

REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



**"Tuvqakiaqluten-Ilu
yuullgutevnek
piyugaqavet**

**Share possessions
and knowledge with
honor."**

--Bristol Bay Yup'ik Values

Board of Education

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Staffing

The district has been actively recruiting for new certificated staff members to replace the staff who have resigned to date. The rate of turnover is just a bit lower than last year and is similar to normal staffing trends for the District. At this time, district administration has offered and received contracts back from 16 candidates. These include Patty Lindow to be an elementary teacher in Ekwok; Anastasia Ishnook to be an elementary teacher and Callie Wilder to be the secondary science teacher in Koliganek; Megan Green to be an elementary teacher, JoAnne Knight to be the secondary language arts teacher, Mike Dilworth to be the secondary mathematics teacher, and Claire Steffen to be a special education teacher in Manokotak; Josh Gates to be the secondary mathematics teacher in New Stuyahok; Julia Trischman, Kyle Settles, Genevieve Kapatak, and Patrick Trischman to be elementary teachers, Tobe Gurley to be a special education teacher, Shayla Schwoch to be the secondary language arts teacher, and Kevin Schwoch to be the secondary social studies teacher in Togiak; and Danielle Dooley to be an elementary/special education teacher in Twin Hills.

The District has already participated in several job fairs as previously reported and



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will finish up its usually on site attendance at the Missoula, MT fair on Monday, April 14th followed up by attendance at the Portland, OR job fair on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 15th-16th. Although the number of participants who were anticipated to attend the Seattle, Minneapolis, and Anchorage Alaska Teacher Placement (ATP) job fairs were high, only a small percentage of new candidates actually attended these fairs. While it is getting late in the recruiting season, the District still has faith that quality candidates will be found to fill the few remaining vacancies well before the beginning of the new school year.



Legislative Issues & Superintendent Travel

Superintendent Piazza, and School Board members Ferdinand Sharp and Helen Gregorio participated in the Association of Alaska School Board's (AASB) Spring Academy and Legislative Fly-in at the end of March. While this time of the legislative session is hard to get one-on-one meetings with the legislators, the team was able to formally meet with Representative Bryce Edgmon and Senator Gary Stevens. A meeting with Rynnieva Moss, Legislative Aide to Senator Coghill, also provided information regarding the forward progress of Senate Bill 113 that would help provide the funding for boarding home stipends for children displaced by small school closures that has been a legislative priority for the District.

The AASB Spring Boardsmanship Academy workshops included a presentation by Sharon Fishel from the Department of Education and Sally Rue with the AASB entitled "What's Happening with Suicide Prevention, Mental Health, and school Climate". Ron Fortunato with the NASA World Wind Research Project provided information regarding "Digital Learning: Preparing Students for Tomorrow's Workforce". Dayna Focht with the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida, Heather Powell with the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, and Mary Wegner with the Sitka School District presented "Wooch.een Yei Jigxtoonei – We Are Working Together to Collaborate on Early Learning". Patty Owen with the Department of Education presented on the "Statewide Wellness Policy Update". Timi Tullis and Norm Wooten with AASB discussed "Evaluating Your Board and Setting an Improvement Plan". Norm Wooten also presented on "What is Currently Driving the Legislature" and provided a "Legislative Priorities and Bill Review", in addition to leading the "Strategy Session Developing Strategies on Priorities for the Final Stretch of the Session". The Department of Education's Commissioner Mike Hanley also provided legislative insights into educational matters.





Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Director

PROGRAM SUPPORT & TRAVEL

This month has been a whirlwind of travel for recruiting and state initiatives. This past few weeks, Steve traveled to job fairs in Seattle, Minneapolis and Anchorage with teams to fill staff vacancies. This year's hiring was more difficult than in past years, as the pool of candidates was substantially smaller and less diverse than has been the norm. In Minneapolis we attended the Alaska Teacher Placement job fair and of the 83 teachers signed up, only 32 actually were present. These numbers were similar to what we found at all of the job fairs. The competition for good staff members is getting more intense and as a state Alaska is not as competitive as we once were in salary and benefits. Even with the more difficult hiring landscape, the teams were able to hire a number of quality candidates. We still have a couple of positions to fill but we are confident that we will be able to complete the process over the next couple of weeks.

