

# 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

### **Staffing**

The District has completed the 30-day period for most employees to accept contract offers for next year. At the present time, the District has 14 positions open and is actively recruiting externally to fill the vacancies.

District and site administrators have utilized the in on-line Alaska Teacher Placement (ATP) web site and have already filled five (5) positions. These include the recommended hire of Patty Lindow (Ekwok, AK) for the William “Sonny” Nelson School in Ekwok, Anastasia Ishnook (Koliganek, AK) for the Koliganek School, Megan Green (Stebbins, AK) for the Manokotak ‘Nunaniq’ School, and Julia and Patrick Trischman (Sheridan, MT) for the Togiak School.

The job fair circuit begins with Tacoma (Washington Educator Fair) on Thursday, March 27th followed by the Seattle ATP Fair on Saturday March 29th. The Minneapolis ATP Job Fair will be held on Sunday, April 6th, and then followed by the Minnesota Education Job Fair at the Minneapolis Convention Center on Tuesday, April 8th. The Anchorage ATP Fair will be held on Friday and Saturday, April 11th and 12th at the Sheraton Hotel this year. Recruiting teams are also scheduled to attend the Missoula Job Fair and April 14th and the Oregon Professional Educator Fair in Portland on April 15th and 16th. As with previous years job fairs are anticipated to be fast-paced, so it can be challenging to complete an interview, check on

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

references, and meet with a candidate to make sure that they will be a good fit for the community and school in a short amount of time.

## Legislative Issues

This year's legislative session will conclude on Easter Sunday, April 20th. In addition to the Alaska Association of School Boards (AASB) February Legislative Fly-In, district staff have been monitoring the prospective legislations regarding funding and other education issues through the Legislative Information Office (LIO) in Dillingham and the Alaska Legislature TV channel (<http://akl.tv>) on the world wide web.

This year Governor Parnell included Education as a focus during his State of the State speech. This has spurred comprehensive legislation in both the House and the Senate to include various education funding and issue components. The general tone of the legislature and Governor's office this year promotes the passage of educational funding requests. While we don't know what the final outcome will be, the District is hopeful that the Base Student Allocation (BSA) and other funding mechanisms will be increased to meet the budgetary needs of the district.



## Superintendent Travel

Superintendent Piazza, Director of Instruction Noonkesser, and Special Education Director Robin Gray also participated in the Alaska Association of School Administrator's (AASA) Legislative Fly-In at the beginning of March. The event included information presented by the Commissioner of Education and Early Development Mike Hanley, as well as, legislative reports regarding the Alaska Learning Network (AKLN) by Fairbanks Superintendent Pete Lewis, the Alaska Association of School Boards (AASB) by Executive Director Joseph Reeves and Director of School Improvement and Governmental Relations Norm Wooten, the Citizens for the Educational Advancement of Alaska's Children (CEAAC) by President Norm Eck, and the Large School Districts by Kenai Superintendent Steve Atwater. AASA's Executive Director Bruce Johnson provided a comprehensive bill review and political context regarding each of the Legislative Bills currently being considered by the legislature.

The team was able to attend one of the Senate Education Committee meetings as well as meet with several of the legislators including Representative Bryce Edgmon and Senator Gary Stevens. A meeting with Rynnieva Moss, Chief of Staff to Senator John Coghill, brought the District's goal to have a state statute change to allow the funding of Elementary level boarding home students to the forefront again.

A visit to the Department of Education and Early Development offices, provided time for district staff to meet and greet many of the individuals that they work with primarily through email and phone communications. It is always of value to place a name with a face, and to have a few minutes to discuss upcoming deadlines and reporting procedures.



