

# REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



## Superintendent's Office

David J. Piazza, Superintendent

### Staffing

The District currently has eight vacancies posted on the Alaska Teacher Placement (ATP) system created by staff resignations that have been received to date. It is still too early to have a complete staffing picture for FY16 as the majority of the remaining teacher and administrator contracts were distributed on February 9th. This follows the normal recruiting cycle for the district with the anticipated 30-day contract return window ending in early March. At that time, a more complete picture of the recruiting needs of the district will be known. As mentioned last month the District should attend job fairs in Anchorage, Portland, Minneapolis, Tacoma, and Seattle. The Anchorage ATP Job Fair is early this year and is scheduled to be held March 27th-28th.

The District plans to utilize the ATP website for a substantial part of its recruiting efforts.

### Legislature

The first session of the 29th Alaska State Legislature is well into its 90-day session. The legislative web site has had a face lift this year,



**"Irniaten-Ilu  
kenkellerpegun  
qigcikliki."**

**Through love, respect  
your children.**

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

### Board of Education

Kay Andrews, President  
Marie Paul, Vice-President  
Ferdinand Sharp, Sec./Treas.  
Wassillie Wonhola, Member  
Wassillie Gust, Member  
Helen Gregorio, Member  
Dan Nanalook, Jr., Member

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

which may make it easier to stay up to date with the rapid changes to legislation as it moves forward this spring. More information may be found at <http://akleg.gov>.

## Superintendent Travel

Superintendent Piazza attended the 2015 Advancing RTI conference in Anchorage on January 23rd-25th. This annual conference was again lead by the Alaska Staff Development Network, the Department of Education and Early Development and the Anchorage School District and continues to be the primary source of information related to Response to Instruction/Intervention (RTI) within the state. Staff members from Koliganek, Manokotak, New Stuyahok, Togiak and the District Office represented the District.

This year's pre-conference provided opportunities for both new and experienced participants to learn about RTI. The full-day, pre-conference session for staff members with previous RTI experience was presented by Shelby Skaanes, Gary Whiteley, and Lexie Domaradzki. The day began with a quick paced refresher on the major components that need to be in place for an effective Response to Intervention system. These include the structures of the establishment of a 90-minute reading block, the use of universal screening measures, the monitoring of student progress over time, building a tiered structure of instruction for students who need additional intervention supports, the use of collaborative meetings to discuss student progress and adjust instruction as needed, and the implementation of core Reading and Math programs with fidelity. While these components have been discussed in previous years, more depth was provided in the areas of the use of diagnostic testing to pin point the specific weaknesses in student mastery and the need for fidelity to ensure consistency and accuracy in the delivery of interventions.

The five elements of fidelity as presented by Skaanes, based on work by Dane & Schneider, 1998; Gresham et al., 1993; O'Donnell, 2008 from the National Center on Intensive Intervention, include Adherence: How well do we stick to the plan, curriculum, or assessment?; Exposure/Duration: How often does a student receive an intervention? How long does an intervention last?; Quality of Delivery: How well is the intervention, assessment, or instruction delivered? Do you use good teaching practices?; Program specificity: How well is the intervention defined and different from other interventions?; and Student Engagement: How engaged and involved are the students in this intervention or activity?

The main conference started out with a keynote speech presented by Doug Fisher entitled "Deeper Reading: Literacy Across the Content Areas." The presentation tied to the need to ensure that students are able to meet the challenges associated with the recent shifts in the Alaska Language Arts Standards. Mr. Fisher discussed a structure



for instruction that allows for the gradual release of responsibility for learning from the teacher to the student. This includes teacher responsibilities for Focused Instruction (“I do it”) to guided instruction (“We do it”). Instead of just jumping to the student responsibility of Independent Learning (“You do it alone”), Fisher points to using Collaborative Learning (“You do it together”) as an important tool to ensure that student’s have the necessary building blocks to be successful learning on their own.

Dr. Anita Archer presented a full-day workshop entitled “Getting Them All Engaged: Inclusive Active Participation.” The session provided real-world and active participation strategies that may be utilized by all teachers to engage all students and monitor participation levels. Topics included the use of Verbal Response Procedures (choral responses, pairing with partners, establish teams/huddle groups, form discussions/collaborative conversations, or develop quality questioning technique for individuals); Written Response Procedures (the selection of types of writing tasks, the use of whiteboards/virtual electronic tablet based devices, response cards/response sheets/clickers); and Action Response Procedures (the use of acting or simulations, use of gestures, utilizing facial expressions, the use of hand signals).

An additional half-day session, “Scaffolding Comprehension of Informational Text”, was also presented by Dr. Archer. This workshop discussed the need to explicitly work with students before reading, during reading, and after reading pieces of informational text. With the shifts within the Alaska Standards for students to focus on the reading and use of information found within non-fiction documents, Archer believes that strategies can be put in place to help all students to be successful. Students should utilize strategies including the teaching of vocabulary words found within the upcoming passage, teaching any necessary background knowledge and to preview the text. During reading, teachers should utilized questioning techniques including think time and scaffolding to ensure that students are engaged with the materials. Additionally students should be taught to use text mark up tools, note-taking tools, mapping, and provide verbal rehearsal. Finally following the reading of a passage of informational text, students should utilize graphic organizers, answer written questions, and summarize the passage.

## **PTPC**

Superintendent Piazza participated in the Professional Teaching Practices Commission meeting held on January 22nd. The agenda included the Department of Education and Early Development Teacher Certification’s report presented by Sondra Meredith, a discussion on the increased fees for teacher/administrator certificates to fund the PTPC without additional legislative appropriation, and the review and action for several warning, reprimands, and suspensions of individual certificates.

