

**Through love, respect
your children."**

--Bristol Bay Yup'ik Values


Kay Andrews, President
Marie Paul, Vice-President
Ferdinand Sharp, Sec./Treas.
Wassillie Wonhola, Member
Wassillie Gust, Member
Helen Gregorio, Member
Dan Nanalook, Jr., Member



David J. Piazza, Superintendent

Staffing

STATE OF ALASKA



***Executive Proclamation
by
Governor Sean Parnell***

WHEREAS, Alaska's students and public schools depend on locally elected school board members to guide their respective districts, foster academic achievement, and collaborate with education parents, and community members to enhance student learning and ensure consistently excellent results for every child;

AND WHEREAS, there are more than 100 school board members who bring their insight and talent to Alaska's 14 school districts and

WHEREAS, Alaska's school board members are responsible for establishing a vision for Alaska's schools that reflect the agreement between the boards, communities, and district staff members. They are also charged with approving necessary materials, establishing policies and budgets, adopting the school year calendar, setting their methods of accountability, and ensuring the entire operation of all schools and

AND WHEREAS, Alaska's school boards in Alaska serve an important function in our education system—they communicate the needs of our students and schools, serve as bridges between the school district and the public, and uphold the mission of advancing public education for the prosperity of Alaska's youth; and



WHEREAS, Alaska appoints school board members who combine their time and talent, and an allegiance to their communities as we work together to ensure Alaska's young people an college and career ready

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sean Parnell, Governor of the State of Alaska, do hereby proclaim:
February 20th as

School Board Recognition Month

in Alaska, and encourage Alaskans to recognize the hard work and dedication of school board members across the state, and to join them in supporting and supporting an education system that meets the individual needs of Alaska's students.

Dated: January 31, 2014



Sean Parnell
Sean Parnell, Governor
I am Sean Parnell, Governor
of the State of Alaska. It
is official in this proclamation.

**Thank you for all your work
on behalf of young people!**

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Legislative Issues

The second and final session of the 28th Alaska State Legislature is well into their 90-day session. More information and proposed legislation changes may be tracked at <http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/index.php>. Bills that were introduced in the House (HB) and those introduced in the Senate (SB) related to the public education system include:

- HB 21 FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK** - An Act relating to the length of a school week.
- HB 27 STUDENT COUNT ESTIMATES** - An Act relating to student counts, unreserved school operating fund balances, restrictions on school district money, and estimates for public school funding.
- HB 31 CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY CURRICULUM** - An Act requiring school districts to develop and require completion of a history of American constitutionalism curriculum segment.
- HB 41 FORWARD FUNDING FOR EDUCATION** - An Act relating to forward funding of education programs.
- HB 45 ELECTRONIC BULLYING IN SCHOOLS** - An Act relating to harassment, intimidation, or bullying by students attending a public school in the state.
- HB 55 AUTHORIZE FIREARMS FOR SCHOOL PERSONNEL** - An Act allowing school districts and private schools to adopt a policy authorizing one or more permanent employees to possess one or more firearms on school grounds under certain conditions.
- HB 85 EXTEND SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY** - An Act extending the special education service agency.
- HB 87 SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY** - An Act relating to allocations to the special education service agency and extending the special education service agency.
- HB 93 CHARTER SCHOOLS** - An Act relating to the authorization, monitoring, and operation of charter schools.
- HB 95 BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION; DISTRICT PLAN** - An Act requiring school districts to provide a plan for hiring highly qualified teachers; adjusting the base student allocation used in the formula for state funding of public education to account for inflation since fiscal year 2011.
- HB 120 PUPIL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING** - An Act adjusting pupil transportation funding.
- HB 128 PREKINDERGARTEN SCHOOL PROGRAMS/PLANS** - An Act relating to prekindergarten programs within a school district; relating to pre-elementary students and pre-elementary schools; providing for the establishment of a statewide early childhood education plan.
- HB 133 SCHOOL CONST. GRANTS/SMALL MUNICIPALITIES** - An Act relating to grants for school construction.

- HB 138 LAYOFF NOTICES FOR TENURED TEACHERS** - An Act extending the annual deadline by which employers are required to deliver layoff or non-retention notices to employees who are tenured teachers.
- HB 142 STIPEND FOR STATEWIDE BOARDING SCHOOL** - An Act increasing the monthly stipend available for students attending a statewide boarding school operated by a school district.
- HB 151 SCHOOL GRADING SYSTEMS** - An Act establishing a public school and school district grading system for purposes of improving accountability and transparency; providing for Alaska strategic educators in public schools.
- HB 155 EXTENDING SCHOOL TERM FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS** - An Act extending the school term.
- HB 162 TEACHER TENURE** - An Act relating to tenure of public school teachers.
- HB 179 BROADBAND DISCOUNTS FOR SCHOOLS** - An Act providing for public school funding for telecommunications or Internet services.
- HB 189 HAZING** - An Act relating to hazing.
- HB 197 LITERACY PROGRAM** - An Act requiring the establishment of a reading program in school districts for grades kindergarten through three; providing for student retention in grade three; and providing for a report on the reading program and on student retention.
- HB 210 STUDENT RESTRAINT, SECLUSION, PSYC DRUGS** - An Act relating to the administration of psychiatric medication to a student; relating to crisis intervention training for school personnel; and relating to restraint, escort, and seclusion of students in public and private schools.
- HB 211 EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES** - An Act relating to the education and employment of individuals with disabilities.
- HB 220 REPEAL SECONDARY SCHOOL EXIT EXAM** - An Act repealing the secondary student competency examination and related requirements.
- HB 233 SEXUAL ABUSE/ASSAULT PREVENTION PROGRAMS** - An Act relating to sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention efforts in public schools.
- HB 245 SCHOOL FUNDING: REQ'D LOCAL CONTRIBUTION** - An Act repealing the required local contribution to school funding; making conforming changes.
- HB 257 ACCESS TO STUDENT DATA** - An Act relating to restrictions on the collection, storage, and handling of student data.
- HB 278 EDUCATION: FUNDING/TAX CREDITS/PROGRAMS** - An Act increasing the base student allocation used in the formula for state funding of public education; repealing the secondary student competency examination and related requirements; relating to high school course credit earned through assessment; relating to a college and career readiness assessment for secondary students; relating to charter school application appeals and program budgets; relating to

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residential school applications; increasing the stipend for boarding school students; extending unemployment contributions for the Alaska technical and vocational education program; relating to earning high school credit for completion of vocational education courses offered by institutions receiving technical and vocational education program funding; relating to education tax credits; making conforming amendments.

