

# REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



**"Qigcikliki-Ilu  
ciulirneret  
qanruytait**

**Respect your Elders'  
wisdom and  
knowledge"**

**--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



## **Superintendent's Office**

**David J. Piazza, Superintendent**

### **Site Visits**

Superintendent Piazza and Special Education Director Sherry Parrish were able to fly to Togiak on Sunday, August 17th in order to be on-site for the first day of the 2014-2015 school year. Students showed up early on Monday morning and were ready to get busy in the classrooms. On Tuesday morning, Dave and Sherry made the quick flight over to Twin Hills and spent the rest of the day visiting the school.

On Friday, August 22nd, Superintendent Piazza and Associate Superintendent Steve Noonkesser, accompanied Federal Communication Commission (FCC) commissioner Michael O'Rielly from Washington, DC to the Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School. The visitors included FCC Staff Amy Bender; Staff member for Congressman Young, Jason Suslavich; Staff Member for Senator Begich, Andrea Sanders; Staff Member for Senator Murkowski, Deborah Vo; and GCI staff members Pam Lloyd, Chris

Nierman, and Bob Walsh. Manokotak Senior Kenisha Geerhart along with Principal Deb Forkner, provided a tour of the school and a chance to see the students engaged in classes and utilizing the internet. This visit, as well as others around the state, are helping the FCC commissioners understand the unique needs of rural Alaska and hopefully will help to educate them on the need for



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

continued E-Rate funding at adequate levels to improve the necessary technological telecommunications infrastructure for our students.

On Sunday, August 24th, Superintendent Piazza and Director Parrish traveled to Koliganek in order to be on-site at the beginning of the school day on Monday in Koliganek. Late in the afternoon, they were joined by Associate Superintendent Steve Noonkesser and the group flew down river to spend the night at the “Chief” Ivan Blunka School in New Stuyahok. Students started the day, Tuesday, ready to learn. It is always enjoyable to be able to get into each classroom several times during the day to see the students building their skills through the instruction by their teachers and instructional aides supported by the curricular materials available in the classroom.

## Awards

Each Spring the District solicits candidates for three Employee of the Year awards. The following individuals were selected for additional recognition.



### **Classified Employee of the Year**

Anecia Johnson  
Koliganek



### **Instructional Aide of the Year**

Louise Gloko  
Manokotak



### **Teacher of the Year**

Benjamin Griese  
New Stuyahok

#### **5 Years** (*certificate*)

Randy Tinker - Aleknagik  
Benjamin Griese - New Stuyahok  
Alexandra Gumlickpuk - New Stuyahok  
Robin Jones - New Stuyahok  
Wassillie Neketa - New Stuyahok  
Cherie Isaac - Togiak  
Martha Foster - Twin Hills

#### **10 Years** (*plaque*)

Virginia Bartman - Manokotak  
Audrey Gloko-Nanalook - Manokotak  
McCally Petla - New Stuyahok  
Vera Walcott - New Stuyahok  
Larry Dale Richesin - Togiak

#### **15 Years** (*plaque*)

Alice Karasti - Ekwok  
Sam Gosuk - Togiak  
Walter Williams - District Office

#### **20 Years** (*Ulu Factory SWRS uluaq*)

Anecia Johnson - Koliganek  
Elena Johnson - Koliganek  
Mickia Walcott III - New Stuyahok  
John Sharp - Twin Hills  
Steve Noonkesser - District Office

#### **30 Years** (*handmade uluaq*)

Barbara Andrew - District Office

## Alaska School Performance Index (ASPI)

On September 2, 2014 the State released the Alaska School Performance Index (ASPI) accountability system statistics to the public. This is the second year of the ASPI system that replaced the previous Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) system of reporting each of the schools' progress towards meeting student achievement goals.

As indicated in the State's press release to the media: "Seventy-five of 501 rated schools earned five stars, the highest rating; 198 schools are four-star schools; 149 schools are three-star schools; 52 schools are two-star schools; and 27 schools are one-star schools. Collectively, nearly 93 percent of students attended schools in 2013-2014 that earned three stars or above."