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Director

### PROGRAM SUPPORT & TRAVEL

This month Steve traveled to Juneau with Superintendent Piazza and Special Education Director Gray for the AASA Legislative Fly-In. The team attended a day of workshops on legislative issues relevant to our students, schools and communities. On Monday, we attended the Senate Education Committee meetings where Steve testified in support of SB100, a bill that will, if passed, fund a new 1-1 program using tablet technologies at the elementary level state-wide. Later that day, we again met with several legislators, including Senate Education Committee Chair, Senator Gary Stevens and Representative Bryce Edgmon. We also met with Senator Coghill's Chief of Staff, Rynnieva Moss regarding progress on our proposed amendment to current boarding home bill to gain relief for the costs of the elementary boarding home program that the district is currently undertaking without state support. Our discussions are continuing with both Senator Coghill's and the Commissioner's offices to determine the best method for remedying the situation. It appears at this point that it may be a regulatory issue, but legal staff in both offices are working to help us and we are hopeful of a solution soon. On Tuesday morning, we met with staff at the Department of Education and Early Development regarding a number of issues facing us currently and we returned home with a better idea of what we need to monitor as we move farther into this session. At this point in the session, things are changing rapidly with bills being amended week to week. One example of this is the amendment to SB179 (the Governor's omnibus bill that we discussed at the last board meeting). The section of that bill regarding removal of the HSGQE requirement has been amended to "grandfather-in" and grant diplomas to students who met district graduation requirements, but were denied a diploma based on HSGQE results. We are monitoring this and other bills that we believe able to impact us closely as the session progresses.

## 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



Work continues on updating our evaluation system for staff. We are planning to meet with a group of teachers from across the district to review progress on the update and get teacher feedback on proposed changes to the current system.

## **Instructional Team Notes**

### **Science Program Update**

- March is the month when Elementary Science ends their Physical Science units and begins the Earth Science lessons. Science Tubs are in the process of being exchanged at sites with the help of Maintenance and Food Service as they add our tubs to their trips and shipments of food.
- We are also returning Science Fairs to our program this year by supporting classrooms to conduct class experiments and produce display boards for their classroom experiments. Some sites have chosen to hold a site Science Fair, with judging of student experiments. The goal this year is to introduce the projects to students and generate interest and enthusiasm. This coming school year, we will be hosting a district-wide competition. Hopes are that our district winners would be encouraged to participate at the State competition. Planning and implementing a Science Fair is a substantial undertaking and it will take efforts of many to organize this positive academic event.

### **Media Center**

- Deb is continuing to work on making Media Center more accessible and updating materials for teachers to check out to supplement lessons. We have over 500 titles in book sets with both fiction and non-fiction stories available. Each title has multiple copies, some also have teacher's edition and kits included. All are recorded with genre, reading level and a brief introduction to the story. This resource will be well utilized as we transition into the new standards for reading and language arts.

### **Site Orders**

- This time of year, we are already planning for 2014/2015 calendar school year. We are busy collecting student textbook, workbook and teacher materials needs from staff for next year. Our goal is to have the orders placed and received at sites by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Employee Recognition**

- Employee Recognition time is here again and we are looking for recommendations for those individuals who have consistently gone "above and beyond" in providing service to our children. If you know of a teacher, para-professional or classified employee who would qualify for an award, please talk with your principal or district office personnel to share their success. Deadline is April 25, 2014.

### **Alaska Society for Technology in Education Conference**

- In late February, a number of district employees attended the ASTE 2014 Conference in Anchorage. They had the opportunity to learn more about emerging trends in educational technology, attend sessions where various topics about using technology in the classroom were covered, and visit with vendors to see the latest in educational technologies. Staff has always enjoyed attending this conference, and often comment that it is the best staff development opportunity that they have attended. This year



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tim attended sessions that focused on the following areas: distance education, iOS in the classroom, cyber bullying, and any session that helped teachers use technology more effectively in their classrooms.

- Tim also had the opportunity to listen to and talk with some of the Lower Kuskokwim School District staff members about how they address the problem of educating students over distance. He was impressed with the method they use to teach a course to many over distance by combining the use of a learning management system (LMS), such as Moodle, and using videoconferencing equipment. It is a model that we could look towards if the time comes for us to pursue a path of distance education in our schools.
- Les and Corey also met with representatives from Apple to discuss potential iPad pricing and new deployment technologies.
- Les Park, Corey Evans, Kyle Schneider, and Tim Phillips had the opportunity to represent Southwest Region Schools as part of the tech team that provided support at the conference. Each day they assisted with room setup and takedown for presenters and conference participants.

## 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:

- 2013-14 eRate funding is now in Selective Review status.
- Vendor proposals received for 2014-15 eRate Form 471 filing; vendors chosen and notified... 2014-15 Form 471 submitted and certified "In-Window." 2014-15 Item 21 attachments submitted.
- 2014-15 eRate funding is in first set of PIA Review questions.
- Purchase Order for KNW / KMO WiFi / telephone system upgrades completed... Vendor has received equipment and is completing pre-configurations... Equipment installations are scheduled to begin 03/17/14 and roll-overs to new systems 03/21/14.

