

REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



Superintendent's Office

David J. Piazza, Superintendent

Staffing

The 30-day window between the time when the District offers contracts to returning certified staff has completed. At the present time there are 17 vacant positions. However as the District considers the State's current financial status, the District's anticipated FY16 budget deficit, and the anticipated continued shortfalls for the 2016-2017 school year, several of the positions will be left vacant until the funding picture improves.

The District has been successful in its recruiting efforts already, as Colynn Isaacson plans to return to Togiak after her year off while she finished her Master Degree program. Additional interviews have provided a sense of optimism that we will be able to fill a few more positions before the start of the official on-the-road recruiting season.

The job fairs this year, begin in Anchorage on March 27th. These will be followed by job fairs in Greeley Colorado (April 2nd-3rd), Portland (April 7th-9th), Minneapolis (April



**Elitnaurluki,
tegumiaqluki
umyuaqegcikluki-Ilu
Yupiit piciryarit.**

**The Yup'ik Way of life
is to be taught with
pride.**

--Bristol Bay Yup'ik Values

Board of Education

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12th-13th), Tacoma (April 23rd), and Seattle (April 24th). Teams comprised of District Office and Site Administrators are preparing for the whirlwind interview and reference-check schedule to meet with candidates and to ensure that both the applicant and District believe that a good fit can be made for each community and available position.

Legislature

April 19th is the scheduled last day of this year's legislative session. Most of the discussion this year has been on the decline of revenue based on the drop in price per barrel of oil. While we don't typically see any change for fuel prices within the villages throughout the year, this has caused a decline in state revenue to the point that budget reserves will be depleted during the 2017 fiscal year. While Governor Walker and the legislature continue to indicate that the Alaska public school system will be sheltered from drastic cuts, the District must prepare for a bleak financial reality and move forward to provide a quality educational environment with limited resources. While last year's legislature provided for a 3-year stepped down one-time funding stream, this has already been unfunded in the budget that is moving through the legislative process. However, this news is not all that bad considering that this represents a 2.5% cut to public education at the school/district level and most of the other programs within the State have been reduced by 8% to 59%.

Much of the information provided by the Representative Wes Keller, Chair of the House Education Committee, and Senator Mike Dunleavy, Chair of the Senate Education Committee, indicate that bills related to education this year will look to change or reverse previous legislation in an effort to create efficiencies, or reduce the financial burden placed on Districts with previously unfunded mandates. While this will not provide additional monetary resources, it is supposed to help ensure that stretched budgets and overextended personnel can feel some relief.

In an attempt to minimize cuts to several statewide educational initiatives, Superintendent Piazza, Associate Superintendent Noonkesser, and Coordinator of Technology Parks participated and provided testimony at the Dillingham Legislative Information Office (LIO) during the House Finance Committee meeting as they took public comment on the State's operating budget. By focusing on a different aspect of the legislation, each staff member was able to speak for two minutes to share Southwest Region Schools position on the need to reinstate the \$32 million in one time funds, the need to keep the Alaska Learning Network's distance education program alive, and the need to fully fund the Broadband Assistance Grants to ensure that federal E-rate funds could be leveraged to provide



additional capacity into each low-bandwidth school across the state. Dave and Steve provided further testimony in person during the House Finance Committee's meeting related to the study being conducted on the formula factors contained within the State's Funding Formula.

Superintendent Travel

Superintendent Piazza and Associate Superintendent Noonkesser participated in the Alaska Superintendents Association's (ASA) Legislative Fly-In at the beginning of March. Saturday's pre-conference workshops included two half-day sessions focusing on the Alaska's new state-wide assessment and working through the Alaska legislative process. Dr. Susan McCauley, Elizabeth Davis, Anji Gallanos, and Brian Laurent provided an in depth look at the comprehensive assessment system including the Alaska Measures of Progress on-line summative assessment. The afternoon session included topics on "How to Track Legislation" utilizing the State's akleg.gov web site presented by Shana Crondahl; "School Finance & Facilities Overview" presented by Elizabeth Nudelman, Director of School Finance at the Department of Education, a "Revenue Picture" presented by Deputy Commissioner Burnett with the Department of Revenue, and other lobbying tips presented by Eddy Jeans former Director of School Finance and the Lisa Parady, Executive Director of the Alaska Council of School Administrators.

The main schedule for the Fly-In provided reports and presentations by a variety of legislative leadership officials including Senator Dunleavy, Representative Keller, Representative Hawker, and Senator Gardner. Governor Bill Walker addressed the group during a half-hour discussion on the current fiscal crisis. The Commissioner of Education Mike Handley discussed the state's educational programs through the lens of reduced funding, and the Director of the Office of Management & Budget Pat Pitney provided a detailed review of the State's financial picture.

