

REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



Superintendent's Office

David J. Piazza, Superintendent

Site Visits

Superintendent Piazza traveled to Aleknagik to participate in two separate events recently. The staff at the Aleknagik School participated in a nonviolent crisis intervention workshop (commonly referred to by the company's name of CPI). CPI is guided by the philosophy of Care, Welfare, Safety, and Security for ALL. Training components in nonverbal, verbal, and physical crisis prevention, and de-escalation techniques were presented by New Stuyahok teacher and CPI trainer Ben Greise. Staff participants practiced a variety of non-violent procedures to maintain control of a situation while maintaining safety for themselves, as well as an individual displaying assaultive behavior. This training is in accordance with new guidelines set forth in state statute and anticipated state regulations regarding seclusion and restraint of students.

Aleknagik iPad Rollout & Literacy Night



In a second trip to Aleknagik, Superintendent Piazza was able to help provide extra support to the technology team for the student/parent iPad One-to-One training and deployment event. The first of the District's installation and training for the tablet technology for each Kindergarten through fifth grade student was a success with the help of Principal

**"Ilaten-Ilu
angussaagucimaluki
kesianek
caiturcetevenaki**

**Provide for and take
good care of your
family."**

--Bristol Bay Yup'ik Values

Board of Education

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REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Audra Finkenbinder, and teachers Randy Finkenbinder and Cialely Pintande who provided students, parents, and district office staff a dinner to start the evening off. Students were introduced to the new devices and completed several activities to familiarize themselves with the iPad. Activities included learning how the iPad can be used to build a student's reading fluency (speed and accuracy) using a voice recording application. The District looks forward to bringing the iPads to the remaining schools in November, when the Apple trainers are available to provide the pre-requisite staff training before each particular school's launch date.

Aleknagik iPad Rollout & Literacy Night



Superintendent Travel

Superintendent Piazza traveled with Associate Superintendent Steve Noonkesser to Fairbank to attend the Alaska Superintendents Association's (ASA) Fall Meeting/Conference the first week of October. Approximately 80 school superintendents, district level administrators, session presenters, and sponsors participated in the 4-day event.

The first day's pre-conference activities began with an overview of the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District presented by Superintendent Karen Gaborik and Career and Technical (CTE) Director Dan Domke. The District employs 3,056 staff members and is governed by 7 member School Board with additional representation by a student and two military members. The District's 281 million dollar budget provides for educational services to 13,895 students.

During the day we visited Hutchinson High School and toured their facilities and at lunch participated in a presentation by Leverette Hoover with Siemens Industry, Inc. He discussed partnerships that have been established in Anchorage and Fairbanks to support Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) projects within the schools. One area that was showcased included the work that Siemens employees undertake to work with fourth and fifth grade students at Rabbit Creek Elementary School in Anchorage for the annual Egg Drop event to promote engineering excitement as students work to protect an egg from a 48-foot freefall.

The tour concluded with a stop at the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration (ACUASI). Although participants did not get to "fly" any vehicles, there were a number of aircraft on display and presentations regarding their use for aerial wildlife surveys, research, emergency response, and other educational purposes were discussed.

Senator Mark Begich at ASA Conference



The Fall Meeting/Conference, focusing on Career and Workforce Readiness, was lead by Alaska Gateway School District Superintendent and ASA President Todd Poage. This year's program included a number of Alaskan dignitaries including a pre-recorded video presentation by Senator Lisa Murkowski and in-person remarks by Governor Sean Parnell and Senator Mark Begich. State legislators including Senate Majority Leader John Coghill, Senator Pete Kelly, and Senator Click Bishop were also participants during a portion of the meeting.

During the "Showcasing Our Own" presentations, the Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP) was highlighted in addition to the Northwest Magnet School in Kotzebue, the STEM Ready project in Bethel, and the Voyage to Excellence Program in the Chugach School District.

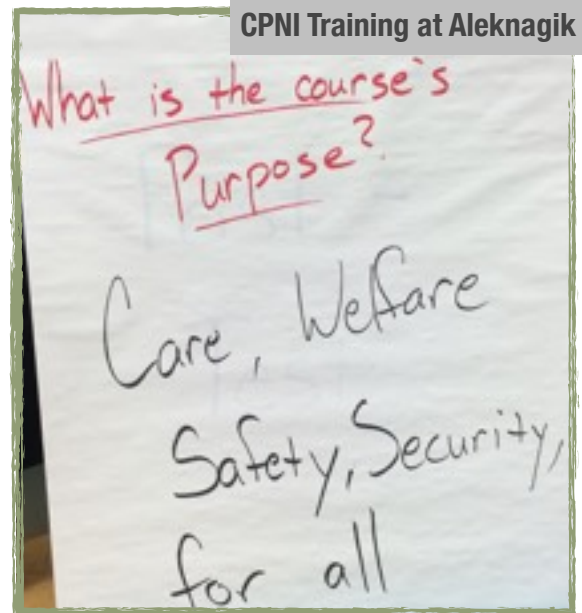
Continuing with the career and technical theme, Brendan Desetti, Legislative Liaison for the Association for Career and Technical Education, provided a federal legislative update on Washington's College-and-Career-Readiness Agenda. The University of Alaska Teacher Education Statewide Consortium also provided insight into their Plan for Revitalization of Teacher Education in Alaska. This session provide participants with the opportunity to learn about the plan and to offer suggestions for its refinement and implementation. Commissioner Blumer from Alaska Labor & Workforce Development and Commissioner Bell with the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development talked about the current trends and conditions within Alaska. Alaska Commissioner of Education Mike Hanley also contributed as a presenter and participant during the meeting.

