yup'ik studies instructors who demonstrate this urgency and have the support from our school board. This helps us to provide a strong foundation as we embrace the culture and language of our ancestors. Throughout the whole conference the concern of re-education ourselves of our culture and language was echoed – and even to digital possibilities of how can we transform cultural education? Another concern is climate change. What is happening within our communities? How is it affecting our relationship with our land? And lastly, how can we “mend” the intergeneration gap that was created due to contact and schooling? It was indeed a great conference with a special focus on how to make our own language and culture important to our students, community members and school. Quyanara Sami Parliament for sponsoring my participation.



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Developing Culturally Relevant Language Guides, Activities and Assessments

(Instructional Goal 4)

Angutekayak (Louise Gloko) and I participated in “Developing Culturally Relevant Language Guides, Activities and Assessments” training, March 28-30, 2016 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. This three- day session introduced us to terms that make much more sense to our educators- Language Guides (curriculum), Language Activities (lesson plans) and How Am I Doing (assessments). The assessment part is crucial to the teacher because you are checking to see if “my” learners are leaning what I am presenting to them. The Language Guides can be represented with a theme using pictures and the language – much like presenting a poster. The language activities ask what you want students to learn, what you are going to do, exercises to practice and to show what they understand and what you are going to use to teach. We will present this model and method to our 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Yup’ik Studies curriculum team.

Angutekayak (Louise Gloko) writes it was an enriching experience for me because this was out of Alaska, especially to be in amongst other natives from other states to represent their cultures. The conference had different topics such as:

- Why is the Language of our Ancestors important today?
- 5 Step Process to Oral Language Immersion
- Visual representation of Culturally Relevant Curriculum
- Language Learning Activities
- Planning Immersion Activities
- Share Language Group
- Thematic Unit
- Assessment In and Out of the Language Class
- Language Group Work
- Demonstrations of Language Activities & Assessment by Groups

The language is a Spirit, he hasn’t left us, he is waiting outside, for us to ask for the knowledge of the language, and to open the door to fluency. –Stan Bluff

I have taken pictures and took notes for my own reference of the power points that were presented for future use in my Yup’ik Studies Class and with my Yup’ik Studies Instructional colleagues.





Special Education

Sherry Becker, Director

Immunization Audit

(Board Goals 1 & 3- Instructional Goal 4)

The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services completed an Immunization Audit for both Aleknagik School and Togiak School on 3/9-3/10/16. Results of the audits were provided to the school principals and principals will address any issues found during the audit.

CPI Institute Training

(Board Goals 3, 4 & 5 - Instructional Goals 2 & 4)

Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) training has been completed for all district schools. One hundred and forty-eight certificated and classified staff have completed the required training this school year.

Travel & Recruiting

(Board Goals 3, 4 & 5 - Instructional Goals 2 & 4)

The special education director assisted with the recruiting efforts at Job Fairs in Anchorage and Portland this spring in the search for qualified candidates to work with our students.

The special education director travels have also included site visits to Aleknagik School on 3/2/16, to Manokotak ‘Nunaniq’ School on 3/28-3/29/16, and to Togiak School on 4/11-4/13/16. Site visits were for the purpose of observation/supervision of special education services, support/training of special education teachers and to assist with Child Find Screenings.

During the site visit to Manokotak ‘Nunaniq’ School, the special education director got the opportunity to observe in a number of classrooms. One classroom in particular stood out. This was Katrina Campbell’s 1st grade classroom. The inclusion efforts- especially in Domains One and Two - that Ms. Campbell has put in place are commendable. Ms. Campbell does a wonderful job in fully including students with disabilities into her classroom and treats all students equally, regardless of ability. As you will see from the attached photo, ALL students are included in Ms. Campbell’s classroom, ALL students have high expectations and ALL students’ success is acknowledged and celebrated!. Thank you Ms. Campbell for doing such an outstanding job!



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Child Find

(Board Goals 3, 4 & 5- Instructional Goal 1 & 2)

Child Find Activities are in full swing throughout the district and some schools have already completed their Child Find Screening activities. Manokotak School held their Child Find Screenings on 3/21/16. Manokotak School screened a total of 8 children between the ages of 3-5. "Chief" Ivan Blunka School also screened a total of 8 students during their Child Find Screenings on 3/10/16. Paperwork has been submitted to the special education director for review. Results will be reviewed to determine need for additional evaluations and/or possible referral for special education services. Togiak Child Find Screenings will take place on 4/11- 4/12/16.



Facilities & Maintenance

Rick Dallmann, Director

Togiak

- Working on outstanding work orders and trying to keep up on glass replacement due to vandalism and accidents.

Twin Hills

- Planning for new classroom addition is moving forward, prints have been finalized & material lists are being made, looking to hire some help to get this project completed before school starts next year.
- Working with the Village Council and Shannon Small to work out details to move the old house off the school property and get it set up on a new lot.

