

# REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



## Superintendent's Office

David J. Piazza, Superintendent

### AASB Fall Conference

Superintendent Piazza attended the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Fall Conference earlier this month. All seven School Board members were also able to be in attendance to build their skills in governance and leadership. The conference theme of "Stand, Speak, Soar" provided a unified backdrop as participants engaged in keynote speeches and conference sectionals aimed at helping board members from across the state come together to promote K-12 public education within their communities and during the legislative session.

This year, Superintendent Piazza and SWRS School Board Member Wassillie Wonhola participated in the Resolutions Committee process on Thursday, November 6, 2014. The AASB Resolutions Committee is tasked



SWRS School Board w/ student Youth Leadership Institute reps.

**"Ikayurtarluten  
yuullgutevnun."**

**Be helpful to one  
another.**

**--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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with vetting new resolutions proposed by school boards from across the State, as well as, proposing recommended changes to existing resolutions. The resolutions provide AASB staff with direction as they begin their work for the legislative session.

The main conference began with a keynote presentation by Liz Medicine-Crow and several other staff members from the First Alaskans organization. The presentation provided an insight into the experiences of public school that had been shared by the presenters' parents or grandparents as they went through their elementary and high school learning experiences.

During one of the large group breakout sessions regarding School Law, participants heard from several school district attorneys. Leal Harrison, with the law firm Faulkner Banfield discussed issues surrounding conflict of interest and the circumstances that school board members should be aware of to ensure that they disclose a conflict of interest and excuse themselves from a vote on a given issue if there is a direct financial or other benefit to the member. Saul Friedman with the law firm of Jermain Dunnagan & Owens, P.C. provided information regarding unreasonable search and seizure and in particular in the area of the search for information contained on a student's cell phone. Finally, Allen Clendaniel with the firm Sedor, Wendlandt, Evans, and Filippi discussed privacy issues and the use of video surveillance cameras within the schools.

Dave was able to participate in two of the "Snapshot" sessions. Rebecca Parks, with the Juneau Economic Development Council discussed the FIRST Robotics programs that provide STEM learning opportunities for students as well as a competition environment for older students. These programs require adult

in discussion during roundtable activity



at the FIRST Robotics programs session

coaches and also have a moderate to high start up cost for the purchase of equipment. However, the equipment can be used for multiple years once it is acquired. Students in grades K-3 are able to participate in a non-competitive after school Junior FIRST LEGO League. Students at this age level create a “Show-Me” Poster and practice their presentation skills in addition to designing and building robots using LEGO components. Students in grades 4-8 may participate in the FIRST LEGO League. Students at this age level begin to be involved in competitions involving LEGO MINDSTORMS® technologies. The FIRST Tech Challenge provides students in grades 7-12

opportunities to develop community service projects and to participate in robotics tournaments. Finally, students in grades 9-12 can participate in the FIRST Robotics Competition program. While the start up costs are close to \$20,000, this “varsity sport of the mind” allows students to work alongside professional engineers, and to build and compete with robots of their own design.

The snapshot session on D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) discussed the curriculum that has been specifically designed to be taught by Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO) within the schools to help students resist drugs and violence. The 80-hour training program provides D.A.R.E. officers with special training in child development, classroom management, teaching techniques and communication skills. Once a VPSO has been trained, the officer is able to work within the school with groups of students on a weekly basis for 10 weeks.

John Sedor and Bill Falsey presented during another large group breakout session on the “Open Meetings Act”. This session, following a circus theme, provide information to help school board members to understand the Acts requirements to ensure that board meetings are run within legal bounds.

The opening keynote session, held on the second day of the conference, was presented by Doug Eadie. Mr. Eadie is the author of several books including “Governing at the Top” and he presented on his experience working with boards across the county to focus the board’s role, structures and processes to ensure that student achievement is the ultimate goal.



at the Rural Caucus evening meeting



voting on AASB Resolutions



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Superintendent Piazza, also attended a breakout session regarding the new Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) assessment that was presented by Elizabeth Davis from the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development. The session provided board members with an introduction to the new state-wide assessment that will be taken by students this Spring and replaces the previous Standards Based Assessments (SBA) that have been administered in the past. The presentation included a brief overview of the changes to State Standards in Language Arts and Math, which in turn require changes to the State's annual assessments. A comparison between the outgoing SBAs and the new AMP assessment was discussed. This included information regarding the AMP's on-line, technology based delivery system and the tools available for students within the system, as well as, the variety of questions that students will be asked to answer in formats other than the traditional multiple choice that were common in previous SBAs. One of the key points that was stressed again during this presentation is the notion that with the introduction of the new AMP assessment, a new base line for Alaska students will be established. The state will not be trying to compare assessment results from previous years and student growth will be measured from the new baseline established during the Spring of 2015. It was also pointed out that the AMP assessment will be transitioning towards becoming an adaptive test over the next several years. Adaptive tests provide students with harder or easier questions based upon their correct prior responses with the first part of the assessment to help obtain a more accurate picture of a student's grade-level proficiency.

The "Round Table" discussions allowed board members from different parts of the state to share ideas regarding what has been successful in their district and to ask the question "How does your board do...?" in order to learn from each other's experiences. As in previous years, Students from the Youth Leadership Institute joined the tables to help board members gain perspective from the student's point of view on issues impacting the school and ways that the students can be empowered to create positive change within the school and community.

