

REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



Superintendent's Office

David J. Piazza, Superintendent

Staffing

The District has started into the planning and preparation for the next school year. Intent forms have been sent out to all certificated staff and should be returned by the date of the board meeting. We have several staff members that have already indicated that they are leaving at the end of the current school year. The District has signed up for the job fairs that are traditionally attended including Tacoma, Seattle, Minneapolis, Portland and Anchorage. The Anchorage job fair will lead off the main recruiting season in March as it is scheduled several weeks earlier this year from its traditional April dates. We may need to expand to other job fairs, if the need arises.



Impact Aid

Last year's Impact Aid application that was submitted January 31, 2014 was under extended review by USDOE since October

**"Agayumaciq-Ilu
qigcikluku."**

Respect spirituality.

--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

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28, 2014. From all indication, all of the Alaskan school districts have been under the same review this past year as staff members in Washington DC have changed and the new leadership have interpreted rules differently and have not accepted property certifications from the past.

The request for Southwest Region School's review came late in the funding cycle, as October is the time frame when the District would traditionally see the first scheduled payments from the new Federal Fiscal Year. Since this is funding that the District places in reserve to utilize in the next fiscal school year, we still anticipate that the application will be reviewed and approved in time to meet our financial needs for the 2015-2016 school year.

The District reformatted the student/property level data submitted on Source Check Forms as requested. The District has worked with the BIA contractor at the offices of the Bristol Bay Native Association, the Bristol Bay Native Corporation, each local community's tribal and/or corporation leadership, the State of Alaska Tax Assessor, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Finance Department, and each school's administration to re-verify each property for Impact Aid Program eligibility. The FY2015 (last year) Application was resubmitted. Based on the recertification of properties that may be classified as ANCSA or "Restricted" the District anticipates a reduction in overall Impact Aid funding as the eligible student count has dropped from 568 students to 495 students.

The District has also been in the process of completing this year's Impact Aid application. The FY2016 application will be submitted by February 2, 2015 and will provided funding utilized in the District 2016-2017 budget. The District anticipates an increase of 8 eligible students over last year's application to 503 students.

Superintendent Travel

Superintendent Piazza had the opportunity to participate in the Association of Alaska School Board's (AASB) Winter Boardmanship Academy. The first day focused on the Board's responsibility and involvement in contract negotiations for staff. These workshops included presentations by school law attorneys John Sedor and Saul Friedman in the area of Preparing for Negotiations and looking at Negotiations From Both a Broad and Focused Perspective. AASB Executive Director Joseph Reeves provided information regarding the Boards Role in Negotiations followed by a look at the annual reports prepared by AASB on statewide Negotiations and Salaries presented by John Greely.

The second day of the academy was focused on continuing the work from the AASB Annual Conference regarding the development of skills to assist School Boards to Stand Up 4 Public Education. This included presentations on the legislative priorities from various organizations including AASB President Andi Story, Anchorage School Board President Tam Agosti-Gisler, the Executive Director of the Alaska Council of School Administrators (ACSA) Dr. Lisa Skiles-Parady, the Executive Director for the Citizens for the Educational Advancement of Alaska's Children (CEAAC) Charles Wohlforth, and the Statewide Coordinator for Great Alaska Schools (GAS) Deena Mitchell.

Liz Brooks with the Department of Administration provided an update on the Salary and Benefits Study as requested by the legislature. At this time, information is continuing to be gathered from various stakeholder groups and the Center for Alaska Education Policy Research (CAEPR [kay per]) is beginning efforts to conduct a study to develop a state-wide salary & benefits schedule and provide recommendations for teacher tenure.

The leadership for the House Education Committee has changed this year. Wes Keller will chair the committee. Together with Senate Education Committee Chair Mike Dunleavy, a brief overview of the legislative session was presented. As most people are already aware, the price of oil has fallen, and the basic message from both bodies is for all state government funded programs to look for ways to reduce spending and to suggest changes to laws and regulations that would make schools more efficient. They both feel that there will not be many Bills regarding Education topics this session.