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

- A large part of Corey's time this past month was spent in initial planning for a district-wide iPad project to enhance our instructional program at the elementary level. The primary goal of this project is to positively affect early literacy development in our K-3 students, as well as provide our middle elementary students with updated educational resources that will help them prepare for the expectations they will encounter in upper grades.
- During the conference he participated in the State technology leadership summit and participated in the discussion on distance learning issues and solutions for Alaska.



## State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

### AK STEPP – School & District Improvement Planning

The district improvement team has completed the district needs assessment and is in the process of addressing the changes to the requirements of the improvement planning process. The six goal areas will be integrated into the improvement planning process in a better effort to have a singular message, plan, and focus as the district moves forward in the planning process. This will help streamline our collaborative efforts into a single process to move forward with our district's vision.

### Site Visits

I traveled to Togiak to participate in their first migrant family night, which was focused on literacy. Students were given a \$50 “gift certificate” to purchase books for their personal library at the book fair occurring at the school. I was able to talk with a number of parents about the services that the migrant program offers and what other services would be helpful. I also traveled to Manokotak to attend a CSC meeting. Information about the various grants was presented, including the Indian Education and Impact Aid grants. School level and district level student achievement and the Alaska School Performance Index was also presented.

### Migrant Education – Services

Each one of our schools was able to complete the first of two migrant family nights. One family night is focused on literacy and the other family night is centered-around science and/or art. The family

nights are designed to provide some information on how parents can support academics at home, to provide a learning opportunity for students, and to have a great time! Included in the board packets are the reports from many of the family nights that occurred last month.

The migrant program continues the collaborative effort to expand services. We are starting the process of developing additional partnerships with regional organizations are continuing in an effort to provide support to migrant students and their parents. Our school leaders are coming up with innovative ways to provide services to migrant students by targeting specific skills and grade spans.



### Student Information & Support Specialist: Kyle Schneider

#### PowerSchool

With the end of the third quarter, Kyle has been working with principals to store grades so that report cards can be printed and honor rolls can be created.

#### Schoolnet

Kyle has been continuing work to get past standardized test scores into the new Schoolnet software that was rolled out this fall. He has been working to load WorkKeys, ACT, and ACCESS for ELLs scores this month. IPT, Terra Nova, Brigance, and PPVT scores still need to be loaded.

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

## **PowerSchool**

Kyle has been working with a new tool that plugs into PowerSchool called EMailer by Phoenix Learning Systems during the last month. EMailer allows data to be extracted from PowerSchool and sent via email to selected recipients. The following reports are currently being sent:

- Daily Enrollment Changes - principals, counselors, and secretaries receive an email each day that lists students who have been enrolled or transferred out of their schools, if there were any.
- Class Enrollment Changes - teachers receive an email each day that lists students who have been enrolled or exited from their class, if there were any.
- Principals at middle/high schools receive an email at the end of each week listing any students that were tardy during the week and how many tardies they had.
- Principals and secretaries receive an email each day listing the students who have been marked as absent and what periods they were marked as absent.

## **Manokotak CSC Meeting**

Kyle was able to fly to Manokotak on February 20th to attend a CSC meeting. While there, he spent time answering PowerSchool questions from the staff. He also was able to look at the impressive hallway displays showing off books that students had read, things they had learned, and poems they had written.

## **Alaska Society for Technology in Education Conference (ASTE)**

At the end of February, Kyle attended the four day Alaska Society for Technology in Education conference in Anchorage. During the conference he was able to meet with PowerSchool administrators from other districts in Alaska along with staff who

complete the many of the same state and federal reports that Kyle works on.



**Counseling & Assessment Specialist: Steve Ito**

WIDA ACCESS Testing concludes March 31st. All sites administered tests to identified LEP students district wide. Completed answer sheets will be delivered 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.

Alternate Assessment testing has been completed for students with significant cognitive disabilities. The Alternate Assessment satisfies the requirement for all students in grades 3-10 to participate in statewide assessments. The Alternate Assessment is a non-diploma track test, based on Alaska standards but measured against alternate achievement goals.

Standards Based Assessments (SBA) and High School Graduating Qualifying Exams (HSGQE) have been received and are currently being shipped to sites. The grade 3-9 SBA and grade 10 SBA/HSGQE are proficiency-based, criterion-referenced tests

developed specifically for Alaska. The purpose of the assessments is to provide information about what students know and are able to do in reading, writing, math, and science (science for grades 4,8, & 10). The tests include multiple-choice and constructed-response items. District-wide SBA reading, writing and math testing will be on



April 1st. – 3rd. make-up testing will follow if needed. District-wide SBA science testing will take place on April 8th.

