

# REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



## Superintendent's Office

David J. Piazza, Superintendent

### Staffing

The District welcomes Joseph Moynihan as the new secondary Language Arts teacher in Koliganek. We anticipate the arrival of Helen Powell who will be the long-term substitute teacher in Twin Hills for 6 weeks beginning in early February.

Intent forms have been sent out to all certificated staff and should be returned by the date of the board meeting. We have several staff members that have already indicated that they are leaving at the end of the year, which allows us to begin the recruiting process as soon as possible. The District has signed up for the job fairs that are traditionally attended including Tacoma, Seattle, Minneapolis, and Anchorage. We are looking at returning to Portland again this year, and may expand to other fairs known for their applicant pools of special education candidates.

### Legislative Issues

Two members of the House Education Task Force visited Dillingham on December 18th and 19th. The Committee co-chairs Representative Lynn Gattis and Representative Tammie Wilson were also accompanied by Representative Bryce Edgmon from our region during the two days as they met with Southwest Region School District, Dillingham City Schools, Head Start, and Bristol Bay Campus. Dillingham community members had a chance to discuss education issues during an evening "town-hall" meeting. Weather issues caused the flights scheduled for New Stuyahok and

**"Pissuryaraq  
ayanillerkaq-llu  
yuilqumi  
elitnaurutkaqluku.**

**Teach and learn  
outdoor survival and  
hunting skills."**

**--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

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Koliganek to be cancelled, but the group was able to utilize the district's distance delivery equipment to hold question and answer sessions with several staff and community members at both sites. School board members Wassillie Gust and Wassillie Wonhola were able to participate from New Stuyahok as well.

The FY 2014 legislative session is scheduled to begin on January 21st. The tone from the House Education Task Force's Initial Report as well as other correspondence from the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) and the Alaska Association of School Administrators indicates that this will again be a challenging time as we work to obtain adequate funding to meet the needs of our rural students and schools. Board members and district administrative staff are scheduled to attend the early February AASB Legislative Fly-In as well as the AASA and AASB fly-ins in March to continue to bring our stories and needs to the legislature and Governor Parnell's office.





## Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Director

### PROGRAM SUPPORT & TRAVEL

This past month, Steve traveled to Juneau for the Alaska Learning Network (AKLN), at its expense, to act as a member of the hiring committee to interview and select a new Executive Director for the program. AKLN is a statewide consortium that provides high school courses to students across the state. A number of SWRS high school students currently benefit from AKLN-sponsored courses ranging from Alaska History to high level math courses.

Two days of district-wide instructional inservice was held on January 9-10, 2014. Staff worked collaboratively on topics related to literacy at the K-6 level and on common assessments and course pacing at the 7-12 level. The meetings were very productive with high school staff completing nearly all of the second semester final common course assessments in first draft. K-6 staff had a lot of good discussion surrounding K-1 skills screening and other literacy related topics.

Work continues on the creation of a new evaluation system for the district following guidelines set by EED. The next step in this process will occur at the upcoming principals meeting later in January.

Work continues to finish up the updates to our social studies curriculum. The focus of this month's meetings are on finishing up our high school US History and US Government courses. At our December meeting we were joined by high school social studies across the district as well as board member, Helen Gregorio.

## INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TEAM



Les Parks  
Technology  
Coordinator



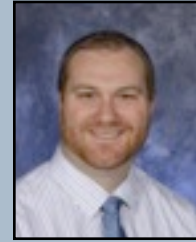
Deb Endicott  
Elem. Ed.  
Specialist



Corey Evans  
Computer-Aided  
Instruction Specialist



Pam Johnson  
Parapro Liaison



Tim Phillips  
Sec. Ed. Specialist

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## Elementary Education Notes

### Staff Development

- In December, we held our last two K-6 Instruction trainings for the fall. We ended with a very enthusiastic workshop on Interactive Read-Alouds. Using this familiar reading instruction strategy, teachers read stories aloud and engage students with comprehension questions strategies and techniques. It was such a hit with our teachers', that we will be developing a unique center in the media center to support Kindergarten through the sixth grade teacher with stories and teacher materials.
- We offered a one credit UAF Course for teachers or paraprofessionals to take during the bi-weekly semester long in-service. Two of our teachers took advantage of that and were successful in completing the extra requirements to earn their credit.



