

September 2013

REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



Superintendent's Office

David J. Piazza, Superintendent

Site Visits

Superintendent Piazza was able to fly up to Koliganek on Sunday, August 18th in order to be on-site for the first day of the 2013-2014 school year. Students showed up early on Monday morning and were ready to get busy in the classrooms. Koliganek School is fortunate to have extra help in the classrooms this year with the return of graduates Genevieve Kapatak and Anastasia Ishnook who will be student teacher interns for most of the school year. During an afternoon, the community was invited to the school to meet the new and returning teachers and to discuss the progress of the new school construction.



**Ikayurtarluten
yuullgutevnun.**

**Be helpful to one
another."**

--Bristol Bay Yup'ik Values

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Late in the afternoon, Dave was joined by Steve Noonkesser, Director of Instruction and Information Systems and flew down river to spend the night at the “Chief” Ivan Blunka School in New Stuyahok. Students started the day, Tuesday, revising sentences and other “bell starter” work to make the most of their time in school. Ann Edward’s 1st and 2nd grade students lead the Pledge of Allegiance in English and Yup’ik to also get the morning started. It was enjoyable to have the time to visit each classroom multiple times throughout the day to see the students learning different skills and information.

Early Wednesday morning, Dave and Steve were able to make the quick flight over from New Stuyahok to the William “Sonny” Nelson School in Ekwok just before the start of the school day as well. While the weather did not want to cooperate fully and the trip was cut short, Superintendent Piazza and Director Noonkesser were able to spend a couple of hours in the classrooms.

On the following Monday, August 26th, Superintendent Piazza was again able to make an early morning flight and headed to the Manokotak ‘Nunaniq’ School and arrived before classes began. Students were engaged in each classroom. Individual seat-work, small-group instruction and full-class instruction varied throughout the day as teachers and instructional aides worked with students to master curricular objectives. The Kindergarten students practiced their “hands on hips, finger on lips” as they quietly walked to lunch. Superintendent Piazza was even able to help hand out milk and ketchup in the lunchroom. Students in the middle school and high school science classes enjoyed working at their new lab tables that were installed over the summer.



After the Tuesday School Board meeting, Dave flew over to Togiak in order to be on-site for the start of the school day on Wednesday. The morning started early as staff members met for their weekly staff meeting. Students in grades K-12 stayed on task throughout the day working on various class assignments. Art students completed their beginning of the year projects using colored pencils to show shadowing and shading of different shaped objects. Alaska Studies students learned about points of interest across the state and identified their location on a map.

The short trip over to Twin Hills was made Thursday morning. Although school had already started, Superintendent Piazza was able to spend a significant portion of the day at the school. Students worked on

handwriting, vocabulary, reading and sentence structure assignments. While a “big book” was popular in the younger age classroom, the older students read and studied the book “Toughboy and Sister.”

The week and travel frenzy ended at the Aleknagik School on Friday. With a pick up by the school boat with the South shore students early in the morning, Superintendent Piazza and Director Noonkesser were able to spend nearly the full day at the school as well. Students worked on their knowledge of the “Parts of Speech” by moving a variety of words written on cards to the correct category located on the white board. This hands-on activity was able to get the students up and moving around while still fully engaged in the lesson to be learned. Kindergarten and First grade students learned the Yup’ik names of animals as they created a construction paper art project. Microscopes were used by the students to get an up close look at various plants that had been previously collected from the tundra.

Paraprofessional Inservice

The District was able to bring most of the instructional para-professionals together in Dillingham for a two to three day inservice. Superintendent Piazza presented longevity awards to several staff members who were present. Two staff members, Grace Gamechuk from Manokotak and Tat Andrews from New Stuyahok received special recognition for their thirty-five (35) years employed by the District. Esther Thompson received the District’s Instructional Aide of the Year award.



The inservice provided staff members an opportunity to build their skills and a chance to get together to learn from their colleagues across the District. One staff member wrote to thank the District for “the wonderful training that was provided for all of the paraprofessionals within our School District. It's always good to

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know what other alternatives we can do to make it better for the students, or what other methods there are for us to focus better on. You all made it possible for including the paraprofessionals to become better educators to the students that we work with at the school sites.”





Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Director

Successful Fall Inservices

This past month was incredibly busy for all of us, but also very productive. This month Director of Instruction, Steve Noonkesser made site visits with Superintendent Piazza to New Stuyahok, Ekwok and Aleknagik. It was good to watch our teachers and paraprofessionals working with students and the quality of instruction was encouraging.