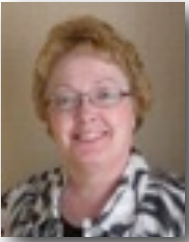
The Grade 10 SBA–HSGQE and the HSGQE Retest are proficiency-based, criterion-referenced tests developed specifically for Alaska. Test administration will occur April 1st. through April 3rd. Schools administer the reading test on April 1, the writing test on April 2, and the mathematics test on April 3. EED regulation does not permit variations on this schedule. There are no provisions for make-up testing with the HSGQE. There is no Science test for HSGQE retest individuals.

SBA scores are used to determine Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) based on participation and performance for schools and school districts statewide each year.



Third grade Yup'ik Studies class in Togiak.

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Special Education

Robin Gray, Director

The month of March has been focused on compliance and continuing services for the students. Staff will spend the next two months ensuring that all the paperwork is done and ready for the end of the year.

In conjunction with Dillingham City Schools and SERRC, we are planning the transition camp for April 7 – 10, 2014. We will be using the Dillingham Schools facility and work as a team to provide our students with the opportunity of seeing what their options are as they progress through and out of school. We will also participate in the April 10th Career Fair in Dillingham. After the career fair the students will give presentations on their career plans then return to their villages.

Hiring and job fairs will be a focus from this month through the rest of the school year.

New Stuyahok did a Crisis Prevention Intervention renewal training this month during one of their inservice days.



Ekwok Yup'ik Studies instructor, Judy Walcott, works with students.



## Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director

### Yup'ik Studies Curriculum Meeting for 3rd, 4th & 5th Grades

A meeting was held on February 20, 2014 with Natu Bertha Pavian-Lockuk and Itegmialria Herbert Lockuk of TOG, Maalu Martha Foster of TWA, Angutekayak Louise Gloko of KMO and Tat'iq Tatianna Andrew of KNW. This meeting focused on sharing what is currently being taught at those levels in the respective schools, getting an overview of the current K-2nd TPRS program, reviewing Yup'ik studies curriculum from other school districts and brainstorming ideas of what needs to be done at this level specifically looking at the K-2nd TPRS and our Yup'ik Studies Outcome. Work will continue into the next school year. Quyana, to the YST for your willingness to share your knowledge and expert as we begin work on building a Yup'ik Studies curriculum for this level.

We welcome Panik Judy Walcott, Yup'ik Studies Aide who is teaching in Ekwok. She moved to Ekwok in 1985. She has two years of experience in teaching the Yup'ik language and culture. She is eager to learn more about the language and the history of our people so that she can share this information with the students. Quyana Panik!





# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Natu Bertha Pavian-Lockuk teaches 3rd, 4th 5th and 6th grade Yup'ik studies on a weekly basis in Togiak. I had the wonderful opportunity to observe her as she taught the 3rd grade class (Mrs. Alexie's class). She entered with her plastic tote full of treasurers. She began her class by telling the students that that they were going to read about how to make yo-yo's and after which they (if time permitted) would begin a yo-yo project. She used the book titled, Yuuyuuk by Liz Atseriak and illustrated by Cara Brunk, LKSD. She began reading the book in Yup'ik and translating parts as needed. Frequently, she checked for understanding and proceeded until the book was finished. She then told the students that they would begin by making yarn strings by using their hands and fingers (emphasized hands and fingers in Yup'ik prior to the reading of the book). And that they would use the traditional measurement of the arm- length of their own bodies to measure out the length of yarn that they would need to make the string attachment. Each row was called and with the help of Mrs. Alexie the student's names were written on a piece of masking tape and attached to the yarn lengths. They were placed into a plastic container. The lesson would continue the following week.

Elder Qinuran Roger Evon of Manokotak is a great asset to the Yup'ik studies program. He is currently working with the 7th and 8th grade students in constructing a sled. He will be teaching the students how to mend and make salmon nets later this spring. Elder Qinuran is a self-taught man who attributes a lot of his success to a strong Yup'ik language background. He taught himself to fix all types of machines by observing, asking questions, and trying things out until they worked. In addition he does a lot of reading about all these modern machines that are currently being used within the community and integrates that with his strong local knowledge base. Angutekayak Louise Gloko, Yup'ik Studies Instructor was amazed at the skills this Elder brought with him. During the first couple of weeks in the class he fixed a lot of tools and machines that were broken and now are usable.

