

REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



**"Ikayurtarluten
yuullgutevnun.**

**Be helpful to one
another"**

--Bristol Bay Yup'ik Values

Board of Education

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Superintendent's Office David J. Piazza, Superintendent

Koliganek School Ribbon Cutting

The new school welcomed students as they entered for their first day of school on August 27th. The following day, community members, students, staff, district personnel and out-of-town dignitaries were in attendance as the ribbon was cut signifying the grand opening and completion of the 18,100 square foot Kindergarten

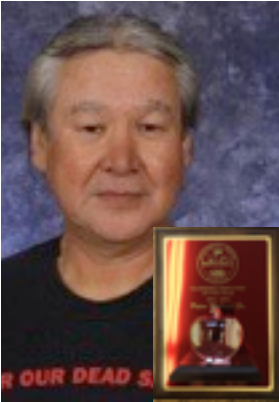


through twelfth grade new school facility. Remarks were shared by Principal Cody McCanna, Alaska State Representative Bryce Edgmon, School Board President Kay Andrews, Superintendent Piazza, Community School Committee Member Frances Nelson, Stantec Lead Architect Dale Smythe, and Father Ivan Gumlickpuk. Following the cutting of the red ribbon by Board President Andrews and Representative Edgmon, the school was open for self guided tours and refreshments. The \$25 Million project includes LED lighting, remote accessed control systems, in floor radiant heading, and new computer and audio/visual technologies in each classroom or work space.

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Awards

Each Spring the District solicits candidates for three Employee of the Year awards. The following individuals were selected for additional recognition.



Classified Employee of the Year

Peter Walcott
Ekwok



Instructional Aide of the Year

Lisa Andrew
New Stuyahok



Teacher of the Year

Randy Finkenbinder
Aleknagik

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

5 Years (*certificate*)

Doren Ayojiak - Manokotak
Louise Gloko - Manokotak
Gregory Cejka - Togiak
Brian Mason - Togiak
Meghan Redmond - Twin Hills
Jason Munster - District Office

10 Years (*plaque*)

Aaron Frost - Togiak
John Parker - Togiak
Bertha Pavian-Lockuk - Togiak
Esther Thompson - Togiak
Ina Togiak - Togiak
Lenny Wassillie - Togiak

15 Years (*plaque*)

Christine Andrews - Togiak
Martha Fox - Togiak
Margie Frost - Togiak
Jonathan Clouse - District Office
Steve Ito - District Office

20 Years (*Ulu Factory SWRS uluaq*)

Dana Bartman - Manokotak
Gladys Small - Twin Hills

25 Years (*dog sled plaque*)

Agnes Gamechuk - Twin Hills

30 Years (*handmade uluaq*)

Nina Tinker - Aleknagik

35 Years (*handmade qaspeq*)

Sophie Walcott - New Stuyahok
Mary Wilcox - Togiak

Site Visits

Superintendent Piazza traveled to Aleknagik for their first day of school on Tuesday, August 25th. Dave was able to take the early morning trip across the lake with the school “bus” to pick up the students. Although he had to leave the site a little early to be back in time for the School Board meeting, he was able to participate in most of the new year start-up activities including the beginning of the year student assembly. Students were on-task organizing their “planning notebooks” and learning their first lessons of the year. The next morning, Dave traveled with Charles Becker, Secondary Education Specialist, to New Stuyahok. Arriving before the first bell for “Chief” Ivan Blunka School’s second day of school, they were able to spend the full day popping in and out of each classroom. Later that day, Dave and Charles flew over to Koliganek so that they would be on-site as students entered the new Koliganek School building on their first day of school. Superintendent Piazza and Mr. Becker were able to help set up some of the new technology equipment, as well as, move additional furniture into classrooms and assisted with the final cleanup of the school. On Thursday morning, the students and a few parents enjoyed walking into the hallways and classrooms as they met the new and returning staff and became familiar with the new school’s layout. A few basketballs could even be heard swishing through the nets in the gym.



new ceramic mural at Chief Ivan Blunka School (part of new school construction funding)



local Koliganek School construction crew

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President Obama Visit

On Monday, August 24th, Bristol Bay Native Association Chief Executive Officer Ralph Anderson, and Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation President/CEO Norman Van Vactor contacted Southwest Region School District with an offer for student participation during the planned visit by United States President Barack Obama. The initial description of events planned during President Obama's visit included the identification of as many student representatives that the District could afford to fly into Dillingham to participate in two general public sessions. An additional open discussion forum for a selected group of community and student leaders was also planned to include a small group of Student Council representatives from the area's four school districts. Due to security concerns and final schedule planning by White House staff, President Obama's 3-hour visit to Dillingham included a welcome at the airport, a meeting with fishermen/fisherwomen at Kanakanak Beach, a motorcade procession to the Dillingham school facilities, a cultural dance presentation held in the Dillingham Middle School Gymnasium, and a seemingly "unplanned" stop at N&N Market before returning to the airport for his departure to Kotzebue.