Last week we held our final large inservice here in Dillingham with all of our classified instructional paraprofessional attending three days of workshops. On Monday several serious state-mandated training topics were covered including Suicide Prevention, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting and Blood Borne Pathogens Safety. In the afternoon, we discussed the board and district's goals and support for continuing education for paraprofessionals. Esther Ilutsik, our Yup'ik Studies Director, also did a presentation on Bristol Bay Yup'ik Values that was well-received. On Tuesday, we spent the day discussing the importance of and role of paraprofessionals in the school and classroom. We explored individual learning styles, classroom management, and ways to engage students in learning in the morning. Later in the afternoon, we reviewed procedures and components of our reading and mathematics programs. On Wednesday, Special Education and Yup'ik Studies aides stayed on for a full day of program specific activities.

Now we look ahead to October's busy calendar of activities.

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

Teachers are getting their classroom and classes finalized and materials were sent to sites as requested. This year, we did a much better job at moving curriculum around our district and not purchasing more textbooks.



Last Spring, we implemented a plan to have student consumable orders shipped directly to the sites from the various vendors. It was a big success and students started school nearly all of their materials right in front of them.

We are also excited to have the K-5 Science tubs in classrooms and ready for science instruction the first day of school. In October, we will be exchanging the Life Science tubs with Physical Science and continue that curriculum for nine more weeks.

Academic competitions have also begun. The Spelling Bee and Battle of the Books will have teams at ALL sites this year. Amanda Cantrell and Katrina Campbell, teachers from Manokotak, are organizing our Spelling Bee this year. District Office personnel organize the Battle of the Books. We are currently recruiting site coordinators for Science Fair, Academic Decathlon and Geography Bee.

Better planning always leads to higher learning so we are actively engaging our educators to produce course syllabus for all middle school and high school courses. Another step in ensuring that courses being taught are relatively similar in pacing, but identical in content.

Our staff will be participating in another series of professional development classes using our video-conferencing system. The course will be available for one credit. Paraprofessionals are invited to attend any or all sessions.

Both Deb and Pam have traveled to site this past month, with Pam working with staff in Koliganek and both Deb and Pam making visits to Ekwok and Aleknagik. These visits are helping us to have a more accurate knowledge of site needs.



Secondary Education Notes

September has been a busy month. The beginning of each school year always has its change in enrollment and class sizes. We have been busy helping teachers get the correct amount of student materials for their changing class sizes.

In the spring, the social studies committee met and reviewed the current 4th grade Alaska History textbooks to be used in the elementary, Alaska: A Land in Motion. This book is very well written and is still the best option to fulfill the 4th grade Alaska Studies requirement. Unfortunately, this book has been out of print for some time now. We looked all over the state, contacting the publisher, printer, and even the author looking for copies that we could purchase to supplement our aging copies. After much

searching, we were able to locate a distributor with copies in one of their warehouses that we could buy for our schools. We see this as a great success!

In the beginning of September, Tim Phillips traveled to New Stuyahok to visit with teachers and administrators. There he was able to visit and sit in on some of the high school classes. He was able to see how adopted curriculum is being utilized in the classroom. Additionally, he was able to offer suggestions to some of the teachers that could help with using the curriculum better. He was able to build stronger connections with the teachers and views it as a very successful trip.

Technology & Fall Inservice Notes

In addition to numerous inservice preparation activities too numerous to name here, technology staff was busy this past month.



Les was busy engaged in many other activities including:

- Prepared updated image for site administrators; deployed during admin inservices.
- Prepared new laptop computers for new certified teaching staff; deployed during new teacher inservices.
- Provided technology training to new teachers during new teacher inservice.
- Supported technology/networking needs during full inservice held at DCSD.
- Deployed new laptop computers to returning certified teaching staff. Developing updated image for classified staff and student computers.
- Supporting site technology liaisons with turning up networks for the new school year.
- 2013-14 eRate Form 471 remains in Initial Review with Program Integrity Assurance.



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

- Completed the student, as well as the staff, upload to NWEA in preparation for the Fall MAP testing window that runs from 16 September and ends on 27 September.
- The technology department completed a trip on Wednesday 11 September to complete a State mandated test of our network capabilities in preparation for future online State mandated student testing.
- Currently providing support for staff preparing for the upcoming MAP window
- Provided support for the Aide in-service
- Providing technology support to sites as schools started up.