The afternoon concluded with sessions presented by AASB and ACSA staff to address the question “What Does the Data Say?” and to bring the data together to share with the legislature. The idea is to use data to paint a picture for the legislature of your school district and the students that are served.

individual awards at state tournament



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Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Associate Superintendent

PROGRAM SUPPORT & TRAVEL

This past month the instruction team was focused on end of semester activities, including course finals at the secondary level. Staff worked hard all semester to ensure that students across the district received a comparable experience in each of their classes. Associate Superintendent Noonkesser also traveled with Superintendent Piazza and the board to the AASB Winter Boardsmanship Academy. During the academy he met with EED staff on the upcoming AMP assessment rollout and implementation as well as several other distance education related issues. Sessions during the conference provided information on the upcoming legislative sessions and climate in Juneau as we head into a new session. Steve has also been named chairman of the Alaska Learning Network (AKLN) board of directors. AKLN is currently providing coursework by distance to students across the state including those in our district. This organization has become the primary distance learning organization at the K-12 level in Alaska and shows promise for playing a more important as we look for creative and effective ways to increase offerings to our students.

Work is also progressing on our teacher evaluation system with subcommittees currently working on new surveys to allow for better input by students, parents and community members, as well as presentation materials for CSC and student government presentations on the new system.



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

iPad Rollout Phase One is Complete!

- iPads have now been deployed at all the sites. Charles Becker led the community nights in New Stuyahok and Ekwok. Corey Evans led the community night in Koliganek. Corey and Charles both participated in the community night in Togiak.
- In New Stuyahok the current sixth and seventh grade students helped Mr. Becker prepare the iPads for use by setting the preferences on them and adding the elementary student's usernames and pictures.

The Love of Reading!

- Last year the staff and students who participated in the "Love of Reading" expressed excitement for the challenge and stated the challenge created an excitement about reading in their classrooms.
- This year we created the Million Word Club, which encourages students to read all year long, and the "Love of Reading II" goes hand in hand with the Million Word Challenge allowing students to easily participate in both and reap the rewards of both Challenges.

Battle of the Books

- Southwest Region Schools, Battle of the Books competition, is scheduled for the end of January. The winner from each category will advance to the state competition in February.

Common Curriculum & Assessments

- Progress continues to be made in the development of common assessments for the secondary level. All high school students in math, social studies, and language arts across the district took the same final at the end of the first semester using the Schoolnet system. Teachers across the district worked very hard during the first semester to develop a common pace and finish the semester at the same point. This means that a student enrolled in Biology in Togiak covered the same

Students help prepare for iPad Parent Night at New Stuyahok



Brenda Norbert from Koliganek - 1st student to reach the goal of reading one million words!

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amount of information during the semester and was asked exactly the same questions on the final exam as a student in New Stuyahok. Common pacing and the development of common assessments is an ongoing goal of the instructional department. Teachers have begun to see the value of these common assessments and the value they add to classroom instruction and are eagerly preparing the common assessments for second semester.



New Stuyahok iPad Night

Wednesday District-Wide Inservices

- Continue to support reading in student classrooms.
- Teachers are using “Time for Kids” newsletter. One MS teachers from Manokotak shared with other teachers how this resource was utilized to support student learning.
- Continue to learn more about our new Math curriculum, Go Math by sharing successes with each other, identify a struggle and then offering a suggestion to fellow teachers.
- Elementary teachers are beginning to update the math assessment plan (K-8) using the Alaska Standards and Go Math Curriculum.

Reading

- Staff continues to work to update our “Recommended Reading List.” It is a collection of stories suggested by teachers that provide students with positive reading experiences. Sets of books for many of these stories are kept at the media center and available for teachers to check out. Many of these stories have teacher kits, unit kits and student materials that are also available for teachers to sign out.
- Reading Mastery Signature Series for Kindergarten and 1st Grade: Literature connection materials (separate set) of student readable stories to support reading instruction are also now available. One set of books are available for teachers to check out of the Media Center when students are ready to practice individual reading skills at this level. These stories are specially written to show new reading skills just mastered in the reading instruction period. They are a great way to build student confidence in reading by being successful with new books.