During the final day of the conference, board members dealt with the passage of resolutions that will provide the foundation of AASB's lobbying agenda for the upcoming Legislative Session. The Alaska Teacher of the Year was announced during the luncheon, as well. Congratulations go out to Erika Schneider from the Dillingham City School District as a runner-up in this year's competition.





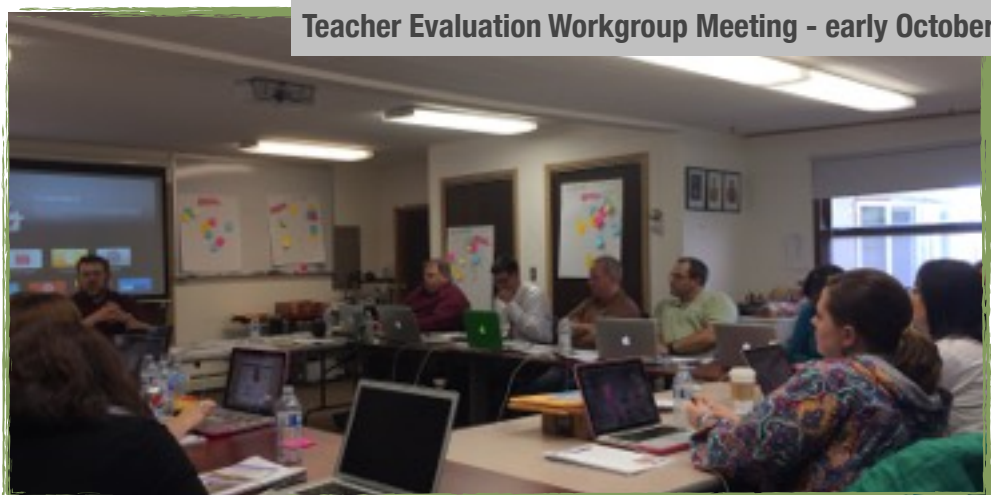
## Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Associate Superintendent

### PROGRAM SUPPORT & TRAVEL

This past month we continued the process of rolling out new iPads to all of our K-5 students. Our team visited sites across the district with Apple trainers, Sally Eberhart and Robin Johnson. Each site received a full day of training on iPads for K-5 staff and on the use of laptops in a 1-1 classroom for 6-12 staff. Feedback from the trainings was positive and staff are ready to begin implementation of the program in classrooms. The next phase of the project is to hold parent nights in each community, like the one held in October in Aleknagik and then to begin use of the new technology in the classroom. We expect to be busy providing support to teachers and students as we begin the use of these new tools, but feel that we are well prepared to meet the challenges ahead. We are beginning an exciting new time in our elementary classrooms!

Associate Superintendent Noonkesser also traveled with Superintendent Piazza and the board to the AASB Fall Conference. During the conference he met with EED staff on the progress of our work on updates to our evaluation system as well as coming changes in AMP



Teacher Evaluation Workgroup Meeting - early October

## 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

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assessment rollout and implementation. The discussions yielded much useful information, including the fact that as a district, we are moving ahead at a good rate and are on track to complete the work required by the deadlines this coming summer. Sessions during the conference also provided information on the upcoming legislative sessions and climate in Juneau as we head into a new session. This spring may prove to be one of our most challenging in recent years in terms of funding and legislation. Being able to tell our story well will be more important than ever.

## Instructional Team Notes

### Aleknagik iPad Rollout

- Apple iPads were fully deployed in Aleknagik beginning with a full day of training headed by Apple Product Development Specialist Sally Eberhardt that included paraprofessional staff. One week later an orientation night was held for the community. Members of the Aleknagik school staff joined forces with members of the technology and instructional staff to overcome logistical challenges and provide a positive experience for all participants. Staff in Aleknagik have been using the iPads for a month now with great success. They have also provided other teachers in the district with valuable insight on best practices they have discovered and implemented.

### iPad Rollout Continues...

- Technology Specialist, Corey Evans, reports that his focus has been on been working on the district iPad deployment almost exclusively. This began with formatting and preparing iPads for deployment to sites. To complete this task iPads must be registered with the district management server, install applications must be installed, and iPads must be tag and placed inside silicone cases. As usual there has been several technological hurdles to overcome but as time has progressed we have solved these issues and and the product has moved toward the deployment phase. The district began the iPad deployment in Aleknagik. Students have been using iPads in it for approximately 3 weeks. On November 10 we began staff in-service at the remaining sites. Corey Evans, Charles Becker, and two Apple professional development trainers have been

Reading Mastery group at New Stuyahok



Apple iPad training in New Stuyahok





traveling to each site to provide staff development and training on iPads for K-5 teachers as well as Mac laptop applications for high school staff. The iPad training consists of several educationally focused applications as well as classroom management strategies and the care of laptops in classroom. Due to weather 3 and airport issues 3 sites had to complete their staff development via distance delivery. District office staff will be traveling to most of the sites for pre-deployment parent nights as well as additional training as requested by the sites especially those that missed the initial in person training. This has been a team effort, staff from the tech department curriculum and instruction department, and receptionist have all participated in various aspects of iPad preparation and the project would be not where it is today without this group effort.