	2012-2013		2013-2014	
	ASPI SCORE	Star Rating	ASPI Score	Star Rating
<b>Aleknagik</b>	79.95	* * *	69.33	* * *
<b>Ekwok</b>	54.68	*	92.92	* * * *
<b>Koliganek</b>	75.30	* * *	73.14	* * *
<b>Manokotak</b>	65.88	* * *	70.65	* * *
<b>New Stuyahok</b>	63.27	* *	70.84	* * *
<b>Togiak</b>	53.00	*	46.41	*
<b>Twin Hills</b>	45.42	*	62.35	* *

The new accountability system also sets a goal for each school to reduce its percentage of non-proficient students by half over the next six years, in yearly increments. The goals are called Annual Measureable Objectives (AMOs). The AMOs apply to the student body as a whole and to subgroups that have at least five students. The subgroups are: students with disabilities, English language learners, economically disadvantaged students, Alaska Natives and American Indians, Caucasians, African-Americans, Hispanics, Mixed Race, and Asian/Pacific Islanders.

Schools that are rated as one-star, two-star, or three-star schools must implement improvement plans. Improvement plans also are required for four-star and five-star schools whose participation rate is below 95%; graduation rate has declined from the previous year; or have not met their AMOs for two consecutive years.

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Associate Superintendent

### PROGRAM SUPPORT & TRAVEL

The past two months have been incredibly busy for the team here at District Office as we have moved through a series of inservices and staff development activities as we open our schools for another year. Most recently, on September 4-6, 2014, the District's fourth annual Paraprofessional Inservice was held. Topics were covered included; the district's support for continuing education, discussion of the attendance issue district-wide and a brainstorming session to identify strategies and possible solutions to the issue, a focus in several sessions on working more effectively with students in a supportive role, continuing Reading Mastery training, an introduction to the new Alaska Content Standards in Language Arts and Mathematics. On Saturday, Yup'ik Studies aides and Special Education aides met to discuss a range of topics related to their duties. The inservice went well and the three



## 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



days were filled with much learning and laughter.

Our work on updates to our evaluation system continued this month with a second meeting of our teacher evaluation working group in Dillingham on September 15, 2014. The meeting was again very productive and teachers examined several proposals related to the new system. The group agreed to a proposal to recommend adoption of the Marzano Teacher Evaluation Model as the observation portion of the new system. This piece, if meeting with board approval, will allow us to ahead to keep us on track for adoption of a fully updated new system in time to meet the state's deadline of July 1, 2015 for implementation. A number of the evaluation team members are planning to attend the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Teaching and Learning Support Institute on September 23-24, 2014 to hear the latest information from the state and receive training on the new assessments coming this spring and new evaluation regulations. Much remains to do on the updates to the evaluation system, including updates to administrator evaluation tools, provision for student and parent input on evaluations, as well as inclusion of student academic growth data. The group is positive and works well together and we are confident that we can get the job done in a way that improves instruction and meets state requirements.



## Instructional Team Notes

### Academic Competitions

- The Battle of Books orders have been submitted to publishers and we are ready to send the student copies out to sites at the end of September so that students can begin reading.
- The Million Word Challenge has also begun across the district.

### Language Arts Support 6-12

- Deb and Charles have been busy providing support for the middle and high school language arts curriculum by purchasing sets of stories included in EMC units to enrich instruction. Teacher can now sign out classroom sets of books relevant to their teaching units.
- Charles also worked with new secondary language arts instructors to ensure that they have access to all of the electronic teacher materials available as part of the curriculum.

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Reading is Fundamental (RIF) & The National Gala

- This past spring Deb was invited and attended the National Gala for Reading is Fundamental in Washington D.C. as a result of her attendance the district was awarded a grant to purchase books and bring our RIF program back.
- The new books will be distributed to students as part of Family Literacy Night activities.

## Science Curriculum

- This fall's science tubs with lesson plans and materials for K-5 Science have been assembled and sent out to sites. This is a large task, but with a good organizational plan, Deb was able to make it happen seamlessly.

## Media Center

- The Media Center continues its focus on academic core areas of support. Materials are being reorganized by academic core areas. Staff members will have access to different types of teaching materials (DVD, VHS, books, workbooks, etc.) all related to a specific academic core area.
- At present we have over 300 author sets to support reading and language arts teachers in their classrooms.

## Technology Team Notes

In addition to the usual tech-support duties we all provide for staff and students, technology staff was busy this past month with preparations for assessment, eRate, and staff development.