- HB 291 STIPEND FOR BOARDING SCHOOLS** - An Act increasing the stipend for boarding school students.
- HJR 1 CONST. AM: EDUCATION FUNDING** - Proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to state aid for education.
- HR 9 DELAY IMPLEMENTATION OF ED STANDARDS** - Urging the commissioner of education and early development and the state Board of Education and Early Development to delay implementation of statewide education standards.
- SB 6 FUNDING FOR SCHOOL MEALS** - An Act providing for funding for school lunch and breakfast.
- SB 15 PREKINDERGARTEN SCHOOL PROGRAMS/PLANS** - An Act relating to prekindergarten programs within a school district; relating to pre-elementary students and pre-elementary schools.
- SB 82 BROADBAND DISCOUNTS FOR SCHOOLS** - See HB 179.
- SB 89 TAX CREDITS FOR EDUCATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS** - An Act relating to education tax credits.
- SB 90 SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE** - An Act relating to group insurance coverage and self-insurance coverage for school district employees.
- SB 100 EDUCATION GRANTS; CORRS STUDY; ALLOTMENTS** - An Act establishing a grant program to be administered by the Association of Alaska School Boards for the purchase of student equipment and technology services; establishing a grant program for innovative approaches to learning; relating to correspondence study programs and student allotments.
- SB 107 ESTABLISH K THROUGH 3 READING PROGRAM** - An Act relating to school and school district accountability; relating to the duties of the Department of Education and Early Development; and establishing a reading program for public school students enrolled in grades kindergarten through three.
- SB 111 REPEAL SECONDARY SCHOOL EXIT EXAM** - See HB 220.
- SB 113 STIPEND FOR BOARDING SCHOOLS** - See HB 291.
- SB 139 EDUCATION: FUNDING/TAX CREDITS/PROGRAMS** - See HB 278.
- SB 147 BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION** - An Act increasing and providing an inflation adjustment to the base student allocation used in the formula for state funding of public education.

Superintendent Travel

Superintendent Piazza attended the 2014 Building Student Success RTI Conference in Anchorage on January 24th and 25th. This conference lead by the Alaska Staff Development Network, the Department of Education and Early Development and the Anchorage School District has become a primary source of information related to Response to Instruction/Intervention (RTI) as teachers and administrators work to meet the learning needs of each student. Over 1200 participants were in attendance. Twelve staff members from Manokotak, New Stuyahok, Togiak and the District Office represented the District.



A full-day, pre-conference session “Implementing RTI in Small Schools or Rural School Districts” presented by Lexie Domaradzki and Shelby Skaanes, provided specific examples and ideas relevant to Southwest Region teachers and students. The workshop focused on both the structural and instructional aspects of the school system that must be addressed for effective implementation of RTI. The structural components include the establishment of a 90-minute reading block, the use of universal screening measures, the monitoring of student progress over time, building a tiered structure of instruction for students who need additional intervention supports, the use of collaborative meetings to discuss student progress and adjust instruction as needed, and the implementation of core Reading and Math programs with fidelity. Necessary instructional components include explicit instruction, high engagement, lessons sequenced to build on prior skills, the ability to gradually release responsibility from the teacher to the student, and the use of immediate and corrective feedback. The session began with a discussion of blending

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Sessions during the day provided information and activities regarding the blending of linear standard protocols and circular problem-solving methods to design an RTI plan where students can receive additional intervention instruction to meet their individual needs. The establishment for district-wide non-negotiable structural components was reinforced. Ideas and examples for the design and implementation for a strong assessment system including the use of universal screening measures, diagnostics, formative assessments, progress monitoring and summative assessments were provided. Essential components that must be included in effective core Reading and Mathematics programs was also discussed. This included the need for understanding the shifts in the new Alaska State Content Standards for English/Language Arts and Mathematics and what the classroom should look, sound and feel like when strong core instruction is taking place. The pre-conference session concluded with ideas to build a collaboration process that includes effective use of student data to make instructional decisions and modifications to the learning environment as necessary.

The main conference began with a keynote speech presented by Dr. Susan McCauley on behalf of Education Commissioner Mike Hanley, entitled “Context Matters”. Dr. McCauley discussed the changes that have been occurring at the state level to ensure that policies and practices are in alignment. This includes adoptions for early literacy screening assessments, the new English language arts and mathematics standards and the new Alaska School Performance Index (ASPI) that replaced Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) accountability measures.

Dr. Anita Archer presented a full-day workshop entitled “Improving Academic Vocabulary”. The session looked at implementing strategies to ensure that students can meet the requirements of the new Language Arts Standards. Dr. Archer discussed the importance of vocabulary instruction across all grade levels and provided details on the vocabulary gap that may be prevalent in our student population. Dr. Archer’s methods include instructional routine techniques for the explicit instruction of vocabulary development in an “I Say, You Say, We All Say” model.

Professional Teaching Practices Commission

Superintendent Piazza was appointed to the Professional Teaching Practices Commission by Governor Parnell. While he still must receive legislative confirmation for the full-term appointment, he participated during the February PTPC meeting as an acting commissioner filling the Superintendent Representative’s seat that had been vacated before the previous term had expired.

The PTPC is a nine member commission established in 1966 to serve as a preventative and positive force in helping to enhance the professional performance of all educators. The PTPC deals with matters of professional conduct and certification. It has the responsibility and the power to discipline members of the teaching profession and may issue, reprimands suspensions, and/or revocations of educators’ certificates. More information may be obtained at <http://education.alaska.gov/ptpc/>.



Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Director

PROGRAM SUPPORT & TRAVEL

This past month, Steve traveled to Juneau for the AASB Fly-In with Board President Kay Andrews, Board Treasurer Ferdinand Sharp and Director of Federal Programs, Jon Clouse. We attended two days of workshops on legislative issues relevant to our students, schools and communities. On Monday, first thing in the morning we split up and attended both House and Senate Education Committee meetings and received briefings on the Governor's omnibus education bill and other legislation in progress. Later that day, we met with several legislators, including Senate Education Committee Chair, Senator Gary Stevens and Representatives Bryce Edgmon and Bob Herron. We also met with Senator Coghill's Chief of Staff, Rynieva Moss regarding the possibility of making an 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. On Tuesday morning, we met with staff at the Department of Education and Early Development regarding our STEPP plan and our efforts to improve our evaluation systems. The meetings all went very well and we returned home much more informed on current legislative action and with a greatly improved view of what we need to monitor as we move farther into this session. Specific information on bills included in Superintendent Piazza's Legislative Update.

Work continues to finish up the updates to our social studies curriculum. At his month's meeting nearly finished up our high school US History and US Government courses. We also scheduled several meetings over the next few months to continue work on the curriculum. We are also planning a weeklong curriculum camp for May for a review at our Language Arts and Mathematics curricula to insure that it meets new standards.

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

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Instructional Team Notes

Celebrating the Love of Reading District-wide Competition

- The first school to accomplish the goal of reading 100 books in a classroom is Manokotak. On Friday, February 14th, the school celebrated with a pizza party at the end of the school day. Manokotak had three Classrooms qualify and New Stuyahok's 4th grade also qualified and enjoyed their pizza party the same day. More pizza's are scheduled to appear at several other sites and classrooms in the near future.



Battle of the Books

- It was a hard battle fought battle between sites and everyone enjoyed the competition. Aleknagik had the champion team for grade groups 3rd-4th and 5th-6th. Middle school winning team was from Ekwok and High School team from Togiak. State battles begin February 23rd and last until February 25th. It's always an exciting time in the schools.

Spelling Bee

- It took 125 words to determine a winner this year! "Permission" was the winning word for Alkayuk Moore, a 7th Grader from Manokotak. Our runner-up is Koliganek 6th Grader Monica Ishnook. Third place went to Glen Andrews, a 5th Grader Aleknagik. Alkayuk and chaperone will be traveling to the State Spelling Bee in Anchorage at the Alaska Performing Arts Center on February 28, 2014.

Curriculum Work

- Our elementary curriculum group is busy designing the social studies units for intermediate grades next year. 4th Grade will focus on Alaska geography, map skills and Alaska history. New will be mini-units for the Iditarod Sled Race and Iron Dog Sled Race. An Alaska Geography in "Quiz Bowl" format has been discussed as a possible district wide competition.
- In fifth grade, social studies will focus on the fifty United States. Using the adopted curriculum as a guide as students will be writing friendly and information requests from all 50 states of our country. Students will be designing a state report much like the Science Fair template that is being discussed. We are focusing more on competitions and displays of student learning to make learning more visible in our schools and across the district. We want to highlight the good work our young people do!

UAF Student Teacher Practicum

- Once again, SWRS supports college and graduate education majors the UAF Education Department by offering students rural teaching practicums. This year there will be two college students attending New Stuyahok and two participating in their practicum experiences in Manokotak. The dates are scheduled for April 12-17, 2014.

Koliganek School: New Library Orders

- New Library for Koliganek is in the final stages of ordering. We are waiting for two vendors to return their quote to us with specific material lists that are in direct relation of our new state standards. We should be making our final decision quickly after that piece is received. We are anticipating over 4000 books to fill the shelves in our new school building.

RTI Conference

- In late January, the Instructional Support team, and a group principals and teachers, attended the Response to Intervention (RTI) conference in Anchorage, sponsored by the Alaska Staff Development Network (ASDN). This conference's focus was to look at the new Alaska Standards and identify strategies for building a stronger approach to meeting the needs of all students. Additionally, the conference addressed how to align the new standards with evidence-based interventions. A day was also dedicated to discuss these questions with the idea of rural and small schools in mind. Lexie Domaradzki and Shelby Skaanes directed the conversation with rural schools about what RTI is and how to implement and design an effective RTI system in our schools. It was a great opportunity to hear how other small sites use RTI at their sites. Lexie and Shelby taught that the first emphasis of RTI is strong teaching, using the Alaska State Standards for Literacy and Math. Strong core instruction is pivotal to helping students achieve. After solid core instruction is implemented, effective intervention strategies can occur to help students meet proficiency. The conference was a great opportunity to learn how to better help the students of Southwest Region Schools.



Social Studies Committee: High School Course Development

- This school year, the social studies curriculum is being reviewed. Recently, a two-day meeting was held February 11th and 12th in Dillingham. Three of the 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 and Deb Endicott from the District Office. The focus of this meeting was to develop, and continuing to develop, a course description and pacing guide for Modern United States History and United States Civics for high school. The committee has done an excellent job creating an outline for these two courses. They have also made it a priority to include areas where students can produce individual work through written research papers and historical exhibits. These projects provide opportunities for students to apply the concepts and skills they have learned in class. The social studies curriculum committee will continue to meet throughout the rest of the school year to update and improve the social studies courses offered so that the students of Southwest Region Schools have the best courses available to them.

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

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 remains in Initial Review status.
- Vendor proposals received for 2014-15 eRate Form 471 filing. Our team is beginning proposal evaluations.
- Site surveys for KNW / KMO WiFi / telephone system upgrades are complete. A scope of work, equipment, and quotes have been received and signed. A purchase order has been processed by the Business Office.
- Technology Director's meeting in Anchorage to be held February 21, 2014 and Steve, Les and Corey plan to attend.

