

REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



Superintendent's Office

David J. Piazza, Superintendent

Meetings

William "Sonny" Nelson (Ekwok) School CSC Meeting

Superintendent Piazza participated via video conferencing at the William "Sonny" Nelson School's October CSC meeting. Due to the recent calculations for a student population of only nine (9) students for next school year (2014-2015), a draft school closure plan was presented and discussed. The CSC Members discussed the January 2014 anticipated completion of new HUD home construction that should bring several children into the school. Principal Preston and the CSC will help to provide student names and birth dates to ensure that the projection is accurate and

**"Ilaten-Ilu
angussaagucimaluki
kesianek
caiturcetevkenaki.**

**Provide for and take
good care of your
family."**

--Bristol Bay Yup'ik Values

Board of Education

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that funding from the State will be available to support the school. This topic will be addressed throughout the year to keep a close watch on the situation.

Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC) Human Resources Meeting

Superintendent Piazza had the opportunity to meet with the new Bristol Bay Native Corporation's (BBNC) Human Resources Director Rick Baird on October 2nd. Rick traveled to Dillingham with Michelle Fletcher, Human Resources Generalist, to meet with organizations interested in learning more about the services, training and career opportunities that BBNC offers to its shareholders and non-shareholders. David Hafernik a Recruiter with The SpecPro Group and Ruben Perez, Director of Recruiting with Eagle Applied Sciences, LLC are from two of subsidiary businesses that are part of the BBNC. They joined the group to provide awareness of the teacher externship opportunities available to staff who teach in the region. While the attendees were small in number with representation from SAFE, BBNA, and Southwest Region, the two hour meeting was informative and made connections that should provide additional training opportunities for our staff in the summer and opportunities for our students and community members to further their career goals.

Superintendent Travel

Superintendent Piazza traveled with Director of Instruction and Information Systems Steve Noonkesser to Anchorage to attend the Alaska Association of School Administrator's (AASA) Fall Meeting/Conference at the end of September. Approximately 75 school superintendents, district level administrators, and session presenters participated in the three-day event.

Reports were presented by: Director Patrick Pillai from the Special Education Service Agency (SESA); Superintendent Herbert from the Mt. Edgecumbe Advisory Board; Superintendent Walsh and Assistant Superintendent Parady from the American Association of School Administrators National Governing Board; Jim Seitz from the Professional Teaching Practices Commission (PTPC), and Director Gary Matthews from the Alaska School Activities Association.

Commissioner Blumer from the Alaska Labor & Workforce Development office provided information regarding industry externships available to teachers and Dena Strait an Alaskan Housing Energy Specialist discussed energy efficiencies that could be utilized to help decrease or control costs. Gina Bosnakis with the law firm of Gina Bosnakis & Associates presented general information on the Affordable Care Act. Former Commissioner Jerry Covey who currently runs JSC Consulting and President Andrew Halcro of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce provided information regarding the House Education Task Force.

Petersburg Superintendent Robert Thomason showcased his community and school system during a presentation entitled "Showcasing Our Own." Superintendent Steve Atwater of the Kenai Peninsula

Borough School District provided information regarding the steps that they have taken and the process that is continuing as they implemented a new teacher evaluation system.

Alaska Commissioner of Education Mike Hanley confirmed timelines that have been put in place for districts to implement: 1) the new Language Arts and Math Standards; 2) the new teacher effectiveness (evaluation) regulations; and 3) the new state-wide assessments. He discussed the changes at the state level to create an atmosphere of support to each district and school as needed based on the new Alaska School Performance Index (ASPI) accountability system.

A major focus for the conference was a three-part presentation by featured speaker Bruce Hunter. Hunter is a retired director of the American Association of School Administrators and Chief Lobbyist. His presentations provided information regarding the state of educational legislation at the federal level.

The participants also reviewed and adopted a set of Joint Position Statements that will be forwarded to the Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals, the Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals, and the Alaska Association of School Business Officials. These items regarding: 1) Adequate Funding; 2) Early Childhood Education; 3) Career and Technical Education; 4) Preparing, Attracting and Retaining Qualified Educators; 5) Worker's Compensation Fee Schedule; 6) Prior Year PERS Retirement billings; 7) ESEA Re-Authorization; and 8) Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act provide a common direction for each organization under the Alaska Council of School Administrators to work with law makers during the upcoming legislative session.