### Teacher Evaluation Workgroup

- The Teacher Evaluation Committee continues to work toward developing a new teacher evaluation tool based on the Robert Marzano Model of teaching and incorporating this model into the district new tool for teacher observations; iObservation. Particular attention is being paid to assure that all teachers are evaluated fairly and evenly, regardless of which site they work at or who are evaluated by. The emphasis of this new process is to assure that teachers receive regular, productive feedback in order to adjust their methods to best meet the needs of students. Principals have provided several Wednesday afternoon Inservices on specific elements of the Robert Marzano Model to insure that all

New Stuyahok Literacy Night



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stakeholders have the same understanding of the expectations.

## Wednesday District-Wide Inservices

- High school teachers have used some of their Wednesday afternoon Inservice times to create and edit common assessments that more accurately reflect the methods of understanding used by Southwest Region students and use examples that are more relevant to the students daily experiences. It is apparent from the discussions in these meetings that, in addition to holding high expectations of students, the teachers are challenging themselves to reach beyond their own understandings and better adapt themselves to teaching in the region; always trying to experience as much of village life as they can in order to pull in as many local connections as possible.
- Cody McCanna led a session on Marzano's learning goals and scales. All teachers received a copy of Marzano's, *The Art & Science of Teaching* and this inservice was primarily based on the first chapter of this teacher resource. Cody led teachers through an activity on writing and communicating learning goals.
- Robin Jones and Luke Owens from New Stuyahok presented on Marzano's Domain #2 Chunking Content into "digestible bites." Teachers were able to take a large learning concept and successfully break it down into smaller teachable chunks.
- Work was also done to encourage teachers to connect with one another across the district. Using Skype and email, teachers partnered up for one session and in another were assigned in groups of 4 and instructed to establish a group Skype session. The purpose of this is to reduce teacher isolation and share effective teaching strategies and materials.

## Reading is Fundamental (RIF)

- RIF is sponsoring free book give away event at sites during parental involvement nights. A grant for free books was awarded to SWRS that supplied us with 1,200 books to give

Apple 1-1 Laptop training in Koliganek



RIF in New Stuyahok



away to students. There is real strength in allowing kids to select their own reading materials and RIF does exactly that. During the RIF distribution activities, students select two or three books of their choice.

## Technology Team Notes

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

### **ERATE**

- 2014-15 eRate Form 471 placed back in Initial Review
- 2013-14 eRate Form 472 (BEAR, or reimbursements) filed
- 2015-16 changes to eRate - Technology Plans / Budget Inventory Analysis no longer required by eRate or by EED
- Video-conferencing is no longer eligible for eRate funding. This will mean re-evaluating our level of service and seeking funding from other sources.
- Telephone services are being phased out as eligible services (data, text, DID, call blocking already dropped)
- Quarter 1 CIPA lessons completed at all sites, Quarter 2 planning template sent to site administrators

### **BROADBAND ASSISTANCE**

- Grant application has been submitted to bring all sites to 10Mbps Internet connections

### **IPADS**

- iPad caching servers installed for all sites
- Additional WiFi radios installed in WKK, KEK, and TWA

### **AMP / KITE**

- Practice tests server setup and login information sent to site administrators
- KITE caching servers and client application installed on site computers
- Munki deployment servers installed all sites
- Student computers re-imaged WKK, KEK, and TWA
- List of KITE issues generated by techs from across state compiled by EED tech and forwarded to EED assessments

### **General Projects**

- Second (new) TOG head start phone line tied into Avaya system and call routing programmed for incoming and outgoing calls
- Final removal of Nitsuko (old) KMO phone system completed

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## State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

### Alaska STEPP

All of our schools have completed the Needs Assessment for AK STEPP. The needs assessment provides purpose and focus for the school improvement planning and schoolwide plans. This month, the district and schools will be focusing on three indicators including:

- 1.01– Implementation of district-adopted curriculum
- 2.03 – The implementation and use of universal screeners
- 3.02 – Development of a plan for all students to receive core instruction and low-performing students to receive additional support.

Included in the board packet is the pacing guide and a rubric for schools as they address the various indicators.

All of our schools will be working on school improvement/schoolwide plans, however, Togiak School and Twin Hills School will submit their plans to the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. All other schools will submit improvement/schoolwide plans to the district. Because Togiak School has been identified as a focus school, they will receive school improvement funding to assist in the implementation of school improvement initiatives as outlined in the AK STEPP plan.

### Title IC – Migrant Education

Migrant recruiting is coming to an end (November 15th), which will result in a change of focus from recruiting to providing services. We will be continuing the Literacy in the Home Initiative, which includes a child-selected, age-appropriate

magazine subscriptions/books, as well as, two family nights. In addition, other services may be available such as behavioral health counseling, career exploration, assistance with FAFSA applications, assistance with dual credit tuition costs, and other services.

A team from Southwest Region School District was invited to present information about our migrant program at the statewide Migrant Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting on November 7th. Kyle Schneider, Migrant Records Manager in district office, Brielle Good, Migrant Coordinator in New Stuyahok, and Kirk Kofford, science/math teacher in Manokotak and summer school teacher in Igushik, and Jon Clouse presented at the meeting. We were able to share information about our program, including the challenges and successes that come with providing migrant services. The presentations from Brielle Good and Kirk Kofford were excellent and resulted in a great deal of dialogue. We also came away with some possible ideas to expand our services from the other districts presentations.