New Stuyahok

- Waste heat project is completed and on line.

Aleknagik

- Material lists have been completed for the new classroom remodel project. We are currently hiring people to start the work. We should have

the project completed before school starts next year.

Koliganek

- Working on a few outstanding change orders and remaining work to the fuel system is ongoing. The gym floor is scheduled to be reworked and repainted sometime this summer and will be ready to go before school starts.

District Office

- The system to Individually monitor each of our bulk fuel tanks District Wide is in place and working nicely. We are able to get fuel measurements at each tank through the Internet. This system may also get us some Insurance Discounts as well as provide a better way to monitor leak detection.
- We will be submitting updated information in May to the Dept. of Ed and this information will get us back to a certified Maintenance Program and keep us eligible for future CIP funding.



Business Office

Ryan Ayars, Business Manager

We handed our Semi-Annual Fire/Safety Self-Inspections Checklist from each site over to Cole Cummins, our Loss Control Manager with Alaska Public Entity Insurance. We hope to receive the maximum premium rebate for our efforts. While Cole was here he had the opportunity to visit a couple sites on April 14th to help ensure we are doing everything we can to mitigate any risks. He also spent a couple of hours with us on April 15th providing free training for “Safety Committees and Leadership” and “Workers’ Comp and the Post Hire Questionnaire”.

We started training in one of the modules available through the School Dude module maintenance uses to help track the cost associated with the usage of our facilities. EventEssentials is a cloud-based collaborative event management solution that simplifies the facility scheduling and community use process for educational institutions.

We are currently working with Robin in New Stuyahok to help pilot the program and anticipate having everyone up and running with it for the new school year. Once we have good data we will be able to look at cost recovery solutions.

The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development has been delegated the authority, by the U.S. Department of Education, to approve Restricted Federal Indirect Cost Rate Proposals pursuant to delegation agreement number 2014-180, effective until June 30, 2016. The FY2017 approved Restricted Federal Indirect Cost Rate for Southwest Region School District is 7.06% which is .03% below our current rate. The restricted Federal rate is effective from 7/1/2016 to 6/30/2017. The funds associated with this rate are projected to offset the District’s Business Office liability by roughly \$75,000 in the FY17 school year.

Training for Infinite Visions has begun. The Business Office staff has been busy converting data from our current system into a format recognizable to the Infinite Visions team. We have used this process as an opportunity to clean up some of the information in our system that has become obsolete. We hope to have all of our information converted over by the beginning of May in order to provide ample time for the Business Office staff to become familiar with the new environment.

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

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Aleknagik School

Audra Finkenbinder, Principal/Teacher

As the end of the school year nears, the faster time seems to fly! Since the last report, quite a few activities have taken place: Migrant Education Night, Game Night, and CSC Elections. Future activities include the end of year assessments: the AIMSweb Fluency Assessment, District Vocabulary Assessment, MAP Testing, STAR Assessment, and final exams for the older students. In addition to the end of year assessments, the other upcoming activities are: Curukaq 2016 Celebration, Pine Wood Derby, Science Fair, graduation for kindergarten and eighth grade students, and an end-of-year picnic.

MIGRATORY BIRD CALENDAR

During the month of February, Terry Fuller from the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge visited the school to present the Migratory Bird Calendar information as well as to encourage the students to submit either a drawing or composition for the Migratory Bird Calendar contest. A large number of students submitted artwork and from those entries we are pleased to announce that Tasha Gilila and Glenn Andrews won the local contest and their entries are headed to the state competition!

MILLION WORD CHALLENGE

There are currently nine Lakers participating in the District sponsored Million-Word Challenge. Aleknagik School is proud of how these students are reading and striving toward the million-word goal. All together, the students have read over three million words (a total of 3,081,992 words have been read as of 4/11/16).

MIGRANT EDUCATION NIGHT

Students and parents were welcomed with warm pizza and a healthy salad in order to quench any hunger so that the focus of the night would be on nothing except literacy and fun. Antonyms and synonyms were the big stars on this evening. Participants enjoyed a relaxing yet competitive evening of the Aleknagik Lakers game of “Laker Feud”. This highly anticipated event is based on the hit show known as “Family Feud” but uses literacy and books in place of other subjects in order to reinforce and teach the importance of literacy.

Sponsored by Randy Finkenbinder and assisted by Cialely Pintande, the students had a wonderfully enjoyable time while listing the top answers for the subject or book questions presented.

Students of the Month

K-4: Alysonne Andrews

5-8: Marki Tinker

Congratulations! Keep up the good work!



William Sonny Nelson School

Nate Preston, Principal

William “Sonny” Nelson school is looking forward to finishing the year strong and starting planning for next school year. We had completed most of AMP Testing when it got canceled. We will finish MAP Testing the week of April 18th. Later that week, we will have the 4th Annual Curukaq Festival. We will check the students’ reading level the first week of May and we will be having graduation on May 9th. For next school year, we are looking at numbers, classroom assignments and how to adjust the new curriculum.