Our work on updates to our evaluation system continued this month with a meeting of our teacher evaluation working group in Dillingham. The meeting was productive and teachers provided a needed perspective on the new system. In other efforts, a team comprised of Jon Clouse, Cody McCanna, Deb Forkner, Deb Endicott and Steve also attended the ASDN Evaluation Workshop in Anchorage to take a closer look at the new requirements for staff evaluation. We came away



INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TEAM



Les Parks
Technology
Coordinator



Deb Endicott
Elem. Ed.
Specialist



Corey Evans
Computer-Aided
Instruction Specialist



Pam Johnson
Parapro Liaison



Tim Phillips
Sec. Ed.
Specialist

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from the workshop with a little clearer picture of what remains to be done. It was encouraging as well when we looked at the work we had already done in this area. Meetings this spring and planned for fall should move this process ahead to keep us on track for adoption of a new system in time to meet the state's deadline of July 1, 2015 for implementation. We hope to be able to pilot parts of a new system in the upcoming school year.

At this point in the session things are changing rapidly in the legislature. By the time this report goes out, the session will be at an end and answers regarding education funding and the status of several bills will be known. We will report in person at the meeting on the final status of funding and other issues.

Instructional Team Notes

Literacy Activities

- We were able to collate another Literacy Activity for teachers in grades K-6. Literacy events are those activities students perform to connect them with stories. They can be oral, written or project design activities. This month we introduced our new resource from the Media Center: Alaska Stories. The K-1 teachers are writing to the favorite part in the story, while the 2nd and 3rd grades are creating a story sandwich. The older 4th and 5th grades are using their writing skills to produce an alternative ending or portion of their stories.

Science Fairs

- The re-introduction of Science fair projects is happening across the district. Display boards were sent to each site for elementary classroom experiments. Each site will determine how and when to showcase the projects to their communities. Teachers were provided with sample experiments and resources to conduct their project. It should be exciting to see the results. Next school year we plan to hold a District-wide Science Fair as an academic competition to determine an SWRS district representation into the State Science Fair Competition.

Site Orders

- Ordering student and teacher consumable is continuing. The majority of Reading Mastery reading and language arts materials have been ordered for next school year and orders will be shipped direct to sites in early May. Teachers will have adequate student materials on site the first day of school. Elementary math orders are on hold, until the math team can meet in May to determine if a change in program is needed to meet new Alaska Mathematics content standards.

Migrant Education – KNW

- Migrant Education had an event in New Stuyahok where students created a square of material that was later sewn into a quilt-blanket. Deb was asked to participate to help facilitate that creation and she flew to New Stuyahok for a weekend to work on the quilt. It was a pleasure and honor to participate in that event. The blanket was then raffled off into the community. We are hearing that it was well received.

Employee Recognition

- Curriculum team members have been chosen and we are busy planning for a May Language Arts/Math/Social Studies Curriculum Camp meetings. Travel, housing, food and agenda items are being designed as we work toward a fast paced productive week here at the District Office.

Author in Schools

- This time of year, we are often contacted by a number of State Agencies for a variety of reasons to visit our schools. Often times, these agencies have specific grants that pay for travel into the villages. The Alaska Library Association is sponsoring Alaskan Author, Velma Wallis to visit our sites during the Month of April 2015. We will be working out the details for her visit(s) next fall. It is always exciting to have a published Alaskan Native author visit our schools to work with students. In this instance, the visit will be particularly exciting as many of our students have read some of Velma's books, "Two Old Women" and "Bird Girl."

Love of Reading Challenge

- Pam reports that one the most rewarding projects she has worked on this year has to be the "Love of Reading" Challenge. Teachers and students grabbed onto the challenge and exceeded all her expectations. She received emails from teachers stating how excited their students are to read and use the Accelerated Reading Program. They also stated that now when students have extra time they choose to read. She also has a collection of pictures of Bookworms in various stages of growth. She received a note from Manokotak saying that the students have continued to add to their bookworms.
- Classes that accomplished their goal of 100 books read and 100 AR test taken with 80% or better were rewarded with a pizza party in their classroom.

