

# REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Be helpful to one another.”**

## Board of Education



**David J. Piazza, Superintendent**

Superintendent Piazza attended the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Fall Conference earlier this month with all seven Board Members also in attendance. The conference theme of “Honor the Past | Embrace the Future” encouraged participants to look back at the 60 years since the inception of AASB and to look forward to the changes needed to improve locally controlled public education systems within the state.

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schools. Sessions included the “Board’s Role in Curriculum” presented by Sammy Crawford, Kenai Peninsula Borough Board Member; “Qualities of an Effective Curriculum Aligned with Board Policies” presented by Dr. Susan McCauley, Director of Teaching and Learning Support at the Alaska Department of Education; “Implementing the Policies and Practices for a Standards Based Instructional Program” presented by Jennie Schauuff & Bill Watkins with the Kodiak Island Borough School District; and “A North Slope Experience: Creating Culturally Integrated Curriculum” presented by Debby Edwardson, Board President, Dr. Lisa Skiles-Parady, Assistant Superintendent and other staff of the North Slope Borough School District.

This year’s first keynote speaker was Chris Rush from the New Classrooms Innovation Partners. His presentation focused on the concept of a “School of One” where technology can be utilized to deliver and manage each individual student’s unique learning needs to ensure that students are engage and receiving instruction that fills in their gaps and meets the individuals student’s learning style and needs.

The large group breakout session on “School Law Program” provide participants with an opportunity to learn more about legal issues that can be managed with School Board Policies and Administrative Regulations. Leal Harrison, with the law firm Faulkner Banfield discussed issues surrounding the inclusion and non-discrimination of students who participate in student extra curricular activities. Allen Clendaniel with the firm Sedor, Wendlandt, Evans, and Filippi had participants think about the issues surrounding religious prayer in schools. Finally Saul Friedman with the law firm of Jermain Dunnagan & Owens, P.C. provided information regarding the use of service animals by students within the schools.



Twenty-two “Snapshot” sessions allowed conference participants a variety of choice to learn more about a particular topic. The session “School Wellness Policies – Updated Federal Requirements” presented by Lauren Kelsey with the State of Alaska’s Obesity Prevention and Control Program discussed the changes published by the United States Department of Agriculture regarding the sale of snack foods and beverages sold to children at school during the school day. The “Smart Snacks in School” project aims at instilling healthy eating habits in children.

John Sedor presented during the large group breakout session entitled “Open Meeting Training”. This session provide information regarding the Alaska Open Meetings Act and provided participants with guidance in following the requirements to ensure that board meetings are run within legal bounds.

The opening presentation on the second day of the conference was keynoted by Linda Chamberlain with the Alaska State Department of Health an Social Services. Dr. Chamberlain discussed the resiliency of children and their ability to overcome a multitude of adverse childhood experiences with support from caring adults including school personnel.

The breakout session “Robert’s Rules of Order in Village English presented by David Miller with the Northwest Arctic Borough School District provided information regarding the establishment of meeting agendas and the formation of motions in order to conduct a meeting as effectively and efficiently as possible.

This year’s Round Table discussions allowed board members from different parts of the state to share ideas regarding what has been successful in their district and to ask the question “How does your board do...?” in order to learn from other’s experiences. Students from the Youth Leadership Institute joined the tables to help board members gain perspective from the student’s point of view on issues impacting the school and ways that the students can be empowered to create positive change within the school and community.

The final day of the conference dealt with the passage of resolutions that will provide the foundation of the lobbying agenda for the upcoming Legislative Session. The Alaska Teacher of the Year was announced during the luncheon, as well. Congratulations go out to Denise Lisac from the Dillingham City School District.





## Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Director

### Curriculum Work and Support for Programs

This month, the Instruction and Information Systems team has been focused on curriculum updates and working to improve and update our evaluation system to reflect recent changes in State statute and regulation, while supporting staff at sites in implementation of existing programs.

Early this month, Steve traveled with Superintendent Piazza and the School Board to the Alaska Association of School Administrator's (AASB) Fall Conference. It was an excellent conference. The sessions related to curriculum development and new state standards in Language Arts and Mathematics were particularly interesting and useful. Presentations by the North Slope Borough School District on their cultural framework and curriculum process held some ideas we might consider as we look at our own cultural programs and the new evaluation requirements from the state.

Our district-wide instructional inservice on October 18th went well and participation was high. We worked at the K-6 level on a variety of topics related to our reading program and student engagement. At the 7-12 level staff worked in subject area teams refining semester assessments.

Work is also continuing on the creation of a new evaluation system for the district following guidelines set by EED. This project will involve a range of stakeholders for input and progress throughout the year. District administration from across the district met a few weeks ago to create a rough draft of the new evaluation plan. That plan was drafted and it will be presented to teachers and other stakeholders in the coming months for feedback.

## INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TEAM



Les Parks  
Technology  
Coordinator



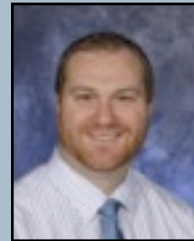
Deb Endicott  
Elem. Ed.  
Specialist



Corey Evans  
Computer-Aided  
Instruction Specialist



Pam Johnson  
Parapro Liaison



Tim Phillips  
Sec. Ed. Specialist

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## Social Studies Curriculum Committee Meeting: November 14–15, 2013

This past week, we held our first Social Studies Curriculum Committee meeting of the year. We focused on a continuation of the work begun on our Modern US History course. Our committee welcomed several new members this year. Joining returning members, Tim Phillips, Steve Noonkesser, Lorrinne Masterman were Clayton Lamphear, Drew Williams and board member Helen Gregorio. Weather caused a late start on the first day and delayed travel home until Saturday morning, but two long days of great discussion and consideration of Alaska Standards, National Standards and resource materials and textbooks followed. The group was pleased with the outcome, but as always the task ahead remains large. At our next meeting in early December, we plan to finish the work on Modern US History and complete the work on an update of our Government/Civics course. In January, we plan to begin work on our Alaska History and other Alaska and regionally related courses.

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## Elementary Education Notes

- During the month of October, Pam visited New Stuyahok School. During the day she was able to visit several classroom and observed a reading mastery class. Pam and Brielle met to discuss the Literacy Class and the fluency procedures. The school and staff were welcoming and invited me into their classrooms.
- Three projects that Pam has been working on are: Study Island, Literacy Nights and the 100th Day of School. She has developed presentations that she has shared with staff. The purpose of the Study Island presentation is to show the changes that have occurred in the program and ideas of how we can utilize this program in our intervention program and our classrooms. The Literacy Night presentation is to help schools plan their own literacy nights at the school. Pam also created a notebook for the 100th Day of School, full of ideas that can be used to develop a creative day full of fun educational activities for our K-6 program.
- Our Literacy Class on October 9th highlighted Fluency K-6. Brielle presented the fluency component for 2-6 and Pam presented the K-1 component of fluency. The Literacy Team developed data collecting sheets for the blue data folders that would be beneficial for teachers to share with parents during parent teacher conferences.
- Our Literacy Class on October 23rd focused on Oral Language including the importance of vocabulary development and its connections to reading proficiency. The November 6th Literacy Class focused on Math. Pam worked with the K-3 teachers on how to incorporate the morning meeting into their day and also presented how to use Study Island to firm up math concepts that students may be struggling with.
- Deb Endicott, Brielle Good, Evelyn Kleinke and Pam meet weekly to plan the classes and then we assign each person a topic, which we then must plan and present.
- On November 11th Pam visited Ekwok School and worked with the aides in the school on writing, pre-school activities, and math ideas. On November 13th she traveled in Manokotak School and presented Study Island and Literacy Night topics during the afternoon staff meeting. The staff and students made me feel so welcome and enjoyed visited the classrooms.



- Deb continues to organize and implement professional development opportunities for the K-6 teachers, paraprofessionals and principals utilizing the distance delivery system. Our topics this week will be putting the “fun” into the learning classrooms. We will review recent research showing the importance for students to be truly engaged in their learning. Then we will share across the district how teachers showcase student work and then learn and practice several forms of “construction paper foldables” and how they can be implemented into the curriculum. Further discussions on organizing and implementing whole school wide literacy events such as Math night or Literacy nights brining parents and the community into the schools and learn ways to support reading and math at home. These events are great to facilitate the communications between all parties involved in educating our youth.
- Other topics we are working on are: effective teaching, communication, and assessments. Our Wednesday in service format includes the opportunity for staff members to voice a concern or a challenge they may be having with curriculum or instruction. The Literacy team works to design professional training to help address challenges raised.
- As learning has evolved to include the electronic curriculum materials, our Media Center has also begun to change. This is a major undertaking for our department updating for teachers to use in their classrooms. As our curriculum continues to develop, supplemental resources are identified to support instructional plans for each course offered. Elementary teachers building classroom literacy programs will continue to have access to reading, language arts, math, science and social studies books, DVD and supplies to support their learning.
- Curriculum Team Meetings continue again this fall. Each meeting requires set-up for travel, housing and meal preparation for the members. It’s always a benefit when participants can work un-interrupted and not have to worry about housing or meals while they are working. It’s important for teachers and paraprofessionals participating in these events to feel welcomed and confident that they are contributing to this important process of building relevant curriculum for our students.

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## Secondary Education Notes

- October has been a month focused on curriculum. Tim spent the majority of his time this month in preparation for our social studies meetings. We held the first of our meetings November 14-15 this past week.
- This month Tim also devoted much of his time to the creation of a software solution for predicting Kindergarten enrollment and set up the student email system for our upper grade students as well.



## Technology & Fall Inservice Notes

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



Les was busy engaged in many other activities including:

- Manokotak student government students spoke via Distance Delivery with Governor Sean Parnell as he was speaking at the AFN convention opening ceremonies.
- Working on new mobile filtering solution and differential filtering for students and staff...
- Received DRC Load Test results indicating that "...the current infrastructure setup of the SOUTHWEST school district IS ACCEPTABLE for the successful delivery of electronic testing." However, a Local Caching Server will be necessary in each of our schools...
- Received Form 472 reimbursement of \$15,000 from Nuhsagak Telephone and \$7,604.50 from Bristol Bay Telephone... Still awaiting and \$5,353.38 from United Utilities...
- Received from EED certification of 2014-15 Budget Inventory Analysis, making SWRSD eligible for file for 2014-15 eRate funding...
- 2013-14 eRate funding remains in Initial Review status...