We started AMP Testing on the first day available and were looking forward to the results. Most students had completed the Math and L.A. portions when the test was cancelled. We were looking forward to see the math scores this year. We also were expecting a large improvement with most students being fluent in Reflex Math. We are much farther along in the GO Math curriculum. This week, all but one student will have completed the Go Math book before MAP Testing. We are excited to see the results on the math portion. We are also interested in how many students will make their goal of 85% on the district vocabulary test. Everyone has been working hard to reach that goal.

On the week of MAP testing we will have the 4th Annual Curukaq Festival. The students have been hard at work working on the posters and cars. The students cannot wait to race their cars. We will be checking student-reading level for their data folders and proper placement for next school year. Lastly, we will be holding graduation on May 9th so all parents can attend.

We are starting to plan for next school year. Ekwok should have 19 to 20 students in the elementary. The high school section is harder to predict as it ranges from 0-5 but I think it will have 1 or 2 students next year. We are currently setting up a classroom for the potential high school students.

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Koliganek School Cody McCanna, Principal

Migrant Ed Night

Pam Johnson did an excellent job doing our final Migrant Ed night for students. Parents and their children had a fun time building and painting birdhouses together. Then they got to have an ice-cream cone afterwards. It was a lot of fun for everyone.

Student Activities

The Koliganek Huskies NYO team just finished their season in Manokotak this weekend. Even though this is the first time in ages Koliganek has not sent someone to the state competition, it was a great season and a lot of younger athletes got the chance to travel for the first time.

Professional Development

Teachers have been working on utilizing the 6+1 Writing Traits. They have reviewed the traits during their weekly Collaborative Meeting and have decided to focus on Ideas and Content first. This is a long process that will continue into next year. Teachers want to create specific rubrics and language that is consistent across all grade levels.



Students of the Month

K-1: Kaden Herrmann
2-3: Natasha Nelson
4-5: Kaison Herrmann
6-8: Cody McCanna

Behavior Reward Ticket Winners

K-1: Kasia Barnes
2-3: Garrett McCanna
4-5: Josh Newyaka
6-8: Brody Wysocki
9-12: Alex Hanson



Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Deb Forkner, Principal

As the end of the school year rapidly approaches, Manokotak Nunaniq School staff are busy preparing for end of the year testing and activities.

Third quarter awards were handed on March 25. Students were recognized for Perfect Attendance, Honor Rolls, and No Tardies, as well as classroom awards. Mariam Nanalook and Dravon Moore were named Students of the Quarter.

Migrant Education night was held on March 31. Over 100 people attended and enjoyed making sand magnets and beaded bracelets. Many families went home with pizza's won playing sight word and math BINGO.

Students are looking forward to the Science Fair later in April and the reward Lock-in on April 29. Prom and graduation will be here quickly, May 7 and 11 respectively. NYO is in full swing, with 6th-12th grade, 22 students participating.

Congratulations to our CSC election winners: Melvin Andrew and Sally Nukwak. We appreciate their willingness to serve and support our school and community.

Manokotak teaching staff continues working on the personal growth goals that they set for themselves at the beginning of the year. All teachers will be submitting reflection logs through iObservation about the progress they've made.



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'Chief' Ivan Blunka School

Robin Jones, Principal

Springtime is in full bloom in New Stuyahok! We ended Quarter 3 with 75% of our secondary students on Honor Roll or Highest Honor Roll. We also had seven students in the elementary and two students in the secondary that have maintained perfect attendance for the entire school year. We were able to share all of the amazing accomplishments of our students with the parents at spring conferences, where we had close to 100% participation. We also created newsletters for the parents to encourage their partnership with our elementary and secondary relationship building initiatives. (Board Goals 1, 3, & 5 / District Goals 2, 4, & 6).

In our Professional Learning Communities, we continue to focus on the importance of relationship building. The staff has most recently been trained to proctor the MAP assessment in their classrooms. We are also in the beginning stages of planning the exploration weeks for the upcoming school year. The staff also continues to devote time towards our peer observation program. (Board Goals 1, 3, 4, & 5 / District Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6).

We have transitioned from basketball to Native Youth Olympics (NYO) and recently qualified five athletes for the state competition. We also had the privilege to host a pee-wee wrestling camp and tournament, where pee-wee athletes wrestled their best and everyone went home a winner. (Board Goals 1, 3, 4, & 5 / District Goals 2, 4, & 6)!