### Academic Competitions

- Battle of the Books and the Spelling Bee will be happening at sites during the month of January. Teachers and students are busy preparing for the competitions. It looks like we will have teams from all sites competing in both events.

### New School Library

- The new construction of Koliganek means a new library for the school. We have obtained quotes from three vendors and will be making a determination on vendor soon. It's exciting to order over 4,000 new books for the students and the community.

### Media Center

- We continue to work on re-organization of the Media Center to better fill the needs of our sites and their requests for supplemental materials for their lessons. This is an on-going project that will take us most of the year to complete.

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## Secondary Education Notes

We've had a busy start to the semester already. Over the course of the first semester, 7-12 teachers used staff development time to focus on developing and implementing common assessments throughout the district. This was a great opportunity for teachers in the same subject from around the district to sit down with each other and discuss best practices for teaching our students and come up with a common comprehensive exam for the semester in each course. Common assessments help ensure that no matter where students are enrolled across the district, they will be required to have mastered the same material as other students.



At the end of first semester, we administered our first iteration of common assessments in the district. Teachers administered exams to their students that they had been collaboratively developing for weeks. The exams went smoothly for the most part, especially being the first time we have attempted this type of assessment. We also used an online testing application, Schoolnet, for a select number of exams. Schoolnet, allowed our students to take their exams online and receive their scores instantly. This was

great for teachers, since much of the burden of grading those exams was lessened; and it was enjoyed by students because of the immediate feedback. Overall, the system worked well and we intend to pursue online testing in the future, both for immediacy of results as well as the ability to see student growth over time.

## Technology & Fall Inservice 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:

- Received Form 472 reimbursement of \$5,353.38 from United Utilities. All 2012-13 reimbursements now received...
- USAC has announced opening of 2014-15 Form 471 filing window on 01/09/2014, remaining open for 77 days...
- Posted 2014-15 Form 470, have started receiving vendor inquiries. On track to file our Form 471 by end of February...
- Completed OS updates and app installs for SchoolNet Secure Testing. Pilot SchoolNet testing shows promise as formative and summative testing format. Various issues with secure testing application to be resolved, however...
- Have begun wireless upgrade project for KMO and KNW (and potentially phone system upgrade for KMO)....



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

- Provided support for the second semester teacher in-services carried out via online conferencing tools and District distance delivery systems.
- Completed the update and migration to a new server of the district's technology asset inventory and help desk system.

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## State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

### ESEA Waiver – More on Accountability

Southwest Region School District has been designated as a tier III district under the new accountability measure. The district will receive state-level support based on the needs of the district or the schools, as well as, technical assistance. Most of this support will be related to the development of improvement plans. A tier III designation does not mean that the district is in an intervention district.

The overall goal in the ASPI system is to reduce the number of non-proficient students by 50% in six years with 2011-2012 being the baseline year. These targets are school specific and specific to the “all students” group and the subgroups within each school. So, the AMO targets at one school will be different than all the other schools because each school will have a different proficiency rates (based on 2011-2012 SBA data). One aspect that remains the same between AYP and ASPI is that there are AMO targets in the reading, writing, and math content areas and the proficiency rates are determined using the SBA results.

The AMO targets for each school and the district are included in the board packet.

### AK STEPP – School & District Improvement Planning

While schools and the district are always working to improve, the process will become more intense as the review and revision of the improvement plans (AK STEPP) kick into high gear. The process will begin

by looking at various data sets in order to identify areas of need. Communication with school staff, parents, and community also is a factor in determining the direction of improvement efforts. In addition, the six district goal areas and the ESEA requirement help to keep the process focuses. The first district meeting will occur this month with regular meetings scheduled through the end of the school year.

### Migrant Education – Services

The migrant education program is providing 230 magazine subscriptions to migrant children this year. Students selected an age-appropriate magazine and will receive that magazine for 1 year beginning in March or April. The parents of pre-school or younger aged students were provided the opportunity to select an age appropriate magazine for their child and to receive Parents magazine, which focuses on parenting children from birth to 12 years of age. Also, the migrant program has developed a partnership with BBAHC – Mental Health to help with costs associated with behavioral and other counseling services. This month, migrant students will be selecting up to \$50 in books to add to their personal library.