***Quyana cakneq, Qinuran!***







## Facilities & Maintenance

**Rick Dallmann, Director**

### Clarks Point

- Held community meeting on March 11th to discuss the Quitclaim Deed that was granted in 1986 from the City of Clarks Point to Southwest Region School District to be used for Educational purposes. There is a Revocation clause with this Deed: at such time block nine (9) Tract B of Survey 4992 (school site) is no longer used for Educational Services this land and all holdings revert back to the City of Clarks Point.
- The City of Clarks Point is in agreement for the District to declare that the land and holdings are no longer need for educational services and will prepare the appropriate Quitclaim Deed Granting all Land and Holdings back to the City of Clarks Point and have such documents presented for recording in the Bristol Bay Recording District, Third Judicial District State of Alaska.
- Wording will be included to ensure in the future if there is a need to reopen the school provisions will be made for the City of Clarks Point to work with the District to provide educational facilities.
- Once the School Board has declared the site is no longer needed for educational services and approves the Quitclaim Deed we can move forward with the transfer and recording.
- Quitclaim Deed will be presented to the City of Clarks Point for Review, once all parties are in agreement the Deed will be signed and Notarized, and then presented for recording. Anticipated final turn over to the City of Clarks Point April 30th 2014.

### New Stuyahok

- Heat Recovery Project is Bidding March 21st results due April 15th

### Koliganek

- Mining operations for gravel are underway, barge is being loaded in Seattle for an April 5th departure, and project is on schedule for Feb 2015 completion
- Teacher housing project is out for bid March 11th results due April 4th



### Manokotak

- Roof Project was put out for bid March 10th.
- We are expecting the Engineers report on the old school building demo by the end of the month and will plan for tear down when completed.
- Still working on concept design and fee schedule for the shop addition.

### Twin Hills

- Working with Yukon Fire Protection on permitting for kitchen hood suppression system

### Togiak

- Installed new compressor unit for reach in refrigerator for the school kitchen
- Quarterly digital controls site visit and on site training completed
- Water system testing completed for the month

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Aleknagik School

**Audra Finkenbinder, Principal/Teacher**

### Students of the Month

Austin Finkenbinder

Tasha Gilila

Time is really flying by – here we are already in the month of March enjoying the longer days and stint of winter-like weather. Right around the corner are the Standards Based Assessments so we have begun reviewing important test topics as well as test taking skills in order to prepare the students for the upcoming tests on April 1st-3rd.

During the month of February, Terry Fuller from the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge visited the school to present the Migratory Bird Calendar information as well as to encourage the students to submit either a drawing or composition for the Migratory Bird Calendar contest. A large number of the students submitted an entry and we are hopeful that we will have some contest winners!

Another event during February was a Migrant Education Night. Randy Finkenbinder planned many fun activities during the event that included predation and camouflage races as well as making ice cream via “kick the can”. In addition these two exciting physical events, pizza was served and the books the students had selected from Scholastic were handed out.

The Migrant Education Night was not the only group of students and parents getting physical. The Lakers competed in the Super Cub tournament in Dillingham on February 14th-15th. The team, coached by Randy Finkenbinder, showed some speed, agility and aggressive ball handling skills all the while having a blast on and off the court. Although the Lakers had an abbreviated season due to inclement weather, our home games were replaced with Parents vs. Players nights with both teams putting up a fight until the buzzer sounded. We are hoping that next year the weather allows the Lakers to host some home games as well as add to the travel schedule.



February also brought the State Battle of the Books competition with two teams representing Aleknagik School: the third/fourth grade team consisted of Ayden Ilutsik, Katrena Finkenbinder, and Austin

Finkenbinder and the fifth/sixth grade team was comprised of Tasha Gilila and Virginia Andrews. Each team placed third in their group and although neither team progressed to the final round, all students had fun and did a great job representing Aleknagik School and Southwest Region School District!

Aleknagik School also had some wonderful representation in the District Spelling Bee: Glenn Andrews, Austin Finkenbinder and Ayden Ilutsik competed for the district title and Glenn Andrews earned third place in his age group. Aleknagik School is very proud of the Battle of the Books and Spelling Bee participants and we look forward to the academic competitions next year!

In accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act and Southwest Region School's Acceptable Use Policy, all students received instruction in Basic Internet Safety in February and will receive training during the fourth quarter as well.

Under the direction of Melody Noden, the 6th-8th graders sewed baby booties that were sold at the Beaver Round Up as a fundraiser for the upcoming student trip. Melody provided superb instruction and together they made 18 pairs of wonderfully crafted booties.

Aleknagik School concluded the third quarter with Parent/Teacher Conferences during which parents were presented with the Student Data Folders containing AIMSweb, MAP and STAR results as well as the current report card.





# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## William ‘Sonny’ Nelson School

Nate Preston, Principal/Teacher

William “Sonny” Nelson School has just concluded the third quarter of the school year. We have finished the first Migrant night and are planning the second. We will have parent teacher conferences followed by Spring Break. Afterwards we will be focusing on the SBA tests that are right around the corner. In addition, we are still working on student enrollment for next year.

Our current academic focus is in preparing students for the SBA tests in the first week of April. As a staff, the school has analyzed each student’s practice SBA scores and MAP scores in the SBA’s subject areas of reading, writing and math. We have come up with one or two areas that each student can work on for each subject of the test. We will address these areas in school and during parent teacher conferences. We will enlist the help of parents to gain improvement in the students’ weakest areas. For example, in writing third grade is working on prefixes and suffixes for the “between, now, and, the” test. In math, one third grade student is working on geometry and the other is working on measurement and data. Lastly in reading both students are working on informational text. They will have both classwork and homework covering their weakest areas in writing. Our K-2 classes, which do not take the SBA, but they will continue to work on the curriculum. They will have supplemental work to cover their individual weaknesses found with the MAP testing.



Student numbers are looking good for next year. We will have one new 1st grade student enrolling this week. In addition, we have tested two 4 year olds for early entry into Kindergarten. They tested at the 5.0 - 5.5 year range and 5.6 - 5.11 considering they have five more months before schools starts and the tests does not take into account current age, we believe both will be eligible for early entry. This will bring our numbers to 13 students for the next school year.





## Koliganek School

Cody McCanna, Principal



### Third Quarter Coming to an End

Amazingly enough the 3rd Quarter has come and gone already. We find ourselves relatively close to the first week in April when our students will be taking the SBA assessments once again. Koliganek School has spent the year targeting specific academic areas for improvement that will hopefully end up with improved test scores. We are excited that we will also have Anastasia Ishnook completing her student teaching in our 4th and 5th grade classroom this spring as well.

### Family Literacy Night

On March 4, 2014 Koliganek School had an unusual visitor on Family Literacy Night for Migrant Education. It wasn't harry-man, but it was his distant relative, Joe the gorilla that graced us with his presence. Joe came to share his book with everyone about his life in the jungle. Since Joe could not talk, Rich Harrelson read his book to all the kids that were there. Afterwards, students got a copy of the Dr. Seuss book, "My Book About Me". Families used the book as a template to create their own book. Everyone also enjoyed making his or her own ice cream sundaes as well. Rich Harrelson organized the event and it was a success based on the smiles of students and parents leaving the school with bellies full of ice cream and books in their hands.

### School Activities

Koliganek School lady huskies had a hard battle at the District Tournament in Koliganek. The Huskies started off by beating New Stuyahok Friday night 58 to 40. They then went on to beat Manokotak in the championship game 72 to 58. The lady Huskies then traveled to Sand Point for the Regional Tournament. They beat King Cove to play in the championship game on Friday against Newhalen. They lost to Newhalen by 5 points and then had to beat King Cove again to go to State. In a nail biting game, the lady Huskies ended up beating King Cove 32-31 to earn a second place birth to State. The lady Huskies made us all proud when they returned with the Sportsmanship Award from the Regional tournament. The ladies will be traveling to Anchorage to play in the State Tournament.

### Behavior Reward Recipients for March:

K-1: Troy Tunguing  
6-8: Cole Dull

2-3: Paaraq Nelson  
9-12: Josh Nelson

4-5: Bradley Johnson

### Behavior Reward Recipients

K-1: Nastasha Nelson  
6-8: Joachim Gumlickpuk

2-3: Elizabeth Norbert  
9-12: Maggie Kapatak

4-5: Natasha Merlino

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Deb Forkner, Principal

Manokotak Nunaniq School 1st-6th graders were so excited to earn a pizza party for reading. They completed the district reading challenge in record time and had a great time celebrating their love of reading on Valentine's Day. Thank you to Pam Johnson and Deb Endicott for coordinating the reading challenge.