Liz Brooks with the Department of Administration together with Diane Hirshberg from the Center for Alaska Education Policy Research (CAEPR) provided an update on the Salary, Benefits, & Tenure survey and report requested from House Bill (HB) 278 from last year. This report is due to be completed in June, although a comprehensive survey is just being requested for completion by each district, and personal individual interview of each Superintendent are still to be scheduled and conducted. Paul Baril with Nvision provided information on the School Design and Construction report also commissioned last year. A series of regional meetings have been established to provide stakeholder comments this spring with the report due in July.

A session entitled "Visualizing School & District Data through Mapping" presented by Dr. Terri Akey and Dr. Ashley Pierson with Education Northwest demonstrated a new on-line mapping tool to link socio-economic, student aggregated assessment data, and other data sources to provide a visual analysis of trends within the educational environment in Alaska. Red, yellow, and green dots appear on a map to indicate specific relationships between the data sets.



Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Associate Superintendent

PROGRAM SUPPORT & TRAVEL

During the first week of March, Superintendent Piazza, and Associate Superintendent Noonkesser traveled to Juneau for the ASA Fly-in. Three days of meetings provided several opportunities for testimony for both of us on topics important to our district and with oil prices falling to below \$50 dollars a barrel, we received a sobering look at the state of Alaska’s financial picture for the next few years in presentations by the Jerry Burnett, Deputy Director of Revenue and Pat Pitney, Director of the Office of Management & Budget.

Togiak Staff Development

Charles Becker and Deb Endicott were able to travel to Togiak in February to participate in training on several reading instruction topics. Two trainers from outside the district travelled to Togiak to work with teachers on Language Arts instruction.

Cindy Paxton, from McGraw Hill Education, trained elementary level teachers and paraprofessionals over the course of three days in the best practices of Reading Mastery reading instruction that covered everything from organizing the physical layout of the classroom to motivating and engaging low-expectancy students. The first day of this training was very hands-on and the trainer walked staff members through all aspects of the program beginning with the foundations set in letter sounds and identification in Kindergarten and showing how the program changes emphasis to spelling and vocabulary as students enter second grade, and then changes again to comprehension as students enter fourth grade. The same trainer remained on site for two additional days; first modeling teaching in each

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TEAM



Les Parks
Technology
Coordinator



Deb Endicott
Elem. Ed.
Specialist



Corey Evans
Computer-Aided
Instruction Specialist



Pam Johnson
Parapro Liaison



Charles Becker
Sec. Ed.
Specialist

of the classrooms for a full session, and then observing and offering feedback to teachers on their own practice.

Secondary teachers attended a one-day course led by Anji Gallanos, from the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, that highlighted integrating reading instruction across all subject areas.

Instructional Team Notes

Academic Competitions

- Spelling Bee - Adam Kvamme of Twin Hills traveled to Anchorage to represent SWRS at the State Spelling Bee. (picture at right)
- Other activities including the SWRS Science Fair, Love of Reading, 4th Grade Alaska Bowl, 5th Grade Jeopardy for the 50 State Geography Bee are all underway or in final planning stages.

Time of Transition

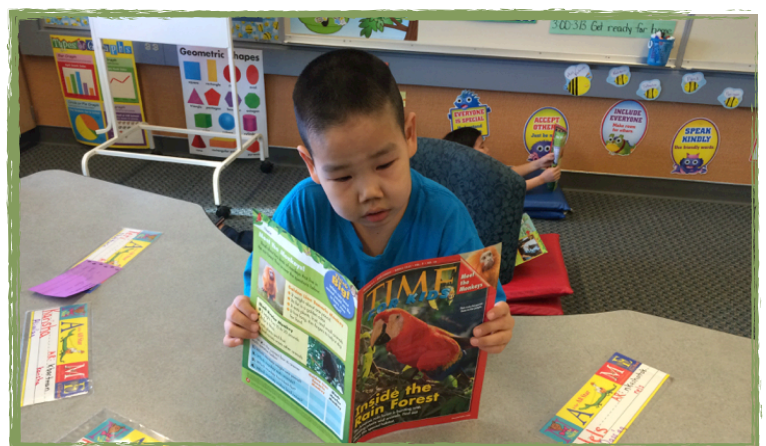
- As Education Specialist Deb Endicott's time with Southwest Region Schools draws to a close this spring and she prepares to retire, she has been very active in creating the "how-to" manuals to help guide the next person to hold her position. She hopes to create a smooth transition into the district's future. Her work over the past month exemplify the old saying, "leave it better than you found it." She will be missed as we move ahead next year, but we are encouraged by the preparation she is doing to ensure that the programs we have worked on as a team will carry on smoothly.

Employee Recognition

- It is time of year again to solicit nominations for Teacher of the Year, Classified Employee of the Year and Instructional Aide of the Year.
- This program is important in recognizing excellence in our staff.