Academic Challenges

- After the success of "Love for Reading" Pam has been looking to other challenges that would promote academic success with our students and increase their motivation. Her goal is to develop a writing challenge that would promote student writing in the district. She would like to include in this challenge a way to publish the student's work and display them in our school libraries.

Social Studies Curriculum Work

- On March 28th and 29th, the social studies committee came to Dillingham to continue developing and updating social studies courses. Three of the upper grade social studies committee members were in attendance; Drew Williams from Togiak, Lorraine Masterman from Manokotak, and Clayton Lamphear from New Stuyahok, as well as Tim Phillips, Deb Endicott, and Pam Johnson from the District Office. Some of the tasks accomplished during this meeting were writing and updating unit objectives for Modern U.S. History and U.S. Government & Citizenship for high school, as well as Ancient and Medieval History for middle school. One of the things this committee has placed an emphasis on is developing comprehensive courses that include pacing guides, topics to cover, as well as learning objectives and supplemental resources. They want to ensure teachers have the easiest path possible to provide students a well-rounded course and the best opportunity at success.

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- At the March meeting, the committee had the opportunity of hearing from elementary specialists Deb Endicott and Pam Johnson. As a team, they helped steer the committee in the right direction when creating elementary social studies courses. Their insight into elementary classroom instruction helped create solid and comprehensive elementary programs for 3rd through 6th grades, complete with pacing guides, topics to cover, learning objectives, and supplemental resources for teachers.
- Pam Johnson and Deb are working on the creation of elementary social studies pacing guides. The goal is to make a pacing guide that was based on 2 hours a week for social studies and that is teacher friendly. They have included resources teachers will enable our teachers to enhance students' learning.
- In keeping with the Academic Challenges the team is creating a 5th Grade Social Studies Challenge. We are calling this challenge the "States and Regions Quiz Bowl," which will test students knowledge of regions of the United States, states and their capitals. We would like to hold site competitions and then a district wide completion where winning teams would receive a trophy and T-shirts.
- For 4th grade Social Studies, we are working on Alaska Studies Jeopardy Challenge. Students will test their knowledge of Alaska geography, Alaska Native peoples and the regions of Alaska. The Challenge will be formatted similar to the Jeopardy Show on TV.
- Social studies courses are approaching the Final Draft phase. They are almost finished. It is the intention of the social studies committee, and the Instruction department, to have these courses ready to present to the School Board at the May School Board meeting for review and adoption.

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.

Les was busy engaged in many other activities including:

- Both our 2013-14 and 2014-15 eRate Form 471 in initial review.
- The wireless and phone upgrade project has been completed in New Stuyahok and Manokotak with staff reporting that the systems are up and running smoothly. These upgrades should better prepare us for an environment in coming years where the number of wireless devices will expand (both district and student/staff owned devices).
- New Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPSs) have been installed in the District Office data closet. This project will help protect valuable servers and other equipment that is relied upon across the district for services like PowerSchool.

Corey was busy engaged in many other activities as well including:

- Corey Evans attended the training "Transition to the New Standards with Google Apps". The sessions focused on using Google suite of free applications including Google docs, presentation, drawing, forms, spreadsheets, maps, and voice to teach writing, technology fluency, communication, and collaboration as required in the new standards. This training helps Corey develop his skill set for supporting teachers and providing professional development for both certified and classified staff.
- He continues to work to finalize planning for an elementary iPad project for grades K-3.
- Corey provided technology support, as needed, in addition to performing several hardware repairs of damaged student computers.