The reading fun continued on Feb. 27 with a school and community birthday party for Dr. Seuss. 57 of our 70 families, plus numerous elders turned out for family literacy night. Participants enjoyed a puppet show reading of Cat in the Hat, making Dr. Seuss hats and red fish, blue fish. We decorated birthday cup cakes and read, read, read Dr. Seuss books. Cat in the Hat, Thing 1 and Thing 2 pay a visit to the party as well.

Staff in-service on March 7 focused on strategies to increase student engagement and the use of data. The staff is also gearing up for state testing by focusing on test taking strategies and practice tests.

Dana Bartman is in the process of planning a career's exploration trip for our high school students. We are planning to send all high school students to Dillingham for the Career Fair on April 10. From there the plan is to send our juniors and seniors on to Anchorage to visit UAA, Avtec, Job Core, JBER and other career opportunities. Thank you to Manokotak School CSC for approving the use of JOM funds to provide this opportunity for our students.

Congratulations to Alkayuk Moore for representing Manokotak and SWRSD well at the state spelling bee by making it to the 5th round.





## 'Chief' Ivan Blunka School

Robin Jones, Principal

We just capped off a busy but very exciting weekend of basketball at Chief Ivan Blunka School. We had the opportunity to host the Regional tournament, where King Cove, St. Paul, Manokotak, New Halen, and Port Alsworth teams competed. The King Cove T-Jacks took 1st place and our hometown New Stuyahok Eagles got 2nd place, with both teams earning a berth to state. We are so proud of our team and wish them the best of luck at the state tournament!

We have some exciting upcoming events planned for our students. With regard to the approaching Standards Based Assessments (SBA), we are planning a SBA Test Prep Tutoring Session on Saturday, March 29th, where students will participate in four different 30-minute sessions led by teachers that address geometry, coordinate planes, measurement, estimation, and percentages. We also starting individual tutoring sessions targeting 11th grade students who still need to pass sections of High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE). We hope these efforts will positively impact and improve student achievement.

The teachers at Chief Ivan Blunka School recently participated in Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) training. At the training, the teachers learned proactive strategies for creating safe learning environments and how to effectively manage challenging behaviors in the school. After graduating from CPI training, all teachers gained a certification in nonviolent physical crisis intervention. This training was a great opportunity for professional development and for building strong rapport and teamwork among staff members.



**Student of the Month**  
Dagan Andrew-6th Grade

**Student of the Month**  
Darren Andrew-11th Grade

**Employee of the Month**  
Tatianna Andrew



## Togiak School

Sam Gosuk, Principal

At the time of this report, we are experiencing winter again. The sea is closed again, but when it was open a few got some rare bearded seal. Now with a little winter in, people are starting to catch trout upriver.

The 3 to 6th grade staff had a good parent and student literacy night. Parents were told by word of mouth of the coming SBAs. We did not have Thing One or Two, but had fund with students and parents. We also had a Migrant ed night. Jon Clouse was here helping us out. Book Fair was going on at the same time and Migrant ed students were able to get a lot of books. I asked Jon what makes a Migrant ed and I found out that a student has to do some subsistence activity for at least 7 non consecutive days and at least 20 miles away from the village in the year. Lot of non-Migrant ed students and parents also got books too.

Upward bound got 2nd place for 4-wheeler safety video in the State of Alaska. Larry Richesin went to Alaska Science Technology professional development which is part of Upward Bound. The training helps bring more technology into the classroom and helps students get their work done on time.



We are in process of finalizing our Cultural week and working with Traditional Council on it. They supported the school last year and hopefully will again this year. Last year, for the first time, the high school was included in the cultural week and this year the K – 12 will do some cultural related activities.

Regionals went well, our first as a 2A school and 2nd as a school. The weather was good in and out. During our posting for the games, the importance of attendance of SBAs this year was stressed. Also during the start of the first home games, our Vice Principal made an announcement of the importance of the SBAs and also called for a moment of silence for the loss of a community member. Local Staff worked with the parents to provide food and treats for our hospitality room for the coaches, chaperones, and adult guests who came to watch the game.

The family of the late Annie Gosuk is thankful for the support of the school, the district, and communities in surround villages in Bristol Bay. What people do and say shows the care that people have when their loved one passes on is very much appreciated.