Six Southwest Region School District student leaders and four staff members were approved and able to attend the dance performance and greeting of President Obama in the Middle School. Paulina Jordan, Senior, Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School, Sally Paul, Senior, Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School, Wassillie Gust III, Freshman, "Chief" Ivan Blunka (New Stuyahok) School, Roberta Christopher, Senior, "Chief" Ivan Blunka (New Stuyahok) School, Charity Andrews, Senior, Togiak School, and Rhemus Bavilla, Senior, Togiak School proceeded through the security checkpoints and made their way to their seats to wait about 2 hours for the President's arrival. President Obama watched a group of Dillingham students perform a series of Yup'ik dances and also joined in and danced with the students. The event concluded as President Obama took time to shake hands with each of the students and regional representatives who had clearance from the White House to attend, as well as, many of the Dillingham City Middle and High School Students who were seated in the bleachers at the back of the room. Freshman Wassillie Gust III commented that he was inspired and wanted the handshake to remain with him forever. Senior Sally Paul from Manokotak shook hands and greeted President Obama with "Quyaukut taingavet" which literally means "We are thankful because you came" or as she translated it as "We are happy that you're here."

Fourteen additional 5th-8th grade students from Aleknagik were able to drive down to Dillingham to witness the event. While they remained outside in the rainy weather, they were able to greet the President by waving at the motorcade and they experienced the high security atmosphere and excitement that surrounds an event of this magnitude.



Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Associate Superintendent

PROGRAM SUPPORT & TRAVEL

Another year is off to a great start! We opened our new school in Koliganek, held our usual round of fall inservices, started a new Academic Vocabulary initiative, and even had a visit from the President of the United States!

During the first few weeks of August, the District held first of its annual fall inservices.

The leadership team met for two days to discuss programs and plans for the new year and we are looking forward to the year ahead, the third without any turnover in principals. The return of all of our principals is enabling us to move ahead with programs smoothly picking up where we finished last spring. This has a very positive impact on our progress as a district.

Following leadership meetings, new staff inservice included activities related to our instructional programs and a day of cultural



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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activities and discussion with the local educators and the Yup'ik Studies department.

The focus of this year was again on literacy and reading skills. We worked with Cindy Paxton, a highly respected Reading Mastery trainer to refresh skills and bring all staff up to the same level of training. Cindy will be visiting us again in the next few weeks to work with our paraprofessional who teach reading, and make on-site follow up visits to reinforce skills taught at fall inservice and work directly with teachers and aides in classrooms with students. We are looking forward to this activity.

Work on updates to our evaluation system is nearing completion with the addition of our new Academic Vocabulary Assessment and the final drafting of our Teacher Evaluation Handbook. Work remains to do on the updates to the evaluation system, including updates to administrator evaluation tools, and some final decisions about types of data to include in specific types of evaluations. The group continues to work exceptionally well together and the process has gone very smoothly to date. Final drafts of the entire system with administrator items complete is expected in October.

This year, we welcome a new staff member to our team at the district office, Dianna Schollmeier. Dianna is an experienced, talented educator that comes to us most recently from Bering Straits School District. Her background in math pedagogy and elementary instruction will enhance our instructional support team here at District Office. She is already busy providing training and support in a number of areas.

As always is case in the fall, we are off to a busy start, but we see a good year ahead. Continuity of program is making for a smooth start and everyone is focused on providing the best educational opportunities possible for our young people.



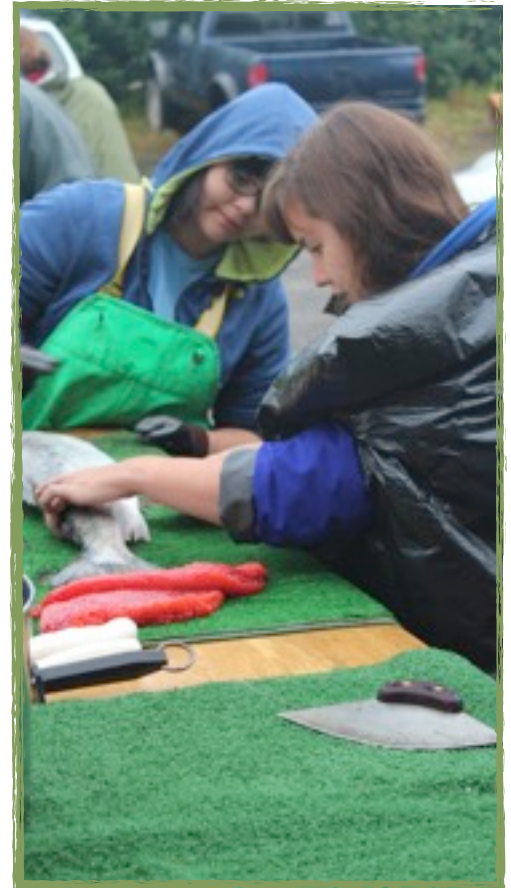
Instructional Team Notes

GoMath

- The curriculum and instruction department got busy early in August putting together materials for the upcoming school year. Last year the district adopted GoMath for grades K-8 and consumable books were ordered last spring. They arrived over the summer and were sent to sites before the first day of school. That's 449 students with a brand new math book in their hands on the first day of school.
- Dianna attended inservice Training on the K-5 GoMath Program at MatSu Borough School District and returned to teach teachers on the technology component of the program during Fall All Staff Inservice.