State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

Migrant Education

The migrant education program was able to order literacy-based educational games and Alaska themed books for migrant education students. These age-appropriate games and Alaska themed books will be mailed directly to the students for use in the home. The literacy-based education games and Alaska themed books were items that migrant parents wanted added to the literacy in the home initiative. Also, the Alaska Early Learning Guidelines and age development profiles will be sent to the parents of pre-school aged migrant students. In addition, the Babies on Track DVD and book will be sent to migrant children ages 2 and under. The information provides suggestions about fun age-appropriate activities to promote the overall development of children. The literacy-based education games was something that migrant parents wanted added to the literacy in the home initiative. The second round of migrant education family nights is nearly complete. There were various themes that provided instruction in the science, math, and literacy content areas. Reports for the migrant education family nights are included in the board packet.

Boarding Home

Boarding home information has been distributed by sending an application and relevant information to the parents of each 8th grader that attend school at our K-8 sites, the information was or will be placed on the agenda of a CSC meeting at each K-8 site, and

the information has been posted to the district website.

Title VII Indian Education

Part II of the Indian Education application is now available for submission. The Indian Education was one of several grants that I was able to present information about at a number of communities CSC meetings. It was also the grant that generated the most discussion at site CSC meetings. The overall feedback about the use of these funds has been very positive and would like to continue to see the use of the funds for the development of the district Yup'ik Studies program.

Career & Technical Education: Industrial Arts

The industrial arts curriculum committee identified a need for a welding II course for our students. So Rich Harrelson from Koliganek took it upon himself to develop the course description and align it to the appropriate standards. The result is a full year one-credit course titled IND511 S1 & S2 Welding II that will be offered next school year. A number of industry recognized certificates (NCCER Welding Level II) have been integrated throughout the course that will provide the opportunity for students to gain industry recognized certifications in welding.

In addition, the course description for the first class within in education pathway has been completed and is aligned to the appropriate standards. This work is based on the education pathway curriculum

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committee that includes Larry Bartman, Mollia White, Fanny Parker, Esther Ilutsik, Steve Noonkesser, and myself. This course is designed around the Future Educators of Alaska program through the University of Alaska. We are working on making this course a dual credit class through the University of Alaska system. This is the first course in a series that will be developed with the intent on getting students interested in the education field and hopefully coming back to teach in our schools.



Student Information & Support Specialist: Kyle Schneider

School Messenger

In January, Kyle began looking into software that would allow district and school administrators to easily contact parents with phone, email, and text messages about important school notices (i.e. school closures, delays, important events, etc.) After speaking with staff in Northwest Arctic Borough School District, Ketchikan Gateway School District, and Dillingham City School districts, we have selected a product from Reliance Communications called SchoolMessenger.

SchoolMessenger plugs into PowerSchool and will allow principals, secretaries, and administrators at the district office to send messages to parents and students without leaving the PowerSchool website. SchoolMessenger will also provide us reports that explain who received each message, whether the call was answered or went to voicemail, and which numbers are no longer working. This will have the added benefit of helping secretaries know which numbers need to be updated in student records.

Third Quarter D/F Letters

With the end of the third quarter, letters were sent home to the parents of any high school student who received a letter grade of D or F for a class during the quarter. These letters explain the graduation requirements to parents and the minimum grade a student needs for the semester in order to receive credit for the class. It also encourages parents to contact their child's teachers about additional help for students who need it.

Migrant Education

On March 26th, Kyle traveled to New Stuyahok to attend their final Migrant Education Family Night of the year. At the family night teachers read a book about the meaning of quilts and how the different pieces of each quilt had meaning for a family. Students then worked with their parents to decorate squares with pictures that were meaningful to them. That weekend, Deb Endicott travelled to New Stuyahok and sewed the quilt together. Once completed, the quilt was raffled off to one of the families that attended to the Migrant Education Family Night.

Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) Course Eligibility Assurances

The Alaska Performance Scholarship is now requiring documentation of which courses the district deems eligible for progress towards earning the scholarship. Our course offerings have been updated to reflect new courses that were taught or introduced this year.

Any course with a name that does not exactly match what is listed on the APS checklist (http://acep.alaska.gov/Portals/0/APS/Forms/APS_2015_Checklist.pdf) has to have a course eligibility form completed that lays out the course content, standards met, unit timeline and information about the credit earned.