Health & Physical Education

- Team met and had an extensive discussion about teaching physical education in our schools. The team of teachers and administrators outlined a teaching program specific to the different grade groups. Due to the fact we do not have trained Physical Education teachers on our teaching staff, we identified the need for resources that teachers and paraprofessionals would find easy to use and allow the "gym-time" to be better structured toward learning specific physical skills specific and meet Alaska Physical Education Content Standards.



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- One resource, **Ready to Use P.E. Activities** (K-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-9) is a text that will assist our staff members to prepare and teach fun-packed physical education lessons. The HPE curriculum team recognized one important point to assist the “non-PE” teachers more confidence to bring in PE into their instructional plan. The team intends to present this resource to the board for potential approval later this spring as part of a larger PE/Health adoption.
- This resource provides the Non-PE teachers with how to prepare lessons using these activities, how to prepare a PE Instructional plan for your class, how to assess students progression and how evaluate the learning in order to adjust the instruction to meet the needs of the students.
- Both indoor and outdoor activities and learning stations, lessons and events
- Flexible to change activities in time allotment, size of class, equipment and space availability
- Use of basic equipment common at most schools - no large expenses to buy equipment.
- The group will meet again to discuss Health Education and High School PE class.

Technology Team Notes

The technology team has been busy engaged in a range of activities including:

IPAD PROJECT

- Corey has been working to streamline the district iPad programs operation. Currently the issue being worked out is the updating of iPad applications. The procedure as it stands now involves quite a bit of hands on involvement from both district office and staff at sites, the goal is to work on automating this process.

ERATE

- Funding Year 2014- Form 471 High Cost Review questions answered
- Funding Year 2015- Form 471 filed

SCHOOL BANDWIDTH ASSISTANCE GRANT

- FY2015 Awarded Broadband Assistance Grant funds in the amount of \$564,631.70 to bring schools closer to 10Mbps Internet connections - grant funds accepted, GCI engineering increased bandwidth for KGK, KNW, KEK, TWA, TOG.
- FY2016 grant funds reduced by governor, eliminated by House Finance Committee, but reinstituted by amendment during floor session. The bill now goes to the Senate for review and approval.
- FY2016 Awarded Broadband Assistance Grant application submitted

AMP ASSESSMENT

- Working on required Alaska Technology Readiness Assessment in preparation for on-line state testing, to be piloted in spring of 2014 and implemented during 2014-15 school year
- Site testing on new Local Caching Servers promising for successful on-line testing this spring

NEW KOLIGANEK SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

- Network cabling currently being installed in walls and ceilings of new building
- Integrated Logic submitted heat map to guide placement of APs and has completed telephone and WiFi equipment specifications and is in the engineering phase



State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

Alaska STEPP

There has been a focus to make the AK STEPP plan more detailed at the site level and to make sure that each school is selecting the areas of needs that are truly specific to the needs of the students. The Department of Education and Early Development has made some changes to the AK STEPP process so that schools can focus on their specific needs but also take strides to meet the annual measurable objectives.

During the month of February the focus indicators were:

4.06 – School and classroom environments reflect respect for all students and cultures, and they reflect an understanding of the cultural values of the students and community.

4.07 – School staff communicates effectively with parents about learning expectations, student progress, and reinforcing learning at home; staff implement effective strategies to increase parent engagement.

4.08 – School priorities, goals, plans, and events are collaboratively developed by school staff members, parents, students, and community members, and these plans are communicated to all stakeholders by school staff.

This month, the district and schools will be focusing on two indicators including:

5.01 – School staff use multiple sources of student performance data as a primary factor in determining professional development priorities.

5.03 – School staff embed professional development into daily routines and practices.

Title IC – Migrant Education

As part of the Literacy in the Home Initiative, culturally relevant and/or Alaska themed books are sent to every migrant student from the district office. In addition, an educational game is sent to migrant students to help practice literacy skills. The books and the game are age-appropriate. Southwest Region School District also sends resource from Best Beginning to migrant children ages birth to five (pre-K) including the Babies on Track resources, books, a game, and milestone development information. There have been a number of migrant family nights that occurred the last week of February. Some of the migrant family night reports are included in the board packet.

Career & Technical Education (CTE)

I was able to attend the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (EED) sponsored CTE/Carl Perkins Workshop from March 2nd through March 4th. The first day was dedicated to the Carl Perkins grant, which is a federal grant allocated through EED. The focus of this day was about the Carl Perkins requirements and what that means to school districts. The second day was dedicated to the federal impact on CTE in Alaska, current issues and future opportunities, and a CTE state update. The last day was used to allow like size districts network and determine how content is being delivered, how other districts are meeting Carl Perkins requirements, and allowing for time for districts to work with EED CTE staff.