The PTPC is a nine member commission established in 1966 to serve as a preventative and positive force in helping to enhance the professional performance of all educators. The PTPC deals with matters of professional conduct and certification. It has the responsibility and the power to discipline members of the teaching profession and may issue, reprimands suspensions., and/or revocations of educators’ certificates. More information may be obtained at <http://education.alaska.gov/ptpc/>

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Instruction & Information Systems

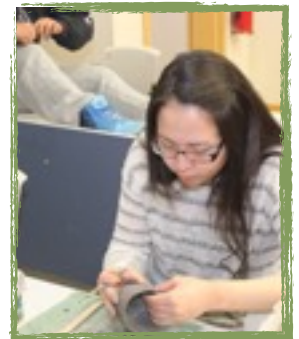
Steve Noonkesser, Associate Superintendent

### PROGRAM SUPPORT & TRAVEL

January's focus was getting the second semester off to a smooth start. Staff across the district met via video-conference for a day of training on a range of topics including our reading program and at the secondary level staff worked to ensure preparation of second semester exams and pacing guides.

Work is continues to progress on our teacher evaluation system as the team works to provide better avenues for community, staff and student input into the process. Meetings are planned for later February to begin a closer look at student achievement data and select two to four data measures to be used in evaluation.

During the first week of February. Superintendent Piazza, Associate Superintendent Noonkesser and Instruction Specialist Becker were able make a visit to Togiak to see staff and students at work. The visit was a good one and the hospitality and warm welcome were appreciated. The staff is working hard to serve the needs of the students and progress is being made in several areas, including a reduction in class tardies. We enjoyed many good discussions focused on effective instruction and student achievement.



## 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



## Instructional Team Notes

### A new library for Koliganek School!

- The books are here, all 4500 of them. Right now they are stored at the District office waiting to be moved to Koliganek at the appropriate time to be placed on the shelves. It's exciting to see.

### Go Math & AK Mathematics Standards

- District Office staff continues to work on providing more training on our new math curriculum and helping teachers better understand the changes in the standards driving the new look and feel of the materials.
- The change in focus continues to be a challenge for students and staff alike as we work to meet the new math standards.
- Go Math student materials were purchased for a six-year period of time last year when the new math program came into our district. We are in the process of securing those student workbooks from the publisher.

### Health & Physical Education

- The Health and Physical Education Curriculum Team is beginning to build the K-12 programs
  - Include Local health organizations into the instructional plans
  - School leaders to have conversations about community wishes for specific health issues

### Million Word Challenge

- Pam continues to monitor the classrooms participating in the Challenge. Everyone month Pam hand writes notes to all students encouraging them to continue reading. Brenda Norbert was our first Million Word Reader in Southwest Region School District.

### Love of Reading

- This Reading Challenge runs from January 15th to April 15th. We currently have 296 students participating in this challenge. This years' theme is Love of Reading is Catching on. Each classroom was given a net and fish templates. When students read and meet the criteria of the challenge they get to place a fish in the net. When the classroom reaches 100 fish they will have earned a Pizza in A Box Party for the classroom.

The new Koliganek library is taking shape!



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

## **Battle of the Books**

- We held the Southwest Regions School District Battle of the Books January 26-28th. Teams from almost every site participated in the District Battles. This years district winners are:
  - 3rd and 4th Grade- Koliganek School
  - 5th and 6th Grade- Aleknagik School
  - Middle School- Manokotak School
  - High School- Manokotak School
- These teams will go on to complete February 18th-24th in the State Wide Battle of the Books Competition.



## **Spelling Bee**

- Pam worked with Ryan O'Sullivan on organizing the Site and District Spelling Bee. Each site held a school wide Spelling Bee for grades 3-8th grade. The top three spellers will then compete in the District Wide Spelling Bee February 11th, 2015 via Distance Delivery. The District Champion will then head to Anchorage to compete in the State Wide Competition.

## **January Inservice**

- Middle and High School teachers made excellent use of inservice time before the first day of second semester classes and completed all of the second semester common assessments for social studies, language arts, science and math. Based on experiences from first semester, teachers developed a pacing guide that is both rigorous and realistic, and then created final exams that will cover that material. Teachers have come to see the value of having final exams prepared in a timely manner so as to maximize the effectiveness of their instruction and guide their interactions with students. The science and language arts sub-committees in particular put in many extras hours of their personal time over the winter break to strengthen and clarify their final exams. The development of common assessments has turned a corner where they are no longer seen as a task that detracts from teaching, but a tool that enhances it.
- Science courses at the Middle School level are set up on a trimester instead of semester system and the administration of the second trimester final using School Net was the smoothest yet with only one site reporting any difficulties with the technology. While there will always be a learning curve with new staff coming into the district, the returning teachers have become comfortable enough with the system that they are able to advise on and troubleshoot problems in a timely manner within their building and without reliance on district office personnel.

## **RTI Conference and Marzano Training**

- Most members of the Teacher Evaluation Group attended the Marzano Evaluation Model and the Art and Science of Teaching conference in Anchorage. Of particular interest was a section that highlighted how the model will be applied to personnel in non-classroom positions. It was also emphasized that the

Marzano Evaluation Model is based on observing teachers and providing them with feedback. It became apparent at this conference that SWRS is far ahead of most districts in the state in its development and implementation of a teacher evaluation program.

## Technology Team Notes

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

### IPAD PROJECT

- Air Server has been procured and the technology department is in process of distributing the software to elementary staff. Air Server will allow teachers as well as students, with teacher help to project their iPad screen through a classroom projector.