Reading Mastery

- The district has been using the Reading Mastery reading program for many years now and the staff received a full two days of training at inservice from a professional trainer – Cindy Paxton. Cindy previously did an inservice training with the Togiak staff in February and has a very dynamic presentation which equipped teachers with skills they could begin using from the first day of class.



Academic Vocabulary

- During the last week of May, twelve teachers began developing the districts new “Academic Vocabulary” piece for instruction and teacher evaluation. This was an immense project, which required some participants to work into the summer to develop new exams across all grade levels. The final creation and review of these exams continued through the teacher inservice in August and students began taking the pre-test version of them when school opened in August.
- Finalized all academic vocabulary lists and made sure all words had questions entered in to SchoolNet, 900+ test items have been written.
- Created resources and master vocabulary list for teachers and posted these documents in Google Docs.
- Created all academic vocabulary tests in SchoolNet ready for the first piloted testing window.

Summer Professional Development

- Four staff members took advantage of the district “Professional Development” program over the summer and shared their experience with other teachers during inservice.

Reflex Math

- Reflex Math is a new dynamic, data driven math fact (addition/subtraction/multiplication/division facts) fluency program aimed to gain 100% student math fact fluency by the 4th grade that we are implementing

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as a supplemental program for math in grades K-12. When students know their math facts, the other concepts that they are learning become less of a hurdle. When students don't know their math facts, students tend to shut down when new concepts are presented to them. This program has aimed to help eliminate some of the math angst our students hold towards mathematics, and build a strong mathematical foundation to help students continue to feel successful as the concepts in math continue to grow. The computer-based program/game was presented to the teachers during the August inservice and training is scheduled for Wednesday September 9th. Classroom incentives are being built to help encourage students to spend 20 minutes at least 3 times per week working on their math facts.

Technology Team Notes

In addition to the usual tech-support duties we all provide for staff and students, technology staff was busy this past month with preparations for assessment, eRate, and staff development. In the midst of the busy start of the school routine, Les and Corey spent a week in Koliganek with a followup long weekend trip to complete network and new equipment configurations and setup for the new school.

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

- Laptop computers prepared and supplied to new teachers during Fall New Teacher Inservice
- Provided wireless network service into Dillingham Elementary School in support of beginning of year Fall All Staff Inservice
- eRate Funding Commitment Decision Letter Received in amount of \$3,006,782.73
- School Broadband Assistance Grant Funding Year 2015 funded in the amount of \$167,477.00 (includes a 2.2% / \$3,784.60 reduction due to state budget crisis)
- New Koliganek School
 - Core network, WiFi, and telephone services installed and configured
 - New server, desktop, and laptop computers configured and deployed for students and staff
 - New Koliganek School new printers configured and deployed in all instructional and administrative rooms
- The MAP assessment is configured and testing is nearly complete.





State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

Title I-A AK STEPP

Schoolwide/School Improvement Plans

Each year our schools review and update the AK STEPP plans on a continual basis with input from varied stakeholders including parents and community members. The AK STEPP plans fulfill the requirement for each school to have a Schoolwide Plan as a result of being a Title I Schoolwide School and for each school to have a School Improvement Plan. But mostly, these plans serve as a tool for staff to have discussions about specific areas in which to focus efforts. Each year, school improvement teams use AK STEPP to develop plans and monitor the progress of these plans in the areas of focus. These plans were presented during the last School Board meeting and are available on the district website. The first step in this year's annual review is to complete a needs assessment that will help school improvement teams determine the focus areas for the year.

Alaska School Performance Index (ASPI)

The Alaska Department of Education has implemented a number of changes the past few years. New Standards were adopted a few years ago and as a result, a new state test was developed called the Alaska Measures of Program, or AMP for short. Last year was the first time students around the state took the AMP test. As a result, the Alaska School Performance Index (ASPI) and Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) will remain the same as last year.

As a reminder, the Alaska accountability system uses the Alaska School Performance Index method to report a score and correlating star rating for all Alaska schools. The star-rating scale ranges from one-star to five-stars, with a 5 star rating being the highest possible rating. The language for the AMO is to reduce the percentage of non-proficient students by half over six years, including in each subgroup of students. Below are the current ASPI scores and star-ratings for our schools, as well as the rubric for determining the star-rating.

• Aleknagik School	69.33	3-stars
• Chief Ivan Blunka School	70.84	3-stars
• Koliganek School	73.14	3-stars
• Manokotak School	70.65	3-stars
• Togiak School	46.41	1-star
• Twin Hills School	62.35	2 stars
• William Sonny Nelson School	92.92	4 stars

ASPI SCORE	STAR RATING
94-100	*****
85-93.99	****
65-84.99	***
55-64.99	**
0-54.99	*

Site Visit – School Improvement

Togiak continues to be identified as a Focus school and will receive additional support from EED for

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school improvement including school improvement funding and considering the seven turn-around principles when developing the school improvement plan. Last year, this funding was used to provide critical professional development to elementary teachers and instructional aids on effective implementation of Reading Mastery. Staff spent one-day receiving training followed by two days of modeling and coaching. Secondary staff received one-day of learning how to address the new standards in content specific areas. In addition, school improvement funds were used to provide foundational professional development to a team of staff about the implementation of a Positive Behavior and Intervention Support (PBIS) program. This foundational training gave a core team of teachers the information and planning time necessary to present the PBIS program specific for Togiak School to all the teachers, some instructional aids, and some community members.