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School Improvement – Togiak School

District leadership worked closely with the Togiak instructional leadership in developing a professional development day(s) for instructional staff at Togiak School. On February 16th, two trainers traveled to Togiak to provide hands-on training to teachers and instructional aides in a couple of areas. For K-6 teacher and instructional aides, Reading Mastery training was provided by Cindy Paxson (McGraw-Hill) on February 16th. Cindy then provided two additional days of support for those K-6 participants through two days of coaching/observation, followed by reflective conversations. The 7th-12th grade teachers participated in training by Anji Gallanos, Literacy Content Specialist from EED that centered on addressing the literacy standards in the content areas including math, language arts, social studies, science, art, and CTE curricula.



Student Information & Support Specialist: Kyle Schneider

Alaska Society for Technology in Education (ASTE) Conference

At the end of February, Kyle presented at the Alaska Society for Technology in Education conference in Anchorage. He presented a session on how to help other districts retrieve information from PowerSchool through custom reports.

Evaluation Committee

Kyle has spent a significant amount of time over the last month preparing data for the evaluation committee so that the committee could discuss the student data portion of the new evaluation system. He presented data and led discussions at the committee's meeting on February 26th.

Powerschool

Kyle has just completed a project to build a plugin for PowerSchool that will help the Special Education department record data about their students, more easily access existing data, and track referrals for RTI, Gifted and Talented, 504 plans, and Special Education.



Counseling & Assessment Specialist: Steve Ito

The Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) assessment will be administered for the first time statewide in the spring of 2015. The AMP will be a computer-based assessment geared to match the technology rich instruction students are currently receiving in our schools. The goal of this change is 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 testing window begins March 30th and continues through the month of April. All sites have had the opportunity to administer practice tests in the areas of technology, English/Language Arts and Mathematics.

WIDA ACCESS Testing concludes March 31st. All sites administered tests to identified LEP students district wide. Completed answer sheets will be delivered 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.

Alternate Assessment testing will be completed for students with significant cognitive disabilities. The Alternate Assessment satisfies the requirement for all students in grades 3-10 to participate in statewide assessments. The Alternate Assessment is a non-diploma track test, based on Alaska standards but measured against alternate achievement goals

Completed the EED mandated WorkKeys testing for grade 11 students at all K-12 sites. The WorkKeys assessment targets the workplace "foundational" skills that are needed for virtually all occupations and at any level of education. The three major skill areas in Alaska Career Ready are: Applied Mathematics — measures the skills people use when they apply mathematical reasoning, critical thinking, and problem-solving techniques to work-related problems. The test questions require the examinee to set up and solve the types of problems and do the types of calculations that actually occur in the workplace.

Reading for Information — measures the skills people use when they read and use written text in order to do a job. The written texts include memos, letters, directions, signs, notices, bulletins, policies, and regulations. Locating Information — measures the skills people use when they locate, synthesize, and use information from workplace graphics such as charts, graphs, tables, forms, flowcharts, diagrams, floor plans, maps, and instrument gauges, as typically found in workplace situations.

Completion of the WorkKeys test provides students with a National Career Ready Certificate and may allow qualifying students to apply for the Alaska Performance Scholarship.

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Yup'ik Studies Esther Ilutsik, Director

Allu'rayaraq (Patsy Nelson), Ellmiquq (Margie Nelson), Cirunerquarq (Anu Wysocki) and Arnaq (Esther A. Ilutsik) traveled to the 4th International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation: Enriching Theory, Practice and Application sponsored by the University of Hawai'i at Manoa February 26-March 1, 2015. The conference opened with the plenary presentation by Dr. Lenore Grenoble with the University of Chicago who incidentally works with the Inuit Circumpolar Council as the Project Coordinator for the Arctic Indigenous Language Vitally Initiative as indigenous driven pan-Arctic effort of the Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council to assess and promote Arctic languages. She posed the following question: Language in DANGER-Why Should We Care? And then proceeded to recommend the following:



- We need trained language teachers.
- We need indigenous training methods that are community based.
- We need to develop proficiency guidelines.
- We need to assess communicative competence.
- We need to understand language as culture and the social behaviors associated with it.
- We need to give the students the opportunity to practice and understand facial expressions that are embedded within our culture.
- We need to know how to sing our songs and language games.
- We need indigenous tongue twisters that students can play with.
- We need to listen and hang around with our children and their caretakers to carefully determine language use.
- And lastly- DOCUMENT while you can.

Cirunerquarq (Anu Wysocki), Certified Teacher, noted "There were diverse presentations from more than 100 languages from all over the world. Some of them are from Hawai'i, Taiwan, China, Australia, Canada, Nakota, the Sioux nation, Southeast Alaska, Scotland, Korea, and Greenland; The attendees were people that want to strengthen language documentation, develop deep understanding of grammatical structure and methods for teaching endangered languages. What was most amazing to me is they are all in the same situation we are facing and they have the same values and principles we hold close to our hearts and culture. They are all losing their language and culture.