Additional Reports were presented by: Superintendent Jack Walsh from the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) National Governing Board; Superintendent Ty Mase from the Mt. Edgecumbe Advisory Board; Superintendent Lance Bowie representing the Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA) and Director Patrick Pillai from the Special Education Service Agency (SESA). Superintendent Piazza also presented to the group on the history, function, and annual status of the Professional Teaching Practices Commission (PTPC).

CPNI Training at Aleknagik



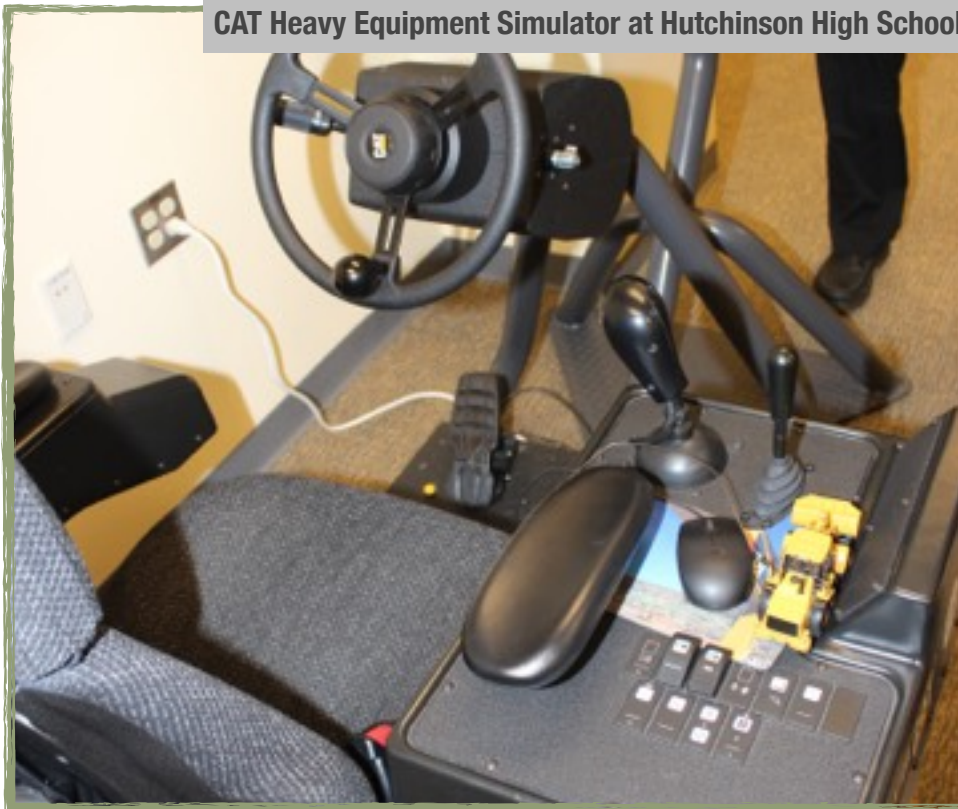
CPNI Training at Aleknagik



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Meeting participants also reviewed and adopted a set of Joint Position Statements that will be forwarded to the Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals, the Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals, and the Alaska Association of School Business Officials. These items regarding: 1) Legislative Studies; 2) Adequate Funding (including early childhood education and CTE areas); 3) Preparing, Attracting & Retaining Qualified Educators; 4) Worker's Compensation Reform; 5) Prior Year PERS Retirement billings; 7) Mental Health; 8) Forest Receipts/Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act (SCRSA); and 9) ESEA Reauthorization – Federal Funds to Schools provide a common direction for each organization under the Alaska Council of School Administrators to work with law makers during the upcoming legislative session.

CAT Heavy Equipment Simulator at Hutchinson High School



UAF College of Rural & Community Development

Although meetings with the District's Site Administrators prevented Superintendent Piazza from attending the most recent Bristol Bay Campus Advisory Meeting, he was able to briefly meet Evon Peter the University of Alaska Fairbanks new Vice Chancellor for Rural, Community, and Native Education. Evon will head the College of Rural & Community Development.