The list of eligible courses can be found on our website (<http://www.swrsd.org/home/SWRSDAPSReferenceChart.pdf>) and the individual course eligibility forms are on file in the Student Support Specialist's office.

Participation Rate Report

With the start of Standards Based Assessment (SBA) and High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE) testing on April 1st, information about the students enrolled in our schools on that date has to be sent into the Department of Education and Early Development (EED). This information is used to determine our participation rate in the tests for the Alaska School Performance Index (ASPI). Kyle has completed this report and submitted it to EED.

PowerSchool

Pearson released an update to PowerSchool at the end of March that changed the way teachers accessed their gradebooks. Instead of launching their gradebooks via a website, which was often troublesome, teachers now have an application on their computers to reliably launch their gradebooks. Kyle spent the first week of April working with teachers to get their computers updated.

Kyle has also been working on creating a page that allows school secretaries to easily identify when students are missing key pieces of information, like phone numbers or addresses so that information can be updated. That page is about 95% complete and will be finished this spring as time allows.

Google Apps

Last school year Google Apps for Education (<https://www.google.com/enterprise/apps/education/>) was activated for our district. Google Apps for Education includes a collaborative office suite called Google Drive and access to GMail (which we are filtering through Gaggle - <https://www.gaggle.net>) for our students.

The Secondary Education Specialist (Tim Phillips) has been supporting teachers who are using this software, with Kyle serving as a backup for periods when Tim is unavailable. For this coming school year, the Computer Aided Instruction Specialist (Corey Evans) will be the main contact for teachers needing support and Kyle will continue to serve in a backup role. In order to prepare for this change, both Kyle and Corey traveled to Anchorage for a Google Apps training on April 5th and 6th.

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Counseling & Assessment Specialist: Steve Ito

The Standards Based Assessments (SBA) and High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE) have been completed district-wide for grades 3-10 within the allowable EED April testing window. The SBA and HSGQE are proficiency based criterion referenced tests developed specifically for Alaska. The purpose of the assessment is to provide information about what students know and are able to do in reading, writing, and mathematics. The test includes multiple choice and constructed response items. Testing is used to determine site and district wide Alaska School Performance Index (ASPI) when used in conjunction with site participation and performance data.

The World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment WIDA ACCESS test has been completed district-wide and submitted for scoring. The ACCESS Test is an assessment of English language acquisition required by EED for identified Limited English Proficient students that focuses on listening, speaking, reading and writing.





Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director

Site Visit to New Stuyahok

Angutekayak Louise Gloko, Yup'ik Studies teacher of Manokotak accompanied me to visit the New Stuyahok Yup'ik Studies program. She writes,

"I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to travel to New Stuyahok. I saw their beautiful classroom; saw how it has a significant impact to the staff, students and the elders. The projects they did are different than ours and gave me more ideas to plan for my students and elders here in Manokotak. I enjoyed the time we were there, loved the comfort and all the space they had in their classroom. Quyana so much once again for giving me an opportunity to go and go observe another school in our district, I am looking forward for changes in my class for a better teaching environment and have more ideas for my students and elders. Quyana/Thank you!"



New Stuyahok Yup'ik Studies program taught by Anguk'aq Justin Gumlickpuk and Tat'iq Tatianna Andrew flowed with positive energies of the Elders as the students engaged themselves in the study of the Yup'ik language and projects. Some of the projects had the students engaged in making miniature caches modeled after the traditional caches used in the past, stretching beaver skins, finishing up uluaq (of which

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Angutekayak and I were proud recipients of) making wooden ice hooks, fur sewing and qaspeq making. All students, elders and Yup'ik studies teachers were totally engaged! Quyana, Anguk'aq and Tat'iq.

Ayaaginarr Sophie Alexie's TPRS K-2nd Yup'ik Studies teacher had her students fully engaged in her lessons with the Certified teachers being an active part of the instruction. It was obvious that the students had retained and enjoyed the lessons taught to them. What a great teacher! Quyana Ayaaginarr!