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

- We have just completed our winter MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) testing window.
- Corey Evans has been gathering student MAP data and compiling reports for the district STEPP (Step Toward Educational Progress and Partnership) process as well as providing MAP operational reports to site Principals to ensure all of our students are tested.
- Completed several hardware repairs as well as provided technology support to staff at sites.





State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

AK STEPP – School & District Improvement Planning

The district improvement team is very close to completing a district-wide needs assessment. This process is driven by the analysis of state achievement assessments, attendance data, behavioral data, district student achievement data, and parent/community input. The identification of areas of need is the result of the needs assessment and will be the driving factor in school improvement planning. The planning process will continue to build upon the improvement efforts that have occurred over the past few years. Sheila Box, Title I Liaison from the Department of Education, met with principals and directors on February 11 to review the changes to the AK STEPP process at the site level. There have been a number of changes related to the new accountability measures, which will hopefully reduce the workload of the process and make it more relevant to individual sites.

Site Visits

There were a number of site visits planned that included a number of purposes one of which was to attend local CSC meetings. The weather did not allow for the travel to occur as planned so the video conferencing technology was used so I could attend the CSC meetings from the district office. I was able to attend the CSC meeting in Ekwok and Aleknagik using video conferencing to provide an synopsis of the various grants, including Indian Education and Impact Aid, that are used to support

learning. In addition site and district achievement data from the 2012-2013 school year was presented. I was able to travel to Manokotak School to administer the ParaPro Assessment to a number of community members seeking to become highly qualified and apply for an instructional aide position.

Migrant Education – Services

There have been two migrant literacy nights completed within our schools up to this date with five more scheduled during this month. There will be another migrant literacy night at each site in the month of March. There will be a theme for each migrant night with one evening focusing completely on literacy and the other night exploring literacy in the science or art content area. Migrant literacy nights for the month of February include:

- Twin Hills - January 31st (completed)
- Manokotak – February 4th (completed)
- Togiak – February 18th
- Aleknagik – February, 13th
- Ekwok – February – to be determined
- Koliganek – February – to be determined

Migrant Education Quilt: Manokotak



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Student Information & Support Specialist: Kyle Schneider

Migrant Education

For the first time last year, the district was required to submit course and grade information for all high school Migrant Education students to the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (EED) for further reporting to the federal Department of Education. This report is required again this year and was submitted to EED in late January.

Kyle has been working with PowerSchool administrators around the state and the State Reporting Group at PowerSchool over the last few months to create an automated report that can generate this data. During late January, PowerSchool released this as an update for all Alaska PowerSchool customers. Going forward, this report will be much easier to generate for Southwest and other Alaska school districts.

Alaska Military Youth Academy

Twice a year (January and July), the district is required under AS 14.30.745 to submit the names of students who have dropped out and are between the ages of 15 and 19 years old to the Alaska Military Youth Academy (AMYA) unless they or their parents have opted out.

Kyle has worked with PowerSchool administrators around the state and the State Reporting Group at PowerSchool to create an automated report that can generate this data. In January, PowerSchool released this update for all Alaska PowerSchool

customers. In the future, this report can be run with the click of a button.

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.

February Leadership Meeting

During the February Leadership Meeting Kyle presented data to the leadership team on absentee rates at schools around the district during first semester and how present attendance rates may affect ASPI ratings. He also presented data on dropouts and suspensions which prompted discussion among the leadership team.

School Climate & Connectedness Survey

Last year we began sending letters to students' parents from the District Office for any student who met any of the following conditions:

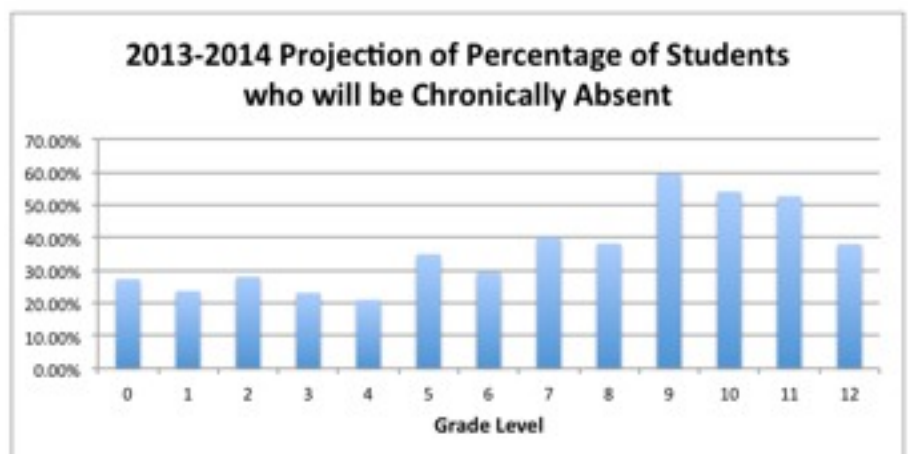
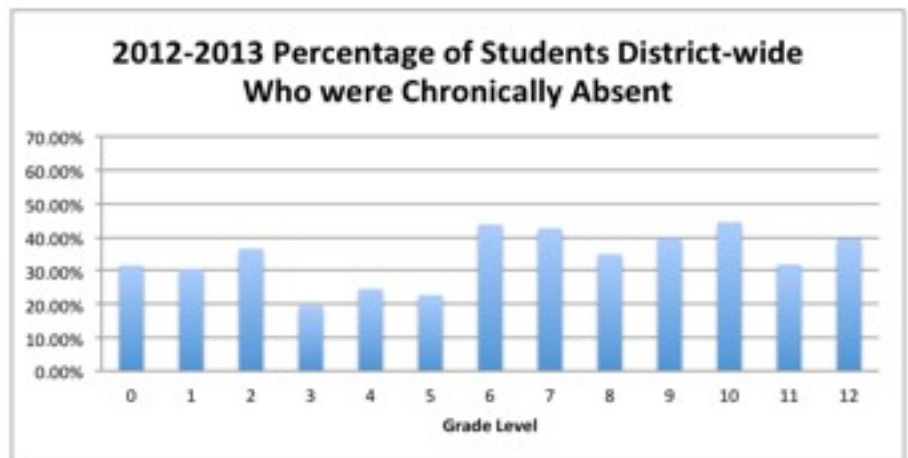
- At the end of 1st and 3rd quarter for any student who had a D or F in a high school class. This letter advised the parent of the grade and the requirements to receive high school credit for a class.
- At the end of 1st/2nd semester for any student who failed a class. This letter advised the parent that credit was not received and the student would have to retake the class. Included is a list of the high school graduation requirements and the student's progress towards completing them. It also recommended meeting with the principal/teachers to work on a plan to help the student succeed.
- At the end of 1st/2nd semester for any student who has taken the HSGQE and not passed all sections. The letter lists the required scores to pass and the student's highest score to date. It explains that the HSGQE is required to receive a diploma. The letter is also sent with a copy of the high school graduation requirements and the student's progress towards completing them.