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

- The technology Department has been providing technology support for the K-6 and 7-12 in-services happening every other Wednesday evening via distance delivery and online audio conferencing.
- Students RIT scores have been uploaded into the Study Island system district wide and Koliganek School has begun testing the individualized learning plans provided now that the NWEA Study Island linking is complete.
- CAI specialist Corey Evans has begun shifting focus now that the Fall round of online testing is over and has begun working on the back log of computer hardware repairs that have had to have been put aside due to higher priority projects.

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## State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

### ESEA Waiver – More on Accountability

- ASPI – Alaska School Performance Index
- AMO – Annual Measurable Objective
- SBA – Standards Based Assessment (gr. 3-10)
- MAP – Measures of Academic Progress
- NAEP – National Assessment of Educational Progress

The last report to the School Board included information about the AMO targets for each school and the district, which is based on the 2011-2012 school year. The information provided this month shows the proficiency levels for all subgroups in relation to the AMO targets for the 2012-2013 school year at both the district level the individual school level. The overall goal is to reduce the number of non-proficient students by 50% at the end of the 2017-2018 school year in the reading, writing, and math content areas. The 2012-2013 proficiency data for each school and the district is included in the board packet.

### Title I – Report to the Public

Each year, various school and district level information and data is shared with the parents through the report to the public. The report is mailed to parents and has also been mailed to the tribal organizations within each village. The report details information from the 2012-2013 school year including academic achievement on the SBAs, MAP, and NEAP, as well as, information about the number of highly qualified classes, teacher qualifications,

ASPI rating, AMO progress, and other school information. These reports are included in the board packet. The information will be presented at a public meeting (CSC) where parents, community members, and representatives from the tribal council and village council can comment and provide input. All of the information has been included in the board packet.

### AK STEPP – School & District Improvement Planning

The new ASPI and AMO accountability system has created some changes within the district and school improvement planning process. AK STEPP will continue to be the tool to document the improvement planning and efforts. There are some additional criteria that will need to be addressed by our schools and the district during improvement planning. The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development have emphasized specific areas to focus on during the planning phases. The school and district improvement plans have been submitted to the state for review.

### CTE – Industrial Arts

Currently, the district's approved welding course is a one semester course. A need to expand welding opportunities has been identified by our schools. In response, Rich Harrelson from Koliganek and Greg Cejka from Togiak have been developing another semester long welding course so that students can take a full year of welding and earn 1 full credit in welding. On another note, it was reported last year

that there were a number of students from around the district that had passed a number of NCCER Core module assessments. Rich Harrelson informed me that two of his students from last school year secured employment in the construction industry as a result of having their NCCER Core Certification. One of those students received \$3,000 worth of tools from the company that hired him.

### Site Visits

I was able to spend two days in Twin Hills during the month of November. I was invited by the lead teacher and the CSC members to take part in my annual report that includes the report to the public, the grant synopsis, and other information. Twin Hills is a very busy place! The two teacher housing units were in their final stages of completion. The students and staff are busy each day, which extends into after school programs and activities. I was able to work with a math group and some other students on an individual basis, which was a blast. It was great to see the Total Physical Response Storytelling instructional method being used to teach Yup'ik. The students in Yup'ik Studies are completely engaged and the motions linked to the words being learned helps students retain the language.



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

### Migrant Recruiting

Migrant Education recruiting has wound down and we have submitted our paperwork to the Alaska Department of Early Education & Development

(EED) Migrant Education Office. As of November 11th, EED has approved the paperwork we submitted for 249 children in our villages. We have begun paperwork for four more students and hope to complete it before the November 15th deadline..

This year, we switched to a new recruitment method, using existing school staff instead of temporary hires. Based solely upon the number of students we were able to recruit, this appears to have been a success.

School Year	No. of Migrant Eligible Children
2013-2014	249-253
2012-2013	214
2011-2012	227

Letters have been sent to parents to notify them of their child's eligibility and the services offered under the program. After the enrollment period closes, on November 15th, village-based Migrant Education Coordinators will begin working to provide services.

### AK STEPP

In accordance with the district's Alaska Steps Toward Educational Progress and Partnership (AKSTEPP) plan, letters were sent home to the families of any ninth through twelfth grade students who had one or more grades of D or F on their first quarter report card. These letters tell parents that students must earn a grade of D- or better in high school courses in order to earn graduation credit for the class. The letter also explains how semester grades are calculated, information about the student's attendance, and the progress the student has made towards graduation.

### PowerSchool

Over the course of the fall, Kyle has been working with Robin Gray and Lisa Ilutsik in the Special Education department to tie together SEASWeb, the Special Education software, and PowerSchool, our student information system. Implementation has

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been completed, and every night PowerSchool send SEASWeb information about all the students that are enrolled, and SEASWeb sends PowerSchool information about all of the Special Education students.