New Stuyahok Elder Ingriq Katherine Chocknuk is the eldest of seven sisters and one brother. She says that her late father raised her like a son. She went out hunting with him, worked with the dogs and sleds, went out on the trap line, helped to process all the game caught, and worked with fish whether through the ice or on the river. She is a great asset to the New Stuyahok Yup'ik Studies program with a strong Yup'ik language and experiences of the subsistence life style.

Her advice to the students:

"It is very important that you know about your cultural heritage, the values and the subsistence way of life. Remember what your Elders have taught and shared with you. As you get older you will use that information. It is also important that you get a high school education, I was only able to reach 7th grade. If you work hard in school you will succeed in both worlds! But the most important is ALWAYS RESPECT YOUR ELDERS.

Quyana Elder Ingriq!



K-2 Yup'ik Studies Curriculum Committee

The K-2nd Curriculum Committee held a working retreat in Twin Hills March 14-15, 2014. Those participating included our host Maalu Martha Foster, Twin Hills Yup'ik Studies Aide, Ayaaginarr Sophie Alexie, New Stuyahok Yup'ik Studies K-2nd Aide, Itegmialria Herbert Lockuk, Togiak Yup'ik Studies 1st/2nd Aide and Arnaq Esther A.Ilutsik, Yup'ik Studies Director of the District Office. Reviewed the new units for the spring: Pitegcurliq, Qiuryiit & Can'gaq, Anguyak, Evegtaq and Qayasiq. And begin the task of reviewing and revising and



creating units for the 2014 and 2015 school year.

Quyana, Itegmialria for making the daily trek over with your snow machine from Togiak.

And Quyana, to Ayaaginaar for making the long trip over despite being weathered in for an extra day.

Quyana, to our wonderful host Maalu and the Twin Hills schools.

Quyana cakneq!



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Aleknagik School

Audra Finkenbinder, Principal/Teacher

As the end of the school year nears, the faster time seems to fly! Since the last report, quite a few activities have taken place: Pizza Party for the Reading Challenge, Standards Based Assessments, Migrant Education Night, Game Nights, and CSC Elections. Future activities include an Easter Carnival, the AIMSweb Fluency Assessment, MAP Testing, student trip for grades 6th–8th, graduation for kindergarten and eighth grade students, and an end-of-year picnic.

Reading Challenge & Party

The students accepted the Reading Challenge set forth in January and read over 100 books and passed the Accelerated Reader tests with an 80% or higher. After completing the challenge, they were rewarded with a Pizza Party!

Standards–Based Assessments

The students remained as focused as possible while preparing for the Standards Based Assessments and during the testing days. Although the K-2 students are not included in the testing, they were involved in the process as they participated in the Pep Assembly prior to testing and were willing to help prepare the mid-morning snacks.

At the conclusion of testing, the students were able to relax and have some fun by attending a Game Night and enjoying hamburgers!



Migrant Education Night

The goal of the evening was to help introduce students to the world of chemistry while adding a host of new vocabulary words. This was accomplished through the process of making “golden pennies”! Sponsored by Randy Finkenbinder, the students had a wonderfully enjoyable time while watching a chemical reaction that turned pennies into “gold”. The event was followed with a hamburger feast and basketball games.



William ‘Sonny’ Nelson School

Nate Preston, Principal/Teacher

Standards Based Assessments or SBAs have been the focus at William “Sonny” Nelson School at this time of year. The students and staff have been preparing for and diligently working towards these assessments all year. We eagerly await the results to see if we made our site goal of a four star school on the Alaska School Performance Index. We know we will no longer be a one star school next year. Our attendance is one hundred days better compared to last year. This gives us at least 3.75 more points on the star rating and we only missed being a two star school by .32 points. We will continue to work on the students’ academic progress focusing on areas of weakness for the rest of the school year.

We are getting ready for maintenance’s summer projects at our site. They should finish painting and doing the trim inside the school building. The white painting they have done in the halls already improves the atmosphere and feeling of the school. I never imagined that going from a dark brown to a white would make such a difference. In addition, the new housing unit should have its artic entries and freezer installed. The new completed housing unit makes living in Ekwok much more enjoyable.