Other activities

- Staff is beginning work on collecting and preparing orders for next year's materials needed for instruction. This is a very labor intensive process as the team works to get orders from over sixty classrooms and collates them into larger group orders to make best use of available funds and to ensure that adopted curriculum is being purchased.



Technology Team Notes

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

IPAD PROGRAM

- Since November the Corey has been primarily concerned continuing to work on the iPad deployment. Corey and Charles have begun the process of soliciting teacher input on applications (programs) that may be beneficial in the classroom and support the district goals for the iPad program in our schools across the district.
- Since Christmas Corey Evans has been preparing the MAP winter assessment window that begins January 19 as well as providing technology support for site technology liaisons and staff.

WIRELESS SYSTEM TRAINING

- Les is currently out of the office receiving advanced wireless internet systems training to enable us to maintain better control over our networks and provide a better quality of service for all students and staff.

AMP / KITE

- Preparations are underway for the state's AMP IT UP! day. A practice using the new AMP/KITE system will be held across the district on January 29th. During this day personnel from EED in Juneau will be visiting Manokotak to observe our system and students at work. We anticipate a successful test. Many hours of preparation have been put in by tech team staff and Steve Ito to help ensure that schools are as ready as possible for this new activity.



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State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

Alaska STEPP

School improvement and schoolwide planning continue to occur at all of our schools. In conversations with staff from the Department of Education and Early Development, there is a focus on providing a clearer picture about how schools and districts are addressing the indicators. The result is more detail to clarify procedures and process that schools and district implement. School improvement teams have responded in a quickly to provide additional detail. This also helps district staff get a better idea about the strategies and process schools are implementing.

During the month of December the focus indicators were:

3.03 – School staff use research-based instructional practices, program and materials.

3.04 – School staff consistently, and regularly measure the effectiveness of instruction using data from a variety of formative assessments.

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

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.

There is funding to support improvement efforts and Togiak School because of the designation at a Focus School. The school improvement team from Togiak School and district office staff have been involved in a collaborative process to address areas of focus for improvement at Togiak School. On-site professional

development has been planned for mid-February for staff. The training will be specific to effective implementation the Reading Mastery curriculum to ensure fidelity for K-5/6 staff followed by several days of in-class modeling, coaching, and reflective conversations between staff and the trainer. Teachers in the 6/7th to 12th grade span will participate in training specific to addressing reading in various content areas such as science, social studies, math, etc.

Title IC – Migrant Education

The Literacy In the Home Initiative continues to be a focus of the Migrant Education Program. Migrant children enrolled in our schools or living in our villages have had the opportunity to select a magazine subscription based on their interests and age that will go directly to their home. This month, children will also have the opportunity to select up to \$50 worth of books to add to their personal library. In fact, the student selected book distribution has already occurred in New Stuyahok. Some schools have already organized family nights. Twin Hills has had to migrant family nights and Manokotak has already had one migrant family night. I was able to attend the Manokotak family night, which had a math theme. Unfortunately, weather did not permit Jon to travel to the family night in Twin Hills.

Career & Technical Education (CTE)

Progress in advancing the CTE curriculum in the district continues to occur. Teachers are working on two additional courses that fit within the Architecture & Construction pathway. This effort has been lead by Rich Harrelson, who teachers a number of subjects in Koliganek. One of those subject areas is industrial arts. Rich continues to

advocate and lead the development of courses that fit within the A&C pathway. Rich has been the driving force on the development of a number of courses of the past few years.

Jon Clouse has been collaborating with the Bristol Bay Campus to develop dual credit opportunities for high school students taking CTE courses and would provide the opportunity for students to graduate from high school with a number of college level courses completed in a pathway that would lead to a occupational endorsement, occupational certificate, or degree program.

Other

Jon Clouse has been working with the Educational Testing Center (ETS) in an effort to become a Certified Test Administration Site. This would allow our district to administer Praxis I exams and all of the Praxis II content area exams using approved computers over our network. The reason we are working on this is because ETS eliminated all paper-pencil exams. This has eliminated all possibilities of teachers taking necessary exams at our schools or at the Bristol Bay Campus. Currently, the closest place to take a Praxis exam is in Anchorage, which is cost prohibited. The process has been slow but we are about halfway through completing the necessary steps.