Students of the Month

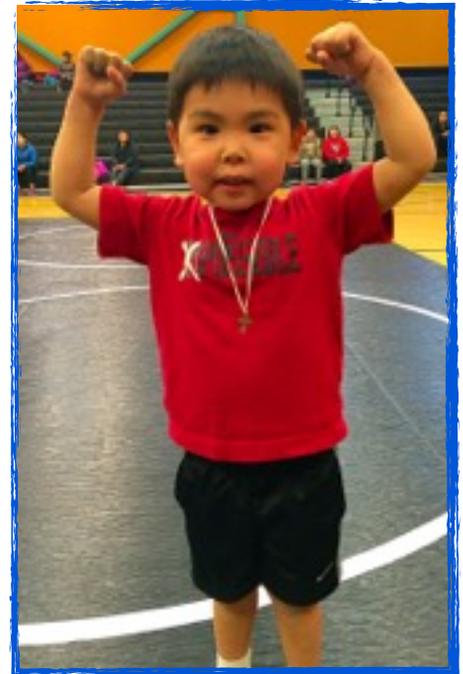
Nick John Suskuk – 1st Grade

Elijah Christopher – 6th Grade

Kara Andrew – 11th Grade

Employees of the Month

Nick Gust & Anu Wysocki





Togiak School

Sam Gosuk, Principal

Kanruyutet atuuguut yungnaqetlrianun.

Instruction is useful for people who want to survive.

Greetings from Togiak School. A lot of activities have been happening in Togiak School these two months. Last month the focus was on the elementary. This month our focus is on middle school and high school.

Our Student Government and students presented a hat on, but no hood request suggestion to our CSC. Students showed a poster signed by students for the request. Each student read from the proposal and were heard by the CSC members. The CSC took their request and supported it. Discussion was that hats off when in the building was from a military policy, but that it was not a standard policy for civilians where some people in villages don't take their hats off in the village. As a result, our school students can have hats on now, but no hoods.

There was been some also positive support from the village entities shown this month in several ways. One support is from a small store Togiak Bay Supplies owner Thomas Lowe who gave a grant opportunity to the graduating Seniors at December. A grant of \$3000 was given to a graduating senior this month by him. She will formally get the grant at graduation for college. Speaking about Seniors, the City of Togiak, Traditional Council, and Bristol Bay Native Corporation each gave \$4000 totaling \$12,000 for the Senior Trip to a career/job fair in Naknek on their way to Anchorage and Seward where they visited Universities and Av Tech Centers and Sea Life. This shows community also BBNC's continued support for our younger generation.

Additionally, for the middle school and high school students, Traditional Council through a grant from Rural Cap for Youth and Culture, students, teachers, working with local seal hunting captains were able to experience seal hunting at Togiak Bay. This grant has been worked on by Helen Gregorio and the Togiak Wellness Committee for about the year or more and finished by Francesca Sutton last fall. The trip allowed the students to experience seal hunting and in doing so, they saw lot of animals. Seals, sea lions, whales (maybe killer whale), and a walrus were seen from where they were cooking at the beach. Seal and sea ducks were on the menu after they were got and processed. During the trip, for which two teachers went, one of the teachers stated that they got to see the side of students apart from school classroom. The students from what they expressed were well behaved and were very interested of what was happening. This was a good



experience both for the students, the teachers, and Togiak School Staff. As teaching staff get to know the culture, the 'other' side of students, and their subsistence culture, they make good relationships with students and at the same time gain a back ground experience from which they can base new concepts from. Several students expressed that they want to do this again.



Twin Hills School

Meghan Redmond, Lead Teacher

Things are winding down for the year here at Twin Hills School. We have completed our after school program, Wolf Club, for the school year, and with the nice weather, open gym nights have come to a close. The students are looking forward to the events the end of the school year always hold, including graduation, a cook out, a sleep over, finishing textbooks, and many other fun activities we have planned.

Twin Hills School was proud to send Daniel Pleasant, 8th grader, to Anchorage in March to represent Southwest Region School District at the Alaska state spelling bee. Even though he didn't win, Daniel did a wonderful job, and did SWRSD proud. Way to go Daniel!

Our year-long family involvement activity comes to a close this month. Once every month this year, families have been invited to school to start a new chapter book together. Then the families that attend get to take that book home to keep and finish reading as a family. I offered an incentive for families that attended every month (they could miss one). Only one family has achieved this, so I wanted to recognize them. Congratulations Hernandez family! (Bernice, Felipe, Ciara, Tanya, Layla, and Georgia!) They will get to choose a book set for their family. At our books clubs this year, we have read, A Series of Unfortunate Events: The Bad Beginning, The Boxcar Children, The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, Little House in the Big Woods, Divergent, The Hunger Games, Magic Tree House: Dinosaurs Before Dark, and (our last book this month) Hatchet.

Twin Hills 8th grade and kindergarten promotion is planned for May 17 at 11:00 AM. We hope everyone can attend! The theme for graduation is a luau this year, so we ask every who attends dresses for the occasion!