We will be finishing off the year with a graduation ceremony for two eighth graders on May 12. That brings our school numbers down to nine but we have four incoming kindergarteners counting two early entry kindergartners, which should bring us back up to thirteen students to start the next school year. Even if we lose two students over the summer we will still be good. In addition to our eighth graders graduating, we will be giving awards for attendance. We are also going to celebrate Peter Walcott’s planned retirement ceremony but we will not be saying goodbye because the CSC plans to appoint him to their empty seat for next year. We will be serving hot dogs, potato salad, ice cream and cake after the ceremony and awards.

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Koliganek School

Cody McCanna, Principal

Focusing on Standards

Koliganek School, like all schools in the state, focused on SBA testing the first two weeks of April. To help prepare students all teachers in grades 3-10 gave students practice assessments during the month of March. Also, the school provided breakfast during testing days and made sure all students had healthy snacks during breaks. Then on Friday we had an ice-cream social for all students to celebrate their hard work and efforts. Koliganek had a village wide Reading Contest during the months on February and March. When the challenge ended March 31 the village of Koliganek had read 1,961 chapters. This will be a goal that we can reach for next year.

Family Literacy Night

On April 3 at 3:30 Koliganek School had an early visit from the Easter Bunny on Family Literacy Night for Migrant Education. Students and their parents were given the opportunity to eat some ice-cream, go on an egg hunt, plant some flowers, and walk home with some free books. At the end of the evening all students left with at least three books, a pot full of flower seeds ready to be watered and a smile on their faces.



School Activities

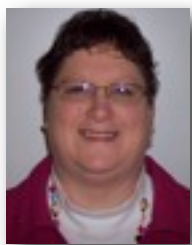
Native Youth Olympics is the current draw for 6-12 students. Magdeline Kapatak and Samantha Ishnook were both dominant forces at the New Stuyahok meet April 4. Both seniors won several events. The juniors and seniors will be traveling to Anchorage and Seward for a career trip sponsored by Bristol Industries. Bristol Industries has chosen Koliganek School to be their partner school for the last three years now. Students are going to visit UAA, Job Corps, AVTEC, Medalian Flight Center, BBNC and learn about various opportunities that await them after high school.

Students of the Month:

K-1: Gusty Tungjung IV	2-3: Elizabeth Norbert	4-5: Gust Johnson
6-8: Natasha Hobson	9-12: Charmaine Stewart	

Positive Behavior Reward Recipients

K-1: Garrett McCanna	2-3: Tristan Tungjung	4-5: Erik Johnson
6-8: Abigail Johnson	9-12: Samantha Ishnook	



Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Deb Forkner, Principal

Third quarter awards were presented at Manokotak Nunaniq School on March 14. Students were recognized for perfect attendance, honor rolls and 2 students were named Student of the Quarter. Congratulations to Racquel Apalayak and Annie Masterman for their outstanding work and dedication at school.

On March 19 students and staff enjoyed an afternoon of playing kickball as we joined BBNHC's Kickbutts campaign to raise awareness about the harmful affects of tobacco use. Students learned a new game and fun was had by all.

On March 25 Manokotak School hosted our second Migrant Education literacy night. Families were treated to pizza after visiting various learning stations including; making snow, creating handprints, making goop and reading stories. Clifford the Big Red Dog paid a visit as well.

SBA and HSGQE testing went off without a hitch. Students enjoyed breakfast at the school each of the testing days. Thanks to the staff and parents who volunteered to help with cooking and serving breakfast.

Congratulations to our CSC election winners: Melvin Andrew, Edward Nick Sr., Wassillie Tugatuk, and Bibiana Gloko. We appreciate their willingness to serve and support our school and community.

Principal Forkner attended a working conference in Anchorage on designing and implementing the new teacher evaluation system April 8 and 9. Forkner also helped with recruiting new teachers at the Anchorage job fair on April 11 and 12.

All Manokotak high school students attended the Dillingham career fair on April 10. Students in grades 11 and 12 then traveled to Anchorage to visit AVTEC, Job Core and UAA. Students also attended a play, visited the Sea Life Center and Aviation museum while in Anchorage.