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Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Director

New Initiatives and Support for Programs

It has been another busy and productive month for the Instruction and Information Systems team. Our team has been engaged in preparing to meet new requirements related to standards, assessment and evaluation, while supporting staff at sites in implementation of existing programs.

This past month, Steve traveled with Superintendent Piazza to the Alaska Association of School Administrator's (AASA) Fall Meeting/Conference. It was an excellent meeting and sectionals were very informative. Sessions attended that provided information on the potential impact on school districts of the Affordable Care Act, energy efficiency programs for public facilities, and new information on state initiatives from the Commissioner of Education were particularly helpful.

Our team has begun fall after-school inservice sectionals with K-6 focusing on early literacy and 7-12 staff focusing on assessment and common curriculum issues.

Planning is underway for a day of district-wide instructional inservice on October 18th.

Work is also proceeding 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.

Plans are also in the works to finish up work started last school year on our social studies curriculum. This year's focus will be on Alaska Studies and regionally important courses and topics.

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

- Developing Professional Development for K-12 Staff and Paraprofessionals are meeting via distance delivery for 1 hour and 45 minutes, seven times during the fall semester. A college one-credit course is being offered for the training.
- This year, we have seven educators who stepped up and are acting as site facilitators for our distance delivery sessions. These individuals help lead the group through many student engagement strategies and activities.
- Media Center is going through some changes- updating materials with new fiction books. Taking a look at the New Alaska English / Language Arts changes in standards and re-organizing our existing materials in a more efficient manner.
- Adding considerable numbers of fiction and non-fiction books sets (including teacher guides) into our Media Center to serve teachers better in the near future. Building knowledge through content-rich nonfiction and literature is just one of the suggestions made by EED. Teachers will have access to a variety of classroom sets of fiction and non-fiction stories along with a teacher's guide to add into their classroom literacy instructional plans.
- Continuing to support Student Academic Competitions: Spelling Bee teachers have been supplied with rules, word lists and several ways to incorporate the program into the classroom language arts lessons. Great to report, all sites are participating.



Secondary Education Notes

October has been a month focused on instruction. This past month, Tim was lucky to have traveled to Togiak, where he started as a Southwest Region employee.



As part of my visits around the district, one of the things Tim is focusing on is sitting down with teachers and finding out what it is they need (for instruction) that they currently have and need. It is critical that we are providing our teachers the materials they need to better teach the students of Southwest Region Schools.

Over Tim's two-day stay, he was able to spend some time and visit with each teacher in the building. From his visit, we discovered that there weren't enough 7th & 8th grade English books available to teachers. We were able to figure out a solution and get those teachers the materials they needed to instruct their classes quickly.

We are constantly trying to improve the courses offered by Southwest Region Schools. One of the things we are currently working on is creating common course assessments to be taken at all sites. This is one way we can ensure that if a student passes Algebra I, that he or she actually mastered all the required content and completed a course substantially the same as all other SWRS students.

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:

- Configured Togiak School telephone system to route new BBNA Head Start phone line directly to Head Start classroom and to limit Head Start outgoing calls to use of that new line... Preconfigured same in anticipation of a second new Head Start phone line for the second Head Start classroom.
- Completed DRC Load Testing at all sites in preparation for new state on-line testing. Completed Smarter Balance survey in preparation for new state on-line testing... Follow-up conference with DRC scheduled for 10/15.
- First quarter CIPA lessons on Internet Safety have been planned at all sites.
- Filed 2012-13 eRate Form 472 reimbursement requests for telecommunications costs for Bristol Bay Telephone, Nushagak Telephone, and United Utilities Telephone; all have been validated by service providers.
- First 2013-14 eRate PIA Review inquiry received 10/11 morning... Response compiled and sent 10/11 afternoon.
- Working on 2014-2017 Technology Plan and Budget Inventory Analysis...
- Invitation from EED for KMO School to meet with Governor over VTC on OCT 24th @ 9:00am. Dana Bartman has agreed to address with student government and prepare with students for conference - awaiting talking points from EED (Kelly Sorenson). Awaiting particulars from EED.



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

- The fall MAP testing window has been completed. Teachers worked very hard and showed great patience getting this testing cycle completed as NWEA had quite a bit of technical difficulties on their end this year. The district did contact NWEA and made them aware of the difficulties.
- The technology department has been working with GCI to fine tune our desktop video conferencing option in support of the 7-12 Instruction in-service the meets this semester every other Wednesday from 4:00 till 5:45 pm.
- This month the technology department completed formatting and setting up time clock computers at sites to facilitate classified time sheet accuracy.