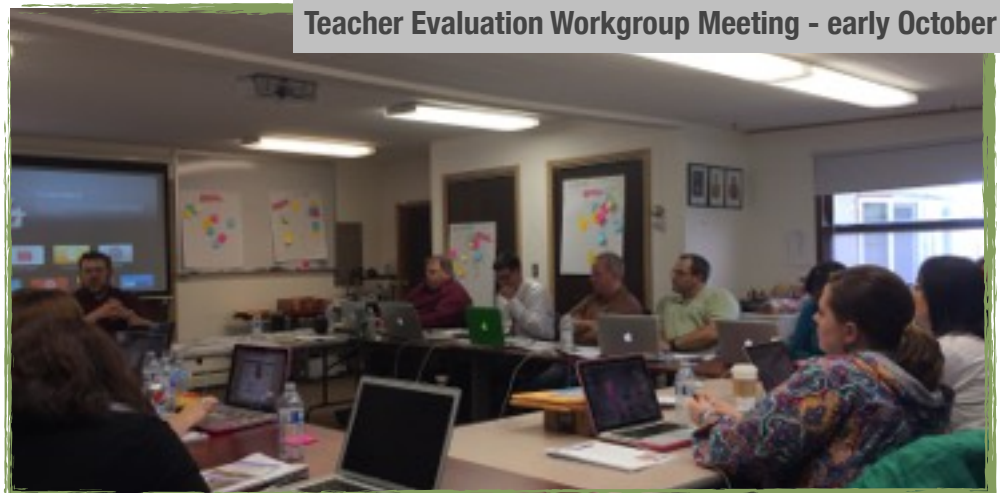


Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Associate Superintendent

PROGRAM SUPPORT & TRAVEL

This past month has been busy as we move several important initiatives forward. Our team is engaged in the work of reviewing and updating our evaluation systems for teachers and administrators in the district. As we reported last month our work so far has centered on the adoption of the state-approved, Marzano Teacher Evaluation Model as our primary observation tool. The Teacher Evaluation Workgroup met again on October 7, 2014 to discuss implementation of the model in our schools this year. A core set of elements was identified as focus elements and for the first time, the group was combined with representatives from the leadership team to ensure that we are speaking with one voice as we move ahead this year. Plans were also made for inclusion of a student and parent voice in the process. We will be presenting our process to district student government leaders and CSC members around the district in the coming months to get their input on the new system. One important element being discussed currently is the method for obtaining student and parent input during the evaluation process.



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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Associate Superintendent Noonkesser also traveled with Superintendent Piazza to the Alaska Superintendents Association's (ASA) Fall Meeting/Conference during the first week of October. The meetings were informative and information gathered important as we move ahead with several projects that are dependent on guidance from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development at several levels. The primary focus of the conference was on career and technical education.

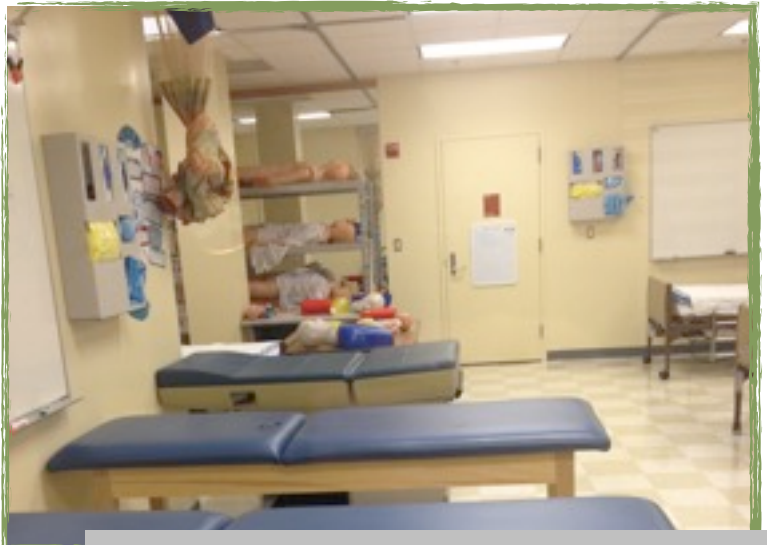
During the conference we took a tour of Hutchison High School. Hutchison is one of the Fairbanks' "schools of choice" that focuses on Career & Technical Education (CTE) in a variety of career cluster pathways including, among many, Human Services (including child development, teen parenting); Health Science (including health care occupations, nursing, sports medicine, emergency medical technician); Transportation, and Distribution & Logistics (including automotive maintenance, collision repair, plastics, painting, aviation, heavy equipment operation & maintenance).

The facilities were impressive and some of the options available to students are ones that with effort we could duplicate here. The heavy equipment simulators and health care rooms were particularly interesting as they are both career fields in demand in our region today.

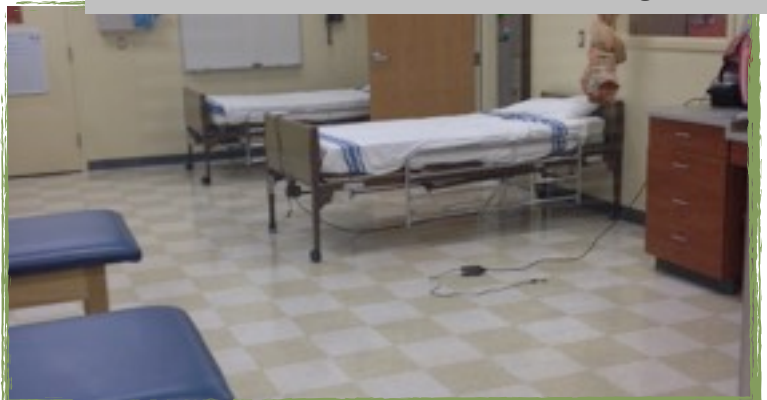
iPad Rollout: Aleknagik!

We began our rollout of iPads across the district's K-5 classrooms on October 6th with a staff training by Apple educational trainer, Sally Eberhart. The training was followed a week later on October 13th with a Parent Technology/

Heavy Equipment Simulator at Hutchinson High School



Health Careers classroom at Hutchinson High School



Literacy Night at the school. The event was well-attended and students and parents seemed excited by the possibilities that the new tools have in their classrooms. Corey Evans, Technology Specialist led the activities, which included a presentation by Charles Becker, Secondary Education Specialist on the new mathematics programs available and a literacy book distribution by Deb Endicott, Elementary Education Specialist.