Student Information & Support Specialist: Kyle Schneider

Migrant Education

After the close of the Migrant Education recruiting window in November, letters were sent out to parents who had not yet been notified to inform them that their children had been approved by the

state's Migrant Education Office. These letters included details about the services that would be provided to their children.

Powerschool

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

Alaska Military Youth Academy

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

Civil Rights Data Collection

In the November Board Report, it was mentioned that the Civil Rights Data Collection for the 2013-2014 school year would be due in January. The U.S. Department of Education has postponed the opening of the submission period. In December, the district received notice that the opening of the data collection period would be postponed until early January. Their website (<https://crdc.grads360.org/#program>) now indicates that the submission system will open in early February.

Once their submission system does open, the district will have 75 days to complete its submission for the data collected during the 2013-2014 school year.

School Climate & Connectedness Survey

The district has been registered for the Spring 2015 School Climate and Connectedness Survey. School Coordinators have been identified and a sample survey has been sent to secretaries at each site for parents to review. Parents were notified of the survey with a letter mailed from the District Office. The window for the survey will be February 2nd - February 13th.

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Impact Aid

Kyle worked with secretaries to gather Impact Aid data for the October 24, 2014 count date for this year's Impact Aid submission. He has also been working with Superintendent Piazza to make required changes in our Impact Aid data collection process to meet federal requirements. Over the last month and a half, Kyle has written a new plugin for PowerSchool that will help make data collection easier in future years, and ensure that we have data available in case of audits.



Counseling & Assessment Specialist: Steve Ito

All student data uploads with the new Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) for the English Language Arts and Math tests have been completed. The AMP assessment will happen within a window from March 30th to May 1st. Alaska has chosen the Achievement and Assessment Institute (AAI) at the University of Kansas to develop a custom assessment that measures the Alaska English Language Arts & Mathematics Standards adopted in 2012. Our previous assessment, the Standards Based Assessment (SBA) in grades 3-10 Reading, Writing and Math was administered for the final time in April 2014. The new, custom assessment from AAI, Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) will be administered for the first time in spring 2015.

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

Identified and trained certified Special Education staff member to be the Alternate Assessment Qualified Test Proctor for 2015 testing of significant cognitively disabled students. The Alternate Assessment exists for students with significant cognitive disabilities to have access to, participate in, and make progress in general education curricula. The Alternate Assessment is based on Alaska standards but measured against alternate achievement standards.

Spring SBA Science enrollments for grade 4, 8, and 10 have been submitted to Data Recognition Corporation. The Science SBA was retained by EED for the 2015. Enrollments and Pre-Code data greatly enhances the quality and accuracy of test administration during the mandated spring Standards Based Assessment.



Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director

Yup'ik Language & Culture K-2 Curriculum

The Yup'ik Studies Introduction to Yup'ik Language and Culture TPRS K-2nd Curriculum pacing guide for the 2014-2015 school year is presented as follows (at right):

Month	Unit
August	Waqaa Activities
September	Nasaurluq Iqvaryungqellria
October	Emm-paa! & Yaaruin
October	Tan'gaurluq Iqsagyunqegglluni
November & December	Cauyarvik & Ungnara'urlull'er
January	Uivetaaq (Caukia) Issaluuq (Unit 1 A) or Kiuryaq
February	Issaluuq or Ageskurpak II or Sugaq
March	Alqaqellriit or An'gaqtar or Can'giiq
April	Anguyak & Qayasiq or Pitegcurliq
May	Evegtaq or Yaaruin



Here are some photographs of students work from the Fall 2014 units.

Quyana, K-2nd TPRS Yup'ik Studies Instructional Aides for all your good work!



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Business Office

Ryan Ayars, Director of Finance

November Business Office Activities

The Impact Aide Application for FY16 has been submitted. Final payment of \$631,507.88 for FY 12 was received in the beginning of January.