This fall I traveled to Togiak with Kyle Schneider to learn about the PBIS process that Togiak will be using. Kyle Schneider has been and will continue to be coordinating efforts for implementation of PBIS at Togiak School. His report will have additional information this year's progress on PBIS in Togiak.

Title I-C – Migrant Education

Pauline Askoak (New Stuyahok) , Martha Fox (Togiak), Virginia Bartman (Manokotak), and Natalia Ishnook (Koliganek) and Kyle Schneider (district office) and I will be attending the annual migrant recruiting training in Anchorage on September 9th & 10th. This will be the third year that we will have the same migrant recruiters and I am very pleased to say that they are top-notch in finding each and every eligible child.

Below is a recap of the services we were able to provide to migrant children last school year.

- 235 magazine subscriptions
- 2 literacy/art/science family nights in each community
- About 1,800 books distributed to migrant children
- About 325 literacy-based educational games distributed to migrant children
- Behavioral counseling referrals and counseling services for targeted migrant children
- Books, early learning guidelines, and learning games for migrant children ages birth to pre-K.
- Summer enrichment opportunities
- Migrant summer school at Igushik Fish Camp

Career & Technical Education: Industrial Arts (Carl Perkins)

The CTE program in our district continues to expand and improve. We were able to add three courses last year and one of our CTE teachers, Greg Cejka from Togiak, spent two weeks in intensive training this summer and received his OSHA-10 certification. Greg can award OSHA-10 certifications to students that successfully complete the training during specific CTE courses. Josh Gates, from New Stuyahok, participated in welding and wood working professional development this summer will be teaching welding to students at Chief Ivan Blunka School this. We will also be working towards getting Josh Gates certified in the NCCER Core curriculum, which will give him the ability to award NCCER Core certifications to students that complete all of the required modules.

Boarding Home

There has been one applications for students within Southwest Region School District for the state boarding home program. There may be one or two more as the year continues. As a reminder, students attending K-8 schools are eligible to attend one of the district's K-12 schools as a boarding student.

Other Information

We are a fully operational ETS testing center. We have administered three testing sessions and several Praxis Core and Praxis II examinations since last spring. The latest test administration was on August 29th. These exams are required for certification and are the most common method to become highly qualified. ETS no longer supports paper/pencil exams and so many of our staff had to travel to Anchorage to take these exams. Now that SWRS is a testing center, travel costs have been substantially reduced.



Student Information & Support Specialist: Kyle Schneider

Powerschool University

Over the summer, Kyle Schneider attended a weeklong PowerSchool training. Over the course of the week, attendees take eight classes for a total of twenty-four hours of instruction. He took courses focused on customizing PowerSchool to meet our district's needs.

Powerschool

In July, Kyle wrote a plugin for PowerSchool that allows student data to be tracked for teacher evaluation purposes. By building this PowerSchool plugin, teachers and principals are able to view their students' data and the associated growth targets for each student. This year, the data portion of evaluation is only used for piloting purposes.

Inservice

Kyle presented on the changes that had been made to PowerSchool during the summer at the principal's inservice. He also provided training at new teacher and all-staff in-services to help teachers get their gradebooks set up for the beginning of the year along with a review of the features in PowerSchool gradebook. He also provided training on the new evaluation plugin to handle student data that he built for PowerSchool.

Togiak PBIS Inservice

This year, Kyle is working with the Togiak School to complete his Principal's Internship. As part of this internship, he is helping the school with implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS). This past spring, Kyle facilitated sending five staff members from the Togiak School to a conference put on by Northwest PBIS in Oregon. He also worked with Jon Clouse to find and hire a facilitator to provide a two day inservice to all of the Togiak teachers, classified staff involved in the behavioral program, and several community members. The facilitator will be visiting Togiak periodically throughout the year to work with the school's PBIS leadership team. Jon and Kyle both traveled to Togiak with the facilitator to attend the inservice.

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Koliganek School Opening

Kyle was able to attend the ribbon cutting of the Koliganek School on August 28th, where he served as the district's photographer for the ceremony.

School Photography

During the first two weeks of September, Richard Johnson from Purnell Photography traveled to all of our schools and took pictures. He photographed the staff and students in New Stuyahok, Koliganek, Ekwok, and Aleknagik during the week of August 31st to September 4th. The following week he traveled to Manokotak, Twin Hills, and Togiak.

Presidential Visit

Following President Obama's visit to Dillingham, Kyle worked to create a repository of news coverage that teachers could use to discuss the visit with their students. This repository includes information about local news articles related to the event, a video of President Obama's speech released by the White House, national and Anchorage-based news, along with pictures and video from District Office staff.

Migrant Education Recruiting

Kyle Schneider traveled to Anchorage at the beginning of September to receive training from EED's Migrant Education Program on recruiting and managing Migrant Education records. Staff from each of the four K-12 schools also traveled into Anchorage to learn about the Migrant Education program, how to interview families for the necessary information and how to fill out the Certificate of Eligibility. Migrant recruiting at the three K-8 schools will be conducted from the District Office.