Kyle has also been working with principals to document disciplinary events inside PowerSchool. This allows administrators to view the disciplinary history of a student in the hopes of noticing patterns so behavioral interventions can be put in place. It also provides a central repository for all of the data needed to complete the Department of Education and Early Development's Suspension, Expulsion, and Truancy report.

## SchoolNet

On October 18th, Kyle gave teachers a brief overview of the new that was implemented over the summer. Schoolnet allows teachers and administrators to easily access student data at the individual, classroom, school, and district levels. After the overview, Kyle facilitated a training WebEx for middle and high school teachers with a Pearson trainer. This training introduced teachers to the online assessment portion of PowerSchool, which allows teachers to create and give online tests through SchoolNet.

## Impact Aid

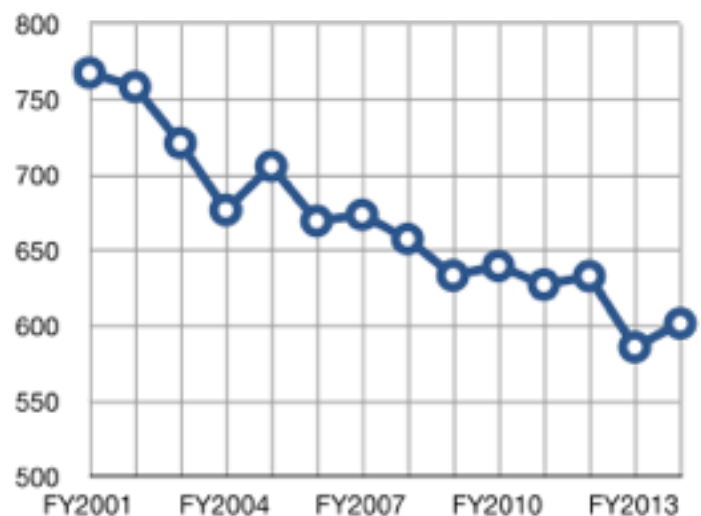
Kyle is currently working on the Impact Aid report in conjunction with the school secretaries. He has finished preparing data in PowerSchool to create the reports that school secretaries will use to determine eligibility for Impact Aid funding. He also created online maps inside our Google Apps domain and input survey information so secretaries could more easily find the information needed to complete the report. On November 8th, secretaries received the information to begin work on their village's Impact Aid report and the maps needed to fill out the forms.

## Fall OASIS Report (count period)

Count period ended on the 25th of October and we have submitted our numbers to the EED. The numbers submitted to EED based on the number of students enrolled from September 30th through October 25th are as follows:

	Elementary (PK-6)	Secondary (7-12)	Total (PK-12)	Intensive	% Change from Prior Year
Aleknagik School (450020)	19	5	24	0	-8.7%
Chief Ivan Blunka School (450080)	71.1	61.55	128.25	2	3.4%
Koliganek School (450050)	38.25	20.45	58.20	1	0.9%
Manokotak School (450070)	78	59.15	122.95	0	11.5%
Togiak School (450110)	121.75	98.45	220.2	4	-0.6%
Twin Hills School (450120)	15	3.00	18	2	12.5%
William "Sonny" Nelson School (450040)	9	2.00	11	0	-8.3%
Total	352.1	249.6	586.7	8	2.6%

Student Enrollment - FY2001 to FY2014





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

Attended the annual Alternate Assessment Qualified Mentor Training and completed EED training requirements for renewal of Alternate Assessment Qualified Mentor Trainer status.

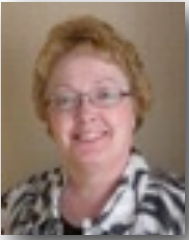
The Alternate Assessment exists for students with significant cognitive disabilities to have access to, participate in, and make progress in general education curricula. The Alternate Assessment is based on Alaska standards but measured against alternate achievement standards.

The Alaska Developmental Profiles for Kindergarten students were completed district-wide. The purpose of the Alaska Developmental Profile is to identify, record and summarize the skills and behaviors students demonstrate at the beginning of their kindergarten year, based on teacher observations.

Applications have been approved by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) to re-enroll all SWRSD sites as users for the Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS). The Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS) is an annually updated, comprehensive career and educational research and exploration system for teens and adults. AKCIS is a dynamic web-based program that can easily navigate between occupational information, the related programs of study and training, and the schools that offer the training



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## Special Education

Robin Gray, Director

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The Special Education Transition Grant is being finalized this month and District personnel are working with The National Post-School Outcomes Center and creating the action plan to be implemented in our district. This plan will be focused on providing transition services for ninth through twelfth grade special education students. This plan will be directed to post secondary success for special education students. This success will include support of decreased drop-outs, increased graduation rates, higher post secondary training, and more engaged students after transitioning from out system to the public environment.

The definition for “engaged” is actively involved individuals with employment, in training, and more independent in their adult lives. Individuals that are making conscious decisions regarding what they are and will be doing for now and in their future.

Collaboration with Head Start has begun in the areas of sharing data. Discussions are occurring regarding how we can use the data and support each other in preparing students for school and their education. Head Start and SWRSD both agree that the expected one to three years below age level in the readiness areas are a priority. The goal is to work towards developmentally on age level.