P-cards have been ordered for SWRS Directors for the purchase goods and services. This is an alternative to purchasing items through the traditional purchasing process, e.g. purchase requisitions and purchase orders. Use of the procurement cards will save a considerable amount of money. The cards do not require multiple school departments and numerous employees deal with purchases. In addition the Business Office is working on implementing a comprehensive P-card training program, supplier relations, and the use of ghost cards.

The check scanner has arrived; with its arrival checks received by the district and the sites can be deposited right from the Business Office. This will help cut cost, improve cash flows, and ensure more accurate imaging of checks. We are now able to insure the security of the checks, using new bank apps, both coming and going.

Second quarter reimbursable grants have been evaluated and submitted. The State has accepted our submissions and approved their release for payments.

Our accounting software, ALIO, has received the latest updates and hot fixes. We are currently working on aligning ALIO with our Banking ach payments, P-Cards and bank reconciliation process.

Annual bus reports have been submitted. A study has been undertaken to look at the interest in new bus service for Aleknagik.

District forms are being revisited and updated. In the near future we hope to make our forms available via a district wide platform. This will ensure consistency and accuracy district wide.

W-2's have been completed. 1099's are currently being worked on and will be completed by the February 17, 2015 due date.

BUSINESS OFFICE SUPPORT TEAM



Guy Snyder
Accounts Payable



Aileen Walsh
Accountant



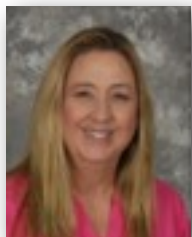
Denise Gregoire
Payroll Specialist



Marlene Einhellig
Accounting Tech.



Krystian Roehl
Purchasing/Travel Tech.



Special Education

Sherry Parrish, Director

This past month, the special education department finalized and submitted the SWRS Gifted and Talented Plan of Service to the State of Alaska Department of Education & Early Development. We have also been working on finalizing some changes to the Early Entry and the Retention procedures for the district.

High School to Adult Transition

The Transition Grant proposal and budget has been approved by the state of Alaska. The special education director has been working with the high school special education teachers on the State Toolkit for Examining Post-School Success (STEPSS) Action Plan for SWRSD. Some of the areas that need our focus in the area of high school to adult transition include: 1) Increasing the percent of youth enrolling in higher education; 2) Increasing the percent of youth competitively employed; 3) Increasing the percent of youth graduating from high school; and 4) Decreasing the percent of youth who drop out of high school. One of the items in the Action Plan was to implement a 4-year high school curriculum to meet the needs of students with disabilities in the areas of Career Awareness and Community Experiences. The special education transition committee has chosen the Life Centered Education (LCE) curriculum, published by the Council for Exceptional Children, to assist in meeting some of the goals of this Action Plan. This curriculum has been purchased and the high school special education teachers will be participating in a web-based training during the early part of January to prepare for full implementation starting in January 2015. The Life Centered Education curriculum prepares students with the life skills they need to finish school and live independent and productive lives as adults. LCE is specifically designed and tested for students who have learning disabilities, mild intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, and students whose ability to live independently is in question.

Presence Learning

Presence Learning is an online speech therapy and counseling option for providing more intensive services to our students with these specific needs as identified through formal evaluation and the IEP team. The special education department is considering adding Presence Learning services for a minimal number of students this school year to better meet their needs. We currently contract with SERRC to provide speech therapy services and then assign our paraprofessionals and special education teachers to carry out services deemed necessary by the SERRC Related Service Providers between their visits to the site. Presence Learning offers a live videoconferencing-based program including direct video contact with certified specialists. This will not only free up some of the paraprofessional's time (which can be refocused for more

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intensive academic support), but may also allow the students to make much more significant gains/progress in obtaining their speech/language goals and/or get needed counseling support.