This conference has instilled the urgency of conserving our language and culture to strengthen our people and our way of life. There are so many things that we could work on but most importantly we need to start where the community want to preserve and document. We need to start with realistic guidelines. We could start off taking small baby steps. I think we should also be doing it at the school level and the community level.

Some of the thing we will need to do is record events and activities that we do that define our language and us as a culture. For example: Yupik song and dance, caribou hunting, storytelling, our traditional values, subsistence fishing and hunting, trapping, etc. There are many ways to start to revitalize our dormant language. It might be focusing on introducing sounds and letters, everyday expressions, develop talking dictionary, basic sentence structure, and videos of texts, etc.

At the community level we need to form a language revitalization committee that could meet every two months.

There is so much to say but I remember from the –My Nakota/Stoney (Isga) language by Eugene Alexis of the Sioux Nation saying that language has spirit, language is medicine and language is in our heart and soul.”

Ellmiquq (Margie Nelson), Community Member, noted that “I liked the idea of language nest where babysitters are fluent native speakers. Babies learn to speak their language in the early stage of their life with fluent speakers as baby sitters. We can revive our language by using science; elders know inner parts of caribou in their native language. We can study this combined with science and language arts because it is also connected to literary arts.”

Allu’rayaraq (Patsy Nelson), Elder, shared how she now knows and realizes the importance of sharing her cultural experience, knowledge and language to the younger generation. She stated, “We need to keep the language and culture alive.”

Both **Allu’rayaraq (Patsy Nelson)** and **Ellmiquq (Margie Nelson)** , Elders, are going to submit an application to the RurAL CAP Elder Mentor Program. In this way they can begin to work with students during or after school in revitalizing language activities.

2015 Alaska Native Studies Conference

Attended the 2015 Alaska Native Studies Conference, March 6-8, 2015 sponsored by UAF Campus Fairbanks, Alaska Troth Yeddha’ Roots: Connecting the Place with the People. The conference begin with UAF Indigenous Studies Ph.D. Students in Alaska and those who reside outside of Alaska come together to share their dissertation

There were many interesting sessions that included the development of curriculum, the development of Master and Ph D. students, and development of materials that focused on Alaska Native Language Revitalization. Also, attended the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council (ANLPAC): Past and Future Priorities for Alaska’s Languages. This was an opportunity to share your concern, vision and recommendation about Alaska Native Languages.

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Pal'aq's Book (March 12–14, 2015)

Eleven Southwest Region Schools certified native teachers and Yup'ik studies paraprofessionals gathered together for a three-day session (March 12-14, 2015) in Dillingham at the Bristol Bay Campus. They all participated in the class - ANS F251 Practicum in Native Cultural Expressions for 1 credit, using the text: Pal'aq. Arnaq- Esther Iutsik, Yup'ik Studies Director instructed the class. The following participated:

- Manuquutaq
 - Angutekayak – Louise Gloko
 - Cungass'aq – Grace Gamechuk
- Cetuyaraq
 - Ayaagina'ar – Sophie Alexie
 - Tat'iq – Tatianna Andrew
 - Anguk'aq – Justin Gumlickpuk
 - Piipsiq – Ann Edwards
- Tuyuryaq
 - Kiarpiar Fanny Parker
 - Ukayiq T. (Nick Name – Tuluc'uk for short Tula) – Esther Thompson
 - Genevieve Kapatak
- Qalirneq
 - Anastasia Ishnook
 - Ciruneruaq – Anu Wysocki

Quyana to the Bristol Bay Campus who provided travel, hotel and some of the tuition for the classes and also to the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation for tuition scholarships. Lesson as created will be shared in future reports.





Business Office

Ryan Ayars, Director of Finance

We have been striving to find solutions to our looming deficit. We have been spending the extra time needed in providing information for the budgeting process to ensure accuracy. We are still waiting to hear from the Department of Education Impact Aid Program in Washington, DC in order to accurately forecast Impact Aid revenues.

Spring orders for site supplies and janitorial supplies are starting to trickle in for processing. Our goal is to have hazardous janitorial supplies on the first barge with the remaining portions of the orders showing up at sites before the Principals depart for summer break.

Bid Proposals for the annual fuel purchase are being prepared. Due to low river conditions, Koliganek did not see a delivery last year. With the lack of a snowpack thus far we are anticipating low river levels once again. We are looking to take delivery as early as possible this year to take advantage of the initial spring flood.

Another bid proposal in the works is one for Bus Service for Aleknagik. When the road and bridge project come to completion, Aleknagik School will be accessible by vehicles. We are looking into contracting out, or possibly purchasing the necessary vehicle to transport students to and from school.