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

- Computers issued to new teachers and board members with updated OS 10.9 images
- Wireless bridge set up in Koliganek to provide network services to a temporary, remote classroom
- Provided training and materials for Tech Liaisons during Classified Staff Inservice
- 2013-14 Funding Commitment Decision Letter received from USAC in amount totaling \$1,142,189.96
- 2013-14 sRate Form 486 (Receipt of Services) filed
- 2014-15 eRate Form 471 remains in Quality Assurance Review
- 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





## State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

### Alaska School Performance Index (ASPI)

As a reminder, the Alaska accountability system uses the Alaska School Performance Index method to report a score and correlating star rating for all Alaska schools. The star-rating scale ranges from one-star to five-stars, with a 5 star rating being the highest possible rating. Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) continue to be reported for each school and are school specific based on 2011-2012 standards based assessment data. The language for the AMO is to reduce the percentage of non-proficient students by half over six years, including in each subgroup of students. Below are the current ASPI scores and star-ratings for our schools, as well as the rubric for determining the star-rating.

Based on 2013-2014 SBA data, Togiak has been identified as a Focus school and will receive additional support from EED for school improvement including school improvement funding and considering the seven turn-around principles when developing the school improvement plan.

### Title I-C Migrant Education

I attended a migrant records analyst training in Anchorage on August 27th. The purpose was to review the procedures for entering migrant recruitment data into the MIS2000 database. Migrant staff at the department use the database to review data, provide feedback, and determine eligibility. I was also able to attend a pull-out session for migrant coordinators and federal program directors. This was a valuable session as I

was able to network with other districts and the Migrant Education Program Director from the Department of Education. We were able to exchange ideas and identify challenges in providing services for migrant children.

Kristine Gaffney and Sarah Emmal, migrant education staff from the Department of Education came out to Dillingham on September 3rd and 4th to provide migrant recruiter training to our seven site recruiters, Kyle Schneider, and myself. Dillingham City School District migrant staff also attended the training. It was a successful review of recruiting and documentation procedures. We look forward to providing services to eligible migrant children. Below is a recap of the services we were able to provide to migrant children last school year.

- 240 magazine subscriptions
- 2 literacy/art/science family nights in each community
- About 1,250 books distributed to migrant children
- About 170 literacy-based educational games distributed to migrant children
- After school tutoring for targeted migrant children
- Behavioral counseling referrals and counseling services for targeted migrant children
- Books, early learning guidelines, and learning games for migrant children ages birth to pre-K.
- Migrant summer school at Igushik Fish Camp

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Boarding Home

There have been four applications for students within Southwest Region School District for the state boarding home program. There may be one or two more as the year continues. As a reminder, students attending K-8 schools are eligible to attend one of the district's K-12 schools as a boarding student.

## Career & Technical Education: Industrial Arts (Carl Perkins)

The materials for the student-based garage project arrived in Togiak this summer. The students enrolled in the building construction courses will be working on the construction of a garage of Togiak School so that it can be used to support other courses that involve the maintenance and repair of ATV type vehicles. Aluminum materials arrived in Koliganek so that students in enrolled in the welding courses can participate in the recently school board adopted Welding II course.

## Other Information

We are working on becoming an ETS certified testing center so that we can administer Praxis I and Praxis II exams for our staff. Our schools used to be able to administer these exams, but the company has eliminated paper-pencil based exams, which has eliminated the ability for our schools to administer the exams. There is an application and certain testing center requirements that have to be met to be approved as a certified testing center.



## Student Information & Support Specialist: Kyle Schneider

### Powerschool University

Over the summer, two staff members from the district attended PowerSchool University trainings. Kyle Schneider (District Office) and Margie Frost (Togiak) attended weeklong events put on by Pearson School Systems, the company that makes PowerSchool. Over the course of the week, attendees take eight classes for a total of twenty-four hours of instruction. These courses cover topics ranging from best practices for student data, tools for scheduling students in courses to customization of PowerSchool to meet our district's needs.

### Inservice

Kyle presented on the changes that had been made to PowerSchool during the summer at the principal's inservice. He also provided training at new teacher and all-staff in-services to help teachers get their gradebooks set up for the beginning of the year along with a review of the features in PowerSchool gradebook. Finally, he provided training to teachers at the all-staff inservice on how to use Schoolnet to view historical assessment data for students.

### Migrant Education Recruiting

Kyle Schneider traveled to Anchorage at the end of August and received training from EED's Migrant Education Program on managing Migrant Education records. This training was in preparation for the Migrant Education recruiter training that EED put on in Dillingham on September 3rd and 4th. Staff from each of the schools traveled into Dillingham to learn about the Migrant Education program, how to interview families for the necessary information and how filling out the Certificate of Eligibility.