We are looking forward to the end of the school year and graduation on May 9.



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'Chief' Ivan Blunka School

Robin Jones, Principal

Week of March 31–April 4, 2014:

We just finished the reading, writing, and math components of SBA testing with nearly perfect attendance! We were also fortunate to receive parent involvement funding to provide breakfast each morning of testing. The parents were happy to serve breakfast to the students and the proctors were happy to eat, as well! We are really hoping to see improved scores after a year of focused interventions.

Week of April 7–11, 2014:

Our student council is traveling to Fairbanks this week to attend the spring Alaska Association of Student Government (AASG) conference. The student council will also visit the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) campus to explore different college and career opportunities. The student council has diligently fundraised throughout the year and are so deserving of this unique opportunity!

Week of April 14–18, 2014:

We will have two UAF student teachers visiting and working with our secondary staff in the areas of language arts and social studies. The rural practicum component is a unique way to expose teachers to both the rigor and adventure of working in rural Alaska and also a great recruitment effort.

We will be administering the ACT to all 11th and 12th graders.

The 10 incoming kindergarten students for next year will participate in two full transition days, where they will shadow and work with the current kindergarten teachers and students to get oriented for next year.

The Girl Scouts of America will also be hosting a science camp for students at the school.

On Friday (April 18), all of the teachers will participate in a Professional Learning Community (PLC) workshop, where we will dedicate time for the groups to continue to explore the standard shifts for math and language arts.



Student of the Month
Anuska Walcott – 6th Grade

Student of the Month
Gabriella Andrew – 12th Grade

Employees of the Month
Kylie Shuneson & Nick Gust, Jr.



Togiak School

Sam Gosuk, Principal

As the year is coming to an end, staff and students are looking forward to the end of the school year.

This month has been a busy month for Togiak School. The teachers had contact with the parents during Migrant Ed nights where they did activities with the both the parents and students. During these nights, teacher instructed to talk to the parents about the coming SBA tests and its importance to our students. Posters had been hung up for the coming SBAs and then VHF announcement during the week of the SBAs were made both in English and Yupik. As a result, the students had a very good attendance for SBAs and during the first day, there was only one person missing who had a hospital appointment. The teachers, students, and community did an excellent job of working together for our SBA tests.

Another event that happened in the community involving teachers and community is that our new Community Library was done and books, furniture, and computers were moved. They got the books packaged and when it was time to move them, several trucks showed up and they were able to move the library books and equipment to the new Community Library.

Finally, this week, as a result of the Traditional Council, local elders and cultural experts working together, they were able to provide for our cultural week and supply funds for instructors. The week of April 14th to 18th is our cultural week and we look forward to the instructors, staff, and the experts of traditional knowledge and skills passing on their knowledge and skills the next generation.





Twin Hills School

Meghan Redmond, Lead Teacher

Student of the Month – DEC

Ivan Sharp - (Grades K-2)

Kiersi Hammock - (Grades 3-5)

Sylvia Henry - (Grades 6-8)

I would like to take this chance to thank the staff at Twin Hills School, especially Megan Humphrey, and at the SWRSD District Office for all of the extra work they did and help they provided while I was out of the district on maternity leave. I was able to leave knowing the school was in good hands and return without a huge pile of issues to deal with.

We held our second and final Migrant Education Night at the end of March. Students and parents attended to complete art activities. To get ready for the return of Spring and the sun, the students and parents decorated sun catchers and wind chimes. Snacks of fresh fruit, vegetables, and lemonade were provided to all who attended. Fun was had by all, but we finally had to call it a night or the students would have painted until curfew!

SBA testing is complete for another year. 3rd-8th grade students worked hard for an entire week to show what they have learned in the past school year. Every morning, the staff worked together to provide the students a hot breakfast of either pancakes or scrambled eggs. With this being the last year of the paper/pencil state exam, we are all very excited and anxious to see what next year's state testing has in store for us!



Aleknagik-Wood River Bridge groundbreaking ceremony