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State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

ESEA Waiver – More on Accountability

- AYP – Adequate Yearly Progress (no longer exists as the accountability measure).
- ASPI – Alaska School Performance Index (new accountability measure).
- AMO – Annual Measurable Objective
- SBA – Standards Based Assessment (grades 3-10)

One of the major differences between the old AYP system versus the new Alaska School ASPI system is a change in the AMO targets. Under AYP, the AMO targets (or the percent of students that should be proficient) were the same for the “all students” group and all the subgroups within a school. Also the AMO targets increased each year with the final target set as 100% of students being proficient in reading, writing, and math by the 2013-2014 school year. The AMO targets within the ASPI model are significantly different.

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.

ESEA Waiver – Other Changes

There are a number of Title I-A set-asides that have been eliminated as a result of the approved ESEA waiver. Those eliminated include the 5% Highly Qualified set-aside, the 10% professional development set-aside, and the 20% SES set-aside. This doesn't translate into a loss of Title I-A funding, it simply means districts are not required to use a certain percentage of their Title I-A funding on the activities required in each of those set-asides. The district's Title I-A allocation fell under \$500,000 this year (a \$26,000 reduction not related to the sequestration) and so the 1% set-aside requirement for parent involvement activities is not required because our allocation is under \$500,000. However, school staff and CSCs have voiced the importance of funding parent involvement activities and after school programs so there are dedicated funding for each school to establish after school programs and conduct parent involvement activities.

ESEA Waiver – Highly Qualified

Highly qualified teachers are teaching 92% of core content area courses and 100% of instructional paraprofessionals are highly qualified. I work with staff in the development of plans to assist staff in becoming highly qualified with periodic checks on the progress. As a result, each staff member that is teaching a course in which they are not highly qualified have registered to take a content area exam

to become highly qualified. Additional information on the number of courses being taught by highly qualified teachers is included in the packet.

Title I-C Migrant Education – Site Visit

I spent two days in Togiak and two days in Koliganek working with the local migrant recruiters. During my time in Togiak, I was very impressed with the work ethic and the ease at which Martha Fox was able to connect with local families during the recruiting process. We worked non-stop for both those days and she had done a tremendous amount of work before I got there. I also traveled to Koliganek for two days to work with Natalia Ishnook on migrant recruiting. When I got there she had contacted 95% of the families and had pages of notes. We worked on getting the documentation done and she finished getting the signatures of parents. I have been very impressed by all of our recruiters this year. It is truly amazing how much work they have completed in such a short amount of time. Our recruiters this year are:

- Martha Fox – Togiak
- Pauline “Mother” Askoak – New Stuyahok
- Natalia Ishnook – Koliganek
- Virginia Bartman – Manokotak
- Melody Noden – Aleknagik
- Martha Foster – Twin Hills
- Mary Walcott – Ekwok



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

Migrant Recruiting

The Migrant Education recruiters have been busy during the last month, working with families to determine migrant eligibility. Recruiters have finished identifying migrant families in Aleknagik, Ekwok, Koliganek, New Stuyahok, Togiak, and Twin Hills. The Manokotak recruiter (historically our village with the most Migrant students) is still working to make sure that every family is contacted.

By the end of the first week of October, 93 students have been approved by the state as eligible for the Migrant Education program. We have submitted paperwork to the state for 25 more students and are working to complete the paperwork for an additional 27 students. These numbers do not include potential migrant students who recruiters have yet to contact. The deadline for having students approved as eligible for the Migrant Education program is November 15th.

Now that the first group of approvals has been received from EED, letters will be sent to parents to notify them of their child’s eligibility and the services offered under the program.

Site Visits

Since the last board report Kyle has made trips to both Koliganek and New Stuyahok on September 16-17th. He made the trip to help the Technology staff complete required network testing and while there, met with several teachers to discuss PowerSchool issues they were having.

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Civil Rights Data Collection

The Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) is a federal program that gathers data every two years related to enrollment, race, sex, limited English proficiency and disability. The report it generates is designed to show how well schools and school districts are doing at providing equal educational opportunities for all students.