### ERATE

- Funding Year 2014: Form 471 in Initial Review Status
- Funding Year 2015: Received bid for cellular telephone services
- Form 471 to be filed in next 40 days
- CIPA Required Internet Safety lessons are being conducted each quarter at all sites.



### SCHOOL BANDWIDTH ASSISTANCE GRANT

- SWRS was awarded Broadband Assistance Grant funds in the amount of \$564,631.70 to bring schools closer to 10Mbps Internet connections, awaiting response to questions from EED.

### AMP / KITE

- KITE Local Caching Servers Updated (they now actually cache!)
- iPad app update released and tested against new Local Caching Servers
- Computer app tested against new Local Caching Servers

### SCHOOL BANDWIDTH ASSISTANCE GRANT

- Electronic floor plans and network specifications forwarded to Integrated Services for telephone system and WiFi network design.
- Les made a visit to Koliganek last week to look at the new school wiring and network progress.

### AMP & MAP ASSESSMENTS

- The winter MAP testing window was completed at the beginning of February student data is currently being compiled.
- Corey Evans traveled to Manokotak on January 29 along with Steve Noonkesser and Elizabeth Davis from EED for “AMP it up” day. During the test of the AMP testing system Corey assisted with monitoring the building network as well as troubleshooting iPad issues that occurred during the test. The day generated some useful information about the needs of the AMP testing system and gave us some ideas about methods sites will need to employ to help ensure testing this spring is successful.

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

### Alaska STEPP

During the month of January the focus indicators were:

4.03 – School staff communicate school-wide behavior expectations that are understood and achieved by students, and staff provide positive behavioral supports.

4.05 – School staff provides extended learning opportunities, and students in need of additional support regularly participate.

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

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.

### Title IC – Migrant Education

On January 26th, Koliganek held it's first family night. The theme was "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles." The event coincided with the book fair, where migrant students were able to take home \$50 worth of books. There are migrant family nights coming up all around the district.

- Aleknagik – To be determine
- Ekwok – To be determined
- Koliganek – Feb 26th
- Manokotak – To be determined
- New Stuyahok – Feb 23rd
- Togiak – Feb 14th
- Twin Hills – March 10th

### AASB Youth Fly-In

I was able to attend the AASB Fly-In in Juneau from February 7th through February 10th. Actually, Ferdinand Sharp and I didn't make it to Juneau until February 8th because of poor weather conditions. However, our shortened time was very productive. There were also three students and a teacher in attendance, Melody Rainwater, science teacher from New Stuyahok; Travis Chunak, senior from New Stuyahok; Acelynn Fox, sophomore from Togiak; and Rachael Norbert, freshman from Koliganek.

Our team of six had a number of opportunities to meet legislators, Department of Education staff, and even Governor Walker. We meet with Senator Coghill, Representative Edgmon, Senator Giessel, Education Commissioner Hanley, and Governor Walker. The team took these opportunities to voice concerns related to the four resolutions created by the Southwest Region School District School Board, and to address other concerns including the secondary boarding home program, as well as, the effects of unfunded mandates and policies. We attended a question and answer session with the Senate Education Committee and a separate question and answer session with Representative Seaton. The students attended a House or Representatives floor session and were introduced as guests. And we received a tour of the Department of



Education and Early Development and participated in a discussion with Dr. Susan McCauley, Director of Teaching & Learning Support.

Overall, the experience was positive even in the face of the budget deficit. Everyone responded to the presence and voice of the students. **Our students' voices are more powerful than they understand. Legislators, state officials, and commissioners listen to our students when they stand up and speak.**



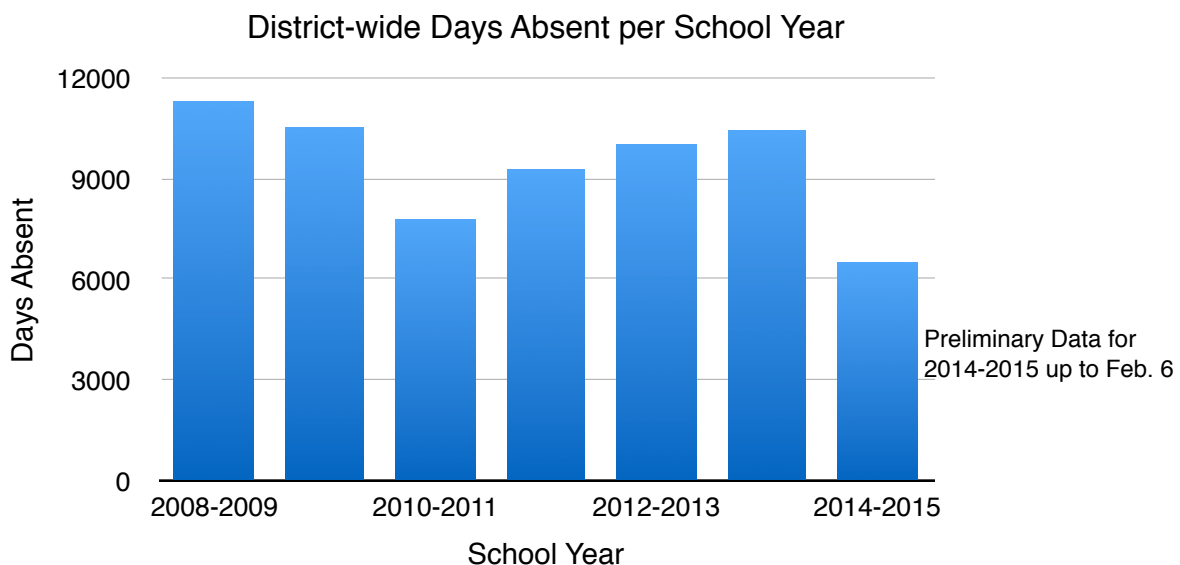
**Student Information & Support Specialist: Kyle Schneider**

### Alaska Military Youth Academy

Twice a year (January and July), the district is required under AS 14.30.745 to submit the names of students who have dropped out and are between the ages of 15 and 19 years old to the Alaska Military Youth Academy (AMYA) unless they or their parents have opted out. This report was submitted to AMYA in early January.