We are working towards a district wide implantation of "SafeSchools" Online Staff Training System. "SafeSchools" is an online training portal specifically tailored to school districts to simplify staff training and policy acceptance administration. Our insurance company, Alaska Public Entity Insurance (APEI), provides the training to us free of charge. Having this system in place will increase safety and compliance while providing a discount to our insurance premium.

The Business Office Staff and Maintenance Staff have started using Time Clock Plus, the district's time and attendance software. Our goal is to gain efficiency by consolidating our current practices and eventually tracking and maintaining time and attendance for the whole district.

BUSINESS OFFICE SUPPORT TEAM



Guy Snyder
Accounts Payable



Aileen Walsh
Accountant



Denise Gregoire
Payroll Specialist



Marlene Einhellig
Accounting Tech.



Krystian Roehl
Purchasing/Travel Tech.

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Special Education

Sherry Parrish, Director

This past month has been filled with compliance review activities, paperwork, planning and budgeting. The special education department received a request from the state for documentation of our Child Find procedures, policies and training. We were also requested to provide documentation of our Specific Learning Disability eligibility criteria. The Special Education Director has been busy with reviewing and updating our current policies/procedures to ensure that we meet all state and federal requirements. This past month has also been busy with reviewing documentation to ensure that we have all supporting documentation in place for our special education grants.

Special Olympics

Preparations for our district's involvement in Special Olympics next year are underway. We have requested that special education teachers send in their orders for any Special Olympics items that will be needed at their site. Supplies been already ordered for students in New Stuyahok that are training for Special Olympics bowling.

Gifted and Talented Education

A preliminary review of student MAP scores has indicated that we have potentially 21 students that may be eligible for further evaluation for the SWRSD Gifted Program. Additional forms and procedures are being developed to complete the necessary evaluations to determine eligibility for the gifted program. We have received our first referral for the Gifted program from Aleknagik. Parent has been contacted and evaluations will be started soon.

Technology

The special education department purchased additional iPads for a couple of high school students as well and for some preschool students receiving special education services. These students were not in the original K-5 distribution however their special education needs indicate a need for supplemental programs and apps that are available on the iPad. The apps that are being purchased are to address specific areas of assessed need such as speech articulation, language activities, social stories, etc. The special education department has also been reviewing various e-therapy services to provide more intensive supports and services in the area of speech and possibly occupational therapy. Choosing the E-Therapy option for some of these services may save money for the district but more importantly, will provide more intensive direct services to students with these specific needs. Working directly with a certified speech/language pathologist will enable our students to make much more significant progress on their IEP goals/objectives.

Early Childhood Child Find

SWRSD and HeadStart will be working together again this spring to identify those students that may need special education referrals/services for this coming school year. Our first planning meeting took place on 3/12/15. Early Childhood Child Find screenings will take place during the last two weeks of April at all SWRSD schools.



Facilities & Maintenance

Rick Dallmann, Director

Togiak

- parking lot lighting ~ replace broken poles and fixtures, working on plan to demo concrete front entrance and re-grade slope and build new wood ramp

Twin Hills

- Electrical and mechanical Disconnects to the old teacher housing before it can be moved, Re-level teacher housing units, site grading, remove the old trailer. Build some storage space upstairs in the school. Re-do the gym floor with new rubber sports floor, Install new gym LED lighting.

Aleknagik

- Finish up door hardware upgrades, look at working on the wood decking and replace all the plexi-glass.

New Stuyahok

- Install heat recovery system from AVEC power plant to the school, get backup walk-in freezer operational.

Koliganek

- Finish new school and start new teacher housing project, estimated completion of the new housing is October 1st 2015 that is if the river conditions allow us to get the materials to the site this Spring.

Manokotak

- Finish City Water Service hookup, Install Pathway lighting from the school parking lot down to the main road.

District-Wide

- Working on fuel inventory and preparing the District wide fuel order
- Preparing orders for spring barging
- Putting together furniture & appliance order for teacher housing
- Planning projects for summer
- Run new buried waste heat lines from the boiler room to upper warehouse and condo

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Aleknagik School

Audra Finkenbinder, Principal/Teacher



Time is really flying by! Here we are already in the month of March enjoying the longer days and stint of winter-like weather. Right around the corner are the new computerized State Assessments, Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) as well as the fourth quarter of school.

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 an entry and we are hopeful that we will have some contest winners!

Another event during February was a Migrant Education Night. Randy Finkenbinder planned numerous fun activities during the event, which included aerodynamics as well as using literary skills to make “dirt dessert”. In addition these two exciting activities, all participants were able to customize their own hoagie sandwiches.