Children's eligibility is determined by whether or not they have made qualifying "moves". A "move" means that a child took a trip of more than 20 miles for either commercial or subsistence fishing and stayed away from home for 7 nights / 8 days throughout the year. Children can also qualify if they "move" to another district for the required length of time (this can be for fishing or certain other activities). Most of the students we recruit have either "moved" to fish camp or Dillingham for commercial or subsistence fishing in the summer.

TIENET – Special Education and 504 Software

Kyle has been working with Sherry Becker to transition away from our old Special Education software (SEASWeb) to TIENET, which more closely integrates with PowerSchool. The new software is more user-friendly for Special Education teachers and allows general education teachers to access modification and accommodation documents for students within PowerSchool. The Special Education and 504 pieces of TIENET are almost fully implemented and we are working with the vendor to roll out Response to Intervention and Gifted and Talented modules.



Counseling & Assessment Specialist: Steve Ito

The Alaska Developmental Profile for Kindergarten and first grade students that have not attended a public school will begin within a window from September 14th to November 2nd. The purpose of the Alaska Developmental Profile is to identify, record and summarize the skills and behaviors students demonstrate at the beginning of their kindergarten year, based on teacher observations. Student skills and behaviors are defined by goals and indicators in five domains Physical Well-Being, Health, and Motor Development; Social and Emotional Development; Approaches to Learning; Cognition and General Knowledge; and Communication, Language, and Literacy.

The annual District Test Coordinator training sponsored by Alaska Department of Education and Early Development was attended. Updates to statewide assessment protocol and procedure were reviewed. Pertinent application district-wide will be implemented through out the school year.



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Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director

The Yup'ik Value of the month is incorporated into the Yup'ik Studies calendar. So the students will be exposed to the value of the month within their different classrooms. This will help them in understanding the value and ways they can incorporate this value as part of everyday life.

On August the 13th brought together thirteen Yup'ik Studies K-8th grade instructors from all our villages to begin the process of preparing for the new school year. The theme of the in-service session was Upcartuqatartua (I am going prepare myself). We looked over the recommendations for the beginning of the school year activities with a focus on self-portraits (with specific information for each grade level). Theses self-portraits with their Yup'ik names should be hung up within the school. So when you visit the school you will be able to view them. In addition, two revised units with a focus on arts were introduced- Tan'qaurluq Iqsagyunqegglni and Nassurluq Iqvaryunggeellria.

This year the Yup'ik Studies department is venturing on an Elder Photo project. Photographs of the Elders will be taken during our school photographer schedule. The Elders will be selected by each site with the large sites being limited to 10 Elders for the first round. The middle school students (at the smaller sites) with the help of their Yup'ik Studies instructors and the high school students with the guidance of their high school Yup'ik instructors will interview the Elders. This information will be included in the portraits of the Elders. The portraits will be hung in the school.



Nayak'i Colynn Isaacson, Tuyuraq; Rhona Shaving, Manuquutaq; Anastasia Ishnook, Qalirneq; Maalu Martha Foster, Ingricuar; Tat'iq Tatianna Andrew, Cetuyaraq & Arnaq Esther Ilutsik, Curyung set the stage for the session titled, "Introduction to Teaching in Rural Alaska" as part of the new teacher orientation. They entered in full Yup'ik regalia drumming, singing and dancing the Yugiyama Ullagamken (My people I come to present myself to you). Which followed with an quick overview of the Yup'ik language and culture, extensive discussion on cultural differences in communication, a field trip where they were introduced to the fishing subsistence activities: removing fish from net, identifying the fish, engaged in the art of filleting salmon for cooking and even preparing the heads for boiling (so impressed with those teachers who ate the fish heads with relish-just like us Yupik – as we know the health benefits), followed with a deep discussion on Surface and Deep Culture, and overview of the Yup'ik Studies Program: Student Outcomes. The sites divided up into small groups where the Yup'ik teacher introduced them to the villages of their teaching duty. This followed with a presentation from the new teachers about their village. The session ended with the group learning a Yup'ik dance taught by Tuyuraq; Rhona Shaving, Manuquutaq. And presented at the district wide in service.



District wide we have 14 teachers who have signed up for the Ed. 456 Orientation to Teaching in Rural Alaska representing all sites. And have site- based paraprofessional Cultural Mentors. The Cultural Mentors will introduce them to the community and have them participate in local cultural activities. The Cultural Mentors are Ivan Gumlickpuk of Qalirneq, Mickia Walcott of Cetuyaraq. Alice Karasti of Iquaag, Sarah Andrews of Alaqnaq, Panta Paul of Manuquutaq, Jessica Mark of Ingricuar and Esther Thompson of Tuyuryaq

A quick district wide 'Yup'ik Studies Survey' was conducted during our fall in-service session this included all of our professional certified staff and administrators. There were five basic questions from asking about what Yup'ik meant to writing down Yup'ik words that they were most familiar with, what was the Yup'ik name of the village they are assigned and when it was established to listing edible plants, fish and game, why Yup'ik names are important to the students and asking them to list cultural areas that would help them in working effectively with the students. The results were pleasantly surprising with three questions of the five receiving 80 % or better. It was interesting that only 53% understood what Yup'ik meant and that most everyone couldn't fully respond to the Yup'ik name of village and/ or when it was established. Great job, teachers and administrators!