### Career & Technical Education

In order to support the recently revised welding course being implemented this semester, supplies for Koliganek and Togiak have been ordered and are on their way to those sites. The next step is the development of a second year of welding that focuses

on expanding the skillset that students learned during the first year of welding. In addition, preliminary discussions have occurred about the development of an Education Pathway that would lead to the opportunity to become highly qualified as a paraprofessional and to expose and explore the path to becoming a certified teacher.

## Site Visits

I traveled to New Stuyahok to attend a CSC meeting and ended up staying a little longer than was intended, which was a great opportunity to spend time in classrooms, talking with staff, and working with students. Information about student achievement (site specific and district specific), a grant synopsis (including Impact Aide), and the ASPI accountability system was shared. I took advantage of the extended stay to go out with the students during one of the Yup'ik Studies courses. The students were very engaged under the instruction provided by Justin Gumlickpuk and were out in the field learning about tools, methods, and strategies of the trapping trade.



**Student Information & Support  
Specialist: Kyle Schneider**

## Migrant Education

After the close of the Migrant Education recruiting window in November, letters were sent out to parents who had not yet been notified to inform them that their children had been approved by the state's Migrant Education Office. These letters included details about the services that would be provided to their children.

Eligibility for all Migrant Education students was input in PowerSchool and lists were sent to all Migrant Coordinators so they could begin providing services.

## PowerSchool

With the end of the first semester, Kyle worked with teachers and principals to ensure that grades were complete prior to storing them. Once grades were stored, principals were able to print their report cards. Kyle also generated honor rolls for those sites which requested them.

Kyle also worked with principals and counselors to make student schedule changes and held a thirty minute session to answer questions from administrators and teachers about grading during the January inservice.

## Schoolnet

Kyle has continued to work to load past years' assessment data into the Schoolnet analysis tool. Currently, SBA data for the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years, along with MAP data from Spring 2012 to the present, and HSGQE data for the 2012-2013 school year has been imported. Work continues on this project with the assistance of Superintendent Piazza.

Schoolnet is also a platform for the delivery of tests and quizzes via the internet. Kyle has supported the Instruction department in getting the first tests input and has provided training to staff on how to input tests and how to administer them. To that end, in early December, Kyle traveled to New Stuyahok and worked with the staff during a late start to enter practice tests for their classes. This gave both staff and students a chance to familiarize themselves with the software before finals. Tim Phillips (Secondary Education Specialist) provided a similar training in Manokotak, and Corey Evans (Computer Aided Instruction Specialist) traveled to

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Togiak to train their staff. Training was provided to staff in Koliganek via distance.

## **School Climate & Connectedness Survey**

The district has been registered for the Spring 2013 School Climate and Connectedness Survey. School Coordinators have been identified and a sample survey has been sent to secretaries at each site for parents to review. Parents were notified of the survey with a letter mailed from the District Office on January 14th. The window for the survey will be February 3rd - February 14th.

## **Impact Aid**

This year a new method of gathering household information was implemented. Interactive maps were created using satellite images of the villages for which it was available. Secretaries were then able to use the maps to mark where families lived. Kyle then used the annotated maps to match properties with the survey maps on hand in the District Office. This process saved a large amount of time over the method used to gather information last year.

Impact Aid data was sent to site secretaries and BBHC for correction during November. Once the data was returned, Kyle created the Impact Aid Certification paperwork and sent it to sites for principals and village administrators to review and approve. Impact Aid information was then sent to the business office before winter break so the report can be created for the federal government.



## **Counseling & Assessment Specialist: Steve Ito**

The fall High School Graduating Qualifying Exam (HSGQE) Retake scores were available in December and electronically sent to K-12 sites for review and disbursement. The HSGQE is offered two times every school year (fall and spring) A sophomore may take the HSGQE for the first time in the spring of their 10th grade year. The HSGQE assesses for Reading, Writing and Math skills a graduating senior in Alaska would be required to know.

Identified and trained certified staff SPED members to be the Alternate Assessment Qualified Test Proctor for 2014 testing of students with significant cognitive disabilities. The Alternate Assessment exists for these students to have access to, participate in, and make progress in general education curricula. The Alternate Assessment is based on Alaska standards but measured against alternate achievement standards.