Ekwok Literacy Night

Instructional Team Notes

Literacy Night: Ekwok

- Pam Johnson traveled to Ekwok to assist with their literacy night in early October.

Site Visit: Togiak

- Deb and Pam also visited Togiak School, meeting with teachers and providing support for our reading and literacy efforts at the school. Their reports of the visit were that teachers were working very hard to give our students a quality experience related to a specific academic core area.

Technology Team Notes

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

- iPad rollout at Aleknagik - other sites to follow during first week of November
- 2014-15 eRate Form 471 remains in Quality Assurance Review
- 2013-14 eRate Form 472 (BEAR, or reimbursements) filed
- State eRate Coordinator teleconferences begin Thursday this week, focus on eRate application and eligible services changes
- Installed and configured iPads 1-1 infrastructure in WKK
- AMP/KITE online testing preparation
- Working proactively with EED and Kansas University to prepare for AMP/KITE new online state testing next spring
- 1st Quarter CIPA lesson planning templates sent to site administrators



Aleknagik iPad Rollout & Literacy Night

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State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

Site Visits

This past month has brought me to a number of different schools within our communities. I spent two days in Togiak working with Martha Fox, our migrant recruiter for Togiak. Martha had already completed much of the recruiting before I arrived so I provided some support to help completed the process. I spent two days in Koliganek working with Natalia Ishnook, our migrant recruiter for Koliganek. We made a number of phone calls to parents, collected signatures, and finished up the migrant recruiting in Koliganek. I spent two days in New Stuyahok to work with Pauline Askoak, our migrant recruiter for Chief Ivan Blunka School. Pauline had already contacted all of the families in the community and I helped finish up the paperwork and get signatures. I also attended a CSC meeting and provided information about the Alaska School Performance Index and the Annual Measurable Objectives for the school.

Alaska STEPP

All of our schools have started working through the Alaska STEPP process. The first step is to complete a Needs Assessment based on various student assessment and other appropriate data. The Needs Assessment is a five-step process that includes reviewing the data, identifying areas of need based on the data, selecting specific focus areas in which goals are developed, and providing additional information about the data for clarification. School improvement teams have been working to complete this process and district staff has made themselves available to assist SI teams with this process.

Alaska STEPP is a critical piece of the accountability system through the Department of Education and Early Development (EED) as the tool for school improvement planning. But, Alaska STEPP also serves other purposes including the mechanism for Title I Schoolwide planning. The accountability system requires a school improvement plan be submitted to EED for all 1- and 2-star schools. School improvement plans for 3-star schools are submitted to the district only. All that being said, all of our schools implement the Alaska STEPP process as the Title I Schoolwide planning tool. This means that each of our schools complete all the same steps. A pacing guide to complete this process has been developed along with support resources.

ESEA: Highly Qualified

Highly qualified teachers are teaching 94% of core content area courses and 100% of instructional paraprofessionals are highly qualified. I work with staff in the development of plans to assist staff in becoming highly qualified with periodic checks on the progress. As a result, each staff member that is teaching a course in which they are not highly qualified will work towards become highly qualified. Additional information on the number of courses being taught by highly qualified teachers is included in the packet.



Togiak Building Construction class



Student Information & Support Specialist: Kyle Schneider

Migrant Education Recruiting

By the end of the first week of October, 90 students have been approved by the state as eligible for the Migrant Education program. We have submitted paperwork to the state for 96 more students. These numbers do not include potential migrant students who recruiters have yet to contact or students whose paperwork is in progress. We are well ahead of our progress at this point last year, when we had 93 students approved and 25 students whose paperwork had been submitted but not yet approved. The deadline for having students approved as eligible for the Migrant Education program is November 15th.

Now that the first group of approvals has been received from EED, letters will be sent to parents to notify them of their child's eligibility and the services offered under the program.

Civil Rights Data Collection

The Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) 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.

Superintendent Piazza was notified in August of 2013 that Southwest Region School District would be expected to provide data on the 2013-2014 school year. The final report specifications have now been released and Kyle will begin work on the report as soon as the Fall OASIS is completed.

PowerSchool

Kyle attended a three-day workshop put on by Richard James from Phoenix Learning System from October 6th through 8th. This workshop was focused on new features in PowerSchool that allow us to further customize PowerSchool to suit our unique needs. On the 9th, Kyle attended a meeting of the Alaska PowerSchool User Group and worked with PowerSchool users from other districts in the state to identify common needs (such as the upcoming AMP tests) that we could collaborate on. During this meeting, we were able to create the first report required for the new tests and we had an audio conference with Kari Quinto at EED about some concerns that the other reports for AMP had raised.

Fall OASIS Report

The fall count period began on September 29th and runs through October 24th. Kyle has been working this month to check the accuracy of student data and to update the Fall OASIS report that must be submitted to the state by November 7th. This report will contain data about every student enrolled in the district. The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development then uses the enrollment data contained in the report to determine funding levels.