In mid to late January, letters were sent home to the parents of students who either failed a class during first semester (49 of 153 9-12th graders) or have not passed all sections of the HSGQE (43 letters).

Attendance

Last year after first semester Kyle examined attendance trends and extrapolated to determine what the year-long attendance for individual students would look like. Of particular note when looking at attendance is students who are "chronically absent", which means they miss 10% or more of the school year. For Southwest, this is 17 days. Research shows that:

- There can be a 50% (or more) difference in the graduation rates of students who miss 0 to 5 days of school and students who miss 15 or more days a year.
- The reason a student misses school has no impact on the effect of being absent. Excused and unexcused absences are equally harmful.
- Students that are chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade scored 60 points below good



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attenders on California's third grade reading test and 100 points below on the third grade math test. (Scores range from 150-600, 350 marks the proficient level.) Unfortunately, there is no research on the impact to SBA/HSGQE scores.

During the 2012-2013 school year, 32% of students were projected to be chronically absent based on first semester data. In actuality, 34.11% of students were chronically absent. This compares to an estimated national average of 14-15% of students being chronically absent. What's more, 14.69% of all students missed 30 or more days of school, which is 5 weeks (or more) of the school year.

For the 2013-2014 school year, 35.27% of students are projected to be chronically absent based on first semester data. (This is an increase of 3.27% over the previous year's projection.) Of those, 17.23% of all students are on track to miss 30 or more days of school (5 weeks or more).

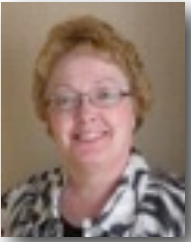


Counseling & Assessment Specialist: Steve Ito

WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificates for grade 11 & 12 students that completed the WorkKeys test have been received and disbursed. Electronic reports with both reportable and state allowable scores will be available through EED the end of February to upload to Powerschool. The WorkKeys assessment targets the workplace "foundational" skills that are needed for virtually all occupations and at any level of education.

Alternate Assessment testing are being 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.

EED mandated World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) ACCESS Test for the spring 2014 Limited English Proficiency testing cycle has begun. Coordination of training at all sites is currently taking place. Testing will be district-wide February through March. Identified teachers will complete web-based proficiency training in order to be qualified assessor/proctors for the February administration of the WIDA Access Test to identified Limited English Proficient grade level students. The WIDA Access test is family of tests are comprehensive standardized tests that assess listening, speaking, reading and writing.



Special Education

Robin Gray, Director

February has been a busy month for the special education department. Childfind recruiting has gone on since the middle of January. All schools have publicized for any children with possible developmental concerns.

The State of Alaska neurological clinic is coming this month and teachers are working with parents to schedule children that could benefit from a neurological assessment.

During ASSEC the week of February 10th, Ben Griese received the Council for Exceptional Children Special Education Teacher of the Year, for the State of Alaska. Ben received the award during the Tuesday luncheon. He has been invited to attend the National Convention and be recognized as an exemplar educator. Ben's parents and one of his brothers showed up for the presentation. His wife's mother and two of her sisters came too. It was nice to see the support and respect given to Ben for all his hard work for our District and our students. Ben gave an acceptance speech that acknowledged the District's support and he thanked individuals for believing in him and providing him an avenue to grow as a professional educator. He also acknowledged all the support given to him as a developing teacher from SESA.



Ben Griese, LeEsia O'Sullivan, and Robin Gray presented at one of Wednesday's sessions at ASSEC. Their topic was the District developed Referral and Intervention Process. We made fifty handouts and every handout was given out to the room full of rural educators that were excited to learn what we are doing. The questions came so fast at times that we were all taking turns answering them and describing out process. The response has been very positive and the conference organizers have asked me for our presentation so they can post it to their website.

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Business Office

Lee Ann Andrew, Director

We are in the process of getting fuel bids out for next year. We are in the process of getting current fuel dips we can determine an estimated need for the remainder of the year.

The housing committed is waiting for more sites to submit their housing needs lists then we will meet to discuss priorities for next year.

The request for spring orders went out to the sites and district office. They are due to the business office by March 7. This allows time for delivery before people start leaving for the summer.

Just a thought for the future. With the bridge going in at Aleknagik we will need to think about student transportation and what role we will play, if any, with the high school students going to Dillingham. Also what type of vehicle we will get for transporting the SWRS students, Districts cannot purchase 15 passenger vans. They cannot be insured.

The 2015 Impact Aid application was submitted in time. We spent time working with BBNA on the types of lands and how they were reported. We will review all sites to make sure we are reporting those lands correctly. We have until September to submit a revised application if we find any errors.

We were able to get the health insurance waiver form to all our employees with the January payroll. Many had already seen it through other avenues.



Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director

Kevgiq Celebration

The 2nd Annual Kevgiq Celebration was hosted by Twin Hills School on January 24, 2014. This year's celebration featured an essay contest, "Rekindling Our Past to Strengthen Our Future". Our first place winner Makac'aq or Anqulleq (Tasha Sunshine Gilila, 6th Grader of Aleknagik), second place winner Sugaq (Jessyka Creasey, 8th Grader of Aleknagik) and third place winner Angun (Leland Andrews, 7th Grader of Aleknagik). Makac'aq or Anqulleq received a mini-iPAD for her excellent thoughts and written words. Special appreciation to their teachers: Audra and Randy Finkenbinder and Melody Noden, Yup'ik Studies Instructor. Also, please express our gratitude to our judges: Steve Ito, Lead Counselor, Aileen Walsh, Accountant and Jon Clouse, Director of State and Federal Programs. Quayana Cakneq. The Kevgiq celebration began as soon as the visiting students arrived. With time being a constraint they immediately begin work on Yup'ik dance head-dresses and learned two dances, one Yup'ik game within a limited time frame (2 hrs). The village of Twin Hills presented them with a potluck and the students WOWED them with their enthusiasm of presenting the engagement in the game (AMANI) and Yup'ik dances. EXCELLENT PRESENTATION. A gift exchange between the students followed the potluck presentation and ties in with the traditional Kegiryaraq Celebration.



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Before the gathering the following unit was sent out to the Yup'ik Studies Instructors to make sure the students understood the celebration that was to take place.

This excerpt is taken from a unit titled “Kevgiyaraq” that utilizes the TPRS model to introduce the students to the meaning of Kevgiq.

- Aka tamani Cauyarviim nallini arcaqalria pinaritullruuq.
A long time ago November was a very important time.
- Cauyarvigmi kevgaq ayagcetallruat malrugnun nunanun kelgivkarluku.
It was in November that the courier would be sent to two nearby villages to invite them for the Message Feast.
- Tekitaqami nunanun aptaqluki “kegauciitnek”.
When the courier arrived to the village they would be asked if they were the “Kevgak”.
- Angutait qasgim iluanek qayagpagaqlluteng “Kevga-a-ak”.
Then the men in the qasgi would yell, “Kevga-a-ak”.
- Kevgiyaraq Iralullermi wall-u Kanruyaucirmi tutetullruuq.
The Messenger Feast happened in January or February.
- Nunacuaraat up'taqlluteng cikiutarkameggnek.
This gave the villages time to make gifts to exchange
- Up'taqameng-llu umyuaqaqluki yuraqerraqatat cikiutarkait.
During planning time they would also make gifts for the first dancers.
- Yurarkamegnek up'taqlluteng.
- And they would also create dances to perform.
- Kevgiraqata cauyalleq, yuralleq, enrleq, maqillerkaq-llu arcaqanruaqlluteng.
Drumming, dancing, food and fire baths were an important part of the celebration.



Yup'ik Elders at the Ethnologisches Museum Berlin Fieldwork Turned on Its Head, pg 275

The following students were active participants in the Kevgiq Celebration as hosted by Twin Hills School on the 24th of January. The host village students included- Uklinguaq, Taicualler, Alangaaq, Ilegvacuar, Acisaaq, Aiggailnguq, Taicualler, Arnapagaq, Kassaller, Arnaluk, Quukataq and Maaraaq with Yup'ik Studies Instructor Maalu and Lead Teacher Qilagta. The students participating from Aleknagik were Angiilan, Makac'aq or Anqulleq, Naucetaaq and Angun with chaperone Nayangcuk . And those from Ekwok included Cuurnaqa, Panicuaq and Qayaqsuk and chaperones Gordon and Mary Alice.

Quyana Twin Hills for hosting the Kevgiq Celebration!



Facilities & Maintenance

Rick Dallmann, Director

Aleknagik

- Fire Marshall inspection has been completed
- There where minor violations and all have been corrected

Ekwok

- Fire Marshall inspection has been completed
- There where minor violations and all have been corrected

Koliganek

- Fire Marshall inspection has been completed
- There where minor violations and all have been corrected
- New school project is moving forward and on schedule the anticipated completion date is February 16th 2015
- Request for Proposal for the new teacher housing project is completed and will be bidding the first part of March

New Stuyahok

- Fire Marshall inspection has been completed
- There where minor violations and all have been corrected
- Heat Recovery bidding documents have been completed and the project will be going out for bid the end of Feb.
- New locksets and cores have been installed

Manokotak

- Roof project bidding documents have been completed and project will be going out for bid first part of March
- Still working on Engineering report for the demo of the old school
- Finalizing a fee proposal for the shop addition
- New locksets and cores have been installed

Twin Hills

- Fire Marshall Inspection has been completed, there where minor violations and all have been corrected, working on permitting the kitchen fire suppression system

Togiak

- Fire Marshall inspection has been completed
- There where some minor violations all have been corrected

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Aleknagik School

Audra Finkenbinder, Principal/Teacher

2ND Annual Kevgiq Celebration & Pinewood Derby

Aleknagik students have been busy participating in numerous events since returning to school on January 13th.

Students in grades 4-8 submitted essays/poems for the Kevgiq Celebration and Pinewood Derby that was held in Twin Hills on January 24th and 25th. We are very proud of all students who participated and are pleased to announce the following essay winners:

- Tasha Gilila – 1st place
- Jessyka Creasey – 2nd place
- Leland Andrews – 3rd place

Reading Challenge

All students are currently participating in a District-sponsored Reading Challenge that was kicked off on January 20th. Our goal is to read 100 Accelerated Reader books and pass reading tests for each book with at least an 80% or higher by March 28th. We are building a bookworm in the library to signify the number of books read and when a student completes a book and passes a reading test, we place another segment on the bookworm.

Spelling Bee

On January 28th, Aleknagik School held a school-wide Spelling Bee in which all students competed. After numerous rounds, the spelling Bee champion, Austin Finkenbinder, claimed the title. The top

five finalists (1st-3rd place and two alternates) will continue practicing for the upcoming District Spelling Bee on February 11th. The top five finalists include:

- Austin Finkenbinder – 1st place
- Glenn Andrews – 2nd place
- Ayden Ilutsik – 3rd place
- Tasha Gilila – 4th place
- Jessyka Creasey – 5th place

Battle of the Books

The District Battle of the Books was held on January 29th and 30th. Aleknagik School was represented with a 3rd/4th grade group as well as a 5th/6th grade group.