Completed the EED mandated WorkKeys testing for grade 11 students at all K-12 sites. The WorkKeys assessment targets the workplace "foundational" skills that are needed for virtually all occupations and at any level of education. The three major skill areas in Alaska Career Ready are: Applied Mathematics — measures the skills people use when they apply mathematical reasoning, critical thinking, and problem-solving techniques to work-related problems. The test questions require the examinee to set up and solve the types of problems and do the types of calculations that actually occur in the workplace.

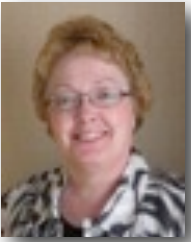
Reading for Information — measures the skills people use when they read and use written text in order to do a job. The written texts include memos, letters, directions, signs, notices, bulletins, policies, and regulations. Locating Information — measures the skills people use when they locate, synthesize, and use information from workplace graphics such as charts, graphs, tables, forms, flowcharts, diagrams, floor plans, maps, and instrument gauges, as typically found in workplace situations. Completion of the WorkKeys test provides students with a National Career Ready Certificate and may allow qualifying students to apply for the Alaska Performance Scholarship.

Spring HSGQE & SBA district wide testing enrollments have been submitted to Data Recognition Corporation. Pre Code labeling data transfer will take place in January. Submitting enrollments and Pre-Code data greatly enhances the quality and accuracy of test administration during the mandated spring Standards Based Assessment for grades 3-10, and the High School Qualifying Exam testing window. Staff utilized during the April testing window will be required to submit test security agreements and adhere to EED mandated testing integrity and protocol standards.

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## Special Education

Robin Gray, Director

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Director Gray has spent time this month with early childhood and Head Start. Through collaboration, data is being shared and discussions regarding the instructional program for the pre-schoolers is being reviewed. Areas of compromise continue to be discussed. The district would like to see increased academics on the preschool level to improve readiness skills for kindergarten entry.

Director Gray met with James Neumann from Behavior Health, and after an explanation of how the Behavior Health program works, and the district's request for more on site coverage from clinicians, ongoing communication and continued opportunities to support each other were agreed upon. Behavior health is so short of staff that increased visits from them to sites are more difficult then having students and families coming in to Dillingham. The problem with this is that monthly visits of students to Dillingham become difficult and the needed ongoing services tend to cease.

Another Childfind window will be advertised for February and all district communities will have the opportunity to refer children that are considered to have concerns.

SWRSD is proud to announce that Ben Griese, special education teacher from New Stuyahok, has been chosen as the Council for Exceptional Children, for the State of Alaska, Teacher of the Year. Ben will receive his award at ASSEC, the State Special Education Conference, in Anchorage in February. Congratulations Ben! We are very proud of you.



## Business Office

Lee Ann Andrew, Director

### FY14 budget

Final revenue numbers are in from the state. The state funding is down \$226,046 however we received a late Impact Aid payment in May of \$324,747 that is to be applied to FY14. So final funding is up \$98,784. The budget has been updated to reflect current expected expenses. See the budget revision action item for more details.

### FY15 budget

We are in the process of entering preliminary numbers for the FY15 budget. State revenues should remain flat and adjusted to student population. We still have one more year of hold harmless funding which is approximately an additional \$200,000 for FY15 that we will not have in FY16. We need to keep this in mind as we develop our budget particularly our staffing.

### Health Insurance

The FY14 budget was changed to reflect the lower cost of insurance for 2014. We also have to keep in mind that our premium will increase significantly in 2015 due to the extremely good pricing we received this year. The district extended the open enrollment for all employees working 30 or more hours per week due to the late notice of the new premium cost to January 15. We also wanted to make sure that everyone was aware that health insurance is available for all employees working 30 hours or more per week and what the cost for 2014 is, so we sent out a second notice with the extended open enrollment date. The forms for the individual mandate waiver available to Alaska Natives is now available from Kanakanak and on-line. We will include a copy of the form with the January payroll and get a copy to every school secretary for distribution.

### Purchasing Cards (P-cards)

We have received the purchasing cards (p-cards) and are getting ready to roll out that program slowly. We will start with the business office cards and make sure the system works. We will then roll it out to one K-12 site for sports and the principal and make sure that works smoothly. Then continue to roll it out to the other K-12 sites. We will also be modifying our purchasing procedures to include the use of credit cards.