### Career & Technical Education (CTE)

At the end of the 2013-2014 school year, I was asked to serve on the Alaska Association of Career & Technical Education board as the representative for the Southwest Region or Alaska (AK ACTE). A primary function of this board is to provide a statewide professional development conference. This year, the AK ACTE conference occurred in Anchorage from October 20th through the 22nd. Luke Owens, assistant principal/counselor from New Stuyahok and Josh Gates, CTE teacher from New Stuyahok also attended the conference. There was a great deal of information regarding CTE development, partnerships, curriculum, and career planning. This included particular attention to Carl

Perkins requirements. This conference provided a number of resources and allowed for networking, which is very helpful when developing CTE pathways. I was particularly impressed with a presentation from Michael Ulroan, a young man that grew up in Chevak and has completed his degree in civil engineering. He had a very powerful message that translates across generations. He had an incredible journey full of challenges and conquered those challenges through a positive attitude.



**Manokotak teacher, Kirk Kofford presenting at state Migrant Ed. meeting on Igushik Summer School**



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

### **Migrant Education Recruiting**

Migrant Education recruiting has wound down and we have submitted our paperwork to the Alaska Department of Early Education & Development (EED) Migrant Education Office. As of November 10th, EED has approved the paperwork we submitted for 234 children in our villages. We have

submitted and are awaiting paperwork for 21 more children, and expect to receive paperwork for an additional 8 children.

Letters will be sent to parents to notify them of their child's eligibility and the services offered under the

School Year	Number of Migrant Eligible Children
2014-2015	255-263
2013-2014	260
2012-2013	214
2011-2012	227

program once the recruiting window ends on November 14th. After the enrollment period closes, village-based Migrant Education Coordinators will begin working to provide services.

On November 7th, Kyle traveled to Anchorage with Jon Clouse (Director of Federal Programs), Kirk Kofford (Manokotak Secondary Science Teacher), and Brielle Good ("Chief" Ivan Blunka Intervention Specialist) to attend the state's Migrant Education Parent Advisory Council. At the meeting, Kyle and Jon presented an overview of what Southwest is doing for Migrant Education students, Kirk presented on the summer camp he ran in Igushik this past summer, and Brielle presented on the literacy nights that have been done in New Stuyahok, along with the career field trip to Anchorage that occurred earlier this year.

### **Civil Rights Data Collection**

The Civil Rights Data Collection is a federal program that gathers data every two years related to enrollment, race, sex, limited English proficiency and disability. The report it generates is designed to show how well schools and school districts are doing at providing equal educational opportunities for all students.

SWRSD's submission, for data gathered during the 2013-2014 school year, will be due in January. Data



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was gathered by principals throughout last school year and Kyle has begun to compile that data into the district's report.

## Fall OASIS Report (Count period)

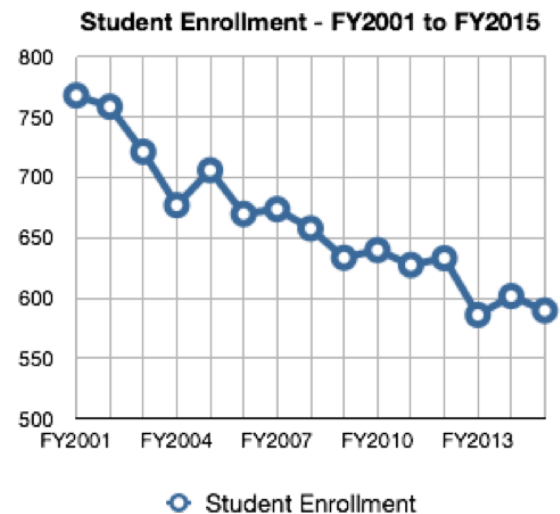
Count period ended on the 24th of October and we have submitted our numbers to the EED. We had a decline in student numbers this year in part because of a correction to the way the district calculates the number of pre-kindergarten students who receive Special Education services. The numbers submitted to EED are based on the number of students enrolled from September 29th through October 24th and are as follows:

## Impact Aid

Kyle is currently working on the Impact Aid report in conjunction with the school secretaries. He has finished preparing data in PowerSchool to create the reports that school secretaries will use to determine eligibility for Impact Aid funding. On November 14th, secretaries received the information to begin work on their village's Impact Aid report and the maps needed to fill out the forms.

Kyle is also working with Superintendent Piazza and the Business Manager, Ryan Ayars, to make corrections to last year's Impact Aid application.

	Elementary (PK-6)	Secondary (7-12)	Total (PK-12)	Intensive	% Change from Prior Year
Aleknagik School (450020)	17.05	9	26.05	0	8.5%
Chief Ivan Blunka School (450080)	72.25	61.4	133.65	3	0.8%
Koliganek School (450050)	37	21.6	58.6	0	-0.2%
Manokotak School (450070)	67.45	58.9	126.35	2	-8.5%
Togiak School (450110)	126.9	85.4	212.3	4	-3.7%
Twin Hills School (450120)	13.2	5	18.2	2	1.1%
William "Sonny" Nelson School (450040)	11.6	3	14.6	0	32.7%
Total	345.45	249.6	589.75	11	-2.0%



## Counseling & Assessment Specialist: Steve Ito

This is a year of change. The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development has eliminated the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE) and the Standards Based Assessments (SBA) Reading, Writing and Math. The final administrations were in the spring of the 2013-14 school year. The successful completion of the HSGQE will no longer be a requirement for high school graduation. The Standards Based Assessment will be replaced by a completely new assessment called the Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP). The AMP assessment will be administered for the first time 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 Alaska Developmental Profile for Kindergarten and First grade students that have not attended a public school will begin within a window from September 15th to November 1st. The purpose of the Alaska Developmental Profile is to identify, record and summarize the skills and behaviors students demonstrate at the beginning of their kindergarten year, based on teacher observations. Student skills and behaviors are defined by goals and indicators in five domains Physical Well-Being, Health, and Motor Development; Social and Emotional Development; Approaches to Learning; Cognition and General Knowledge; and Communication, Language, and Literacy.