Superintendent Piazza was notified in August that Southwest Region School District would be expected to provide data on the 2013-2014 school year. Kyle has created a form that will be distributed at the next Leadership Meeting to track data that was difficult to find during the last CRDC collection.

Powerschool

Kyle attended the Alaska PowerSchool User Group Training in Anchorage on October 1st. At this meeting, PowerSchool administrators from around the state met and discussed strategies for handling the various state and federal reports that school districts are required to complete. An hour-long

teleconference with the PowerSchool State Reporting group at Pearson then occurred, where we discussed what reports should be generated automatically inside of PowerSchool for Alaskan school districts. Finally, participants shared customizations that they had made to PowerSchool to make the program easier for teachers, secretaries and administrators to use.

Following the October 1st meeting, a presenter, Richard James from Phoenix Learning System, put on a three-day workshop on customizing PowerSchool to produce reports that allow the district to make data already stored there more accessible. Some examples of this are new reports that principals and secretaries can run which shows all the students who have been suspended during the year, how many absences and tardies each student has, and a list students who have started school after the first day.



Bottom (left to right): Kyle Schneider (SWRS, Jordan Chilcoot (KPBSD), Bob Henry (WSD), Robin Gage (NWABSD) Top (left to right): Chasina Worman (KGBSD), Suzi Israelson (LKSD), Richard James (Phoenix Learning Systems)

Fall OASIS Report

The fall count period began on September 30th and runs through October 25th. Kyle has been working this month to check the accuracy of student data and to update the Fall OASIS report that must be submitted to the state by November 8th. This report will contain data about every student enrolled in the district. The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development then uses the enrollment data contained in the report to determine funding levels.

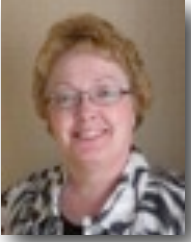


Counseling & Assessment Specialist: Steve Ito

Completed annual training in the World-class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) Protocol for limited English proficient students. The World-class Instructional Design and Assessment materials assesses students abilities in all four language domains (Listening, Speaking, Writing, and Reading), and evaluates Social and Instructional English as well as academic language corresponding to the subject areas of Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. The assessment tool for the WIDA training is the ACCESS test administered annually to limited English proficient students during a testing window from February 1 through March 31.

The Alaska High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Re-takes for grades 11-12 and Adult were completed. The HSGQE is a proficiency based criterion referenced test developed specifically for Alaska. The purpose of the assessment is to provide information about what students know and are able to do in reading, writing, and mathematics. The test includes multiple choice and constructed response items. Successful completion of the HSGQE along with adequate earned academic credit will enable a student to graduate with a diploma from high school.

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Special Education

Robin Gray, Director

October is the month that the changes in special education processes are imparted to the teachers and principals. Visits to the sites are occurring with multiple days needed to support the special education expectations. The graciousness and cooperation that I am receiving from all principals has been greatly appreciated. The next two months will be spent putting the changes and procedures in to place.

File reviews have occurred for Togiak and are in the process for Manokotak. At the completion of this process, all files will be reviewed and current instruction for all special education staff will have resulted.

A staff development video session occurred with all special education teachers in order to work on the Individual Education Plans (IEPs), and goals and objectives. There will be more VTCs as the year progresses because this is the most efficient way to get the latest information out to everyone.

October 15th, I will be attending with Head Start the State School Readiness Summit that is put on by the National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning, the Region XI Training and Technical Assistance, and the Office of Head Start.



Business Office

Lee Ann Andrew, Director

The audit will not be done in time for the October 22 meeting. We should have a draft by then and a good idea when it will be done.

We were awarded \$2.2 million dollars from Alaska Housing Finance for Koliganek housing. The first step is to see if we can utilize existing plans to save on design costs. We will have to set aside our matching share of \$400,000 at a future date.

We are working with sites to get JOM resolutions and budgets in so they can start spending the balances from last year and the FY13 allocations.

The application for the procurements cards went in and we are waiting for approval and more information so we can start the program with our principals and coaches. We will start with a couple at first to get the system worked out then roll it out to everyone.

We will be working with our health insurance brokers over the next couple of months to see what they can do for us for health insurance. With the health care reform I am not sure what to expect.

Pen Air donated 8 tickets to the district for the school year. We plan on allocating one per site with the last one undecided on how to utilize it.