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Special Education

Sherry Becker, Director

The special education department welcomes back six returning special education teachers, SERRC itinerant staff: School Psychologist, Physical Therapist, and Occupational Therapist as well as four SESA Education Specialists supporting our students, teachers and families in the areas of Multiple Disabilities, Autism and Deaf and Hard Of Hearing. We also welcome two new special education teachers to our district this year: Samantha Weiland will be teaching general education grades K-3 as well as working with all special education students in Twin Hills. Mary Lillie has joined us in Manokotak this year as the secondary special education teacher. Both teachers come to us with the educational experiences and skills necessary to meet the needs of our students.

The new E-Therapy program is proving successful with student's district-wide. I have already received reports from schools that the students' online interactions with the speech therapist are very positive and that the students are engaged and having fun while working on their speech/language goals.

The TIENET software program is now up and running. This program replaces the SEASweb program that we have used in the past to develop and monitor special education and Section 504 plans/services. We are currently in the process of setting up a second module of the TIENET software which will enable us to improve the gifted and talented program as well as the intervention process for students district-wide that are struggling academically and/or behaviorally.

Initial eligibility meetings will be taking place over the next few months as a result of the Early Childhood Child Find screenings that took place during the end of the 2014-15 school year. Brigance screenings and vision/hearing screenings are being completed for all kindergarten students district-wide and TB testing will soon begin for all enrolled students.

The Department of Education & Early Development (EED) has scheduled an on-site special education compliance review for our district. This occurs every five years for all districts throughout the state of Alaska. This compliance review will take place at the district office on October 13-16, 2015. The purpose of this visit from EED is to review our district's implementation of the state and federal requirements for special education. We have been asked to conduct a parent meeting on the evening of October 14, 2015 to solicit parental feedback concerning the district's special education program. More information regarding this meeting will be announced at a later date. Letters will be mailed to parents inviting them to attend the meeting via VTC and/or teleconference if they are unable to attend in person at the district office.

The special education department goals for this year align with the district-wide goals and are as follows:

- Improve Early Childhood Education to enable students to be able to read by third grade. This will be accomplished by improving communication and services to students in preschool and HeadStart, by continued ongoing trainings, and closer monitoring of student's academic and behavioral needs throughout the school year.
- Improve student engagement by strengthening scientific and evidenced-based interventions district-wide and by implementing a social skills curriculum for students with social/emotional/ behavioral difficulties.
- Revitalize the Gifted and Talented plan of service to improve the referral and eligibility process.
- Continue to improve the Post-Secondary Transition Program for students with special needs through ongoing training, improving communication with parents and other family members, teaching self-determination skills, and by ensuring that our middle school and high school students are aware of and are encouraged to pursue post secondary educational opportunities. The Special Education department will also be working more closely with our vocational education teachers/staff this year to increase participation of special education students in courses/ opportunities available to them.



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Facilities & Maintenance

Rick Dallmann, Director

Togiak

- Parking lot lighting project completed
- Fuel delivery completed
- Gym floor recoat completed

Twin Hills

- Gym flooring project completed
- Gym painting completed
- Entrance hallway flooring completed
- Relighting project completed all LED lights installed in gym and classrooms
- Working on kitchen hood suppression project
- Fuel delivery is scheduled for late September

Manokotak

- Pathway lighting project completed.
- Fuel delivery completed
- Gym floor recoat completed
- Replaced broken windows
- Working with the City of Manokotak on the demo of the old school buildings.

New Stuyahok

- Heat Recovery project is on going piping has been buried, control and pump work will continue as we have time to work on.
- Replacement glass has been ordered for back entrance vandalism
- Fuel delivery is complete

Ekwok

- Working on roof issues and electrical power problems
- Fuel delivery completed



Koliganek

- We are in the new school and continue to work through building systems and to provide training
- Hoping to get one last barge to site this fall with remaining furniture and appliances for Teacher housing
- Teacher Housing project is moving forward and is on schedule, we hope to start having units available the end of October
- Fuel delivery completed

Aleknagik

- Deck project is in progress painting and plexi glass replacement
- Porches and hand rails repaired at teacher housing
- Fuel is scheduled for delivery late September



New teachers learn to prepare salmon at the new staff inservice.



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Aleknagik School

Audra Finkenbinder, Principal/Teacher

May 2015

Graduation was held on May 13th with seven graduates: four kindergarten students and three 8th graders. The class motto was *"The way is long – let us go together. The way is difficult – let us help each other. The way is joyful – let us share it. The way is ours alone – let us go in love. The way is open before us – let us begin."* Author unknown

Working in junction with Braden Tinker and First Responders, Aleknagik School held a barbeque/picnic for all students, families and community members on May 15th. Although the weather did not allow for the picnic to be held at the dock, everyone enjoyed the wonderful food and departed for summer break with a full stomach and a smile!



August 2015

The first day of school for Aleknagik was August 25th. During the first few weeks of school, we have been quite busy. The 6th-8th graders took a field trip to Dillingham in hopes of catching a glimpse of President Obama during his visit. Although it was raining, spirits remained high as the students were interviewed by KTUU, viewed the Blackhawk flying overhead, and spotted Air Force One landing at the airport. Aleknagik students and chaperones lined the street as the motorcades 'flew by', with the president being spotted each time. We also had the opportunity to see the snipers on the school roof and were able to speak with a secret service agent. In addition to the field trip, Purnell Photography was here for community and school pictures. We have also completed the first round of MAP Assessments as well as the new Academic Vocabulary Assessments.