Children’s eligibility is determined by whether or not they have made qualifying “moves”. A “move” means that a child took a trip of more than 20 miles for either commercial or subsistence fishing and stayed away from home for 7 nights / 8 days throughout the year. Children can also qualify if they “move” to another district for the required length of time (this can be for fishing or certain other activities). Most of the students we recruit have either “moved” to fish camp or Dillingham for commercial or subsistence fishing in the summer.

## School Photography

During the first two weeks of September, Richard Johnson from Purnell Photography traveled to all of our schools and took pictures. He photographed the staff and students in New Stuyahok, Koliganek, Ekwok during the week of September 2nd – 5th. On the 8th he returned to Dillingham and took pictures of staff at the District Office before traveling to Aleknagik. He finished the week by traveling to Manokotak, Twin Hills, and Togiak.



**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.

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



**Yup'ik Studies**  
Esther Ilutsik, Director

## New Teacher Orientation

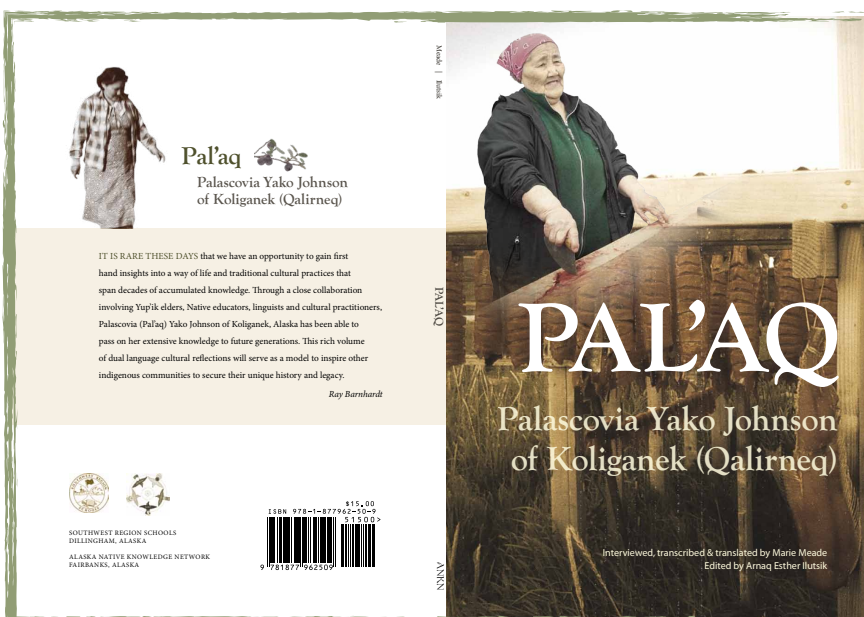
Itegmialria Herbert Lockuk and Natu Bertha Pavian-Lockuk of Tuyuryaq (Togik), Cirunerguaq Anu Wysocki of Qalirneq (Koliganek), Maalu Martha Foster of Ingricuar (Twin Hills), Nuyaluk Nellie Gamechuk of Manuquutaq (Manokotak), Ellmikuutuar Margie Hastings of Cetuyaraq (New Stuyahok) and myself Arnaq Esther Ilutsik of Curyung (Dillingham) greeted the new teachers to the district and region. Some of those teachers who participated did their student teachings within our district and two of our new teachers are originally from Qalirneq (Koliganek). The session brought all to a new level of understanding of the communities, students and parents that they will be a part. We also had the participants engaged in an activity where each was given a colored bead. This bead represented whether they would participate in the subsistence activity (fishing) as man, woman, boy or girl. Each group was assigned a duty such as pulling in the net, cutting the heads off, splitting the fish, washing the fish, preparing the fish for baking or drying, salting the fish. We concluded the long day session responding to questions that they had about the language and culture prior to the session. Fourteen of the participants enrolled in the Orientation to Teaching in Rural Alaska that we sponsored and credit is obtain through the local Bristol Bay Campus/ University of Alaska Fairbanks.



## K-2 Yup'ik Studies TPRS Curriculum Committee

Laughter rang out of the up-stairs conference room as the Yup'ik Studies Instructors begin sharing the positive aspects of integrating the K-2nd TPRS. It took a whole two weeks of school to go through the Waqaa activities included a daily routine process, classroom rules aligning with the regular certified classroom rules and the introduction of useful phrases. The next steps and where participants were totally engaged and involved were going through the process of deciding the motions that would accompany the Tan'gaurlyq Iqsagyunqellria and Nasaurlyq Iqvaryunqellria. In October the Yup'ik Studies Instructors will introduce the students to "Emmm-paa" a special unit as shared by Angucinraq Nick Gumlickpuk of New Stuyahok. This session will follow with a quarterly DLS (distant learning system) sessions. Dates will be announced at a later date.