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Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director

The implementation of the K-2 TPRS has begun. The children and even their certified teachers are engaged. Cungassaq Grace Gamechuk, Yup'ik Studies aide begin with the “Waqaa” activities where students introduced their Yup'ik names followed with the Yup'ik alphabet and counting to ten in Yup'ik. And then Jason Todd, Kindergarten teacher gave a quick review on Yup'ik colors followed with Cungassaq who reviewed the high frequency words in Alqaqellriit and presenting the two new high frequency words. All the words were in Yup'ik with specific movements. The 1st/2nd grade students were a bit more advanced and had begun to draw their alqaqellriit pictures. It was a pleasure to watch the classes as all students were engaged and were impressed with the active engagement of the certified teacher. Qu yana cakneq, Cungassaq and Jason Todd!



I also had the opportunity to observe Angutekayak Louise Gloko, Yup'ik Studies Instructor as she was teaching the YCC 150 Traditional Yup'ik Tools, Clothing and Materials. The students were totally engaged as they read and digested the information in, Ciuliamta Akluit – Things of Our Ancestors translated by Marie Meade and Edited by Ann Fienup-Riordan, 2005. The questioning that followed with finding the answers, “What is a “Nagiiquyaq?” They begin by looking in the Yup'ik dictionary and then found a photo of this object in the book titled, Yuungnaqpiallerput – The Way We Genuinely Live! It was exciting to watch as they learned about the ancestral tools of our (Yup'ik) ancestors and how ingenious they were to have lived and survived in this cold harsh land of ours. They also read about some of the great events of our great ancestral warriors – Apanuugpak and Pangalgalaria who were tracking Iruvertuq and all utilizing the

traditional tools of our Yup'ik ancestors. WOW! It was incredible to watch as they read about our own people in the historical aspect. Louise also teaches the YCC 301 Yup'ik Studies Subsistence 1 class and they have been reading *Ellavut – Our Yup'ik World & Weather* by Ann Fienup-Riordan and Alice Rearden. Weather is a very important component of our subsistence life style thus the importance of this text. Also, students were awed and had a lot of questions about the events they were reading about. What great questioning and inquiry. All the more important to have our elders participating within the classroom setting.

Alaskans for Language Acquisition Conference September 27–29, 2013 @ Whittier

Maalu Martha Foster of Twin Hills, Cuugassaq Grace Gamechuk of Manokotak, Peepsig Ann Edwards of New Stuyahok (replaced Ayaginaar Sophie Alexie who unfortunately was not able to participate in this conference) and myself all attended and participated in the Alaskans for Language Acquisition Conference, September 27-29, 2013 in Whittier. One of the keynote addresses that stood out for all of us, as we begin to implement TPRS based on our unique Yup'ik legends, was Michael Miller has taught German and Spanish. He has taught TPRS since 1996 and his school received the German Center of Excellence designation in 2013. He asks, “Is culture treated as a side topic?” “Can culture be built right into everyday lesson plans?” He stresses the importance of imbedding the culture into the context of language learning and has eight methods of integrating the cultural context into language learning. One of the recommendations is that as you think of a word and/or phrase; think about how a person from that cultural group would think about it. He also stressed the importance of learning the language using legends as associated with that cultural group. Wow! We have begun implementation of this method of instruction!

Language Camps, “Building Confidence in a Fun Environment” presented by Kathleen Madden was a session that presented ideas that we might be able to incorporate into our Yup'ik language program. She provided guidance that would help in our district setting up a unique language camp. With the small schools hosting the annual Pine Wood Derby would be ideal place to incorporate a language camp aligning it with a specified language topic. So be ready to hear more about this wonderful and exciting camp to re-emphasize what is being taught in the Yup'ik Studies program.

Peepsig Ann Edwards of New Stuyahok shared this experience

“The Alaskans for Language Acquisition Conference was informational and I enjoyed the sessions that focused on various ways to include language in the classroom. The idea of having a teacher that teaches a language such as Yup'ik in our classrooms and only speaking the language



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without translation stuck in my mind and reminded me of how we learned our second language when attending early elementary. The use of the circling model seems to be most effective and beneficial. The Russian instructor (Dr. Amanda F. Murphy with UAA) made it very interesting how she had at the drive and desire to make sure the use of teaching in only their language is essential because it can also include singing, dancing and other related strategies.”