Togiak Building Construction class

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Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director

Alaskans for Language Acquisition Conference

The Yup'ik Studies 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade Curriculum committee attended and participated in Alaskans for Language Acquisition Conference. It was held in Seward, Alaska, September 19-21, 2014. The conference began with Bryce Hedstrom giving the keynote address. He is a Spanish teacher and teacher trainer in northern Colorado.



He holds a B.A. in Spanish and an M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction. He has taught 22 years at the elementary, middle school and high school levels. He is a recipient of the Award for Excellence from the Colorado Congress of Foreign Language Teachers in 2008. His keynote address focused on “Mindset”. “Mindsets are beliefs about ourselves and others. You can get better with hard work. He emphasized that strength comes from struggling. A growth mindset: Learn – Grow- Engage. He detailed each element and shared how he integrated this method with the students that he works with. The results and changes were so positive. He also did a workshop on Classroom Management. He emphasized that there is no instruction without discipline. He shared how he trains his classroom into using “good” habits used within the classroom for effective instruction. It takes 6 weeks to develop habits and this should be done at the beginning of the school year. Practice-practice-practice and you will be amazed at how much effective instruction will occur.

Martina Bex presented a workshop titled, “QAR Strategies for Differentiating Questions” which provides and trains students to accurately respond to questions. Tat’iq Tatiana Andrew of New Stuyahok has begun to implement this using this method in her 2nd/3rd grade Yup’ik Studies class. At the end of the TPRS unit she reads the story and then will ask three questions (all in Yup’ik) and have the students respond in Yup’ik.

Paul Sandrock presented a workshop titled, “Lead with Languages” and Angutekayak Louise Gloko of Manokotak writes, “I enjoyed this session most because it had interesting resources in regards of languages such as:

- language change lives
- centering language learners
- excess to the world-culture they don't understand

- ability to communicate with respect
- language learning contributes an important means to communicate
- bringing language and culture together adds power
- supporting our cultural heritage

The overall conference provided her with more information about different teaching strategies that she will utilize in her Yup'ik teaching.

Michelle Whaley presented a workshop titled, "I CAN DO IT" with Natu Bertha Pavian-Lockuk writing, "I also want to mention that the words, 'I can do', are the important words that our students can learn and need to get familiar with. We need to allow our students to make more mistakes and learn from them, so they too, can also go from 'I can't' to 'I can' mode. We do need to make room for more mistakes, because we all learn from our 'own' mistakes, don't we?"

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From this conference, I gained more confidence and new ideas of how to better help and serve our students in our school. I have definitely re-entered my work place with renewed energy, new ideas, and definitely more confidence, of how to be a better 'Yupik' language teacher. I am, and at this time, anxious to use what I have gained from this conference, within my own classroom and with the entire school ground.

Bryce Hedstrom presented a workshop titled, "Classroom Management. Itegmialria Herbert Lockuk, Jr writes, "At the conference I learned that it is important to keep our students on task once we have established the routines. The rules of the class, the jobs for each students and the minor discipline of the students that need to be dealt with ASAP to keep the class going smoothly, etc.

From this conference I have learned a lot of skills that can be useful in teaching our native language and helping the lead teachers while he/she teaches our students. I have learned that making mistakes can also be helpful in the long run. After all, making mistakes do make the students learn more.

Paul Sandrock presented "Developing Literacy through the Three Modes of Coummunication and Ukayiq Martha Fox writes, "I would like to implement the methods used in "Developing Literacy through the Three Modes of Communication". The curriculum that we already use for Yupik would be used to target Interpersonal mode of communication, an example: using the pictures to motivate conversational words in Yupik. Interpretive Mode of Communication Again using photographs to learn Yupik words that describe it and then letting students choose the pictures that best fit descriptive worlds. Presentational Mode of Communication where I can make a word bank using Yupik phrases that the children need to be familiar with in the classroom."

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Business Office

Ryan Ayars, Director of Finance

Goals and Business Office Activities

Ryan Ayars, Director: Ryan's initial goal for the Business Office is to create greater efficiency by utilizing new aspects of ALIO Intelligence, part of the district's financial software. FY15 changes in the financial account coding of the District has better aligned SWRSD with the AK DEED recommended uniform chart of accounts.

Denise Gregoire, Payroll: All schools are using 'Time Clock Plus' to record employee work hours. Three sites are implementing hand scanners resulting in increased accuracy and reduced labor configuring payroll.

Marlene Einhellig, Accounting Tech: Marlene is working with BBNA, our schools, and community officials to complete JOM resolutions and budgets for FY15.

Guy Snyder, Accounts Payable: Guy has increased credit card usage (in lieu of purchase orders & checks) resulting in money saved and quicker shipping times. Additionally, four schools have been given BMO purchasing cards to use for per diem during student travel to sports activities and events. This practice reduces the risk of chaperones carrying large sums of money. It also allows the district and principals better online monitoring of purchases.

Krystian Roehl, Purchasing/Travel: is working with the school sites and two vendors; *Independent Stationers* and *Classroom Direct*, to use online shopping carts and an electronic chain of approval which greatly increases the accuracy and speed of ordering.

Aileen Walsh, Accounting: Aileen has taken over the duties of Gaming Manager and Mickia Walcott is now the alternate gaming manager for the district's two state gaming permits. Training is being set up for new bingo and raffle operators to insure compliance with state regulations. New operators will travel to New Stuyahok to experience gaming procedures first hand with Mickia Walcott.