Curriculum-wise, we are in the fourth year of using the science kits. The students have enjoyed all of the hands-on activities the last three years and I can foresee that enjoyment continuing. We are in the fifth year of using the Reading Mastery program in grades K-5 and in the past four years have seen wonderful gains in the students' reading abilities. This is the second year with GO Math!, the new math curriculum.

Although there were some hiccups during the first year of implementation, we look forward to seeing the students' level of comfort and understanding increase this year. We will also be utilizing a new online program entitled Reflex Math to assist with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division fluency.

As the new school year begins, we will be continuing the following programs/activities:

- Student of the Month
- Student Council
- Cross Country
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Battle of the Books
- Spelling Bee
- Science Fair
- Game Nights
- Movie Nights

All students in Aleknagik School will also receive instruction in Basic Internet Safety on a quarterly basis throughout the school year. This training is in accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act and Southwest Region School's Acceptable Use Policy.

If you have not had a chance to meet Ms. Pintande, would like to see what we have taking place, or have any questions, please feel free to stop by.

We are all looking forward to a great school year!



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



William 'Sonny' Nelson School

Nate Preston, Principal/Teacher

William "Sonny" Nelson School is having a great start to the school year. We currently have 18 students enrolled with the possibility of a few more showing up before October. We are going to continue what we started by focusing on the district's goals of: 1-4 Reading by Third Grade, Student Engagement, Comprehensive Instructional Plan and Revitalization of the Yupik Studies Program.

Goal 1: Reading by the Third Grade is an area where we wish to continue the success we are currently having. All our students grade two or lower where grade level or higher on the MAP test. All students in Ekwok grade K – 8 are currently in reading groups that are at grade level or higher and performing excellently. We are anxiously awaiting this year's MAP scores. We cannot wait to analyze the scores and determine where do we need to focus for the older students.

Goal 2: Student Engagement is another goal where we are planning on continuing the success of our last three years. Student attendance slipped a little last year but we were still over 90% not at the 96% we hoped. With the current enrollment, we feel we can get to 96 % and have three years of attendance over 90% by the end of the year.

Goal 3: Comprehensive Instructional Plan: we are working to improve the plan from last year. We are implementing the new vocabulary curriculum at all levels with the goal of all students making it to 85% by May 5th. The Point on the End of the Bluff Gang bulletin board will have pledges by staff and students to know 85% of their vocabulary by May 5, 2016. We are also implementing the Reflex Math app grades one through eight and the students like it. In addition, we have a bulletin board set aside to post student awards in Reflex Math.

Goal 4: Revitalize the Yupik Studies Program is an area we are also working on. We have hired our 5th Yupik Instructor in the last four years. He is doing a fabulous job.

Lastly, William "Sonny" Nelson school is looking forward to a great new year. The student count keeps rising and that trend looks to continue with only one 8th grader. We are looking forward to improving from last year. We hope to improve enough to get the few points we needed to move from a four star to a five star school this year.



Koliganek School

Cody McCanna, Principal

A NEW SCHOOL!

Parents and students walked into the smells and sights of a brand new school on August 27, 2015. Students and staff were excited on the first day of school to be utilizing a building and furniture that had never been used. Students and staff are looking forward to an exciting new year of school.

Ribbon Cutting

After what seems like an eternity of proposals, planning and looking over blueprints Koliganek now has a new school! The school had a Ribbon Cutting celebration on August 28, 2015. There were special speeches given by Kay Andrew, Dave Piazza, Bryce Edgmon, and Frances Nelson. It was an exciting time for everyone to come and tour the new school while sharing some snacks.

Fall Assessments

Students at Koliganek School have spent the first few weeks of school completing the necessary testing for MAP and all the various academic vocabulary tests. All students completed the tests and we now have a baseline to analyze student growth. The staff is also awaiting the AMP test scores of students from last spring so they can analyze the data and target instruction to help students in specific areas.



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Deb Forkner, Principal

Striving to create a safe, positive, culturally rich environment focused on success and life-long learning continues to be the mission of Manokotak Nunaniq School staff this year as we welcome four new teachers to our team.

They are:

- Melody Rainwater, MS/HS Math
- Stephanie Clark, Kindergarten
- Stephanie Jenson, MS/HS Social Studies
- Mary Lillie, Special Education

The focus on positive behavior and having clear, consistent expectations school wide continues with our S.M.A.R.T. Lynx program. This focus helped to decrease office referrals by 105 last year.

Culturally, school staff are emphasizing and using student Yupik names. The first day was kicked off with middle and high school students racing to get into alphabetical order by their Yupik names. Students are learning the history and significance of their Yupik name. New teacher, Stephanie Jenson, was quickly given the Yupik name Aspiaq by her students during the assembly. She beams with pride now when she is called Aspiaq (really good).

A community potluck to honor our public servants (Health aides, VPSO, First Responders and EMTs) was held prior to the school open house on September 3. After a difficult summer with several tragedies, it was nice for the community to come together in a positive way to show support and appreciation of each other.