The Migrant Education Night was not the only group of students and parents having fun. The Lakers basketball teams competed in the Super Cub tournament in Dillingham on February 6th-7th and then traveled to Manokotak for a tournament on February 13th-14th. We are extremely proud of the level of participation, as we were able to have both a boys’ and girls’ team! Both teams, coached by Randy Finkenbinder, showed some speed, agility, and aggressive ball handling skills all the while having a blast on and off the court. The girls’ team really showed some teamwork and was a ‘real force to be reckoned with’ on the court! All players on both teams grew and improved their skills during the basketball season and we look forward to an even more successful season next year.

February also brought the State Battle of the Books competition with one team representing Aleknagik School: the fifth/sixth grade team consisting of Ayden Ilutsik and Austin Finkenbinder. Ayden and Austin placed fourth in their group and although they did not progress to the final round, they had fun and did a great job representing Aleknagik School and Southwest Region School District!

Aleknagik School also had some wonderful representation in the District Spelling Bee: Marki Tinker, Treyton Toyukak, and Austin Finkenbinder. Of the three contestants, Austin Finkenbinder captured third place in the District Spelling Bee! Aleknagik School is very proud of the Battle of the Books and Spelling Bee participants and we look forward to the academic competitions next year!

The fourth grade students participated in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assessment during February. NAEP is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what American students know and can do in core subjects.

Aleknagik School will conclude the third quarter with Parent/Teacher Conferences during which parents will be presented with the Student Data Folders containing AIMSweb, MAP, and STAR results as well as the current report card.



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



William 'Sonny' Nelson School

Nate Preston, Principal/Teacher

Ekwok is having a busy March. We have finished two migrant nights and a school carnival. For the rest of the month we will be working on the AMP Testlits before the AMP Test on April.

Our migrant nights included a guppy giveaway and Dr. Seuss's Birthday. For the guppy giveaway, the students received three guppies and everything needed to raise them. They also received a book on how to take care of their fish. We went over how to successfully move the fish and keep them alive at home. The second migrant night was Dr. Seuss's Birthday where students had a cake, watched a Dr. Seuss movie and ordered books from Scholastic. In addition, we presented a Power Point presentation about Dr. Seuss. For carnival, we had many activities for both adults and children from Wednesday afternoon through Sunday night. In all Carnival raised just under \$15,000 for Ekwok's student fund.

One of our main focuses for this month is preparing students for AMP Testing at the start of April. We have already taken three rounds of the AMP Testlit and we plan on having two more rounds. This helps us determine what the students need help in and what we need to cover in more detail before testing. We hope to surpass last year's 83% pass rate.



Koliganek School

Cody McCanna, Principal



Preparing for AMP

On March 5 Koliganek School did a mock AMP testing day from 9:15 to 10:15. All 3rd -10th grade students participated. Students in grades 3rd-5th used their i-pads and 6th-10th used laptops and desktops to complete tests. The mock testing was a success and it allowed the staff to create a schedule for the actual testing which will occur from March 30th to April 3rd. The make-up window will be from April 6th – 9th. After the testing the certified staff at Koliganek analyzed the testing to start to make modifications for the actual AMP test.

Migrant Ed. Night

Rich Harrelson conducted a Migrant Education with the theme of Frozen and the topic of Reading Before Bedtime. It was a huge success for the students and parents who enjoyed the activities. Everyone filled up on ice cream and then got the chance to paint their own sign with the Frozen theme.

Student Activities

Koliganek School girls basketball competed in the Regional tournament in Manokotak. After an injury the girls were disqualified since they only had four players to start the game, which is a new rule this year. NYO practice has started and athletes are excited for the short, but fun season.

Students of the Month for March

- K-1: Kaden Herrmann
- 2-3: Asante Barnes
- 4-5: Nicoli Ishnook
- 6-8: Natasha Hobson
- 9-12: Brenda Norbert

Behavior Reward Recipients for March

- K-1: Gerasim Nelson
- 2-3: Jalene Larson
- 4-5: Kaitlyn Herrmann
- 6-8: Alexis Moses
- 9-12: Abigail Johnson



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Deb Forkner, Principal

Testing! Testing! Testing season is upon us. Our ELL students just completed the ACCESS testing and juniors and seniors the WorkKeys. Science SBA and AMP are rapidly approaching, as well as, ACT for the juniors and seniors, followed by MAP for all students.

Manokotak Nunaniq School hosted the 1A Girls Aleutian Chain Regional Basketball tournament March 4-7. It was a GREAT weekend of basketball with six teams competing. Manokotak and Newhalen were the top two teams and qualified for the state tournament. Also, big congratulations to our boys basketball team for winning the boys regional tournament and qualifying for state.

Activities to promote reading continue this month with a Shelly Gill literacy night, 1st-6th grade completing the districts "Love of Reading" challenge, Dr. Seuss birthday celebrations, and a migrant education night. A RIF book give away occurred in conjunction with literacy night.