State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

ESEA Waiver – More on Accountability

Under Alaska’s approved ESEA Flexibility Waiver, Alaska will no longer identify schools or districts under the current labels of improvement, corrective action, or restructuring and the required consequences under NCLB. The former NCLB Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) has been replaced by the state’s new accountability system, which will designate schools with a score and star rating from the Alaska School Performance Index (ASPI) and will report whether schools and districts have met the new AMO targets.

This simply means that AYP and school improvement designations are being replaced with the ASPI, star ratings for schools, and tier designations for districts. Schools designated as 1-star or 2-star schools or Priority or Focus schools will be required to use AK STEPP as the school improvement planning tool and those plans will have to be submitted to the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (EED). Schools with a 3-star rating are required to have a plan of improvement using AK STEPP but those plans are submitted to the district only.

• Aleknagik School	3-stars
• Chief Ivan Blunka School	2-stars
• Koliganek School	3-stars
• Manokotak School	3-stars
• Togiak School	1-star
• Twin Hills School	1 star
• William Sonny Nelson School	1 star

Based on 2011-2012 SBA data, Togiak has been identified as a Focus school and will receive additional support from EED for school improvement including school improvement funding and considering the seven turn-around principles when developing the school improvement plan.

Each of our schools has received a star rating and the district is still waiting for the tier designation, but we anticipate that the district will be in tier three. Districts in Tier III will receive support from EED in district improvement efforts. Information regarding the tier designations is as follows:

- Tier I – less than 25% of schools are 1 or 2-star schools or less than 25% of student population attends 1 or 2 star schools.
- Tier II – Between 25% and 50% of schools are 1 or 2-star schools or between 25% and 50% of student population attends 1 or 2-star schools.
- Tier III – Greater than 50% of schools are 1 or 2-star schools or greater than 50% of the student population attends 1 or 2-star schools.

Boarding Home

There have been six applications for students within Southwest Region School District for the state boarding home program. There may be one or two more as the year continues. As a reminder, students attending K-8 schools are eligible to attend one of the district’s K-12 schools as a boarding student.

Fall Inservice

We are excited to partner with UAF-Bristol Bay Campus to offer a 1-credit course for those that attended the leadership inservice and for those that attended the all staff fall inservice. This provides an opportunity for staff to receive upper level college level credits that can be used towards the six required credits for renewal of a teaching certificate in the state of Alaska. Those that opt not to sign up for the 1-credit course will receive a Continuing Education Credit (CEU) which can also be used to satisfy some of the credit requirements towards renewing a teaching certificate.



Student Information & Support Specialist: Kyle Schneider

Migrant Recruiting

Kyle Schneider traveled to Anchorage at the end of August and received training from EED's Migrant Education Program on managing the Migrant Education Records. This training was in preparation for the Migrant Education recruiter training that EED put on in Dillingham on September 4th and 5th. Staff from each of the schools traveled into Dillingham to learn about the Migrant Education program, interviewing families for the necessary information and how filling out the Certificate of Eligibility. At the end of training, the recruiters interviewed each other and completed paperwork for any of their children who were eligible for the Migrant Education program.

Children's' eligibility is determined by whether or not they have made qualifying "moves". A "move" means that a child took a trip of more than 20 miles for either commercial or subsistence fishing and stayed away from home for 7 nights / 8 days throughout the year. Children can also qualify if they "move" to another district for the required length of time (this can be for fishing or certain other activities). Most of the students we recruit have either "moved" to fish camp or Dillingham for commercial or subsistence fishing in the summer.

Powerschool

During the last month Kyle has been working on a number of PowerSchool projects, ranging from the traditional beginning of the year student schedule adjustments and data cleanup to an integration with SEAS Web, the districts Special Education software.

Schoolnet

PowerSchool integration also continues for Schoolnet, our new data analysis tool. With the start of the school year, data is flowing from PowerSchool to Schoolnet, allowing us to identify data in PowerSchool that needs correction and cleaning up the configuration of Schoolnet. Once completely up and running, Schoolnet will allow teachers, principals and district office staff to view all of a child's assessment data in one place and view statistics on performance and attendance at the school and district level.

School Photography

During the first two weeks of September, Richard Johnson from Purnell Photography traveled to all of our schools and took pictures. He photographed the staff and students in New Stuyahok, Koliganek, Ekwok and Dillingham during the week of September 2nd – 6th. On the 9th he returned to

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Dillingham and took pictures of staff at the Paraprofessional inservice before traveling to Aleknagik. He finished the week by traveling to Manokotak, Twin Hills, and Togiak.