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

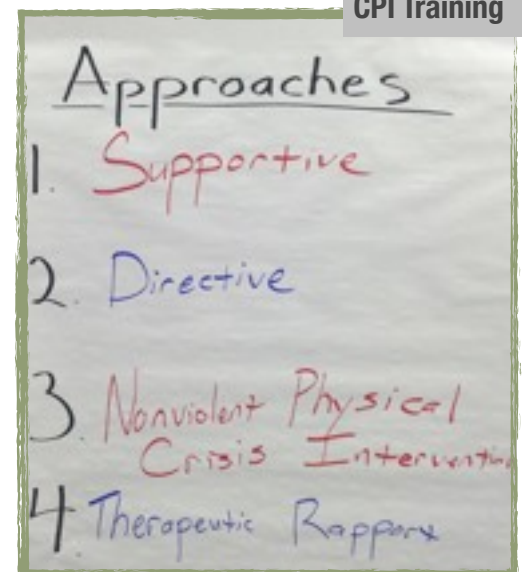
This has been a busy month for the special education department. The director has been traveling throughout the district to continue to provide support and training for special education teachers, to attend meetings and to offer support to site administrators as they receive referrals for special education services and for students they have going through the Response to Intervention (RTI process) for academic and/or behavioral struggles. Some of the sites visited this past month are Togiak, Twin Hills, Aleknagik, and New Stuyahok. Plans to visit Manokotak and Ekwok are in the works for later this month.

Our related service providers have started their visits to the school sites during the month of September and are now starting their October visits. We have the following itinerant related service providers working with our students and staff this school year: Vince Henry, School Psychologist; Tarah Sweeney, Physical Therapist; Kelly Staruch, Speech/Language Pathologist, and Margie Moviel, Occupational Therapist. They have been busy throughout the district providing training to teachers and instructional aides, testing students for upcoming new referrals and re-evaluations required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and working one on one with the students to provide services as outlined in the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). These itinerant staff will be visiting at various times throughout the school year to continue providing support, training and supervision of services provided to our students.

Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI)

CPI (Crisis Prevention Institute) training took place in New Stuyahok on Saturday, September 20, 2014 and staff from Koliganek also joined in this training opportunity. A second CPI training took place in Togiak on October 2nd and 3rd and a third training in Aleknagik on Saturday, October 11, 2014. Teachers, instructional aides, and administrators completed these trainings. A form has been developed to document when a physical restraint/seclusion is used with a student and this was reviewed with all site administrators at the recent Leadership Team meeting on October 9, 2014. A clearly outlined process was also developed for site administrators to follow in order for the district to meet the requirements of notifying parents when an incident involving physical restraint/seclusion of their child occurs. This process also

CPI Training



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outlines the requirements/process for an investigation to take place following each incident.

Special Education Teacher Inservice

All district special education teachers participated in a full day of training in Dillingham on Saturday, October 4, 2014. This training covered the following topics: review of the Alaska State Special Education Handbook, review of the procedural safeguards document outlining parents' rights, Intensive Needs Funding, SESA services available and referral process, alternate assessment, kindergarten assessments, Child Find, the RTI Intervention process, administering/scoring of formal assessments, related services, and accurate/meaningful completion of IEP documents. During the afternoon, the secondary teachers worked in a separate group to discuss and review the compliance requirements for meeting the high school to adult life transition needs of our secondary students receiving special education services. This group is also involved in reviewing transition curriculum to be considered for use district-wide. The elementary teachers met with the HeadStart Director, Anne Shade and discussed ways to improve the referral/intake process for BBAHC-Infant Learning Program students that may need special education services and how to improve the services we are providing for the preschool/HeadStart programs district wide. This group also discussed the hearing/vision screenings needed for all kindergarten students district-wide. The special education teachers that have returned this school year will be doing these screenings for the students at their school. Lisa Ilutsik and Sherry Parrish received training from Public Health Nurse, Gina Carpenter to complete these screenings in Togiak and Twin Hills and to train these teachers to do this in the future. Gina Carpenter completed the screenings already for Aleknagik. Parents will be formally notified of any concerns that develop as a result of these screenings.

Gifted & Talented Plan of Service

The state of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development has requested a copy of our Gifted and Talented Plan of Service for school years 2015-2020. The special education director has developed a draft plan of service and has reviewed this with site administrators for input. We are still working on this plan of service and it will be presented to the board and to parents throughout the district after it has received final approval.



Aleknagik School

Audra Finkenbinder, Principal/Teacher

Student of the Month
Lodi Active – 5-8

Student of the Month
RyLee Dull – K-4

Time seems to just be flying by at Aleknagik North Shore School - here we are already at the end of the first quarter of the 2014-2015 school year with Parent/Teacher Conferences planned for October 23rd – 24th.

Within the last few weeks, we have had students compete in a Cross Country Meet in Dillingham, Volleyball practice has begun, students have completed MAP testing, STAR assessments, AIMSweb fluency checks, CIPA Training, we have had a Fire Prevention Presentation, have completed CPI Training, and have held a Parent Night for iPads.

Aleknagik School had four students compete in the Cross Country Meet in Dillingham on September 20th. All four athletes had a good time and enjoyed the pleasant weather in which they ran.

Soon after Cross Country season came to a close, Volleyball practice started. This year's team consists of six young ladies from 6th and 7th grade and they are all looking forward to a great season!