This session included Yup'ik Studies instructors who teach middle school and high school. We felt that it was important for them to see what was being taught at the lower elementary. This will ensure that further Yup'ik Studies curriculum development strengthen those programs in place.



**Pal'aq** featuring the interview of Palascovia Yako Johnson of Qalirneq (Koliganek) by Marie Meade is now in print. This book will be utilized by our high school Yup'ik Studies program. The book is available for purchase @ \$15.00.



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Special Education

Sherry Parrish, Director

### Site Visits

This past month I have had the opportunity to visit the following sites: Togiak, Twin Hills, Koliganek, New Stuyahok, and Aleknagik. This has afforded me an opportunity to see our teachers and paraprofessionals working with our students with special needs. I have also taken on the responsibility of being the special education teacher of record for Aleknagik. This will require my traveling to the Aleknagik school once per week at this time to work with the students receiving special education services, as well as the students in general education that are struggling academically. We are putting intervention plans in place to meet the needs of these students to assure that they do not fall farther behind.

### Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) Training

We completed CPI (Crisis Prevention Institute) training for Twin Hills and Togiak teachers and instructional aides via video-conference. A second CPI training is scheduled for Saturday, September 20, 2014 in New Stuyahok and teachers as well as instructional aides from Koliganek and Ekwok will be attending this training. A step by step process for documenting, reporting and communicating regarding any incidents involving physical restraint/seclusion of students is currently being developed to meet the requirements of the recently passed HB210. Additionally, a plan of service for meeting the needs of gifted and talented students is in the process of being developed for the district. The state of Alaska EED has requested this plan of service from all districts statewide.





## Special Education Paraprofessional Training

Twenty-one of the twenty-four special education instructional aides participated in an all day inservice on Saturday, Sept. 6, 2014. The focus of this inservice was to provide the mandatory six hours of training that is required by the state and to make sure that all of the instructional aides that work with students with disabilities have the knowledge they need to assist the students in being successful. Training topics included Defining the Roles and Responsibilities of the Paraeducator;



Paraeducators' Responsibilities for Confidentiality, Professionalism and Ethics; Disability Overview: Categories, Terminology and Appropriate Interactions; Accommodations/Modifications and Student Supports; Interventions – Academic/Behavior – Materials/Strategies to Use; Opportunities for Continued Professional Development. The training was a success. There was good participation from all participants and I have received additional requests from these instructional aides for further training in a variety of areas.

## Special Education Transition

SWRSD will be a participant in a grant again this year with the State of Alaska and EED for special education transition. The purpose of this is to work on ways to increase graduation rates for students with disabilities, to decrease drop out rate and to provide more opportunities for high school students to connect with adult service provider agencies. We will work with the state to develop a district transition program, document, implement, and provide training for the staff. Sam Jordon from EED will be supporting us through video and on site meetings. We are excited to be a part of developing the program that can be utilized throughout Alaska, yet created for the specific needs of our students.

## Health and Academic Screenings

We are currently working on a developing a plan to complete the required health and academic screenings for students district-wide. Meetings have been scheduled with other school district staff and various health care officials to make this process as smooth as possible and less disruptive to the education of our students.

## Special Service Providers

Special education related service providers: School Psychologist, Speech Therapist, Physical Therapist and Occupational Therapists have been scheduled to start traveling to the villages and providing supports/ services to our students as well as training for our staff. These visits begin the week of September 8, 2104 and will continue throughout the school year. Each service provider will be visiting the school sites a minimum of once per quarter. The amount of time spent at each school site will depend on the number of students receiving their specific service at that site.

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Facilities & Maintenance

**Rick Dallmann, Director**

### Togiak

- Backup power finished for the teacher housing.
- Working on parking lot lighting

### Twin Hills

- Finish up Arctic entries, steps and hand rails for teacher housing
- Working on estimate to replace gym floor

### Manokotak

- School and teacher housing tied into City sewer system
- Water system to be completed next summer
- School roof system repairs completed
- Principal house new roof and siding completed
- Working on lighting plan and cost estimate for the new pedestrian walkway created by the new sewer line location
- Still working on old school abatement and demolition/ first pricing was very high trying to work out a phased plan approach and look at budgeting more money.
- 

### New Stuyahok

- Materials ordered for heat recovery project, trying to schedule backhoe to install under ground lines before freeze up, pumps, heat exchangers and controls work will continue as we can work it into the schedule.