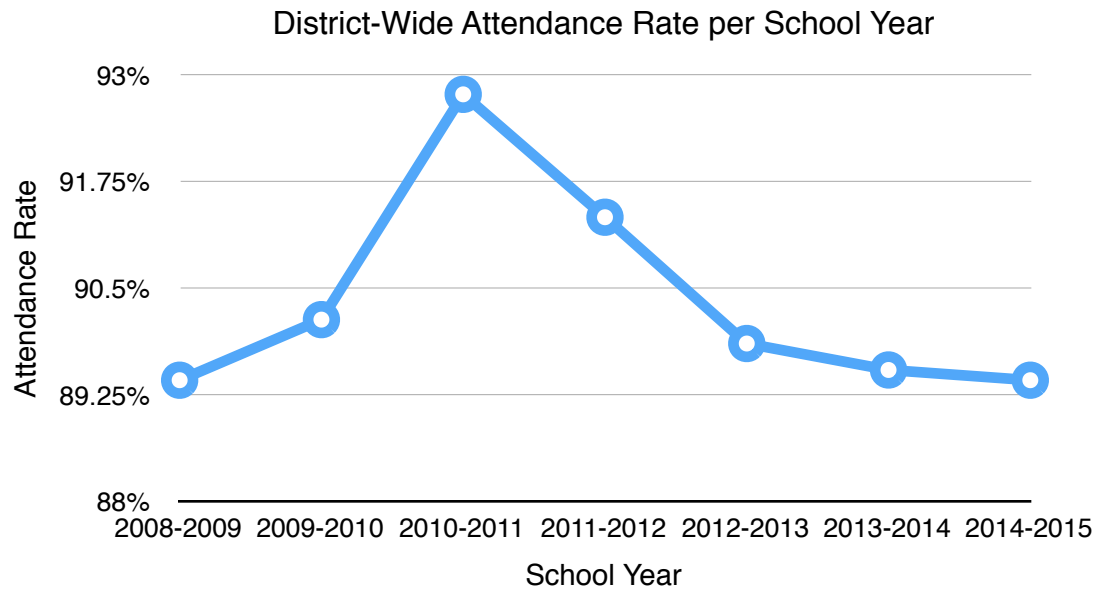
### Attendance

The following data is provided in response to the board's goal that all students will view education as relevant to their own lives and actively engage and take ownership in learning. Part of this goal is understanding student attendance.



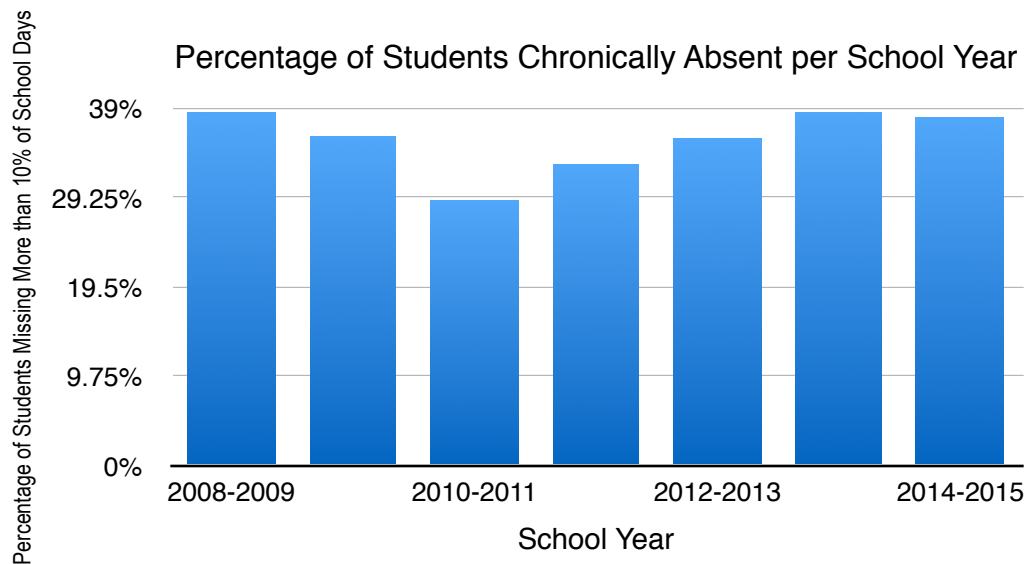
# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

There are several ways to look at attendance. In recent years, the district has focused on the number of days our student body has been absent each school year. This number is slightly misleading however, as the number of students in the district has been decreasing each year.



A number that we haven’t been paying very close attention to is the number of students who are “chronically absent.” Education researchers typically cite an attendance rate below 90% as being chronically absent. For SWRS, students who miss more than 17 days of school fall into this category. This number tells us a bit more than the attendance rate does, as the attendance rate allows students with perfect attendance to offset students who have very poor attendance. Research shows that:

There can be a 50% (or more) difference in the graduation rates of students who miss 0 to 5 days of school and students who miss 15 or more days a year.



The reason a student misses school has no impact on the effect of being absent. Excused and unexcused absences are equally harmful.