The review of files is continuing within the special education department. During the Wednesday staff development training the special education staff are getting instruction in IEP writing, goal setting, data reading, giving assessments, 504 process, SEAS documentation, and answering questions as a collaborative team.



## Business Office

Lee Ann Andrew, Director

Pen Air has generously donated 8 round trip tickets to the district. Each site will get one for their use. No decision has been made on how to utilize the last ticket. The tickets are good for one year after issuance so we have time.

We have successfully moved to the state's on-line system for grant reimbursements. The process went smoothly on our end. They are backed up so the reimbursements did not get approved right away. This process is a step in the right direction for efficiency.

It is time to start thinking about the FY15 budget. I will be talking to departments and sites to make sure we can accommodate the needs in the first draft of the budget.

I am in the process of making budget adjustments for FY14 now that most vacancies have been filled payroll can be updated along with final numbers for health insurance. As always with new staff these numbers shift from site to site depending on the new employees cost. After we get the final foundation numbers from the state the revenue part of the budget can be updated and a budget revision can be done.

We need to set aside the participating share for the Koliganek housing so that it is available for preliminary costs. Our share is \$399,900. Our unreserved balance as of June 30, 2013 is \$1,685,599. On June 30, 2012 it was \$1,349,628. We already have funding set aside for the New Stuyahok waste heat project, the Manokotak water and sewer project, the Koliganek school. At this point we should have enough funding in the housing fund to complete the Ekwok and Twin Hills housing projects, however the projects are not done and the freight was more than anticipated and we do not know what the needs may be for the rest of the year for all housing.

We are waiting for proposals for health insurance for calendar year 2014. Our current provider will not release our renewal rates until the week of November 11-15. As soon as they release their rate we can look at all proposals to see if there is a better option for the district.

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## Yup'ik Studies Esther Ilutsik, Director

### Togiak TPRS K-2<sup>nd</sup>

Martha Foster, Yupik Studies Instructor of Twin Hills and I traveled out to Togiak to train K-2nd instructional aides using the TPRS method of instruction. Cherie Nanalook and Christine Andrews were totally engaged in the process with Herbert Lockuk joining and working with us. Then we all went down to observe Martha Fox teaching the unit to Mrs. Lee's class of 2nd graders. Not only were the students engaged but also the certified teacher. Quyanana to you all for a great training session!



### NIEA: Building Education Nations & Communities

NIEA was held in Rapid City, South Dakota – October 29-November 2nd, 2013.

The speakers were excellent speaking from experience and the heart in addressing education and how it is evolving to address the needs of our people. The sessions provided much insight to what indigenous cultural groups are developing in addressing the needs of their students thus providing a lot of ideas that can be incorporated into the efforts in our Yup'ik Studies program. I will highlight the ones that spoke to me and hope that this information will generate thought in addressing the needs of our students.

- Bryan Brewer, Oglala Sioux Tribal President spoke during the general session. He emphasized that we need to LEARN our LANGUAGE and CULTURE. That this should BEGIN as soon as they are BORN. Responsibility to the educators, parents and political leaders – WE ALL NEED TO BE ACCOUNTABLE and question ourselves, “What can we do to help our children?”
- Lt. Governor Jefferson Keel of the Chickawas Nation and President of the National Congress of American Indians gave the first keynote address (Oct 31st). Same struggles in education for decades, nothing has changed. He emphasized that education is the key that unlocks poverty – education provides “tools for success”. He emphasized that language should be taught in Head Start and integrated into their program.
- David Coleman, President of College Board in 2007, he cofounded Student Achievement Partners, a nonprofit that assembles educators and researchers to design actions based on evidence to improve students outcomes. Student Achievement Partners played a leading role in the development of Common Core State

Standards in math and literacy. David was named to the 2013 Times 100, the magazine's annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world. He explained and gave simple examples of the Core Standards in addressing math and literacy.

- Dr. Sandra J. Fox, Oglala Lakota received one of the Lifetime Achievement Awards. She stressed that as educators we need to:
  - have high expectations and provide challenges for the students
  - tie instruction to the students lives
  - understand and utilize differential instruction
  - learn about the Native American Learning styles
  - understand the social and emotional needs of the students
- Dr. Lloyd Elm, Onondaga who lives in Western New York received one of the Lifetime Achievement Awards. He remembers when he first went to Penn State as a student and they asked him if he was American Indian. He replied, "No, I am Onondaga." So thus begin his educational process. "My life in education made me whom I am today. We're here but not to become white." He ended with, "We're here not for ourselves but for our children."
- Lakota Language Curriculum Project: Red Cloud Indian School has engaged in a 6-year project to develop a comprehensive K-12 Lakota language curriculum for students and teachers. These curriculum materials are designed to teach students to speak, read, and write Lakota and to gain basic fluency in the Lakota language. Very interesting process that they have undertaken and will take some of their ideas as we develop our own Yup'ik Studies Curriculum.
- Culturally Relevant American Indian Curriculum Resources, The Montana Office of Public Instruction: They begin with emphasizing the three R's in Indian Education: Respect, Relevancy and Relationship. And they continue to develop culturally relevant American Indian curriculum. In addition to developing curriculum they have 'honor' your self-posters featuring individuals within the communities. They stress that the teachers 'we' want are those who have cultural knowledge and respect for the cultural group that they are working with and for.
- One of the most important documents that they shared was, "Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians" which addressed seven important areas that should be known about the Montana Indians.
- CBE & The Common Core: Making Learning Meaningful for Native Students: This presentation highlights the work of Kamehameha Schools and Hawaii's Department of Education in helping K-12 teachers understand how culture based approaches can fulfill the Common Core's English-Language Arts standards and benchmarks.