### FY14 Expenditures from July to January

For the board's information, in the packet is a list of vendors the district has spent over \$10,000 in FY14.

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## Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director

### 39th Annual Bilingual Multicultural Education Equity Conference

The 39th Annual Bilingual Multicultural Education Equity Conference was held November 20-22nd at the Sheraton Hotel in Anchorage. Kiarpiar Fanny Parker, HS Yup'ik Studies Instructor of Togiak, Iteggmialria Herbert Lockuk, Jr. and Natu Bertha Pavian-Lockuk, Elementary Yup'ik Studies Instructional Aides of Togiak, Tan'iq Larry Bartman, HS Yup'ik Studies Instructor of Manokotak, and Angutkayak Louise Gloko, HS/Middle School Yup'ik Studies Instructional Aide of Manokotak, Mollia White, Secondary Language Arts teacher of New Stuyahok and myself all participated in the event.



Congratulations to Natu Bertha Pavian-Lockuk who was re-elected to serve as Parent Advocate (2nd term) SIG for the AKABE (Alaska Association for Bilingual Education).

Many unique Key Note speakers were featured including Dr. Ray Barnhardt, UAF Center for Cross-Cultural Studies.

There were many excellent workshop sessions but would like to highlight "Holistic Language Instruction and Revitalization" presented by Alisha Drabek and Candice Branson. It was amazing to have been able to watch this group of Alutiiqs as they grew from being non-speakers to speakers. Please check out their web site to see all the NEAT activities they are engaged in as they reclaim their language: [alutiiqlannguage.org](http://alutiiqlannguage.org).

### Iteggmialria Herbert Lockuk, Jr. of Togiak

What I got most from the conference was that there is a lot of good multi-cultural teachers out there that are willing to teach what we believe is getting lost, our native way of life, and especially our language. I believe that as long as there are people working together, I am sure that the language can be kept alive regardless of our differences. When there are willing teachers, teaching unselfishly, the out come can be

rewarding, as one of the older teachers has had said it. Therefore, we must strive to teach what we know of our language and way of life.

### **Natu Bertha Pavian–Lockuk of Togiak**

I liked that one speaker's quote, "The knowledge we have within ourselves, isn't ours to keep, it is a given gift from our creator. Therefore, we are to teach and share whatever knowledge that we have within us, amongst our students and especially to our children and family members that are in need of support." I also am so very impressed too, to realize even with 'the differences' each person has, may we be worlds apart or just around the bend, that anyone of us, may we be working or be a stay home parent, a leader in our village or just a volunteer, 'WE' can make a difference. As long as you are staying true to yourself and to those around you. Making that difference can start from you.

### **Tan'iq Larry Bartman, HS Yup'ik Studies Instructor of Manokotak**

One of the sessions that stood out to me was called: MAQQII, Making access for QRS and Internet Innovation. This session included the detailed demonstration of the use and incorporation of technology to enhance and support educational success for Native students. The presentation included students who presented to the educators about the program and how it helps their situation in their academic pursuit. It was curtailed to the students' need in gaining credits for graduation and how it was flexible to their time in getting assignments done. It involved the use of google docs, web curating, technology trouble shooting, internet and technology vocabulary, social media integration, and using polling and survey sites. It was a very good session.

Another session that stood out to me was Future Educators of Alaska: Growing our own. This was presented by Michael Stacks and Ina Bouker. The blending of cultural knowledge and Elder mentoring is a key component in FEA. I thought this was a very good program that reaches out to Native students and "growing our own" Alaska Native Educators.

### **Angutkayak Louise Gloko, HS/Middle School Yup'ik Studies Instructional Aide of Manokotak**

What was interesting was when one of the presenters shared about culture, belief, customs and arts that equal to community. I thought that was interesting and about the cultural standards that we learn from our grandparents and elders that are important for our students and community. That's why having elders in our schools is important because they are rich with cultural standards and about cultural strategies. One awesome thing I really liked was: "Teaching through the Lens of Culture" you could use that strategy and get lots of ideas for your lesson plan. Looking through the lens, you could see what our students needs are and teach them how important our cultural practices are for our schools. Lens of experience: giving students experience such as taking them to survival trips, teaching them how to survive in all weather patterns, and teaching them about living in subsistence life style. We could use our own yup'ik vocabulary-sentence structure for our cultural classrooms, to encourage our students to have our language back to our schools and this will be the key for our communities.