Students that are chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade scored 60 points below good attenders on California's third grade reading test and 100 points below on the third grade math test. (Scores range from 150-600, 350 marks the proficient level.) Unfortunately, there is no research on the impact to Alaska state tests.

### **Evaluation Committee**

Kyle has been working with the Evaluation Committee since this fall to help implement the state's new educator evaluation requirements. His primary role is to help the committee with the student data portion of the new requirements. The committee will be meeting on February 26th to discuss student data and Kyle has been working to identify what data we already have and to do some preliminary analysis for the committee.

### **Migrant Education**

In mid-January Kyle completed the Migrant Education Course History report and submitted it to EED. The report is required by the federal Department of Education and contains information about the classes that Migrant Education students took and whether or not they passed those classes.

### **Parent Communication**

In previous years at the end of each semester letters have been sent from the District Office to the parents of any students who had not passed a section of the HSGQE or who had not received credit in one or more classes. With the repeal of the HSGQE, those letters are no longer sent. In mid-January, the letters for parents whose children had not received credit in one or more classes were sent home. In FY2014, these letters were sent to 49 ninth through twelfth grade students. This year, 40 letters were sent.

### **PowerSchool**

With the completion of the PowerSchool plugin to track Impact Aid data, Kyle is now in the planning stages for plugins to help track Migrant Education information, Graduate information, and data for the student data piece of educator evaluations.

### **School Climate and Connectedness Survey**

Students and staff across the district began the School Climate and Connectedness Survey on February 2nd. The survey window is scheduled to finish on February 13th. Last year 84% of staff and 77% of students took the survey. At the beginning of the second week of the survey window 61% of staff and 61% of students have already taken the survey.

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director

The 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade Yup'ik Studies Curriculum committee met January 29th – 30th, 2015 here in Dillingham. Angutekayak Louise Gloko, Yup'ik Studies Instructor of Manuquutaq, Tat'iq Tatianna Andrew, Yup'ik Studies Instructor of Cetuyaraq, Natu Bertha Pavian-Lockuk, Yup'ik Studies Instructor and Itegmialria Herbert Lockuk Jr., Yup'ik Studies Instructor both of Tuyuryaq came together to create units of Yup'ik language and cultural instruction for the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students. The first unit will look at the student and introduce them to the unique Yup'ik kinship system; the second will focus on the local environment, the third will introduce the students to Yup'ik dancing, with the fourth unit leaving it up to the individual site and instructor and the fifth unit will introduce the students to traditional Yup'ik place names within the SWRS district. Each unit will also include a short introduction to seasonal foods that are consumed during the specified month of instruction. We still have four more units to create and will be addressed at an early spring meeting. Our goal is to get all these units completed and ready for the up-coming school year. Qu yana Angutekayak, Tat'iq, Natu and Itegmialria.



It was a delight to be out in Togiak February 5, 2015 and be able to watch the implementation process of our K-2nd Yup'ik studies curriculum. The students were engaged as the Yup'ik studies teachers went through their routines. I was most impressed with how well the students introduced themselves with their Yup'ik names and what pride they showed. Qu yana, Yup'ik teachers!

Ala qnaq iq will be hosting the Kevgiq (Messenger Feast) this year February 20, 2015. This was a major Yup'ik winter event where food, Yup'ik dancing, games and gift exchange took place. In the past two messengers were sent to invite the

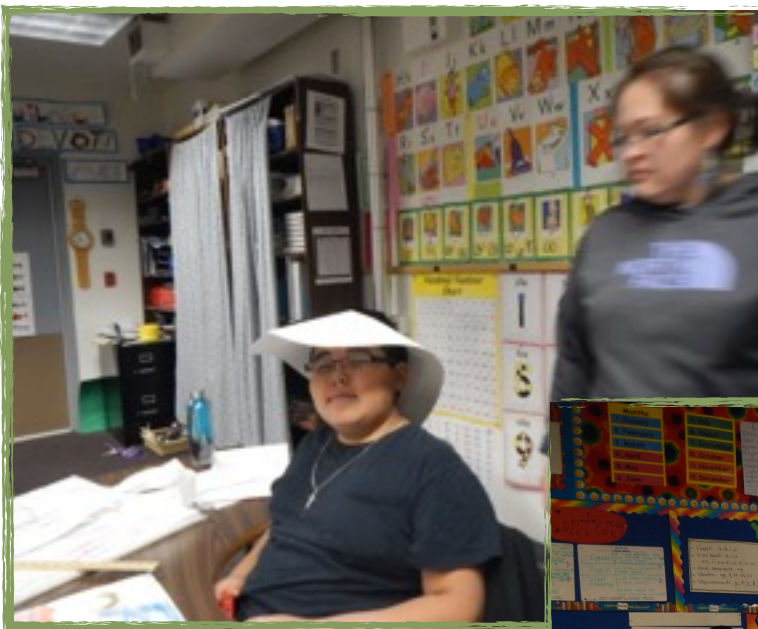




guest villages to the festival. The host village initiated the feast by presenting its guest with a long list of wants, and the guests reciprocated with a list of their own. In some areas the guests were designated *curukat*, or challengers. (Yuungaqpiallerput: The Way We Genuinely Live – Masterworks of Yup'ik Science and Survival. Ann Fienup-Riordan, 2007. Pg. 332)

We have modified it to include a theme -based pre-activity where lessons are featured and taught at the site before arriving. *Imarpigmi Pissurcuutet Neqsurcuutet-llu*: Tools for Ocean Hunting is the theme for this year, with students studying what an *ugtarcuun*, *elqiaq* and *nagiiquyaq* and their purposes.