### Why cultural based education?

- -In 1980 they had 2,000 Hawaiian speakers and currently has grown to 30,000 who are fluent.
- -Self-esteem and identity grows

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## Facilities & Maintenance

Rick Dallmann, Director

### Aleknagik

- Fuel delivery is completed
- Back up generator is hooked up and operational

### Ekwok

- Replaced the old kitchen stove to meet Fire Marshal regulations
- Modular home is scheduled to barge up river Oct.29th fuel tanks and piping have been hauled to site, pad and utilities are prepped and ready for the unit
- Working on set up should be ready before Thanksgiving
- Roofing repairs have been completed

### Koliganek

- The new school project on site work has shutdown for the winter. The Civil Contractor will be Mining gravel at some point late fall or early winter. The contractor will be completing much of the building components throughout the winter and will be prepping for the early spring barging season. We will be putting out a Request for Proposals in November for the school furniture to secure a Consultant/Vendor for the project, most the furnishings will have to barged to the site next Spring

### New Stuyahok

- Heat recovery documents are being worked on and we should be bidding this project in February 2014 and planning the majority of work for Spring 2014

### Manokotak

- Working on bid package for roofing repairs will bid in Dec. 2013 and plan for work to be completed spring of 2014 when school is out

- Provided on site custodial training to new custodian (see report)
- Working on old school buildings and property issues

### Twin Hills

- Installed a new kitchen hood suppression system
- Modular homes finally made the barge Oct.11th
- Working on set up should be ready Mid Nov.

### Togiak

- Fuel delivery is completed
- Snow Removal equipment has been delivered
- Provided on site Custodial training (see report)



## Aleknagik School

Audra Finkenbinder, Principal/Teacher

The month of October contained quite a few events for Aleknagik students, staff, parents, and community members: AISLA Conference, Principals' Conference, Game Nights, bake sale, student council lock-in, volleyball season began, Quarter One concluded, and Parent/Teacher Conferences were held.

Aleknagik School ended the month of October with a Halloween Carnival that had an array of carnival booths, a great selection of food at the concession stand, a cakewalk, costume contest, and a haunted house to complete the evening. A huge THANK YOU is extended to all who helped make the Halloween Carnival such a fun event.

At the beginning of November, the Lakers traveled to Dillingham for the Bunny Boot Volleyball Tournament. It was great to watch the teams compete in addition to seeing their determination to improve upon their skills. The girls, coaches, and spectators all had a wonderful time and the Lakers look forward to future athletic events!

It is hard to believe that we are already in the month of November and that the middle of the second quarter is upon us! Aleknagik School will be sending home progress reports prior to the Thanksgiving break and before we know it, the second quarter will conclude.

Aleknagik School will be celebrating Thanksgiving on Wednesday the 27th with a community potluck. I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and safe travels for those who will be visiting relatives out of town.

### Students of the Month

Katrina Finkenbinder  
Marki-Lynn Tinker

Congratulations! Keep up the good work!



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## William 'Sonny' Nelson School Nate Preston, Principal/Teacher

We are starting the second quarter 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 8 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 do have two students that will be going for early enrolment to Kindergarten. If they pass the test for early entry we will be at 10 students.

We have just had a successful Halloween carnival and Cake Walk on Halloween in which most of the village participated. In addition, Parent-Teacher conferences had an 80% turn out and the two who missed have been rescheduled to get 100% by the board report.

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 we will update you once we have the next set of MAP Data in January. In addition, we have started an after school-tutoring program. It is open to all students and runs 3:30-5:30 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. One day each for reading, writing and math. If a student goes to a session they can go to Friday's open gym.
- Goal 2: Student engagement is a goal where we are having such great success this year. Attendance improved from 16 days absent to 11 days absent, which is a 31% improvement from last year, but it is only 5 days difference from last year. This quarter will give us better data, to show if the steps we have taken in Ekwok are being successful. Second quarter last year had the most absences of any quarter at 59.5. If we can significantly reduce that number of absences we are having success. In addition, to attendance we are doing two other things to help boost student engagement. First, grades 4 – 8 have grades online and Parent access to Power School open this year. Grades K-4 will be online at the end of the month. Secondly, as a staff we are having weekly conversations with the parents about how their children are doing.
- We have nothing new to report on Goals 3 and 4 but will inform you as soon as we do.