In the photos you will see first graders busily and very, very quietly working to earn "Quiet Critters". Students who are quietly working get to have fun little critters visit and watch them work. The quieter you are, the more critters come. When quiet time is over the critters return to their sound proof container so the noise won't bother them.





'Chief' Ivan Blunka School

Robin Jones, Principal

The school year is in full swing at Chief Ivan Blunka School! Our vision this year is: "Together, we create a safe and culturally sensitive environment that encourages everyone to embrace challenges, celebrate perseverance, and discover a passion for learning." We are also celebrating a Yup'ik value each month this year, with the August value being: "Have respect for our land and its resources." Our goal is to use our vision and monthly value to drive our instruction along with enhancing our school climate and culture.



We started school on Tuesday, August 25, 2015 with a Welcome Back Assembly to share our vision, generate excitement about the school year, introduce the staff and students, and honor individuals. We currently have 140 students enrolled in our K-12 program. We were so proud to present Lisa Andrew with Southwest Region School District's Instructional Aide of the Year award. On Thursday, we hosted our annual Welcome Back to School BBQ and had an amazing turnout! Attendees enjoyed good food, great company, door prizes, and music. We capped off the week by hosting the first cross-country running meet of the season. Teams from Manokotak and Dillingham enjoyed a beautiful day for running the infamously rigorous New Stuyahok gully course. Overall, we are off to a great start for the 2015-2016 school year!

We have decided to dedicate this school year to the late Sophie Alexie, who truly made a lasting impact at Chief Ivan Blunka School that will be felt for years to come. May she rest in peace.



Student of the Month
 Wassillie Chunak, III – 2nd Grade
 Nickolai Gust – 7th Grade
 Kiara Kapotak – 10th Grade
Employees of the Month
 Pauline Askoak & Moxie Oyaluk

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Togiak School

Sam Gosuk, Principal

It seems just a few days ago that we ended the school year. Togiak has some new teachers this year. Along with our new School Counselor, Camden Reed, we have 1st grade teacher Katelyn Gandolfi, 6th grade teacher Amanda Smith, and returning 4th grade teacher Nancy Bell. We do have one teacher who went to school in Togiak School, went out, gained her Bachelor's and Master's degree and has come back to serve in the school where she gained her first years of education, in Togiak School and her name is Colynn Isaacson teaching 2nd grade. Her dad is a long term sub as Kindergarten. I think it is pretty 'cool' to have a daughter and a father teaching at the same school.

Togiak School has had a good start. Our preparation for this year include a training for the Positive Behavior Intervention Support training for a team. Kyle Schneider and Jon Clouse made arrangements for our team to go to Portland, Oregon last spring for the PBIS training. During that time, we came up with a theme or focus words relating to our School Vision which are Caring, Creativity, and Community member. Our forefathers cared about each other and respected each other. They "yuulguteng umyuarqelriut." They knew how to take care of themselves and passed that on to their younger generation.

One of the things we as a school want to do is to include all staff to fulfill our school vision. So this year we have set aside every Thursday to have an all staff professional learning community (PLC). This last Thursday, we shared what the PBIS team started on and the Certified staff worked on during inservice with the paraprofessionals and classified staff. We included them and are communicating to them that they are part of the team.

Kyle Schneider from DO has helped us get started on PBIS and will be continuing to work with Togiak School continue both as a resource and technical assistance for various parts of the goal.

So as a school, we have a vision. We have a plan and we have communication with each other. Each person in our school has a part and we as a school will succeed to help our students gain the insight of our elders and forefathers had, to help themselves and help others to gain skills to survive.





Twin Hills School

Meghan Redmond, Lead Teacher

The members of the Twin Hills School staff are excited to be back hard at work for the 2015-2016 school year. We have one new staff member this year. Samantha Weiland joins us from Florida by way of Texas as our new K-1st grade and special education teacher. We welcome back Agnes Gamechuk, Special Education Aide; Martha Foster, Secretary and Bilingual Aide; Jessica Mark, Special Education Aide; John Sharp, Maintenance; and Gladys Small, Cook. We would like to give a big congratulations to Agnes Gamechuk for 25 years of dedicated service to the Southwest Region School District and to Gladys Small for 20 years of dedicated service to the Southwest Region School District.

Our student count is at 21 students, kindergarten through 8th grade. Those 21 students are split into five reading and language arts groups, five math groups, two science/social studies groups, and three Yup'ik groups. Kindergarten through 4th grade students attend school 9:00-3:30. 5th grade through 8th grade students attend school 8:30-3:30. We have staff meetings with all staff, including instructional aides, every Monday before school.

As a school, we are focusing on improving attendance and positive behavior recognition. To encourage excellent attendance, we will be tracking and rewarding perfect attendance each month with a Perfect Attendance Club. Any student with perfect attendance for the month will receive an incentive. To recognize positive behavior, Twin Hills School will again have a Yup'ik Value of the Month each month of the year. This year, the values we chose match those being used in the elementary Yup'ik curriculum. Students are encouraged to follow the value of the month to earn "Caught being good" cards which will earn them incentives throughout the year.

Overall, we have had a very smooth transition into a new school year. The students are looking forward to our after school program starting up, open gym nights, monthly family book clubs, and an 8th grade trip to AFN Elders and Youth Conference.

Introducing new staff to local culture.