Maalu Martha Foster of Twin Hills shared this experience and implementation

“Michael Miller, key note speaker encouraged us to personalize the language we are teaching, so that is what I have been doing with my students -.my middle school kids I have been personalizing the Yup’ik language. They like to tell me stories of their hunting experience and some of the stories use issaluuq, misvik, nutek, and the students Yup’ik name...they really seem to enjoy the story when I retell the story in Yup’ik and they are also wanting me to tell them how to say things like “to do” and I use that chance to tell them how our Yup’ik language is put together. Like dissecting into English. That is the best fun thing in my classroom now. They seem to really enjoy it. Tam Agosti-Gisler presented a session entitled “Memory Hooks for Language Learners”, also showed us some techniques on memory hook activities, talk about what the kids are doing and develop the language that way.”

Cungass'aq Grace Gamechuk of Manokotak shared this experience

“One of the sessions that I attended, “Community Services in Language Classes” presented by the Russian language teachers from the Anchorage school district who work with Dr. Amanda F. Murphy, Term Assistant Professor –Coordinator of Russian with UAA Department of Languages who spoke with enthusiasm. She emphasized, "If the language disappears then the culture will also disappear." This inspired me to seek ways to work with the Elders and to bring them into our classrooms to visit, to sing songs, and/or do different activities with our students. Or have the community help their children do things together in all different levels. Tua-ingunrituq.”





Aleknagik School

Audra Finkenbinder, Principal/Teacher

Time seems to just be flying by at Aleknagik North Shore School - here we are already at the end of the first quarter of the 2013-2014 school year with Parent/Teacher Conferences planned for October 24th – 25th.

Within the last few weeks, we have had School and Community Pictures, ParaPro Inservice, MAP testing, CIPA Training, student participation in the Tony's Run, and the construction of berry pickers completed.

The Instructional Aides traveled to Dillingham for three days of inservice for training on numerous topics: suicide prevention, blood born pathogens, math instruction, literacy topics, Yupik instruction, and SPED training.

All students completed Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments. Teachers will use the data collected from the MAP tests to adjust instruction to better meet student needs.

In accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act and Southwest Region School's Acceptable Use Policy, all students received instruction in Basic Internet Safety and will continue to receive training on a quarterly basis throughout the school year.

Aleknagik School had a few students and staff participate in the Tony's Run on September 22nd in Dillingham. All who ran had a good time and enjoyed the pleasant weather in which they were able to run.

The 6th-8th grade students were privileged to have elder George Tinker show them how to make berry pickers. George attended the afternoon Yupik class to instruct and assist in the construction of the berry pickers and upon completion, each student composed a short essay regarding the process. The students really enjoyed the experience and all look forward to additional projects during the school year.

Students of the Month

Jamal Romie
Jessyka Creasey

Congratulations! Keep up the good work!



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

We are finishing up the First 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. In addition, we are reinforcing our school motto for testing: "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.

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 4 reading groups for our seven students in 1st - 3rd grade. In addition, the MAP reading scores for 1st - 3rd grade will be our focus during our weekly collaboration for this month. We will analyze each student and tailor classwork and homework to meet that student's individual needs.
- Goal 2: Student engagement is a goal where we are having such great success this year. As of October 6, seven out of eleven students have perfect attendance. At almost the quarter point we have 9 total absences at Ekwok School. If we can keep this up it puts us way under 181.5 absences of last year. The students are checking everyday to confirm their eligibility for homework and attendance awards. It feels like positive enforcement and parent contact is working.
- Goal 3: Comprehensive Instructional Plan is an area where we are working to improve. We are continuing what we talked about last month. In addition, we are using MAP scores to focus on individual student needs in our weekly collaboration time. We are also working with district office to get more rigor and quality homework for the students.
- Goal 4: Revitalize the Yupik studies program is an area we are also working on. Our new Yupik instructor is continuing to work very closely with Esther Ilutsik to learn and implement the program. We are also helping her with classroom management skills. The students really like going to the class and are enjoying learning Yupik.



Koliganek School

Cody McCanna, Principal

The entire staff at Koliganek School has been working extremely hard to improve the quality of education that students are receiving. Paraprofessionals, educators, cooks, and janitors are all working hard to ensure students have a positive learning environment. Everyone gives students Behavior Reward tickets when they see students doing positive things in the school. It has really helped create a positive culture.