All students have completed Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments, STAR Reading Assessments, and the AIMSweb fluency assessment. Teachers will use the data collected from these assessments to adjust instruction to better meet student needs.

In accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act and Southwest Region School's Acceptable Use Policy, all students have received instruction in Basic Internet Safety and will continue to receive training on a quarterly basis throughout the school year.

Aleknagik's Fire Chief, Braden Tinker, and Fire Fighters Cody and Fred, held a Fire Prevention assembly for the students during which time the students learned how to stop, drop, and roll. The students were also able to test out the Jaws of Life and compete



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in firefighting gear races.

All instructional staff participated in CPI Training (a nonviolent crisis intervention program) to provide for the Care, Welfare, Safety, and Security of all. Through this training, staff learned early intervention skills for preventing or managing disruptive behavior as well as how to handle crisis situations with minimal anxiety and maximum security.

Southwest Region School District is implementing a one-to-one iPad to student program for grades K-5 and Aleknagik School held a Parent Night on October 13th to introduce the iPads to the students and parents. During the Parent Night, Superintendent Piazza welcomed the families in attendance, Steve Noonkesser presented a review of the iPad program, Corey Evans spoke about the iPad and went over proper care of the iPad, Charles Becker demonstrated the Go-Math application, and Deb Endicott distributed RIF books and held a Literacy Event. All those who attended had an enjoyable time and the students had fun taking 'selfies' for their home screen.





William ‘Sonny’ Nelson School

Nate Preston, Principal/Teacher

William “Sonny” Nelson School is having a busy October. We have finished MAP testing, started our after school program and finished installing new playground equipment. Later this month, we will have a literacy night on October 16. Three students will go to the AFN’s Elders and Youth Conference. We are also trying to get the school’s aquariums up and running.

We are very happy with completing MAP and getting the after school program started. We are using the MAP scores to work with the students individually during the after school program. We analyze the scores and students classwork and work with them to bring up the students’ weak areas. We currently have five students staying after school.

October 16, The School will have a Dr. Seuss based literacy night. We decided on Dr. Seuss based on the many Dr. Seuss posters up in the school. Literacy night will include giving away books, creating “Cat in the Hat” hats, playing Dr. Seuss games, reading Dr. Seuss stories, and watching old Dr. Seuss videos. In addition, we will be eating green eggs and ham and a Dr. Seuss themed cake. Pam Johnson and Deb Endicott will be present to help us have a fun night.

The village is sponsoring three students and two chaperones to AFN’s Elders and Youth Conference. The students will be going in with the Yupik Aide whom will help them write essays on what they learned at the conference. In addition, the students will be bringing back fish for the aquariums.

Our students have been working on getting the school’s aquariums up and running. They selected the equipment they wanted and researched what fish would be best. They have tested both the village well water and the school’s water. The students determined the village well water is better than the school’s for the aquariums. They are looking forward to getting the aquariums running.

We are planning on a very busy month and the new playground equipment gives the students someplace new to play and have fun.



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Koliganek School
Cody McCanna, Principal

End of First Quarter

Koliganek School is rapping up 1st Quarter and getting ready for the stretch between Halloween and Christmas Break. Students and staff have been working really hard this year to implement the new Alaska Standards by implementing the new Go Math curriculum. It has been challenging for all staff members and students are starting to realize that the new Standards are more challenging then ever before. Teachers are working with students to help them bridge the gap and be successful with the new Standards.

Professional Development Focus

The certified staff at Koliganek School is working on improving instruction using Marzano's Model of Effective Teaching. Teachers have been utilizing effective strategies, such as sharing learning goals and writing scales to improve student learning. The new teacher evaluation process is starting soon with teachers using iObservation as a professional development tool and as a way to conduct evaluations. iObservation allows teachers to watch videos and see examples of various strategies being utilized.

School Activities

Cross Country is over and volleyball and wrestling is in full swing. Koliganek will be hosting volleyball games on October 31 and November 14, 2014. The huskies are excited about the opportunities this year will bring.





Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Deb Forkner, Principal

Besides being extremely busy with the business of teaching students, there have been a lot of other activities, meetings, committee work and fundraising happening at Manokotak Nunaniq School this month. :

- All teaching staff and some of the instructional aides participated in CPI training to learn how to deal with volatile situations in a calm, positive manner.
- Staff have participated in three district wide afternoon in-service days.
- Staff meetings have focused on the new state test (AMP) and the new teacher evaluation system.
- Principal Forkner and three CSC members attended training in Dillingham.
- CSC asked student council to appoint a student to be a representing member of the CSC. The student council selected their President, Kenisha Geerhart, to represent them.
- The Student Council President and Vice-President have participated in district wide Student Council meetings.
- One student has been nominated to be one of the Bristol Bay Region 4H representatives to the AFN Youth & Elders Conference.
- Three teachers are part of the district evaluation committee and have been attending meetings and trainings.
- Assistant Principal Bartman was awarded a scholarship to attend the Health and Wellness Institute Conference on mental health and first aid.
- Grace Gamechuk and Louise Gloko have both attended trainings for Yupik Culture program.
- Parent/teacher conferences on October 23 & 24. The focus is on grades, attendance and assessment results.
- October 31, Manokotak Nunaniq School will sponsor a Halloween Carnival.

Remember, when at Manokotak Nunaniq School be S.M.A.R.T. in everything you do!