Site Visits

Kyle was able to visit “Chief” Ivan Blunka School at the end of the second week of school and he worked with secondary teachers to get gradebooks set up correctly for the year and with elementary teachers to create a plan for how grade information was going to be shared between the different teachers students have.



Counseling & Assessment Specialist: Steve Ito

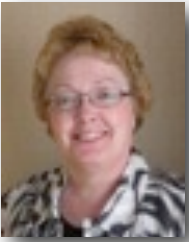
High School Graduation Qualifying Examination (HSGQE) Re-Take materials have been received and disbursed to the four secondary schools. The HSGQE is a proficiency-based criterion-referenced test developed specifically for Alaska. Test administration will occur October 1 through October 3, 2013. The re-test is for current grade 11, 12 and former students that have exited school with a certificate of attendance that have not successfully completed on of the three required content areas (Reading Writing and Math) in order to receive an Alaska High School Diploma.

The Alaska Developmental Profile for Kindergarten and First grade students that have not attended a public school will begin within a window from September 15th to November 1st. 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. Student skills and behaviors are defined by goals and indicators in five domains Physical Well-Being, Health, and Motor Development; Social and Emotional Development; Approaches to Learning; Cognition and General Knowledge; and Communication, Language, and Literacy.

The annual District Test Coordinator training sponsored by Alaska Department of Education and Early Development was attended. Updates to statewide assessment protocol and procedure were reviewed. Pertinent application district-wide will be implemented through out the school year.





Special Education

Robin Gray, Director

September has been a month of staff training, student assessments, screenings, meetings, scheduling, and paperwork for everyone in the department. I have visited Togiak and will be returning in two weeks to spend more time at site.

The Special Education Directors Conference is the week of September 16th in Anchorage and when I get back I will work with the teachers on any changes required by the State.



SWRSD will be a participant in a grant with the State of Alaska and EED for special education transition. We will work with the state to develop a district transition program, document, implement, and provide training for the staff. Sam Jordon from EED will be supporting us through video and on site meetings. We are excited to be a part of developing the program that can be utilized throughout Alaska, yet created for the specific needs of our students.

Kudos to the special education team! A group of our special education teachers came early this year to collaborate in developing our process and procedures for interventions and pre-referral. Using processes from our computer system, the State of Alaska, our District, and what we created ourselves for the process, we not only created a working document that will be part of our computer data process, but the SEAS company has asked if they can share what we have done with other districts in the state. At the beginning of this year, this process was presented by the special education group to the district staff during in-service. We are now using one process at all sites that everyone has been trained in and understands.

The need for additional curriculum materials and supports have occurred and collaboration is occurring to provide for these needs; like in the areas of autism, physical supports, developmental areas, reading, and math. The age range of students needing more support is broadening. More and more are coming

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from early childhood and now middle to high school. So, we are seeing a shift from elementary to these two groups, but all areas have students with additional educational requirements.

The paraprofessional training was a success and the special education portion was not only informative,



Business Office

Lee Ann Andrew, Director

Emphasis has been on getting ready for the audit the week of September 16 -20. Things are going smoothly. The unreserved fund balance is close to the 10%. There is a chance that the housing in Twin Hills and Ekwok will need more funding, however it is too early to tell at this point.

The district completed the survey the state wanted done to assess the value in going with a single health care program for all school districts. After the surveys are compiled by the Hay Group we will get more information on whether the state will go that direction or continue to let districts manage their own health care programs. Currently there is a lot of diversity on how districts are handling it. The state is mainly looking at the cost effectiveness of a single program.

We were able to get our new supplemental insurance program with American Fidelity up and running with employees who chose to participate. This company seems to be much more realistic about what policies employees could benefit from. The service will start next month for the employees who signed up. Nothing has changed with our Premiera health insurance. All employees working 30 hours or more are offered Premiera, however all employees are eligible for the supplemental insurance.



Facilities & Maintenance

Rick Dallmann, Director

Aleknagik

- Fuel delivery is scheduled before the end of Sept.
- Provided on site custodial training on equipment and chemical use

Ekwok

- Replaced the old kitchen stove to meet Fire Marshal regulations
- Modular home is scheduled to barge up river sometime the week of Sept. 16th, fuel tanks and piping have been hauled to site, pad and utilities are prepped and ready for the unit
- Roofing repairs

Koliganek

- The new school project is progressing on schedule, the majority of the under ground utility work has been completed, the boiler module has been constructed, footings, foundations and concrete slab work has been completed. The contractor will be working the next few weeks securing the site for winter. Teacher housing relocation is pretty much complete, working on a few lighting and appliance issues. The contractor will be completing much of the building components throughout the winter and will be prepping for the early spring barging season.