SESA Distance Delivery Protocol Project

The special education department has been working with the Special Education Service Agency (SESA) and their Alaska Distance Delivery Protocol Project in the area of Functional Behavioral Assessment and Behavior Intervention Plans. SESA has developed a system to provide more intensive support to teachers for specific students that are struggling significantly with behavioral issues. Lyon Johnson, Education Specialist for Emotional/Behavioral Disorders with SESA will be providing more intensive support for three of our special education classroom teachers through the use of temporary audio/video recordings of the classroom and other technology. School site administrators will meet with all parents of students that may be involved in these recordings, will explain the program to the parents and will obtain written consent from all parents before children are involved in the program. Some of our children are struggling significantly due to serious behavioral problems in the classroom. We believe having this support in the classroom will enable the teachers to help the students with their behavioral challenges so that they can start achieving better academic results. SESA has had documented success with this program in numerous other districts in the state and follows all required privacy laws. The classroom teacher is in full control of what is being recorded and what is being submitted to SESA for review. All recordings are used only for behavioral interventions and are destroyed after viewing by the SESA specialist. Parents will provide informed written consent prior to this beginning in their school should it involve their child being recorded. Please see attached Parent Consent Form for more information.



Aleknagik School

Audra Finkenbinder, Principal/Teacher

Students of the Month

Dale Andrews

Glenn Andrews

Happy New Year!

Before Aleknagik School staff and students began their Christmas break on December 19, 2014, the volleyball season concluded, basketball practice began, the school held a Christmas Program, and the students celebrated with a Secret Santa gift exchange.

On January 12, 2015, Aleknagik North Shore School began the third semester. Within the first few weeks of the New Year, students will be completing MAP Assessments, will be partaking in the Love of Reading Challenge, participating in the School Connectedness Survey, hosting the 3rd Annual Kevgiq Celebration/Pinewood Derby, holding a school-wide spelling bee, hosting basketball games in Aleknagik, and will also be receiving CIPA training.

Academic competitions are also on the horizon for Aleknagik students with the Love of Reading Challenge, Battle of the Books, Spelling Bee, and Science Fair.

Aleknagik School continues to build the athletic program and has had cross-country, volleyball, and basketball teams this school year. The volleyball team showed wonderful growth this year, and is already talking about 2015-2016! The basketball team has begun practice and is enthusiastically preparing for upcoming games and tournaments. The Lakers will start out the season by hosting games in Aleknagik, followed by trips to the Dillingham Super Cub, and then Manokotak.



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William 'Sonny' Nelson School

Nate Preston, Principal/Teacher

William "Sonny" Nelson School has reached the half way point of the school year and everything is going well. We have completed our Christmas Program and our Thanksgiving Day potluck. We still have Pine Wood Derby, migrant night. This upcoming month of January we will start taking the AMP's testlets and the second round of MAP testing. We will also go over where we stand on our goals from the beginning of the year.

Our Thanksgiving Day potluck was a success. Most of the village came and had an early Thanksgiving at the school. Students made decorations for all the tables and everyone enjoyed a nice evening. For the Christmas program students sang songs in both English and Yupik followed by a cakewalk and present giveaway.

We are looking forward to taking the AMP's testlets and MAP testing to get a better idea on how our students will perform on the new test. We will use the data gained from this test to drive instruction and address student weak areas. Even though we know the test will be harder we are still striving for all our students to pass the new state test. Based on last year's data and how students are currently doing we think we have a chance.

Our goals for the school year were to make it to a five star school by improving attendance and completion scores. We only need 2.1% to make level five but getting from 92.92% to 95% is proving to be difficult. Our goal was for attendance to be 96% and have all students pass their test. Our current attendance is 93% so we are close but not quite there. It only takes one student out for a few days and it is really hard to get back to above 96%. As for test scores, we will have a better idea once we see the AMP testlets but last year 83% of our students passed and most of our students are doing well with grade level curriculum. Though we are not at our goals they are still reachable and we are very proud of the work our students, parents, staff and community have put in to get as at 93% attendance rate and be working at ability level for all students.



Koliganek School

Cody McCanna, Principal

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Koliganek School! School is back in session and everyone is excited about the opportunities the rest of the school year will provide. Like all SWRSD schools, Koliganek will be focusing a lot of attention on utilizing Marzano's Learning Map for evaluations and preparing for the new testing system that will be deployed this spring.