## Facilities & Maintenance

**Rick Dallmann, Director**

### Togiak

- Power Flame Boiler tech from Anchorage made a site visit and was able to get both boilers tuned up and running properly.
- Sanitary Survey for the water system completed.

### Koliganek

- New School project is moving forward on schedule ,much of the electrical and mechanical rough in's have been completed, we have request another payment from the state for 50% completion of the project.
- Working on finalizing housing contracts for the 6 new units

### Aleknagik

- Front Window Replaced
- Sanitary Survey for water system completed

### District-Wide

- We have been completing work orders and preparing for cold weather, all fuel deliveries are completed, Alarm and Kitchen Hood systems are scheduled for inspections Dec. 1st



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director

### New Stuyahok Site Visit

It was fascinating to observe Anguk'aq (Justin Gumlickpuk) and Tat'iq (Tatianna Andrew) class as the students were on their finishing touches to the ice hooks that they made for the visiting board members. The handles were carved, sanded and decorated by 10th graders: Simeon Askoak, Dustin Gust, Jonathan Oyaluk, Mariah Blunka and Kara Andre and the bone twirlers were hand carved by the seniors: April Andrew, Raisa Gust, Cohen Acovak, William Kaleak, Christopher Kusma, Nicholas Petla, Darren Hanson, Peter Blunka, Anthony Alexie, Travis Chunak, Cavelila Wonhola, Donald Apokedak and Nadezda Walcott. Each of the ice hooks had the Yup'ik names of the board members and their English given names. It was so exciting to hear as they practiced the Yup'ik names of the board members that they were going to present. In addition, Tat'iq took it upon herself to make each board member and the superintendent a kakivik (traveling sewing bag) with their Yup'ik names on them. What an inspiration and welcome for our board members in the true Yup'ik spirit and way. Quyana cakneq!



### NIEA 2014

I attended the 2014 National Indian Education Conference 45th Conference in Anchorage. The theme of the conference was "Building Education Through the Generations". They begin the conference with a keynote address by Mark Trahant, Shoshone-Bannock Tribe who is a nationally known author, journalist and Twitter poet. His most recent book is "The Last Great Battle of the Indian Wars." He is also the former president of the Native American Journalist Association. The second day begin with keynote speaker Dr. Walter Kahumoku III, Director of the Kauhale Kipaipai department of the Kamehameha Schools. And the closing keynote speaker Dr. Keiki Kawai'ae'a and her family focused on the Hawaiian language immersion movement and showed three generations



of her family regaining the Hawaiian language. The Hawaiian language revitalization movement is over 30 years strong.

There were an incredible number of excellent workshop sessions that were presented from the national level. I would like just to share two sessions that that our district can utilize and begin implementing with our Yup'ik language revitalization efforts: The first session was titled, "Learner-Driven Intergenerational Language Course for Multiple Languages" and was presented by the Santa Fe Indian School Patricia Sandoval and Virginia Velasquez. The students find themselves a language mentor within the community and ask how to say phrases within that language of choice. They record this on a video recording device and this information is transferred over to their laptops. This process provides greater use of the language within the community and home.

The other session that I would like to highlight is titled, "Oral Language Proficiency Assessment: "Are Your Students Ready to learn to Speak?" the workshop presented by Christopher Bordeaux, Oceti Sakowin Education Consortium. He began by stating that many of the indigenous students learn how to read and write the Native language BUT they don't know how to speak the language. He shared the process that they used in developing an oral language proficiency assessment. And the question that always stood out was, "Are you teaching the language so that they can talk and speak the language?" I would like to further investigate the process that they used and have our Yup'ik Studies language teachers to be introduced this method.

### **AFN Youth & Elders Conference 2014**

It was fascinating to be a part of the AFN Elders and Youth Conference 2014 as an observer. Each morning before the general session they had platters of pilot bread, peanut butter, cheese and reindeer sausage with coffee for participants. The first general session opened with a welcome and blessing from the People of the Land of the area. Lee Stephan, Dena'ina Athabascan, Eklutna Tribal Council President did the honors. He shared that Anchorage was built on a traditional fish camp. And he talked about how they took his language, land, kids and resources but they didn't take his life. He is grateful to see language and cultural revitalization. This followed with many interesting presentations. Tuesday afternoon they had different workshops and the one I would like to highlight "Using Our Values to Navigate the Future" presented by January Scott who works with the Alaska Humanities Forum. Gave me ideas on to further utilize and address our Bristol Bay Values into the school. They also had a language circle but the Yup'ik region was so huge that it was hard to hear what was being said. Elder Dr. Paul John of Toksook Bay spoke and encouraged the continued use of our language and culture. The last day they broke out into a women's section and men's section. In the women's session they worked in groups at tables and shared culture and language being taught within the school and community.