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



'Chief' Ivan Blunka School

Robin Jones, Principal

Everything is going well at Chief Ivan Blunka School! In accordance with the State of Alaska's focus on Career & Technical Education (CTE), our school counselor has been working diligently to provide opportunities for our students to gain job skills, explore careers, and obtain college credit in high school. In cooperation with UAF's Bristol Bay campus, we have the unique opportunity to facilitate two college courses at site this fall: 3D Computer-Aided Design (CAD) and Introduction to Facilities Maintenance. We hope students from across the district can participate in these classes.

In our Professional Learning Communities (PLC), we are continuing to focus Design Question 1 of the Marzano Teacher Evaluation Model: Communicating Learning Goals and Feedback by providing rigorous learning goals and performance scales, tracking student progress, and celebrating success. We will also be focusing on reviewing student performance data to determine groupings for interventions. At the end of the month, we will be presenting a district-wide in-service session on Design Question 2: Helping Students Interact with New Knowledge.

Our STEPP school improvement team has been meeting regularly to develop goals in the areas of attendance, math, and writing. Our goals for the 2014-2015 school year are:

By the end of the 2014-2015 school year, the high school attendance rate will increase from 93.01% to at least 95.00%.

By the end of the 2014-2015 school year, both the K-8 and high school percent proficient on the mathematics statewide assessment will increase by at least 5% based on FAY students.

By the end of the 2014-2015 school year, both the K-8 and high school percent proficient on the writing statewide assessment will increase by at least 5% based on FAY students.

We were very fortunate to have 6 cross-country runners from Chief Ivan Blunka School compete at the Regional Championships in Naknek, Alaska. Two of those runners then qualified for and competed at the State Championships in Anchorage, Alaska. Both qualifiers put up noteworthy finishes. We currently have 31 students out for the wrestling team and 18 students out for the volleyball team. We look forward to seeing our student athletes compete in the coming weeks!



Student of the Month

Kelsey Gust – 4th Grade

Student of the Month

Travis Chunak – 12th Grade

Employees of the Month

Kylie Shuneson & Wesley Nelson



Togiak School

Sam Gosuk, Principal

In Togiak School, good things are already starting to happen with the new teachers. The new teachers are very open and seek help from each other and the administration when there is need. Tardies for the beginning of the year have dropped but attendance is just about the same. One positive thing that we see is that parents are being called with the school messenger that calls all absentees. Related to absences, the Togiak School administration has been invited to attend the Tradition Council sponsored Tribal Law and Policy Institute with the help of BBNA and Pat Sekaquaptewa, Justice of Hopi Appellate Court. This will help the Tribal Court use traditional knowledge to help our young people work out a plan with their parents. Already, we have had to send letters to parents, then a complaint to the Tribal Court and then a choice of DJJ or the Tribal Court. When the family decides to work with the Tribal Court, the Court will work with the student and parent with the resources or traditional knowledge of the community. We have not had this in the past and hopefully this is a start of the people in the village to start working as a team to help the students. For people who are attending, we as a school are working together with the community entities for rewards such as the current (or recent) AFN Elders and Youth Conference. Also, working with BBNC and Jon Clouse, we got together with the Tradition Council to help them nominate a high school aged leader to go to the White House 2014 Tribal Nations Conference. Hopefully, they will choose the Native Village of Togiak nominee to go to the conference. We as a village didn't get very much walrus, but was given some by Manokotak hunters. The villagers did get a bear today and they invited people to get some meat. Some people from the school were interested to get some and went to butcher the bear. For now, that is all from Togiak School. (to be continued in November.)





Twin Hills School

Meghan Redmond, Lead Teacher

In September, we started the second year of “Wolf Club”. That is what we call our after school supplemental program. Students in first grade through fifth grade are able to attend. The objective of Wolf Club is to provide supplemental time for students to practice spelling, reading, and writing skills. Students work through a variety of activities using SpellingCity.com, Raz-Kids.com, journals, and non-fiction books. Students earn 1 point for each task they complete, up to 5 per day, and receive a prize for every 35 points they earn.

The 8th grade students hosted a pancake breakfast fundraiser at the end of September. They served all-you-can-eat pancakes, applesauce, juice, and coffee to help raise money for their 8th grade trip. They have been working hard to earn enough money to fund their entire trip in May by selling fry bread every Tuesday and concessions at every Friday movie night. They just finished up a Twin Hills Wolves clothing fundraiser too! Even the 7th graders have been pitching in with the fundraising activities so that any left over money will go towards their trip next year.

Twin Hills School staff and students are working hard on attendance this year! With such a small student body, even 1 absent or tardy student or family makes a huge impact on how our school day can run. To motivate every single student to be at school and on time every day, we have made it a goal to have perfect attendance for the entire school. For every 25 days of perfect attendance, the students will earn a prize. The first prize is a Twin Hills Wolves plastic tumbler that the students will get to use for water at their desks at school. As of October 15, we have had 13 days of school-side perfect attendance!

Focus on Science

Twin Hills elementary students have planted several types of plants. They are making daily observations of the plant growth and journaling about what they see happening as the plants grow.

Twin Hills middle school students have been learning about rock and minerals. They completed a hands on activity and made rock candy to study how crystals grow and form. They also learned about how to use hardness, streak, luster, color, and cleavage to determine what a mineral is called.