AMP It Up

The staff at Koliganek School is analyzing the new Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) Technology Practice Tests that are available on-line. The staff is utilizing the sample technology practice tests for grades 3-10 to determine the specific technology skills students will need to navigate effectively on the new testing system. Eventually, the State will make practice tests available for students so teachers can walk students through actual practice tests to provide them with an opportunity to practice on-line assessments.

Fun in Science

Anastasia Ishnook's 3rd -5th grade science class studied the local ecosystem and made life size replicas of some of the local animals. Koliganek hallways were full of life-sized critters surrounded by interesting facts that everyone could learn from. Moreover, students had the opportunity to give an oral presentation about their animal.

School Activities

The Koliganek Huskies volleyball team finished the season with a great performance at the 2A Girls Volleyball tournament where they placed 3rd. The lady Huskies made us all proud with their resilience and determination by coming back from a two game deficit and defeating the undefeated Unalaska team 3 games to 2.

Students of the Month for November

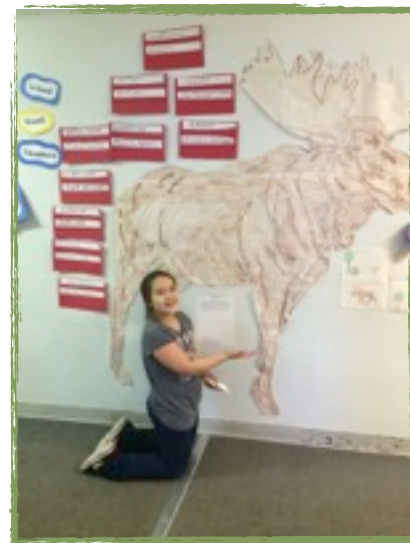
K-1: Kaden Herrmann
2-3: Anne Moses
4-5: Kaitlyn Herrmann
6-8: Cody McCanna
9-12: Maria Wyagon

Students of the Month for December

K-1: Kailey Ishnook
2-3: Tristan Tungjung
4-5: Tyson Olsen
6-8: Alexis Moses
9-12: Abigail Johnson

4.0 Honor Roll (2nd Quarter)

Melinda Merlino
Hattie Dull
Brenda Norbert
Perez Tungjung
Cody McCanna
Kaitlyn Herrmann
Elizabeth Norbert
Shania McCanna



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Deb Forkner, Principal

Manokotak Nunaniq School had a very busy finish to the first semester. Activities since the last board report include a Holiday Bazaar, Migrant Ed. Nifty Numbers math night, Christmas program, Staff Christmas Party, Secret Santa gift exchange and several fund raising basketball tournaments.

The new year began with a teacher in-service training day. The focus of the day was on student engagement and tracking student progress. Manokotak staff continues to work with Marzano's Art and Science of teaching to improve our teaching practice. All certified staff are working on personal goals based on a self evaluation. With support from Assistant Principal, Dana Bartman, teachers will begin peer observations this semester.

Second semester was kicked off with an all school assembly. SMART expectations {S(safe) M (motivated) A (active learner) R (respectful) T (teampayers)} were reviewed and success from semester one celebrated. We have set a school wide goal of 6,500 SMART slips to win a school wide party. Staff will also be hosting an end of the year lock-in for students with no unexcused absences, less than 4 tardies and no office referrals.

Basketball is in full swing with boys and girls middle and high school teams all participating. Manokotak is looking forward to hosting the Regional Girls Tournament in March.





‘Chief’ Ivan Blunka School

Robin Jones, Principal

With the New Year upon us, we have a lot to celebrate and look forward to at Chief Ivan Blunka School! Semester one seemed to fly by, and we are happy to report that 46% of our secondary students finished on the Honor Roll or Highest Honor Roll. Nine of our wrestlers qualified for and competed at the state championships in Anchorage and an amazing ten elementary students had perfect attendance for the entire semester! We are so proud of our students and look forward to the achievements they will make this semester, as well!

In our Professional Learning Communities (PLC), our main focus this semester is going to be collaboration. Our goal is for students and staff to recognize the importance of collaborating across grade levels and academic disciplines and to facilitate this collaborative effort school-wide. We will continue to concentrate on the instructional categories that have been identified as focus elements district-wide, while also reviewing student performance data to determine groupings for interventions.