## Koliganek School

Cody McCanna, Principal

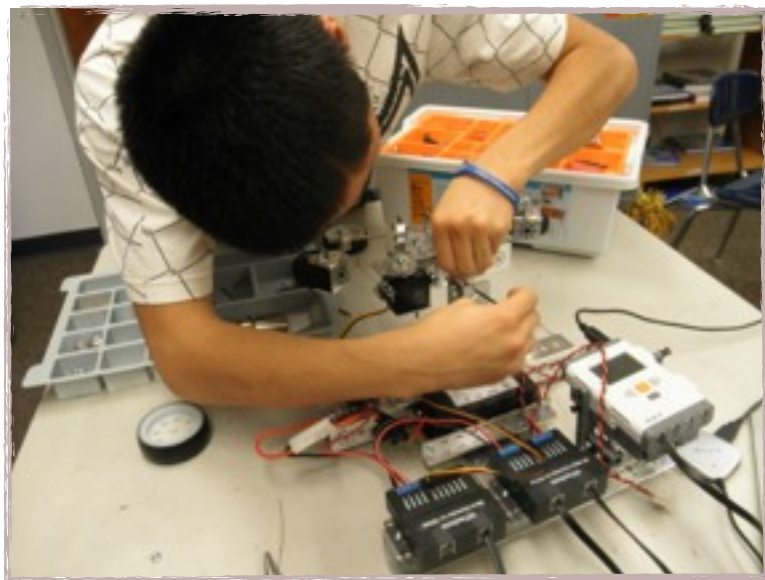
The month of October found us looking for ghosts and goblins in the library. Fun was had by all during our annual Halloween Carnival on October 31 in the gym. The high school Student Government put the carnival on for all students and adults to enjoy. Adults enjoyed bobbing for apples the most. There was face painting, horseshoe toss, fishing pond, basketball throw, and the highlight was the “Haunted Library”.



### Robotics Class by Caleb Jurkowski

This has been an exciting start to the school year for the Koliganek Robotics class. We have a strong class of 5 students: seniors Jeremiah Johnson, Maggie Kapatak, Samantha Ishnook; junior Brenda Norbert; and eighth grader Joachim Gumlickpuk. We are striving to compete in a national program called the FIRST Tech Challenge. This is a sports-like competition where a team designs, builds, programs, and operates a robot designed to perform specific functions. Our school is piloting this program for the Southwest Region School District this year. Thanks to the generosity and support of Bristol Industries, our students have this extraordinary opportunity.

To this point, all the students have been engaged in learning the skills necessary to compete in this year’s challenge. These skills include building with the included parts (similar to an erector set), wiring power to servos and motors, programming the robots built to perform specific functions, understanding the engineering process, and solving problems. The students have built and programmed a basic robot to perform various functions autonomously including following a line, following an object, picking up a cup, picking up and transporting balls, and using speedometers to return the robot to its starting point after random movement. The students are having a blast and learning a lot in the process. This has set the stage for where we are currently in the class.



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## Professional Learning Communities

The PLC at Koliganek has been focusing on reading and mathematics. Teachers meet from 9:00- 10:00 on Friday morning to review their progress and determine future needs to improve student learning. Currently, they are finding graphic organizers that can be used to teach the various text structures across all grade levels. In math they have discussed how to teach procedural knowledge, conceptual knowledge, and getting students to make their thinking visible.

## Behavior Reward Recipients for September:

- |                      |                      |                       |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| K-1: Charisse Suskuk | 2-3: Parraq Nelson   | 4-5: Kaitlyn Herrmann |
| 6-8: Abigail Johnson | 9-12: William Kaleak |                       |

## Behavior Reward Recipients

- |                    |                         |                  |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| K-1: Jalene Larson | 2-3: Tristan Tunguing   | 4-5: Andi Larsen |
| 6-8: Cody McCanna  | 9-12: Magdeline Kapatak |                  |

## School Activities

Koliganek School lady huskies have had a great season thus far. They took second place at the Silverboot Tournament in Naknek and have only lost this season to Dillingham’s varsity team. We look forward to seeing what they will do with their season. The middle school girls have been just as amazing this year. They have represented our school and community in a positive way while racking up some victories along the way. Go Huskies!





## Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Deb Forkner, Principal

Manokotak Nunaniq School celebrated the end of the first quarter with an awards assembly to honor students for their hard work and success. 40 students made the honor roll, 28 students had perfect attendance and no tardies. Angeline Maud was named Student of the Quarter for the elementary classes and Travis Black was selected for the middle and high school Student of the Quarter. 76% of our parents turned out for Parent/teacher conferences. Teachers reviewed report cards and assessment data with families.

The subsistence and cooking classes continue to work together to provide cultural activities for students. This month an otter was brought in by one of the students. The subsistence class learned how to skin and clean the otter. Currently, they are in the process of tanning the hide. The cooking class cooked the otter and shared it with middle and high school classes.

Our November 15 teacher in-service will focus on identifying our 20 Most Wanting Students. These are the 20 students that our staff will identify as needing extra attention to get them on the right track. Assessment scores, grades, attendance, discipline records and teacher in-put will be used to identify the students. Plans will be developed to address the needs of these students. During the in-service students whose assessment scores show they are below grade level will be identified. Teachers will develop a plan to use during intervention and tutoring time to help these students catch up.