New Stuyahok

- The city has been working through some water system issues and I hope they are able to resolve these problems, we did lose a couple days of school
- Heat recovery documents are being worked on and we hope to bid this project late this fall

Manokotak

- Working on bid package for roofing repairs in the spring

- Provided on site custodial training to new custodian
- Working on old school and property issues

Twin Hills

- Installed a new kitchen hood suppression system, waiting on Fire Marshall permit for final hook up scheduled for later this month during fire system inspections
- Modular homes are scheduled to barge over around Sept. 18-20, the pads and utilities are prepped and ready for the new units

Togiak

- Total remodel of teacher housing unit down in the village has been completed
- School window replacement (still need one more that was broken during install)
- Provided on site custodial training on new equipment and chemical use
- Fuel delivery is scheduled for later this month

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Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director

Laughter, laughter, laughter echoed through-out the board room as the K-2nd Yup'ik studies instructional aides and regular aides working with the K-2nd students engaged in learning how to deliver the K-2 TPRS (Total Physical Response Story-telling) curriculum. They begin with “Waqaa Activities” with the “Waqaa” song followed with the students learning and practicing their Yup'ik names, then going through the whole Yup'ik alphabet and ending with Yup'ik counting. Maalu Martha Foster and Cungass'aq Grace Gamechuk lead the instructional aides through the activities for the Alqaqellriit

(September) Unit, Qaillun Issalum Saskungellra (October) Unit, Ungnara'urlull'er (November) Unit and Sugaq (December) Unit. The following Yup'ik Studies Instructional Aides and regular aides were active participants: Martha Fox and Herbert Lockuk of Togiak, Maalu Martha Foster of Twin Hills, Cungass'aq Grace Gamechuk of Manokotak, Melody Noden of Aleknagik, Annie Nelson of Ekwok, Sophie Alexie of New Stuyahok and Genevieve Kapatak of Koliganek. Quyanacakneq!

We have redesigned our K-2 Yup'ik Studies Committee so that members will be engaged in and experience the curriculum implementation on a daily level. The curriculum committee consists of the following Yup'ik Studies Instructional Aides:



Maalu Martha Foster-Twin Hills, Cungass'aq Grace Gamechuk-Manokotak, Ayaginaar Sophie Alexie – New Stuyahok.

The 4th – 8th Grade Yup'ik Studies Instructional Aides met the afternoon of the 10th of September at the conference room. They all shared what they were doing within their classrooms with a special focus on 4th – 8th grade level. We have tentatively established a 4th – 8th grade Yup'ik Studies Curriculum Committee. They include the following Anguk'aq Justin Gumlickpuk of New Stuyahok, Louise Gloko of Manokotak and either Esther Thompson or Bertha Pavian-Lockuk of Togiak.

The following paraprofessional staff will serve as the mentors for the new certified teachers taking the orientation class: Esther Thompson of Togiak, Martha Sharp of Twin Hills, Mickia Walcott of New Stuyahok, and Natalia Ishnook of Koliganek. Some of the activities that they will have the new teachers engage in are: a maqi experience including chopping wood and packing water and cleaning out the maqi, engaging them in community activities such as birthday parties, weddings and going to church, visiting elders with proper protocol and the seasonal subsistence activities for the months of September, October and November. ENJOY!



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Aleknagik School

Audra Finkenbinder, Principal/Teacher

We all hit the ground running on August 19th and have yet to slow down. Beginning of the year screenings have been completed, Open House has been held, and school and community pictures have been taken.

The student council has elected new members: President Jessyka Creasey, Vice President Travis Bavilla, Secretary Leland Andrews, Treasurer Lodi Active, and Representative Treyton Toyukak. The newly elected members look forward to planning many events throughout the school year.

We have received a wonderful donation of new athletic uniforms from the Aleknagik Traditional Council. One of Aleknagik School's goals last year was to rebuild the athletic program. We were pleased with the number of students who participated in volleyball and basketball last year and have added cross-country as an option this year. The new uniforms will add to the enthusiasm that has been shown for athletics and be worn with Laker pride during each athletic event.