The 3rd/4th grade team was comprised of Ayden Ilutsik, Katrena Finkenbinder, and Austin Finkenbinder. Together these students won the district title. Tasha Gilila and Virginia Andrews formed the 5th/6th grade team and also claimed the District title! Both teams will be competing in the State competition on February 20th and 21st!

MAP Assessment

All students in grades K-8 have completed the Winter MAP Assessments with the following overall improvement rate:

- 52% of students improved in Reading.
- 60% of students improved in Math.
- 39% of students improved in LA.



William 'Sonny' Nelson School

Nate Preston, Principal/Teacher

Battle of the Books

We had great participation, and enthusiastic support from students and parents, for our Battle of the Books. Everyone in grades sixth through eighth participated. The students were divided into two teams; the sixth graders were in the fifth-sixth grade competition and the eighth graders were in the middle school competition.

Our middle school team won the district Battle of the Book. The students now have the opportunity to battle at a state level later this month. We expect to see some good results from the state level competition. The middle school team is continuing to study and is highly motivated to do their best. While our fifth-sixth grade team did not win, they had great fun participating and are looking forward to next year's event.

Spelling Bee

On February 3rd we held a school-wide Spelling Bee. One of our eighth graders won the competition. She is an excellent speller and spent many extra hours preparing for the bee. She is continuing to study diligently for the district Spelling Bee. We have high hopes for her success during the district Spelling Bee on February 11.

Migrant Education Night

Our first Migrant Education Night is scheduled for February 27. Our first Migrant night will be science focused. Students will participate in various science activities; such as creating a volcano, writing with invisible ink, taking fingerprints, and creating rock candy to name a few of the activities. Books are on order that tie in with these various science activities. The books were matched with the students reading levels for these activities. For instance, there are books about detectives and spies that will be used to support and extend the invisible ink and fingerprinting activities.

Upcoming Events

In addition to these events and soon to be events, we have just finished our second round of MAP testing. Once we have analyzed the results we will meet with all the students and their parents to go over the student scores. The staff plans to work with parents to help students improve their weakest areas while encouraging their strengths.

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Koliganek School
Cody McCanna, Principal

100th Day of School!

On February 7 all elementary students celebrated the 100th day of school. Students were broken into various groups and got the opportunity to do various activities centered on the 100th day of school. Students made necklaces with cereal and made 100-day headbands. Students wrote about what they would do when they are 100 years old. They also put together a 100-piece puzzle, did 100 exercises in the gym, and made estimation guesses about which bottles had 100 items in them. In the end, all students enjoyed the day and I’m sure all the teachers went home tired of counting to 100!

BBAHC Tobacco Presentation

Jeffrey Beck from the Bristol Bay Health Corporation came on February 14, 2014 to work with 4th-12th grade students about the use of tobacco. Jeff presented students with information about the harmful effects of tobacco use in a fun and friendly manner. He was also kind enough to give out water bottles, t-shirts and other fun prizes to students who could answer questions about the harmful affects of tobacco use. It was also a time to talk with our older students about the use of “Spice” and how dangerous it can be when consumed. It was a positive experience and students walked away with a better understanding of how various substances can have a negative affect on their health.

School Activities

Koliganek School lady huskies have been weathered out twice this year, but they did travel to Bristol Bay to participate in the Elks Tournament February 14. The lady huskies will be hosting the District tournament for girls on February 28.

Behavior Reward Recipients for September:

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| K-1: Tristan Koyoukluk | 2-3: Tristan Tungiong | 4-5: Brody Wysocki |
| 6-8: Cody McCanna | 9-12: Magdeline Kapatak | |

Behavior Reward Recipients

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| K-1: Gusti Tungiong | 2-3: Ivan Gumlickpuk | 4-5: Erick Johnson |
| 6-8: Natasha Hobson | 9-12: Brenda Norbert | |



Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Deb Forkner, Principal

The past month has been a busy one at Manokotak Nunaniq School. We began the quarter with an assembly for all middle and high school students to introduce a new tardy policy and incentive program. So far this semester the average number of students tardy each day has dropped from 16 to 6.

We also held our second quarter awards assembly on January 16. Congratulations to Jesslynn Logusak and Vanessa George for being named Student of the Quarter. Perfect attendance, honor roll and timeliness awards, as well as, classroom awards were also handed out. 33% of Manokotak students made the honor roll during second quarter.

The basketball season is in full swing, however, we have been disappointed that the weather has prevented us from hosting a home game so far. We are hoping for better weather luck in the next few weeks.

Chef Flora Deacon will be joining us for a week of native cooking classes in February. She will be working with middle school students, as well as doing an evening cooking class for community members.

On February 4, Migrant Education hosted a Literacy Night/pizza dinner. Migrant students and their families enjoyed a pizza dinner, read books and created a quilt block together.

An all school literacy night is scheduled for February 27. We will be hosting a party to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday.

Learning at all levels continues to be a priority at Manokotak School. Principal Forkner and two teachers attended the Response to Intervention

(RTI) conference in Anchorage. Information learned at the conference is being shared with the rest of the staff. Seven staff members are also taking a Scaffolding Reading class online together. It is being taught by one of the presenters from the conference. Special Education teacher, LeEsia O'Sullivan is attending the state special education conference and will bring valuable information back to share with everyone. A staff book study about Explicit Instruction is planned to be this month as well.



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



'Chief' Ivan Blunka School

Robin Jones, Principal

Things are moving right along at Chief Ivan Blunka School. We just recently wrapped up our Mini-Carnival, where we dedicated a long weekend to raising funds for our Student Council and 2014 Senior Class through basketball games, dinners, bingos, dances, and a pageant. Overall, it was a huge success and will provide many opportunities for our students!