Alaqlaqiq invited fellow small school sites Ingricuar and Iquaq. The celebration will conclude Friday evening February 20, 2015 with a presentation and community potluck beginning at 6 pm. We encourage your participation. *Quyana!*



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Business Office

Ryan Ayars, Director of Finance

### February Business Office Activities

Budget. Budget. Budget. Budget preparation is full swing in the business office. We have begun plugging in FY16 figures to start to develop a realistic budget based on the strains we are facing from the State looming deficit.

P-cards have arrived and are being prepared for implementation among our Directors. User accounts for the P-card online access portal, BMO Detail, has been built and guides acquired for distribution. Cards will be in Directors hands before the busy recruitment season.

Grants are continuing to migrate to the States online GMS system. The state went to a web-based program for all reimbursement requests in November 2013. They are planning to include the minor grants in the near future. We continue to welcome the increase in online reporting as it increases the turn around time for our reimbursements.

1099's have been sent to all vendors who provide service to SWRSD. The 1099's were given to the vendors by Jan 31. This gives them enough time to look over their 1099's and get back to us if something needs to be changed. We file the 1099's with the IRS by February 28th. This year we had 65 vendors who meet the criteria of providing a service, rent or legal services.

JOM was a long time getting in place after the turn over in staff here and with BBNA. We (Marlene) worked with BBNA tirelessly. BBNA has got the FY14 invoices approved and we should expect the District reimbursement very soon. All of the Sites have their FY15 amounts set and three sites have started to spend their money on trips and student enhancing activities.

We continue to use our desktop deposit scanner to efficiently process all incoming check through the business office. There has already been a noticeable improvement in accuracy of the check information delivered to the bank. Money orders and cash are still collected and transferred to our local branch on a bi-weekly basis.

## BUSINESS OFFICE SUPPORT TEAM



Guy Snyder  
Accounts Payable



Aileen Walsh  
Accountant



Denise Gregoire  
Payroll Specialist



Marlene Einhellig  
Accounting Tech.



Krystian Roehl  
Purchasing/Travel Tech.



## Special Education

**Sherry Parrish, Director**

The special education director completed the hearing/vision screenings for all Togiak kindergarten students as well as a few older students upon teacher request. Parents were notified in writing if referrals for additional testing were needed. Five students were referred for further testing in either hearing/vision. The Togiak special education teachers were also trained to do these screenings. Travels this past month have also included visiting Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School and Aleknagik School for student/classroom observations and teacher/paraprofessional support.

The Life Centered Education (LCE) curriculum training was completed via distance delivery on January 15, 2015. Four high school special education teachers and the special education director participated in this training. The LCE curriculum is currently being implemented in all K-12 schools for students with disabilities ages 16 and above. This curriculum includes a functional vocational assessment that helps guide future instruction. A two-hour special education teacher inservice was held via distance on January 15, 2015– topics covered include: Training needs for special education paraprofessionals, iPad apps for Special Education; Review of the referral process; Special Education Eligibility Checklist and initial consent for special services documentation requirements; Accommodations on the MAP and AMP assessments; reporting progress on IEP goals/objectives and progress monitoring methods; and sessions on accurately completing required paperwork.

The Special Education Director attended the Alternate Assessment training in Anchorage on January 21-22, 2015, and the Response to Intervention (RTI) Conference in a team of other district teachers and administrators in Anchorage on January 23-25, 2015. A lot of very good resources were provided which will be passed on to the district as a whole to improve upon the intervention process currently being implemented in our schools.

Five special education teachers, the our Administrative Assistant and the Director attended the Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference (ASSEC) on February 7-13, 2015. A week long learning experience provided our special education team with training in a myriad of topics including a New Special Education Director Training and a New Special Education Teacher training provided and funded by the Statewide Mentor Project. Other sessions included training in working with students with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, Autism, assessment, improving instructional strategies, technology in special education, working with related service providers, working with low/high incidence disabilities, social emotional issues, bully prevention, inclusion, working more successfully with paraprofessionals/families/administrators, teaching

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

students self advocacy skills and improving high school to adult life transition for students with disabilities.

Special education teachers, LeEsia O'Sullivan and Claire Steffen were nominated and recognized for their nomination at this conference for the Inclusive Practices Award sponsored by the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education.



## Facilities & Maintenance

**Rick Dallmann, Director**

### Togiak

- HVAC Controls vendor made site visit and spent a couple days working with the site guys and worked on building controls.
- Main hallway and kitchen area was repainted.

### Twin Hills

- Kitchen remodel was completed over the break and some painting was done in the gym area.
- Attended the January CSC meeting, went over the building needs and some of the process that goes into maintaining the site and what we have for grant requests and work planned for next summer, we are planning on replacing the gym floor and the lighting and some general touch up.

### Aleknagik

- During the break we worked on replacing most of the door hardware and working on rekeying the building.

### New Stuyahok

- Had a freeze up in teacher housing a sewer pipe in an outside wall froze, we able to get things working but there will be repair work to get the unit back in service.
- HVAC Controls vendor made a site visit and worked on the camera system as well as building systems.

### Koliganek

- New school project is moving forward and substantial completion should be some time in April. Outside work like the playground and landscaping will happen during the summer
- Teacher housing project is also moving forward materials are being purchased and barging is being set up, we hope to have the new units ready for teachers by October or sooner if everything goes according to schedule





## Aleknagik School

Audra Finkenbinder, Principal/Teacher

### Students of the Month

Robin Toyukak

Austin Finkenbinder

Aleknagik students have been quite busy participating in numerous events since returning to school on January 12th.