### Koliganek

- Work is progressing pretty much on schedule, the last couple loads of school material are on the way up river.
- Finishing up teacher housing design and construction contracts - planned for spring 2015

### Aleknagik

- New roof completed on teacher housing
- Replacement refrigerator ordered for kitchen.

### Ekwok

- Finished housing Arctic entries, new fuel system installed.
- Old teacher housing has been demolished.

### District-Wide

- Fire extinguisher inspections have been completed
- Controls contractor has made site visits
- At this time we are still waiting for up river fuel delivery
- Scheduling for sprinkler and alarm system inspections





## Aleknagik School

Audra Finkenbinder, Principal/Teacher

### May 2014

At the end of the 2013-2014 school year, the 6th-8th graders got to travel to Anchorage, Seward, and Palmer for their student trip. The students were able to enjoy many activities that included going to Roadrunner Amusements to race go-carts and play miniature golf, they visited the Alaska Zoo to view the animals, hiked Flat Top, had fun at H2Oasis, visited the Imaginarium Discovery Center, the Alaska Museum and Natural History, and the International Gallery of Contemporary Art. They also traveled to Seward where they visited the Alaska SeaLife Center, hiked Exit Glacier, and took a four-hour Kenia Fjords Whale Watching cruise.



The students were also able to enjoy Reindeer Farms in Palmer where they rode horses and saw the reindeer, bison, and elk.

Graduation was held on May 14th with three graduates: one kindergarten student and two 8th graders. The class motto was “The moment may be temporary but the memory is forever” by Bud Meyer. The colors were bright pink, lime green, and royal blue. Jessyka Creasey was the 8th Grade Valedictorian and Travis Bavilla was the 8th Grade salutatorian.

Working in junction with Braden Tinker and First Responders, Aleknagik School held a barbeque/picnic at the dock for all students, families and community members on May 16th. The day could not have been more perfect with clear, blue skies and a temperature of 72 degrees; what a wonderful way to spend the last day of school!

### August 2014

Aleknagik North Shore School welcomes Cialely Pintande to the teaching staff this year. Ms. Pintande comes to us from Kutztown University of Pennsylvania and teaches a variety of classes for grades K-2 and 3-5.

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

We are in the third year of using the new science curriculum and science kits. The students have enjoyed all of the hands-on activities the last two years and I can foresee that enjoyment continuing. We are in the fourth year of using the Reading Mastery program in grades K-5 and in the past three years have seen wonderful gains in the students' reading abilities.

As the new school year begins, we are slated to continue the following programs/activities:

- Student of the Month
- Student Council
- Cross Country
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Battle of the Books
- Spelling Bee
- Science Fair
- Game Nights
- Movie Nights



All students in Aleknagik School will also receive instruction in Basic Internet Safety on a quarterly basis throughout the school year. This training is in accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act and Southwest Region School's Acceptable Use Policy.

If you have not had a chance to meet Ms. Pintande, would like to see what we have taking place, or have any questions, please feel free to stop by.

We are all looking forward to a great school year!





## William 'Sonny' Nelson School

### Nate Preston, Principal/Teacher

William "Sonny" Nelson School is having a great start to the school year. We are extremely happy with the ASPI score 92.92. Everyone has been working hard as reflected by the improvement of our score by 38 points. At first we were disappointed because we did not get the 5 star rating. If growth had been not capped at 40 points we would have had 5 stars. We will now be striving for the 5 star rating. Ekwok's students, parents, CSC and staff deserve a lot of credit for how much we have improved. Last year we focused on every question counts, and that completeness and accuracy was what we needed to aim for on the test. This year we are continuing to stress completeness and accuracy but it is now expected in all assignments. The students have proved they can do with last years scores. We expect them to maintain these high standards. We have a bulletin board up with western wanted posters for all students who will take the test this year. The bulletin's title is "Wanted the Point on the End of the Bluff Gang for crushing of SBA's and planned destruction of the AMP's". We fully expect all students to take the test and pass it. We are pushing for the whole community to keep reminding them we are proud of them and know that they can to do well.