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## **Mollia White, Secondary Language Arts teacher of New Stuyahok**

Of the sessions I attended two stood out as both applicable to my teaching practices and my further education. The first was Jim MacDiarmid's session on the Developmental Language Process in which he taught us five difficult vocabulary words and different strategies for using them in a fun and highly interactive way. These strategies are used for teaching native languages but are easily incorporated into my Language Arts classroom; especially for some of the harder to understand academic vocabulary students need to know. The second session that impressed me was Michael Stacks session on Future Teachers of Alaska, and the importance of growing our own educators. It would be amazing, and very beneficial to our students, if they were taught the importance of a Western education, and the importance of continuing their native traditions, by teachers from their culture. I am taking away a new appreciation for the efforts, all across the state, of preserving the native languages and why of life by incorporating them into the educational system. Our students need a Western education to succeed in the highly changing world we live in, but they also need the culture and language that has sustained their people for thousands of years. I am heartened to see that need is being addresses, and I am honored to become a part of the process.





## Aleknagik School

Audra Finkenbinder, Principal/Teacher

### Happy New Year!

Before Aleknagik School staff and students began their Christmas break on December, 20, 2013, the volleyball season concluded, the school held a Christmas Program, and the students celebrated with a Secret Santa gift exchange.

On January 13, 2014, Aleknagik North Shore School began the third semester. Within the first few weeks of the New Year, students will be participating in MAPS Testing, the School Connectiveness Survey, the 2nd Annual Mini-Keviq Celebration/Pinewood Derby, a school-wide spelling bee, will begin basketball season and will also receive CIPA training.

### ATHLETICS

Aleknagik School continues to build the athletic program by establishing cross-country, volleyball and basketball teams. The volleyball team had quite a successful season that concluded on December 6th with a tournament in Manokotak. The basketball team began practice on January 14th and is enthusiastically preparing for upcoming games and tournaments.

### Students of the Month

Alysonne Andrews  
Glenn Andrews

Congratulations! Keep up the good work!



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## William ‘Sonny’ Nelson School

Nate Preston, Principal/Teacher

We are starting second Semester in Ekwok and we are making progress in district goals 1-4. Student teaching, weekly collaboration, and a new Yupik Instructor are continuing to help us reach the district goals. We are still pushing “Every Question Counts” and believe we will be a three star school or higher next year. The school enrollment projections with known losses has dropped to 9 for next school year, but the CSC, community and village all insist that once the new HUD homes are finished in January we will have more than enough students to be over 10. We will be testing two students for early kindergarten entry this month for next year if they both pass are number will be up to 11.

Update on district goals 1-4: Reading by third grade, Student engagement, Comprehensive Instructional Plan and Revitalize the Yupik Studies Program.

Goal 1: Reading by the third grade is an area where we continue to put in a lot of effort. We are continuing with items previously discussed and will update you once we have the next set of MAP Data in January. The after school program is having success 70% of the students have gone and 100% of those who are below grade level reads have attended the reading session.

Goal 2: Student engagement is a goal where we are having such great success this year. Attendance for Semester 1 has improved from 76 days absent to 35 days absent, which is a 54% improvement from last year. We also have zero tardies for the year. We are very happy with current success we are having with attendance and tardies. We will continue the strategies that are working. In addition, we are working with both the students and parents to stay informed on upcoming student trips. We are emphasizing trips now because we discovered that 28 of 35 absences 80% of are absences were family trips in to Anchorage. By knowing when and how long the students will be gone we can have homework and lessons for them to take on there trips. This helps minimize the impact of the trips and the students do not fall behind the rest of the class.

Goal 3: Comprehensive Instructional Plan is an area where we are working to improve. We are continuing what we talked about before. In addition, we are using Brigance and PPTV scores to focus on need areas in lower elementary. We will have new MAP scores at the end of the month to reevaluate how students are doing and tweak lessons accordingly. We are also working with district office to get more rigor and quality homework for the students.