March 16 is "Survival Day" at KMO School. Due to Mother Nature not cooperating this year, the annual survival trip to the lakes was changed to survival workshops held at the school. Workshops for 7th-12th graders include: CPR, Tobacco awareness, gun safety, shelter building, fire building, water safety, environmental safety and elder talks.

Manokotak CSC and student council have been working along with other village organizations on a Community Development Plan. Some common needs that have been identified include: job opportunities, housing for young families, youth center, a road to Dillingham and local transportation between Manokotak Heights housing and the main village.





'Chief' Ivan Blunka School

Robin Jones, Principal

We have been busy preparing for the upcoming AMP assessment by having all of the students complete both the technology practice tests along with the testlets on a weekly basis. We are so fortunate to have iPads and laptops for all of the students at Chief Ivan Blunka School to help facilitate this testing and also, as a technological enrichment tool in the classroom.

In our Professional Learning Communities (PLC), we are continuing to partner with the students in developing clear and measurable goals for individual student achievement in the area of Math. We are using student MAP data collected thus far, along with the learning continuum and RIT to resource tools provided by NWEA to create goals and action steps with the students based on the projected growth models. This process will help students track their own progress while also exemplifying our school's data-driven focus on collaboration and student achievement.

We recently hosted a Migrant Education Family Fun Night with theme of "Learning While Playing," and also a Literacy Night to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday. Likewise, representatives from the Student Council had the unique opportunity to attend the legislative session in Juneau, AK at both the middle and high school levels. The Student Council has also been actively planning for the upcoming spring AASG conference in Sitka, AK.

Our basketball teams played hard and finished up great seasons at regionals. We are very proud of their accomplishments! NYO will start practice soon, and we look forward to hosting the first district competition at home March 27-28, 2015.



Students of the Month

Aidan Petla – 2nd Grade

Trenton Wonhola – 6th Grade

Simeon Askoak – 10th Grade

Employees of the Month

Mollia Brown & Tatianna Andrew



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Togiak School

Sam Gosuk, Principal

The month of January and February were almost the same but different from last year. It was warm, cold, warm and cold now again. The last two years were different in such a way that we as hunters had to adapt to the change as far as subsistence hunting goes.

No longer are we separate and apart from the rest of the world. Our people need to address this and adapt to it for our survival. If we as a people cling to only the old way of life, we don't have a future. And as we as people and as educators teach to our younger generation, we need to understand that the people are in transition.



Our teachers are also adapting to the new standards are bringing our young digitally immersed students along with them. One teacher has taught the ability to express or communicate their body language. She taught the students that there is a way to community not just using voice. They had to express themselves to others using their body language. The students chose to express themselves by the use of Yupik Dancing. At first they were shy but later overcame their shyness and started to perform to the lower grades and to one of the high school classes. By using their culture our LA teacher had the student express themselves to others. I thought this was pretty neat.

One of our local teachers also has been teaching our young people how to use what we have to make craft. By using techniques that has been in use for years, she teaches students to reflect on the past to the present. You can see both the old way and new way by the work of one of our students in a slipper craft he was making.

These activities remind me of our transition as a people. We can embrace the new way of living using values that we have learned from our elders. We as a school, and CSC, have just done our Vision and would like to share it with you. "Together we create a safe, respectful and culturally sensitive environment where learning, preserving, and application of values that create lifelong learners, promoting the community and individual success in the future they choose." Right now we are working on the Yupik translation and will include it after having our local Yupik see it and reflect on it.



Twin Hills School

Meghan Redmond, Lead Teacher

The highlight of February was having three students participate in the district spelling bee. Tommy Pleasant, Daniel Pleasant, and Adam Kvamme represented Twin Hills in the district spelling bee. All three practiced very hard and did an amazing job! We are proud to report that Daniel Pleasant received 2nd place and Adam Kvamme received 1st place! Adam's winning word was explosive. Adam Kvamme earned a trip to Anchorage to compete in the state spelling bee by winning the district spelling bee. We are very proud of him!

Special education teacher, Danielle Dooley, also traveled to Anchorage in February to attend the state special education conference. Danielle was able to gain important knowledge that will help her every day with the students she works with, specifically in the area of student behavior.

The 8th grade students have officially fundraised enough money for their 8th grade trip in May! They have worked so hard over the past two years to raise enough money to travel to Chicago. They have sold concessions at movie nights, sold fry bread, held spaghetti dinners and pancake breakfasts, held raffles, sold crafts, and sold Twin Hills Wolf gear. Every dollar has added up, and they are very excited to complete their trip plans and reservations this month.

Wolf of the Month for January

Adam Kvamme was chosen as the "Wolf of the Month" for February for winning the district spelling bee and participating in the state spelling bee in Anchorage at the beginning of March. We are so proud of his accomplishment! Way to go Adam!