We are going to continue what we started last year by focusing on the district's goals of: 1-4 Reading by Third Grade, Student Engagement, Comprehensive Instructional Plan and Revitalize the Yupik Studies Program. We are trying a few more strategies in order to get the improvement we need.

Goal 1: Reading by the Third Grade is an area where we wish to continue the success we are currently having. We want to duplicate last years success that third grade had on passing the SBA's. We further expect the Map Testing scores to be at or above grade level. We have only one student who is currently testing below grade level. Our plan is to get all on grade level. We have seen significant progress in the first two weeks.

Goal 2: Student Engagement is another goal where we are planning on continuing the success of our last two years. Our attendance has been steadily improving. It has gone from 263 days absent in FY 12 to 185.5 days absent in FY 13 to 80 days absent in FY 14. If we can just get 17 days better this year we will have improved by over 200 days in three years. That is an average of over 20 more student days per student. We will continue to have incentive awards for good attendance for semester and year. In addition, we have cleaned up, painted, and rearranged the school. The positive change in the atmosphere and feel of the school is amazing. We are also trying out ball chairs for the middle school and

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

kindergarten rooms. All the research we could find suggested that the ball chairs help with student engagement by letting them burn excess energy and improving posture, balance, and focus too.

Goal 3: Comprehensive Instructional Plan, we are working to improve the plan from last year. We are continuing to implement district curriculum. We have completely redone the K-3 schedule. Pam Johnson worked extensively at the end of last year with our new teacher Patricia Lindow. They came up with a new schedule that focuses more on the identified areas of student needs. Furthermore, we have already met with all parents and come up with a plan for working at home for each individual student.

Goal 4: Revitalize the Yupik Studies Program is an area we are also working on. We have hired our 4th Yupik Instructor in the last three years. She is doing a fabulous job. Her enthusiasm and happy attitudes has help brighten up the school.

Lastly, the environment of William “Sonny” Nelson school has improved from last year. This is demonstrated by a happier staff and students. The rearranged and freshly painted interior is a breath of fresh air. The new staff members excitement and happiness rubs off on everyone. A third of our school is enthusiastic kindergarteners. Just spend a few minutes in that room and you will see polite, helpful, and inquisitive students who will bring a smile to your face. It is amazing how going to white walls has opened up and brightened the whole school. This school year is off to a great start.





## Koliganek School

Cody McCanna, Principal

### Getting Started

Koliganek School is off and running as of August 18, 2014. The first day of school we held a community wide gathering in the gym for everyone to meet the staff and to have some time to give out information regarding: Parent Involvement Policy, school calendar, Koliganek School Handbook, Acceptable User Agreement. Then on August 19, 2014 we held a meeting with all students and parents in grades 6-12 to go give out laptops and to review appropriate uses of the tools and our expectations for students taking them home. We also conducted the mandatory ASAA sports meeting on that day to show all student-athletes and parents the Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drug (TAD) policy video that is mandatory according to ASAA regulations. The first week condensed on Friday with an Open House at 1:30 so all parents and community members could be welcomed into the school to visit classrooms and meet teachers.



### Professional Development Focus

Koliganek School, like all schools in SWRSD, will be utilizing Marzano's Model of Effective Teaching with the teaching staff to increase student performance through improved instructional practices. Thus far the staff has had professional development regarding the use of learning goals and scales. The certified staff has learned how to write learning goals and scales for their classes, and have been focusing on using them in mathematics class along with the new Go Math curriculum. Moreover, the instructional leader has been going into classrooms and collecting data on the use of learning goals using a data collection sheet that is then shared with teachers so they can reflect on their practice.

### School Activities

Cross Country is up and running. Students have ran in Togiak, Koliganek and will be running in New Stuyahok and Dillingham in the coming weeks. The Student Council is up and running with Curtis Jensen as their advisor. They met with the District Student Council and have been busy already this year planning events. Picture Day came and went with everyone having the opportunity to have family portraits and Senior pictures done in the evening.

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Deb Forkner, Principal

Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School is off to a great start! We began the year with an all school assembly to welcome students and new teachers.

New teachers include:

- Claire Steffen, Special Education teacher
- Megan Green, 5th/6th grade teacher
- JoAnne Knight, Language Arts teacher
- Merrill Feller, Math teacher

An Open House was well attended on August 28. Our 1 to 1 Computer parent night was held in conjunction with Open House.

The recent rains have tested the roof repair that occurred over the summer and it is a relief to report that the roof passed the test. The village sewer project is almost complete and soon the school parking lot will be back to normal.