### READING CHALLENGE

All students are currently participating in the District-sponsored Love of Reading Challenge that was kicked off on January 15th. Our goal is to read 100 Accelerated Reader books and pass reading tests for each book with at least an 80% or higher by April 15th. We are filling a fishing net with fish in the library to signify the number of books read and when a student completes a book, passes a reading test, or completes another activity based on the book, we place another fish in the net.

### SPELLING BEE

On February 4th, Aleknagik School held a school-wide Spelling Bee in which the top three spellers were selected to compete in the District Spelling Bee. After numerous rounds, the top three spellers are: Austin Finkenbinder, Marki-Lynn Tinker, and Treyton Toyukak. The three finalists will continue practicing for the upcoming District Spelling Bee that is scheduled for February 11th.

### BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

The District Battle of the Books was held on January 26th and 27th. Aleknagik School was represented with a 3rd/4th grade group as well as a 5th/6th grade group.

The 3rd/4th grade team was comprised of Jake Ilutsik, Katrena Finkenbinder, and Jaren Tinker; together these students placed second. Austin Finkenbinder and Ayden Ilutsik formed the 5th/6th grade team and claimed the District title! Ayden and Austin will be competing in the State competition on February 19th!

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

## MAP TESTING

All students in grades K-8 have completed the Winter MAP Assessments with the following overall improvement rates:

- 76% of students improved in Math.
- 68% of students improved in Reading.
- 56% of students improved in Language Usage.

## MIGRATORY BIRD CALENDAR

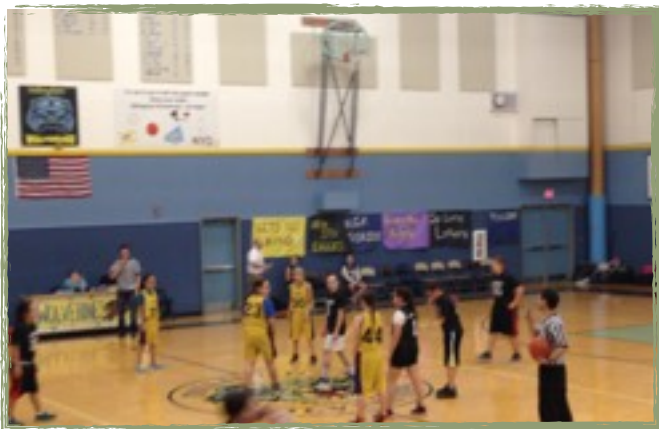
All students in grades K-8 are participating in the Migratory Bird Calendar Contest this year and have been working diligently on their artwork. This year's theme is "Alaska's Birds – Colorful and Camouflaged".

## BASKETBALL

The Lakers basketball season is in full swing and we are very proud of the participation and enthusiasm of every student in grades 5-8. This is the first year we have been able to form both girls' and boys' teams! Thus far, the Lakers have sponsored a tournament in Aleknagik, traveled to Dillingham for the Super Cub, and will go to Manokotak the weekend of February 13th-14th.

## 3rd ANNUAL KEVGIQ CELEBRATION AND PINEWOOD DERBY

Students in grades 4-8 from Ekwok, Twin Hills, and Aleknagik will join together and participate in the 3rd Annual Kevgiq Celebration at Aleknagik School on February 20th. The Pinewood Derby for grades 5-8 will follow on Saturday, February 21st.





## William ‘Sonny’ Nelson School

Nate Preston, Principal/Teacher

William “Sonny” Nelson School has finished the second round of MAP Testing and one round of AMP Testlits. The students in Ekwok were having health classes taught by a medic who was here to cover ETT classes for the village. We are looking forward to the trip to Aleknagik and our first family night.

As a site we are continuing to analyze MAP and AMP Testlet data. We will use this data to adjust what we are teaching the students before the AMP Test in April. At first glance, we are very happy with the MAP and AMP scores.

We have had an excellent opportunity for students to learn about health with a trained nurse. The upper grade students learned CPR with dummies, Heimlich maneuver, how to treat wounds, and escape safely from fire. The younger students including kindergarten practiced fire safety and general health.

Staff and students are looking forward to our first family night and the trip to Aleknagik. For the family night we will have snacks, give away a bunch of guppies and books on aquarium care. All migrant students ordered books from Scholastic. The students have created items in Yupik class to give away and their cars are ready to race in the Pinewood Derby.



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Koliganek School

Cody McCanna, Principal

### 100th Day of School Fun!

The K-5th grade students at Koliganek School celebrated the 100th day of school on February 3, 2015. Students were put into intergrade groups and then rotated the entire afternoon into different teachers classrooms. Students had a blast doing the various activities teachers had created for them. Some of the activities included putting their picture on a 100 dollar bill, using an App to show what they would look like when they were 100 years old, writing 100 words, graphing 100 fruit loops and much more.

### Professional Development

The staff at Koliganek School continue to work on improving their professional practice by learning more about Marzano's elements of effective teaching. During the weekly Collaborative Meeting teachers get the opportunity to learn more detail about specific elements of Marzano's model. Thus far, teachers have watched videos illustrating specific elements and discussed methods for utilizing the elements at Koliganek School.

### Student Activities

Koliganek School participated in the Battle of the Books and the Spelling Bee. The 3rd-4th grade Battle Team will be competing at State on Feb. 18, 2015. We will also have 3 spellers participating in the District Spelling Bee on Wednesday February 11. The middle school basketball players had a great time at the Cubs tournament in Dillingham and look forward to playing in Manokotak next. Some middle school students finished making their doghouses for shop class this quarter. They enjoyed the opportunity of getting their hands dirty.