We have nothing new to report on Goal 4 but will inform you as soon as we do.



## Koliganek School

### Cody McCanna, Principal

Happy New Year! Koliganek School was a busy place in December putting on the annual Christmas Program for the community while finishing finals before Christmas Break. With Christmas behind us we will again focus our attention on improving student learning in all areas.



### Quality Staff

As the instructional leader of Koliganek School I would like to recognize the efforts the entire team puts into helping our students learn. Our outstanding paraprofessionals include Genevieve Kapatak, Annie Hanson, Lena Norbert, Natalia Ishnook, Darlene Wyagon, and Margo Hiratsuka. They are a key component of our team that work with our K-5 professional educators that include Anu Wysocki, Diane O'Riley, Shianne Perry. They create a comprehensive and flexible schedule to create specific groups to ensure all students are getting the instruction they need. Rich Harrelson, Caleb Jurkowski, and Joseph Moynihan continue to create a schedule for our 6-12 program that allows students to take college math courses and electives that will prepare them for future opportunities.

### Professional Learning Community

The PLC at Koliganek will continue their work around the Action Steps on the Reading, Writing, and Math Goal Planning sheets. The team is currently creating new Writing Process posters that will go into every classroom so all students are learning the same language while going through the writing process. The team will also be doing some training in reading and writing strategies to share specific strategies to help students in all classes. PLC meetings are held every Friday from 2:00 to 3:00.

### School Activities

Koliganek School Lady Huskies represented us at the State volleyball tournament in December. They are now ready to begin the busy basketball season that lies ahead. The District has a quality schedule in place that has no open weekends the entire season. We look forward to watching them play.

### Behavior Reward Recipients for September:

K-1: Kailey Ishnook  
6-8: Samuel Moses

2-3: Elizabeth Norbert  
9-12: Bobby Wyagon

4-5: Brody Wysocki

### Behavior Reward Recipients

K-1: Charisse Suskuk  
6-8: Natasha Hobson

2-3: Shania McCanna  
9-12: Charmaine Stewart

4-5: Kaitlyn Herrmann

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## Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Deb Forkner, Principal

Manokotak Nunaniq School has had a busy couple of months since the last board report.

The highlight for November was hosting the District Student Leadership Retreat. Dana Bartman did a remarkable job of planning and presenting a fun and informational retreat for the 21 students and sponsors from each school in the district. Students learned about leadership, meeting procedures, and activities to use at their schools. The student leaders put on an assembly for the Manokotak students, made t-shirts and had a lot of laughs together.

December included a holiday bazaar hosted by the school, the annual Christmas program and a visit from Santa, a staff Christmas party and holiday door-decorating contest.

Manokotak School's RTI team has been busy meeting with five different parents in December to develop intervention plans to address student needs. The team is very pleased with the response from parents and results from implementation.

The Community School Committee continues to work on revising and updating a student handbook and planning for the use of JOM funds.

Second semester schedules are in place and we are pleased to be offering a wide variety of elective courses for high school students. Courses being offered include: Yupik Studies Subsistence, Introduction to Yupik, Yupik Orthography, Traditional Yupik Place Names, PE, Life Skills, HSGQE English and Math, and Applied Computer Applications.

An awards assembly is scheduled for January 16 to recognize students for their second quarter accomplishments. Principal Forkner and two teachers will be attending the RTI conference in Anchorage January 24-26. The Manokotak Lynx are excited for basketball games to begin and are looking forward to hosting four home games this season.





## 'Chief' Ivan Blunka School

Robin Jones, Principal

At Chief Ivan Blunka School, we finished off the 1st semester strong! On December 10, we hosted a Family Literacy Night for the students and parents. The theme was "Chillin' with a Good Book." Participants worked on snowflakes, sequencing, and sang along to "If it's snowy and you know it, clap your paws," with kindergarten teacher, Wesley Nelson, on the guitar. Everyone seemed to have a great time, and we had a stellar turnout! Also in December, we had 3 wrestlers compete at the state wrestling championships in Anchorage. It was a very competitive field, but all 3 wrestlers enjoyed the experience and hope to compete again next year! Just before school got out for the semester, we had our Quarter 2 Awards Assembly. We are pleased to report that 70% of our secondary students are on the Honor Roll and many students had Perfect Attendance records! We are so proud of our students and their accomplishments!