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## Business Office

Ryan Ayars, Director of Finance

### November Business Office Activities

Director of Finances, Ryan Ayars, recently participated in several days of training with Alaska Public Entity Insurance (APEI). Among the 200 school related topics covered were:

- Personnel Policies
- HR checklists
- Job Descriptions for Hiring
- Alaska Family Leave Act
- Safety Program
- Aging Work Force

The training is at no cost to the district. Many of the training programs offer district insurance payment discounts upon completion. There is funding available for safety equipment as well.

Krystian Roehl is creating accounts so we can utilize the APEI training available.

Aileen Walsh reports Gaming Permit Renewals have been submitted to the state for 2015.

Training for the district's check scanner is scheduled for Thursday. The large amount of checks that are deposited by the district will be handled in a more efficient manner.

Marlene is working on an effective way to collect the information required for completing the background checks for new hire.

## BUSINESS OFFICE SUPPORT TEAM



Guy Snyder  
Accounts Payable



Aileen Walsh  
Accountant



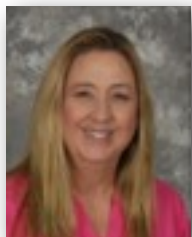
Denise Gregoire  
Payroll Specialist



Marlene Einhellig  
Accounting Tech.



Krystian Roehl  
Purchasing/Travel Tech.



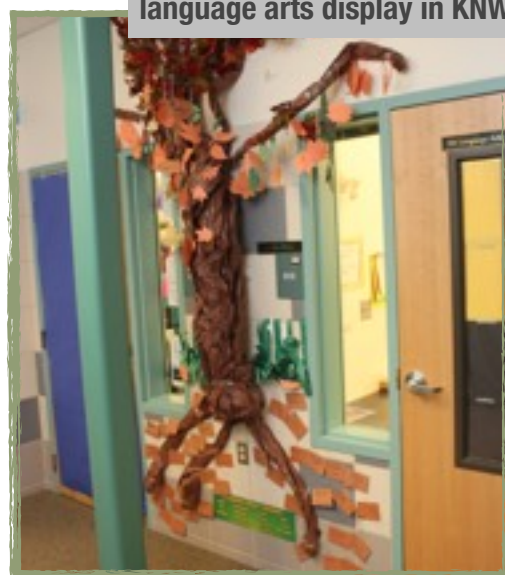
## Special Education

**Sherry Parrish, Director**

The Special Education Director attended the Alaska State Department of Education Special Education Director's training in Anchorage on 10/15-16/2014. Topics covered at this training included: Assessments Update, Grants Management System, Compliant Investigation, Legal Update – Year in Review, Intensive Funding Process, Data Review, Administrative Standards, and Service Provider Agency presentations. The Special Education Director also attended the Council for Administrators Special Education (CASE) meeting while in Anchorage and had an opportunity for some networking with other director's and various agencies that provide services to students in our district that have disabilities.

Special Education Administrative Assistant and the Special Education Director received training from the Dillingham Public Health Nurse, Gina Carpenter on how to administer the hearing and vision screenings for the district kindergarten students. We will be traveling this month to Togiak and Twin Hills to complete this screening of the kindergarten students in those villages. Students in other villages are being screened by the trained special education teachers. Parents will be notified of any hearing/vision concerns noted during these screenings.

The Gifted and Talented Plan of Service has been finalized and is being submitted to the board this month. The Special Education Department is committed to providing optimal learning conditions that support achievement for all students. The Gifted and Talented plan of Service is based on the Response to Instruction (RtI) framework. When implemented with fidelity, an RtI framework has the potential for meeting this commitment through the implementation of a multi-tiered system of support based on scientific evidence. The process also emphasizes the importance of local school principals as instructional leaders, the use of data to guide instruction, appropriate intervention and practice, parent involvement, and other research-based practices. In the world of gifted education, this refers to implementing and sustaining efforts which ensure our students have access to differentiated curriculum, flexible pacing, cluster grouping, acceleration and other universal interventions available to all students in the regular classroom.





# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Aleknagik School

**Audra Finkenbinder, Principal/Teacher**

### Students of the Month

Dylan Toyukak

Marki-Lynn Tinker

The month of October included quite a few events for Aleknagik students, staff, parents, and community members: K-5 students received iPads, Tina Tinker and Jane Gottschalk conducted a hand washing presentation, volleyball season began, Quarter One came to a close, Parent/Teacher Conferences were held, and a Halloween Carnival concluded the month.

Aleknagik staff received Apple Training at the beginning of October in preparation for the one-to-one iPad program for K-5 students. During the week of October 13th, all K-5 students received an iPad that is utilized with supplemental educational programs.

Tina Tinker and Jane Gottschalk conducted a hand washing presentation for all students that included a video on the proper procedure for hand washing. After the video, an exercise with Glitter Bug was conducted so that students could see any remaining germs on their hands after having washed them.

Laker volleyball season began with practices being held in October and at the beginning of November, the Lakers hosted matches with Manokotak and Dillingham. It was great to watch the teams compete in addition to seeing their determination to improve upon their skills. The girls, coaches, and spectators all had a wonderful time and the Lakers look forward to future athletic events!