Professional Learning Community

The professional educators at Koliganek School meet every Friday to work on their Goal-Setting Plan for Reading to improve student learning. Thus far they have identified areas of focus, written action steps, and are in the process of implementing various aspects of their plan. Educators are focusing their improvement efforts on the new Alaska Standards. The overall goal of the PLC participants is to create a common language with common practices to ensure students are being exposed to the right material across all grades and subject areas. Educators will also be participating in District wide community meetings at the elementary and high school level.

School Activities

Koliganek School will have volleyball and wrestling for middle school and high school. The lady Huskies will be coached by Cheryl Goodell and Brianna Nelson. Gusty Wassillie will be coaching the wrestling team. The new student government for this year is as follows: President- Magdeline Kapatak, VP- Brenda Norbert, Secretary- Charmaine Stewart, Sergeant of Arms- Samantha Ishnook, Treasurer- Crystal Petla, Middle School rep- Joachim Gumlickpuk.

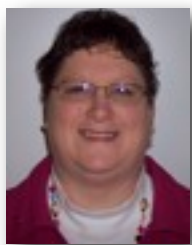
Behavior Reward Recipients for September:

K-1: Jacob Merlino	2-3: Gust Johnson	4-5: Natasha Merlino
6-8: Cody McCanna	9-12: Magdeline Kapatak	

Behavior Reward Recipients

K-1: Nastasha Nelson	2-3: Elizabeth Norbert	4-5: Bradley Johnson
6-8: Natasha Hobson	9-12: Crystal Petla	

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Deb Forkner, Principal

Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School staff have been meeting regularly to analyze and collaborate about the vast amount of student data we have available to us. Staff members use the data to develop plans that address the individual needs of students during intervention classes.

A unit integrating subsistence berry picking by the Yupik Studies Subsistence class and jelly making by the Foods & Food Management class resulted in 28 jars of jelly that the students got to share with their families. Kirk Kofford and Kelli Hammond's classes worked together on this project (see pictures). After picking and cleaning the berries, the students made jelly and Mary Ann Mochin showed them how to make sour dough starter for pancakes. Both classes, as well as the office staff, enjoyed a pancake feed topped with the homemade jelly.

Improving attendance is a goal for Nunaniq School this year. Attendance letters are being mailed as soon as a student has five absences. After 10 absences a meeting is scheduled to develop an attendance contract with the student, parent and principal.

After school tutoring has begun two days per week. Teachers are arranging with parents for students who need extra help to stay for tutoring. Students can also stay to get help on their homework. The average attendance has been about 20 students each day so far.

Manokotak is excited to be hosting the Fall Student Leadership Retreat.

We are also proud to being a part of the Consortium for Digital Learning grant that will bring trainers to

our village to do workshops with community members focusing on promoting the use of broadband. Also through this grant, Amanda Cantrell, Language Arts teacher, will be attending a "Talk Story, Write Story" training in Anchorage. She will receive training to learn how to help students write "their" story. Many students have won large scholarships using their writings from this project.

Nunaniq School was selected as one of the four sites that will be hosting Chef Flora Deacon. Flora will be conducting cooking classes with ten Middle School students and 12 individuals within the community. The BBAHC Diabetes Program will cover all costs for Chef Deacon's visit.





‘Chief’ Ivan Blunka School

Robin Jones, Principal

As we are approaching the end of the 1st quarter at Chief Ivan Blunka School, we could not be more pleased with how the 2013-2014 school year has gone so far.

The Instructional Program at Chief Ivan Blunka School continues to thrive as we collect and review assessment data to identify any patterns of excellence or concern in reading, writing, and math. We continually develop strategies to best meet the needs of our students in these areas. Our Reading Specialist, Instructional Aides, and Elementary Teachers are continually designing and administering interventions to help our students be successful.

The Yup'ik Studies Program also continues to flourish. At the Elementary level, the students are learning about traditional stories, basic vocabulary, and the seasonal calendar. At the Secondary level, students are learning about traditional tools, subsistence activities, and delving deeper into both speaking and writing the Yup'ik language. We are very proud of the excellent Yup'ik instruction provided to all of the students at our school.