We started off semester 2 with professional development trainings for the staff. During in-service, the elementary staff was given additional literacy training along with a very dynamic CPI refresher course from our in-house expert, Benjamin Griese. Likewise, the secondary staff made great gains on getting common assessments designed and in place for the students. Probably the most significant staff development opportunity that will take place this semester is the adoption of Professional Learning Communities (PLC) at our site. We are planning to meet in PLC groups weekly and cannot wait to see the positive impact these groups will have on our students and staff.



### Student of the Month

Kelsey Gust-3rd Grade

### Student of the Month

Peter Blunka-11th Grade



### Employee of the Month

Justin Gumlickpuk-Yup'ik Instructor



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Togiak School

Sam Gosuk, Principal

The first semester ended with several events that marked the end of the old year and the start of the New Year.

Our middle school teachers got a museum from the department of fish and game and invited K – 12 to come and see the museum. There were fur, and some craft made from fur also some tools to see. The class enjoyed showing the museum and students and teachers really liked the museum of fur of animals in the area, crafts, and tools from our culture

Our student welders had a boat race at first creek with boats they build in the class using steel. The students were very excited about the race which had given them incentive to make their model boats while learning to weld.

In December during family night, there was a good attendance on the K -2 elementary parent, student, and teacher fun night on a Friday. The elementary teachers had game stations for parents and students. Staff, parents, and students themselves read books to each other. One staff read to the parents and students in Yupik. Some students played the game of limbo while others wrote to Santa.



Also in December during the Christmas Program, the school for the first time in years, due to the teacher volunteer after school music teacher, we had a band presentation. Students sung in Yupik, English, and Dutch German. Attendance was discussed at this time. Students who had the best attendance with their parents were recognized and their picture taken. About 30 students' names were put in envelope and 6 names were picked out to win 27.5 gallons of gas, which was donated by the Tri-council. The parents and students were told that people who never give up but keep on being determined in school are the ones who succeed in life not necessarily only the smart one.

As start the New Year, our teachers have a goal of giving at least 2 positive calls a week to parents for 1 negative call. One of the teachers who had called the parent about something positive to the parent stated that parent was surprised to hear something good about her child. Basketball season also started and at our first assembly to 7 – 12, they were reminded that if they have three tardies in one week, they couldn't play in the team that week. The basketball season will have a huge motivation to our students and we are happy to see the hard work our ADs in the district to have put together more home games.



## Twin Hills School

Meghan Redmond, Lead Teacher

Just a few updates on Twin Hills School. Twin Hills School has seen growth in our student count this year, and we are up to 19 K-8 students and 2 preschool students, for a total current enrollment of 21. We started the year at a total enrollment of 18 students. The new teacher housing has been completed to a point that both staff members have been able to completely move in and enjoy the new housing. Finishing projects will need to be completed in the Spring. The Christmas program, potluck and fundraisers were well attended by the village. We concluded our annual raffle with a great profit, which goes towards the 8th grade trip to be held next school year.

### After School Program

Students in grades one through five continue to participate in our after school program. Schools were given the opportunity this year to design our own after school program, and Twin Hills was thrilled to participate. Each day, students stay after school for 90 minutes for additional instruction in reading, spelling, and writing. The students use a variety of resources and instructional strategies, including Spelling City, Raz Kids, journaling, silent reading, and listening to reading. The students also work at their grade level or instructional level at different points throughout the program.

### Classroom Focus for January

In the month of January, Ms. Humphrey's Kindergarten through 3rd graders are focusing on the trait of Organization in their writing lessons. The focus of the lessons has been around creating a story that has a logical sequence of events, with a beginning, middle, and end.

Mrs. Redmond's middle school classroom is fortunate to again to participating in the Salmon in the Classroom program as part of the science curriculum. The salmon eggs arrived shortly before winter break, and they have hatched into the Alevin stage of the life cycle already! The students are eager to watch their salmon grow for a second year.

### Student of the Month – DEC

Daniel Sharp - (Grades K-2)

Ciara Hernandez - (Grades 3-5)

Carlton Small - (Grades 6-8)

### Student of the Month – JAN

Tanya Hernandez - (Grades K-2)

Curtis Pleasant - (Grades 6-8)