Manokotak staff worked together before school started to create the following mission statement for this year. Manokotak Nunaniq Staff will strive to create a safe, positive, culturally rich environment focused on success and life-long learning.

We are using the acronym S.M.A.R.T to focus on positive behavior and to have clear, consistent expectations school wide. S.M.A.R.T. stands for Safe, Motivated, Active Learners, Respectful, Team-players. Students have been taught what each of these mean, as well as, the expectations for S.M.A.R.T. behaviors in all areas of the school. SMART slips are given to students caught following expectations. These are redeemed for prizes. When at Manokotak Nunaniq School remember to be SMART in everything you do!







## 'Chief' Ivan Blunka School

Robin Jones, Principal



We are off to a great start at 'Chief' Ivan Blunka School! We started school on Monday, August 18, 2014 with a Welcome Back Assembly to generate excitement about the school year, introduce the staff and students, and honor individuals. We capped off the week on Friday evening with a Welcome Back to School BBQ Friday and had an amazing turnout! Attendees enjoyed good food, great company, door prizes, and live music.

We currently have 134 students enrolled in our K-12 program. We have shifted the 6th grade to our secondary school and the transition has been very smooth. We have modified our secondary 4th period from study hall to focused test prep interventions based on student data and performance. We are hopeful this dedicated effort will improve student achievement.

The District has adopted Go Math for our Mathematics curriculum and the students seem very pleased with the new program. It is manipulative rich, which makes learning math concepts more tangible for the students. The teachers are adapting well to the new style and seem to appreciate the format and engaging structure of the lessons. The multi-tiered approach also allows the teachers to meet the varying needs of students in a more efficient way.

We have already started our Professional Learning Communities (PLC) and are currently focusing on 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 have also welcomed 2 new teachers and 2 new paraprofessionals to our staff this year, who have already made a positive impact on our school climate.



**Student of the Month**  
Craig Wonhola – 5th Grade

**Student of the Month**  
Peter Blunka – 12th Grade

**Employees of the Month**  
Lisa Andrew & Clayton Lamphear

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



**Togiak School**  
Sam Gosuk, Principal

New teachers and old teachers were able to harvest an abundance of silver this weekend. This is a good exposure to the community subsistence lifestyle for our new staff. This year at Togiak School having a good start with the new teachers and returning 'old' teachers. During our first in-service, the focus was on student attendance and student achievement. The staff took ownership of these and made plans as groups to work on them and monitor their progress. The staff recommended that we let the community know about this and make announcements of upcoming events through a newsletter from Togiak School. Togiak School is also working with the community entities to encourage attendance and a curfew siren was requested and hopefully a curfew siren will be heard soon. Also, in the community in Togiak, there was a Grand Opening of the Library. Togiak School staff members working with the City of Togiak was able to grants to upgrade the public library and as a result was moved to the old school building which was remodeled using the grants. This year, Togiak School hopes that the community of Togiak continue to work together with the students and help their academic achievement and attendance.





## **Twin Hills School**

**Meghan Redmond, Lead Teacher**

The members of the Twin Hills School staff are excited to be back hard at work for the 2014-2015 school year. We have one new staff member this year. Danielle Dooley joins us from Pennsylvania as our new PK-4th grade and special education teacher. We welcome back Agnes Gamechuk, Special Education Aide; Martha Foster, Secretary and Bilingual Aide; Jessica Mark, Special Education Aide; John Sharp, Maintenance; and Gladys Small, Cook.

Our student count is at 20 students, preschool through 8th grade. This year's graduation will be quite the event by Twin Hills standards, with four 8th graders and two kindergarteners graduating (and our sole graduate from last year participating as well). Those 20 students are split into five reading and language arts groups, six math groups, three science/social studies groups, and three Yup'ik groups. Kindergarten through 5th grade students attend school 9:00-3:15. 6th grade through 8th grade students attend school 9:30-3:45. We have staff meetings with all staff, including instructional aides, every Monday before school.

The months of August and September are always busy travel months for us. All certified staff members attended district-wide inservice in Dillingham in August. All instructional aides attended district-wide inservice in Dillingham in September. In addition all certified teachers and Special Education aides traveled to Togiak to participate in annual CPI training to maintain CPI certification.

Overall, we have had a very smooth transition into a new school year. The students are looking forward to our after school program starting up, open gym nights, and an 8th grade trip to AFN Elders and Youth Conference.