Aleknagik School ended the month of October with a Halloween Carnival that had an array of carnival booths, a great selection of food at the concession stand, a cakewalk, costume contest, and a haunted house to complete the evening. A huge THANK YOU is extended to all who helped make the Halloween Carnival such a fun event.

It is hard to believe that we are already in the month of November and that the middle of the second quarter is upon us! Aleknagik School will be sending home progress reports prior to the Thanksgiving break and before we know it, the second quarter will conclude.

Aleknagik School will be celebrating Thanksgiving on Tuesday the 26th with a community potluck. I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and safe travels for those who will be visiting relatives out of town.





## William 'Sonny' Nelson School

Nate Preston, Principal/Teacher

We are proud that our school has been recognized as an Alaska Reward School 2014. This acknowledges all the hard work that families, students and staff have done together to improve Ekwok School. Our goal is to make the list again next year.

In our efforts for continued improvement, William "Sonny" Nelson School has finished a busy October and looking forward to a productive November. In November, we will have the I-Pad roll out, a Thanksgiving Day potluck and the aquariums should be fully stocked with fish.

At the end of the month, students will be concluding their aquarium stocking project. The students have set up the aquariums, being monitoring the water, and researching what fish they want to stock together. They have done reports on fish they would like to stock. In addition, they have researched specific fish requirements like PH, tank size, behavior, and temperature to determine what fish and how many fish to put in each aquarium. Students are looking forward to finally getting the fish in the aquariums and learning how to take care of them.

I-Pad roll out will happen mid-November and students will begin using these devices. The staff is looking forward to being trained to use the I-pads correctly to improve student achievement. The use of I-Pads can help us improve our school's ASPI rating from 4 to 5.

Other activities for this month will be the Thanksgiving Potluck. The school will provide part of the meal and the village will bring the rest. It is good to bring the school and community together for special occasions and this year we can be thankful for our ASPI rating of 4 and being recognized as an Alaska Reward School.



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



**Koliganek School**  
Cody McCanna, Principal

Koliganek School survived Halloween and is anchoring down for the stretch to Christmas break that will be upon us before we know it. The staff has been working hard to improve the quality of instruction for all students. All professional educators got an opportunity to review the new Alaska math standards and to compare them with the Common Core standards in the Go Math curriculum.

### Professional Development Focus

The certified staff at Koliganek School has been working on cooperative learning strategies to help increase student engagement. Moreover, the staff is learning how to use Marzano’s lesson plan templates to create lessons that incorporate specific elements from Marzano’s model of effective teaching. Furthermore, the instructional leader is providing feedback to staff using iObservation so staff can identify areas of weakness for improvement. The K-5 teachers had an opportunity to get i-pad training from a certified Apple trainer. Teachers learned how to use i-pads as a valuable learning tool for students.

### School Activities

The Koliganek Huskies volleyball team is looking strong again this year. They defeated Dillingham in Koliganek and then placed second at the Silverboot Tournament in Naknek. The lady Huskies have their sights set on State and look forward to the Regional Tournament in New Stuyahok on December 4. The Student Government helped put on the annual Halloween Carnival this year. They set up games in the gym and turned our library into a “Haunted House”.

### Students of the Month for October

- K-1: Gusty Tungjung
- 2-3: Paaraq Nelson
- 4-5: Shania McCanna
- 6-8: Brody Wysocki
- 9-12: Melinda Merlino

### 4.0 Honor Roll (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter)

- Melinda Merlino
- Cody McCanna
- Kaitlyn Herrmann
- Tyson Olsen
- Shania McCanna
- Erick Johnson

### Behavior Reward Winners for October

- K-1: Troy Tunguing
- 2-3: Ezra Panamarioff
- 4-5: Ivan Gumlickpuk
- 6-8: Troy Bright
- 9-12: Rachael Norbert





## Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Deb Forkner, Principal

Manokotak Nunaniq School wrapped up the first quarter with an awards assembly on October 24. Perfect attendance, honor roll and individual class awards were given out, as well as, recognition of "Student of the Quarter". I am proud to announce that Samuel Ayojiak and Bernadette Tikiun were named Student of the Quarter for first quarter. We had a good turn out for Parent/Teacher Conferences on October 23 and 24.

As a staff we continue to work on implementation of the new teacher evaluation system. All teachers have set up accounts on iObservation and are completing a self-assessment. The self-assessment will be used to write personal learning goals that focus on the Mazano elements of effective teaching. We are also working to prepare our students for the new required state test, AMP. Students have been doing the technology practice tests online to learn how to navigate the new system.

Our wrestlers, volleyball and middle school volleyball teams have all been very busy with games and meets every weekend. Athletes are looking forward to the district and regional meets in the coming month.

School staff hosted a Halloween carnival fundraiser on October 31. Included in the fun night of activities were a variety of carnival booths, cakewalks, face painting and the chance for a few lucky winners to "Pie the Teacher or Principal".