The teachers at Chief Ivan Blunka School will be focusing on the following domains from Danielson's Framework for Teaching during the month of October: DOMAIN 2: The Classroom Environment - 2e) Organizing Physical Space and DOMAIN 4: Professional Responsibilities - 4c) Communicating with Families

The Student Council has already planned many activities for the upcoming school year and will work to represent the needs of the student body and encourage active involvement between the students, staff, and community. The following Student Council officers were voted in for the 2013-2014 school year: President: Janae Panamarioff, Vice President: Donald Apokedak, Secretary: Raisa Gust, Treasurer: Christopher Kusma, Representatives: April Andrew, Kara Andrew, Kiara Kapotak, Cameron Andrew, & Jaden Geffe

Chief Ivan Blunka School's Cross Country Running Team had a very successful season with qualifiers at both the Regional and State level. Joseph Kohler represented the Eagles and Southwest Region School District by finishing a respectable 35th place at the State Championships on October 5.

Wrestling and Volleyball practice started on September 30 and both activities had over 20 participants. We look forward to seeing the growth and successes of both of these programs in the near future!

Student of the Month

Barret White-4th Grade

Student of the Month

Simeon Askoak-9th Grade

Employee of the Month

Lisa Andrew-Instructional Aide
Colynn Isaacson-3rd Grade Teacher

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Togiak School
Sam Gosuk, Principal

This month our Open House had more than 40 families come. During that time we discussed the continued importance of attendance and how it can affect our ASPI standing. We gave an example by telling the parents that just 3 not being absent during SBAs could have had an impact to our Star score of ASPI. Ten students each from grade group K – 5, 6 – 8, and 9 to 12 were put in a 3 separate name groups. One name from each group was taken and a student from each group was picked out to win 27.5 gallons the Tri-Council donated. In our Open House, we passed along the information that the next attendance drawing will be in October 19, 2013, our time for Halloween Carnival.

For our after school program, Tutoring started. We have three groups. They consist of 3-6, 7-12 grades, and one of HSQGE practice. This gives students the opportunity to work on their homework after school. Having the transportation availability after school also allows students to work with their teachers.

Last week we have had bears in the area. During the night of the home coming dance night, some students up the hill had to be given rights home because of the announcement of bear sighting in close proximity to the apartments. Later that same evening someone killed that bear. Since this is the time that people get spawned out fish to the village, bears are usually sighted in the village looking for (hanging) food. Teachers are experiencing our culture in more ways than one.

There was excitement in the village along with the teachers because a team of hunters took advantage of good weather to go to Round Island for walrus. The hunters got four walrus. All of the village staff went to get some right after school along with several teachers. One of the staff who was offered and tasted some walrus stated, "Tastes like beef."

Teachers are in process of planning parent involvement. They are doing their plans in their groups. One of the first activities may be a family potluck this month which would include a film that would give support to parents who have a "Strong willed child." As we communicate with the parents and the community and do activities together, a good relationship between the school and the families is forming. With parent involvement and support their child at school; the result may be better chance of success for their child.



Twin Hills School

Meghan Redmond, Lead Teacher

Student of the Month

Fritz Tommy, Jr. - (Grades K-2)

Tommy Pleasant - (Grades 3-5)

Daniel Pleasant - (Grades 6-8)

In October, we will begin our positive behavior program we started last year based on the Bristol Bay Yup'ik Values. For the month of October, we will focus on "Respect the land and its resources. As part of the program, we will complete the following activities each month of the year.

- Make a poster of the value in English and Yup'ik to hang in all classrooms, around the school, at the post office, clinic, and village council building.
- Bring an elder into Yup'ik class at least once per month to talk to the students about the value of the month.
- Plan a community activity that centers around the value of the month.
- Create "Caught following the Yup'ik value of the month card. When a teacher sees a student do something that follows the value, the teacher puts the student's name on a card and puts it up on a bulletin board. The student with the most cards at the end of the month will get a prize.
- Choose a student of the month based on the value of the month.

Also in October, Twin Hills School will begin Wolf Club, our after school enrichment program. The staff members were very excited to be able to design their own after school program this year. 1st-5th graders are invited to attend four days per week to work on reading and writing skills. Staff members are sharing the supervision and planning duties each week. It should be an exciting time for all involved.

Classroom Focus for October

Mr. Redmond's social studies/science group had an exciting project that combined science and social studies topics. In the new Alaska studies elementary school textbook, volcanos in Alaska is one of the focus topics. The students were very interested in volcanos, so Mr. Redmond expanded the topic to include teaching about types of volcanos, the parts of a volcano, how volcanos erupt, and where volcanos are found around the world. To finish the lessons, Mr. Redmond helped the students build a working volcano that they made erupt for the entire school.