### Students of the Month for February

K-1: Troy Tungjung  
2-3: Parraq Nelson  
4-5: Ivan Gumlickpuk  
6-8: Wassillie Johnson  
9-12: Perez Tungjung



### Behavior Reward Recipients for February

K-1: Kenyon Taufu  
2-3: Kristin Tungjung  
4-5: Kaitlyn Herrmann  
6-8: Brody Wysocki  
9-12: Ashleanne Ishnook







## Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Deb Forkner, Principal

The shortened school month of January seemed to fly by as staff and students at Manokotak Nunaniq School got back into the swing of learning.

Students got AMP'ed UP on January 29, with the AMP practice test. All students in grades 3-10 participated in the State AMP it Up Day. We experienced some technological glitches, but for the most part students were able to practice the test. Being able to take the test online and use the technology tools seems to help keep the students interest.

1st-12th graders are reading, reading, reading to participate in "The Love of Reading" initiative. Salmon nets adorn to hallway walls and are rapidly filling with beautiful salmon to represent each book read. Students are looking forward to pizza parties when they reach the 100 books read mark.

After school tutoring continues on Tuesday and Thursdays to provide extra instruction and support for struggling learners.

Manokotak Middle and High School Battle of the Books teams both qualified for the state competition. They have been meeting and practicing during their lunchtime. State competitions will be Feb. 23 and 24.

Other events happening this month include: School and district spelling bee, a family literacy night and basketball games every weekend.

We are very proud of the Lady Lynx basketball team for winning the Sportsmanship award at the Sockeye Classic in Dillingham.

Congratulations to LeEsia O'Sullivan and Claire Steffen for being nominated for 2015 Inclusive Practices Award. This is an award given by the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education to recognize outstanding educators who work to ensure students with disabilities have the opportunity for an inclusive education in the general education curriculum.



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## **‘Chief’ Ivan Blunka School**

**Robin Jones, Principal**

Besides experiencing sub zero temperatures without any fluffy snow to play in, things have been going extremely well at Chief Ivan Blunka School!

In our Professional Learning Communities (PLC), we are reviewing the STEPP plan of improvement with the staff and focusing our attention in the areas of Math, Writing, & Attendance. We will also be introducing an initiative to partner with the students in developing clear and measurable goals for individual student achievement in Math. We will be using the MAP data collected thus far 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 had our school-wide Spelling Bee and three individuals made it 14 rounds to be able to represent Chief Ivan Blunka School at the District level. Chief Ivan Blunka School will also be hosting a mini carnival February 11-15, where we will have basketball games, bingos, dances, and raffles to fundraise for the Student Council and the Senior Class of 2015. In addition, we will be hosting a Migrant Education Family Fun Night on February 23rd with the theme of “Learning While Playing.”

Both basketball teams have been actively playing across the state with trips to Sand Point, St. Paul, Koliganek, & Dillingham. They are having a lot fun and bringing back trophies to boot.

We are also very excited to host the upcoming Showdown tournament, February 12-14, where our student athletes will have the opportunity to compete against Togiak, Manokotak, and Naknek. We look forward to cheering everyone on here at home!



### **Students of the Month**

Barret White – 5th Grade

Cameron Andrew – 8th Grade

Kivaso Neketa – 9th Grade

### **Employees of the Month**

Josh Gates & Brielle Good





## Togiak School

### Sam Gosuk, Principal

As we start looking at the end of toward spring, it seems that the year has gone so fast. We have a few more months with our students and the impact that we as educators is good for the students in a long run.

This month, our schools basketball athletics stand out. Our High School Girls and Boys have done not so well as a team, but, the results of being in a team stand out. Some of the team members attendance to school has perked up including their grades in order to be eligible. To help them also to give them another incentive for High School and the school itself, Mr. Lee our Assistant Principal has stated them the school that he would shave his head if the students' attendance improves to at least 85% he would shave his head :-). Hopefully this will give some students incentive to improve their attendance.

Middle School team has done a lot of traveling to other villages and during their last tournament, they got 2nd place in the Supercub Basketball and if they had 5 more points, they would have been first place. I am proud of the determination of this MS Boys Basketball team. In fact in the last game they did against Dillingham, they determined that they would play for one student who had a medical condition which prevented him from coming to school. They won the game! After the game, they all high fived him since he was at the game and made him an honorary team member showing their support for the family and him. The Dillingham and Togiak Middle School Team dedicated that Saturday's games to him.

This shows that students and the community can support each other and every step we as educators take to guide our communities and people individually to support each other will make a difference in the education of our students.

*Kanruyutet atuguut yungnaqetlrianun*  
*Instruction is useful for people who want to survive.*





## Twin Hills School

Meghan Redmond, Lead Teacher

January feels like it absolutely flew by, and here we are nearing the end of February already! The students at Twin Hills School have been hard at work in reading, math, science and social studies. Here are some of the highlights of the past month...

- 3rd-8th grade students have finished their Pinewood Derby cars.
- Classroom spelling bees and the school spelling bee have been completed.
- The entire school had 6 days in a row of perfect attendance in February!
- 33 salmon have been earning in our Love of Reading net.
- Elementary students have been learning about phases of matter. When it finally snowed, they built mini-snowmen to see a solid change into a liquid. They also experimented on how to make the snowmen melt faster.
- Middle school students have been reading Where the Red Fern Grows and love the dogs in the story!
- 8th graders participated in the NAEP assessment.
- 3rd-8th grade students completed the technology practice tests and the practice tests for the new state assessment.
- One 8th grader is traveling to Juneau to participate in the Alaska Up Close Junior.

### Wolf of the Month for January

For the month of January two “Wolves of the Month” were chosen. Daniel Pleasant and Ivan Sharp were chosen, because Daniel won the school spelling bee and Ivan won the elementary spelling bee.