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

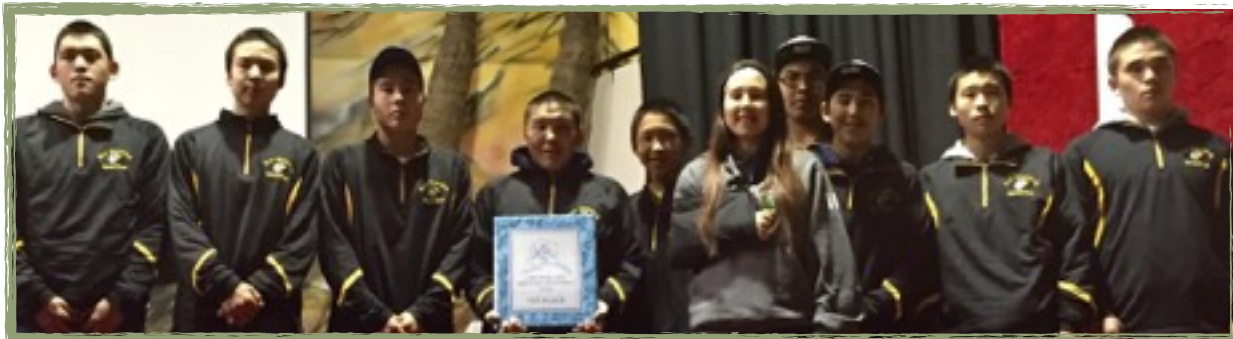


## **‘Chief’ Ivan Blunka School**

**Robin Jones, Principal**

October was a very busy month at Chief Ivan Blunka School! We finished Quarter 1 and are happy to report that 54% of our secondary students finished Quarter 1 on the Honor Roll or Highest Honor Roll. We hosted a wildly successful Literacy Night with the theme of: “Reading is Spooktacular!” We were also able to host the October School Board meeting, where Board members were gifted beautiful manat and iqsat that were handcrafted by our students. We capped off the month of October by celebrating Red Ribbon Week, where we dedicated our efforts toward promoting living drug and alcohol free lifestyles.

In our Professional Learning Communities (PLC), we are concentrating on the instructional categories that have been identified as focus elements district-wide. We are reinstating our positive parent contact initiative to help teachers promote positive interactions with students and parents. We will also continue to focus on reviewing student performance data to determine groupings for interventions.



We are elated to report that our secondary wrestling team placed 1st at the ACS Invitational for small schools in Anchorage, Alaska October 30-November 1, 2014. Our volleyball team has not been able to compete as much as we would have liked with other schools in the district, but the team has put on some great local games against the CIBS alumni nonetheless. Both the wrestling and volleyball teams plan to participate in some upcoming tournaments in the region, and we look forward to cheering them on!



**Student of the Month**  
Charisse Suskuk – 2nd Grade

**Student of the Month**  
Wassillie Neketa – 6th Grade

**Employee of the Month**  
Minty Ruthford



## Togiak School

Sam Gosuk, Principal

As we go into start going to the end of the first quarter, as a school, the community entities continue to work with Togiak School encouraging our goal of good student attendance and academics. Every week our punctual students have incentives for who goes to free gym or a free movie while the rest pay. They look at the list every Friday to see if they are one of the punctual students.

As we start our Thanksgiving month, Togiak School is thankful that the entities continue to give support to those students who are punctual and have good academics. Recently, the Traditional Council through the Tribal Court picked two students to go on a training and a professional development relating to how they would help fellow students. One of these is professional development for our Tribal Juvenile Justice Code in California, and then other was chosen from students across the country to attend a White House Tribal Nations Conference Youth Ambassador from December 1 to 3 next month. Only 30 – 40 high school aged students were to be chosen from the United States to attend this meeting which will include meetings with Obama Administration Officials.

Too often, we administrators focus on the students who need behavioral discipline. As we work with students who are doing well, we are encouraging them to be examples to fellow students. They in turn when it is their turn to serve in community, will remember the teachers, parents, and people in authority who believed in them and their ability as they help their fellow man.

As we give expectations that are high to our staff, students, parents and community, we help our young people to prepare for the future, their future, and help them to survive in our constantly changing world.



**students gather to view the Perfect Attendance list for the week**





## Twin Hills School

Meghan Redmond, Lead Teacher

Since the last board report, the second quarter of the school year is fully underway! The students are waiting for the snow to finally fall and stick. Everyone is looking forward to the activities November and December bring, including Thanksgiving and Christmas events, some fundraising activities, iPad roll out, a Literacy night and a math night.

The 8th graders would like to extend a huge thank you to the Twin Hills Village Council for providing the funding to attend AFN Elders and Youth for another year. At the end of October, the three 8th graders and a chaperone traveled to Anchorage to participate in the annual conference. The students report that their main lesson they took away was to try and learn and use their Yup'ik language. Many speakers focused on how they either regretted losing their language or are proud of speaking their language. The students are looking forward to the release of a new video game, which was previewed at the conference, that is all in the Inupiaq language called Never Alone. The favorite session of the students was the men's house and women's house sessions.

Fun was had by everyone at the Twin Hills Halloween Party! On Halloween, we always host a party for the students and community. This year's activities at the party included, a costume station, jello eating contest, costume contest, mystery boxes full of witch skin (orange peels) and eyeballs (peeled grapes), apple bobbing, and a cake walk. We love getting to host an activity that everyone in the village looks forward to!

### Focus on Reading

At the end of October, Twin Hills middle school students read the book Hatchet, by Gary Paulson. As a final writing activity, the students had to write about what it would be like for Brian when he returned home. After this activity, one of the students found online that there are 4 more 'Brian books', as we have been calling them. The students asked to read these books as well, so now we are reading The River, by Gary Paulson, and plan on reading the rest of the series after. Getting middle school students excited about reading is a huge struggle, so it is exciting for the staff to see the students become interested in a book series.