Basketball is in full swing at Chief Ivan Blunka School. The teams have been diligently practicing over the holiday break and will participate in their first competition against Sand Point January 15-17, 2015, followed by boys games on the Kenai Peninsula and girls games at Koliganek. We are excited for all the opportunities our student athletes have to compete across Bristol Bay and the state!



Students of the Month

William Neketa – 4th Grade

Barbara Acovak – 6th Grade

Raisa Gust – 12th Grade



Employees of the Month

Justin Gumlickpuk & Eliza Owens

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Togiak School

Sam Gosuk, Principal

This winter, did I say winter? The snow came and seemed to be here for a few days. I am starting coin the word, Togiak Hawaii. Well, at least we can go seal hunting at times now. Hopefully we will see some mukluk or bearded seal.

Anyway, our last semester ended well. To give you some highlights, the tech rollout was well attended by the parents and their children. Elementary staff of 1st to 5th Grades and the students received brand new Ipads. This will take advantage of the digital interest of our children to teach reading, writing, and math. Corey Evans and Charles Becker gave a presentation to the students and their parents of some of the use of Apps the Ipads have. These Ipads will be used also for the tests from the State coming up. Right after the Tech Roll out, our Six Grade teacher Jill Howdysshell used the opportunity of parents being present to show the a Cultural Museum which were a loan from the State. There was a very turnout for the parents and community for this also. We also had a very good turnout for our Christmas program. Mr. Lee our Assistant Principal had challenged the 7th – 12th graders to lower their tardies for the 1st Semester. The parents were told that in the last two 1st semesters, the tardies had been about 1400- 1500 the first year, and about 1200 last year at the end of the 1st Semester. The audience was happy to hear that the tardies were 484 and were glad that they had met their goal. If the students can do this with tardies, we are sure that they can lower their absences for school also. Speaking of attendance, we as a school staff have a goal for our students to be more punctual and improve their overall academics. With this in mind, we had chosen several students to go on trips with the support of the local entities who had good attendance and academics. One of them went to White House Tribal Nations Conference. The student from Togiak School, Martin Ayojiak Jr. got to shake hands with both Vice President Biden and President Obama! This was very exciting for him, our school, his parents, and this was shared with the community through the Togiak School Newsletter. This concludes my report of the highlights of the 1st Semester.





Twin Hills School

Meghan Redmond, Lead Teacher

Welcome to 2015! Second quarter report cards have been sent home, assessments have been completed, and we are starting a new year with refreshed gradebooks and spirits after a long winter break! Since the last report, we have held many family activities. These have included a Thanksgiving potluck, Christmas potluck and raffle, and Christmas program. The holiday season is possibly the best time to work at an Alaskan village school, because everyone is happy and in the spirit of the holiday! We are now busy at work preparing for the new state assessment, integrating our new iPads into the elementary classroom.

In November and December, students participated in two migrant activity evenings. The first was a book bingo. Students were required to attend with a parent. The bingo cards were filled with the titles of books, and student had to read the book to their parent to mark off the square on their bingo card. Once the student had a bingo, they earned a prize. All adults that attended with their children had their names put in for a door prize. The second was a math game night. All students spent two hours playing teacher-created math games to practice skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, measuring, shapes, and patterns. Students earned a prize for every 3 games they completed.

Focus on Academic Activities

In the coming months, Twin Hills School will be participating in “The Love of Reading” initiative. As a school, our goal is to read 100 books to earn a pizza party. The students will also be competing in several spelling bees. We will be holding classroom spelling bees and a school spelling bee to choose students to participate in the district spelling bee in February. First through fifth grade students also continue to participate in supplemental reading and writing instruction in our after-school program we call Wolf Club.

Wolf of the Month

For the month of December two “Wolves of the Month” were chosen. Daniel Pleasant and Fritz Tommy, Jr. (Howdy) were chosen, because they were the only students in the school that had perfect attendance for the entire first semester of the school year. Great job you two!!!