Manokotak Lynx hosted a fantastic wrestling meet on October 18. Wrestlers from Koliganek, New Stuyhok, Togiak, Dillingham and Naknek joined us for a weekend of wrestling. We hope to make this an annual wrestling tournament. The Middle School Lynx volleyball team is off to a strong start. They traveled to Dillingham two weekends for games and are looking forward to having some home games in December.



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## 'Chief' Ivan Blunka School

Robin Jones, Principal

We have experienced some great successes and progress here at Chief Ivan Blunka School over the past year. As we compare Quarter 1 Honor Roll and Attendance to last year, we are proud to report that the number of students on Highest Honor Roll and our Attendance has improved significantly.

- Last year during Q1, we had 20% of our secondary students on Highest Honor Roll (GPA of 3.5+) and this year, we have increased that number to 51%.
- Last year during Q1, we had over 220 unexcused absences school wide and this year, we only have 101 absences to report.
- Last year during Q1, we had 115 unexcused tardies among secondary students and this year, we only have 61 tardies to report.

Although we still have a lot of room to grow and improve, we attribute much of this success to implementing a quality eligibility program, where students are held accountable for their classroom attendance and grades in order to be eligible to participate in activities. Our tutoring program also provides a huge support system for students to get individualized instruction and intervention afterschool for all grade levels and subject areas.

The teachers at Chief Ivan Blunka School are continuing to focus on the Danielson Framework for Teaching and will concentrate on the following strands during the month of November: DOMAIN 1: Planning & Preparation - 1b) Demonstrating Knowledge of Students with specific emphasis on student interests and cultural heritage. DOMAIN 4: Professional Responsibilities - 4e) Growing and Developing Professionally with specific emphasis on developing a Philosophy of Education.

### Student of the Month

Summer Hastings - Kindergarten



### Student of the Month

Travis Chunak – 11th Grade



### Employee of the Month

Mickia Walcott, III – Tech Liaison





## Togiak School

Sam Gosuk, Principal

Month of October ended with a Halloween Carnival on October 19. We decided that we would try to our Carnival before people start heading toward AFN, which was the next week.

Our new staff got a lot of community contact. Most of the teachers fundraised for their classes or sports in different ways. They had bake sales, haunted houses, basketball shoot up, and toilet toss to name a few. One new teacher had parents of her students working with her.

In our sports curriculum, our volleyball and wrestling is coming to an end this month. Because there were lots of Middle School students practicing, we decided to take advantage of this to have a formal Middle School volleyball team. Sports are an incentive for our students to raise their GPA up. Currently, we are in the process of starting our basketball season. Our athletes will need to have good attendance and grades in order to travel.

Staff are also working on their parent involvement activities by planning parent nights during the month. The encouragement of the students by parents leads to more value of education of the student. With the power school availability to parent and student, and communication between the teacher and the parent concerning student status on homework and grades for them will help the community and school engagement toward student success.

In the first part of this month also, we have had a passing of our elder Annie Blue. She has been painted by James Haven on the hall of Togiak School. She has been an encouragement to her descendants and although she didn't speak English she contributed to the cultural education of many people in Alaska. She was granted an honorary doctorate in 2009. Many people always remembered to bring her a share of their subsistence harvest. Our memories of her are good as part of her community.

As the elders say... Tuaiingunrituq. (It is not the end.)





## Twin Hills School

Meghan Redmond, Lead Teacher

### Student of the Month

Layla Hernandez - (Grades K-2)

Abby Kvamme - (Grades 3-5)

Peter Small- (Grades 6-8)

November started out with parent/teacher conferences. Most of the students' parents were able to attend. Important topics were discussed between the parents and teachers, including attendance, completing homework, and having open communication between the home and the school. The staff would like to thank the parents for taking the time out of their busy schedules to attend conferences.

Also in October, two 7th grade students traveled to Fairbanks for the AFN Elders and Youth Conference. The students especially enjoyed the dancers from all over Alaska and the Men's House session. The students also heard presentations on education, domestic violence, and honoring your ancestors. While in Fairbanks, the students enjoyed feeding the ducks, visiting the pipeline, and swimming at the hotel. A special thank you goes out to the Twin Hills Village Council providing the funding for the trip again this year.

As the new housing nears completion, we have been able to clear and set up the new classroom space in the second story of the school building. All staff members are thankful for their own space to work with their students. The new classroom space will also be used for our after school program. It also gives the school a washer and dryer and extra bathroom.

Every Monday morning, we hold a collaborative staff meeting. We were able to work out our schedules so that all certified teachers and instructional aides can attend the meeting every week. Monday mornings work very well, because it helps us to be prepared for our busy week. We use this meeting to discuss important events, behavior issues, Reading Mastery lesson plans, and our School Improvement Plan, among any other issue that may come up.

### Classroom Focus for October

In the month of November, Mrs. Redmond's middle school students are focusing on reading fluency. As a project, each student has chosen a different chapter book to read aloud and record using Garageband on their laptops. The students have work time several times a week to work on their recordings. By Thanksgiving, the students must have the entire book recorded. These recordings will be used by reading groups throughout the remainder of the year.



**John Sharp**

Classified Employee of the Year