During our recent winter screening for MAP testing, we noticed that some of our students have shown tremendous growth, which is really exciting for all of us! We can use this valuable data to help drive our PLC program and take our student interventions to the next level.

This upcoming weekend, we have 13 students traveling into Dillingham to take Introduction to Facilities Maintenance at the Bristol Bay Campus. Students attending will receive 1 college credit toward an occupational endorsement and an OSHA card. We are thrilled that our students will have such a unique career and technical education opportunity.

Student of the Month

Megan Gust-Kindergarten

Student of the Month

Christopher Kusma-11th Grade

Employee of the Month

Mollia White & Mary Andrew





Togiak School

Sam Gosuk, Principal

Our winter has been usually warm as everyone has noticed. I kept telling the teachers that this was not our normal winter. In observing nature, there have been some reports of green grass seen upriver and even fern that is used for food photographed. Our students got to play on the snowless ground outdoors. Our hunter went upriver moose hunting and seal hunters got to go out in January by boats!

Now that we are having some normal weather (wind chill up to -45) we as a community are hoping for some snow for our winter transportation. During this time our teachers who went to RTI are excited about having gone and are using what they learned during the conference. In listening to a couple of teachers who have gone, I see that it was stressed that in teaching the lower grades, the more actions related to the new concepts, the better the reception of the students to the content. Another familiar subject I am hearing is that they learned to unpack the standards and focus on one topic until the students learn that topic or learning target. Another concept one of the teachers has taken back and using is the concept – I do it, we do it, you do it, a model for writing. This is similar to the Yupik traditional way of teaching. When teaching another person or relative the instructor usually allows the student to watch. Then when allowing the student to try it, at a certain step of the skill being taught, the instructor guides the hand or fingers of the student. Then after this, the student is allowed practice the skill by his or her own while the instructor watches, a form of formative assessment.

Evaluations are done now, and since I went to the Alaska Administrative Coaching Project (AACP), I have used a few concepts from the coaching. Just learning and remember 4 words have been helpful, “Let’s think about ...”. After the evaluation and listening to the teachers using paraphrasing, or clarifying questions to make sure I am understanding a teachers’ communication of need to me, I state, “Let’s think about ways you can support or help the student in this area or topic.” This opens up the thinking of ideas by the teacher of how the student can be helped or supported in this area. I also give suggestions if the teacher asks for them. With the resources from AACP and the continuing support of the District Leadership team, Togiak School is being guided toward goals and plans that will help our communities’ students succeed.

As the elders say, “Piyunakertlinalriit piyutut taugam pingnatulriit.” (Not only the most likely to succeed get it, but those that are determined without quitting.)

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Twin Hills School
Meghan Redmond, Lead Teacher

Student of the Month – DEC

Elsie Goodwin - (Grades K-2)

Ciara Hernandez - (Grades 3-5)

Daniel Pleasant - (Grades 6-8)

Kevgiq & Pinewood Derby

Twin Hills School was proud to host the Southwest Region Schools Pinewood Derby for 2014. It was the first big district event held at the school in a number of years. After having to postpone for a week due to weather, the weather finally cooperated for two days in a row for Aleknagik and Ekwok students to travel to Twin Hills for the event. The Yup'ik studies program sponsored activities on Friday afternoon and evening, followed by a movie night and open gym. Then on Saturday, the nineteen students competed for bragging rights! We would like to congratulate Roberta Kaleak, 8th grader from Ekwok, for placing 1st, Tommy Pleasant, 4th grader from Twin Hills, for placing 2nd, and Ciara Hernandez, 4th grader from Twin Hills, for placing 3rd! Way to go kids!

I would also like to give a special thank you to all of the staff members who helped make the weekend run smoothly...Andrew Redmond, Megan Humphrey, Agnes Gamechuk, Jessica Mark, John Sharp, Nicholas Sharp, Gladys Small, Martha Foster, and Esther Ilutsik! Thank you for helping create a fun and successful weekend and putting in extra time for the students!

Migrant Literacy Night

We held our first Migrant Literacy Night at the end of January. Students and parents were invited to attend "Book Bingo". The students made a Bingo card of book titles and then had to read the books aloud to their parent. Each completed book was checked off the bingo card. Once the students had a bingo, they received a certificated for a sled. (The sled didn't make it in time through the mail, so they will be handed out as soon as they arrive!) Parents who attended had their names put into a hat, and one parent won a 12-piece pots and pans set. story that has a logical sequence of events, with a beginning, middle, and end.



STATE OF ALASKA



Executive Proclamation by Governor Sean Parnell

WHEREAS, Alaska's students and public schools depend on locally-elected school board members to guide their respective districts, foster academic achievement, and collaborate with educators, parents, and community members to enhance student learning and ensure community education needs are met; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 330 school board members who bring their energy and talents to Alaska's 54 school districts; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's school board members are responsible for establishing a vision for Alaska's schools that reflect the agreement between the boards, communities, and district staff members. They are also charged with approving curriculum materials, establishing policies and budgets, adopting the school year calendar, setting clear standards of accountability, and overseeing the entire operations of all schools; and

WHEREAS, school boards in Alaska serve an important function in our education system – they communicate the needs of our students and schools, serve as bridges between the school district and the public, and uphold the mission of advancing public education for the prosperity of Alaska's youth; and

WHEREAS, Alaskans appreciate school board members who contribute their time and talents, and are responsive to their communities as we work together to ensure Alaska's young people are college and career ready.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sean Parnell, Governor of the State of Alaska, do hereby proclaim February 2014 as:

School Board Recognition Month

in Alaska, and encourage Alaskans to recognize the hard work and dedication of school board members across the state, and to join them in creating and supporting an education system that meets the individual needs of Alaska's students.

Dated: January 29, 2014



A blue ink signature of Sean Parnell.

Sean Parnell, Governor
who has also authorized the
seal of the State of Alaska to
be affixed to this proclamation.