Time is passing so quickly that we are already halfway into the first quarter and are preparing progress reports to send home. During the first weeks of school, Mr. Finkenbinder taught safety procedures for science labs and the 6th-8th graders were able to dissect frogs after learning about the frog's anatomy. Mrs. Diaz-Cross introduced the 3rd-5th graders to microscopes and the students enjoyed finding items to inspect. They also had fun making replicas of cells out of play dough and candy.

We are in the third year of using the Reading Mastery program school-wide. The teachers and students have a nicely organized routine and are moving right along with the lessons.

The older students are privileged to have elder George Tinker show them how to make berry pickers. George has been coming in the afternoon during Yupik class to help construct the berry pickers and plans to go along with the students on their berry picking adventure once they are all finished.

We are teaming up with BBAHC again this year to offer Open Gym to the students and community on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings from 6-9PM. The goal of the program is to increase activity among the youth, adults, and elders to prevent diabetes and/or diabetes related complications.

Things are moving right along at Aleknagik North Shore School and we are all looking forward to a great school year! If you have not had a chance to meet Mrs. Diaz-Cross, would like to see what we have going on, or have any questions, please feel free to stop by.





William 'Sonny' Nelson School

Nate Preston, Principal/Teacher

The school year has started wonderfully in Ekwok and we are making progress in district goals 1-4. Some of the things that are going well for us are student teaching, weekly collaboration, and a new Yupik Instructor. Having a student teacher this year has helped us have more one on one time with the students that need it. The weekly collaboration meeting has allowed us to analyze every student's data and we have a plan in place to be a 3 to 4 star school next year. During our collaboration meetings we also came up with Ekwok's motto for the State Test, which is "Every Question Counts". Having a new Yup'ik Instructor who is also a native speaker is also helping. The students are happy to go to Yupik class where they are learning Yupik this year. In addition, it is fun to have two brand new staff members (Yupik Instructor and Student teacher) because they both bring that excitement level only new and student teachers have.

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 have six different reading groups for eleven students. All students have been tested and evaluated then placed in their appropriate reading level. This gives us four reading levels K-3 that we cover with two paraprofessionals and a teacher rotating weekly. In addition, we have a student teacher, which covers some lessons allowing one on one with the students that need extra work.
- Goal 2: Student engagement is a goal where we are having such great success this year. As of September 7, ten out of eleven students have perfect attendance. In addition, we have only two absences for the year. Last year at this time we had nine absences. The students are checking everyday to confirm their eligibility for homework and attendance awards. Next month we will have a larger time span to compare but it feels like positive enforcement and parent contact is working.
- Goal 3: Comprehensive Instructional Plan is an area where we are working to improve. Pam Johnson and Deb Endicott have already been out and worked with us to refine our schedules and adjust the District's instructional plan to best fit the needs of our students. For example, we are now teaching Algebra one for an eight-grade student.
- Goal 4: Revitalize the Yupik studies program is an area we are also working on. We have hired a Native Yupik speaker to teach the Yupik classes. She is currently working very closely with Esther Ilutsik to learn and implement the program. Students have already begun to put their Yupik names on assignments. In addition, we are exploring ways we can get elders into the school.

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Koliganek School

Cody McCanna, Principal

Data Focused

Koliganek School has spent the beginning of the school year looking at and collecting assessment data. Kindergarten and 1st grade students were assessed using the Brigance and the PPVT. Kindergarten through middle school students were assessed using AIMS Fluency assessments to establish a baseline for their fluency. The professional educators at Koliganek School reviewed the 2012 SBA scores to identify any patterns of excellence or concern in reading, writing, and mathematics. MAP scores will be generated during the September 16th -27th testing window. The staff at Koliganek School will be using the data in their Professional Learning Community (PLC) to identify areas of concern and create a plan for improving the learning at Koliganek School.



Framework for Teaching

Koliganek School, along with the entire District, will be utilizing Danielson's Framework for Teaching. During a Collaborative Meeting the professional educators chose the following components from the respective domains to focus on for professional development for this school year. However, all components and elements will be reviewed for future evaluation purposes. Domain 1: Planning & Preparation, 1c Setting Instructional Outcomes, 1e Designing Coherent Instruction; Domain 2: The Classroom Environment, 2b Establishing a Culture for Learning, 2c Managing Classroom Procedures, 2d Managing Student Behavior; Domain 3: Instruction, 3a Communicating with Students, 3c Engaging Students in Learning; Domain 4: Professional Responsibilities, 4a Reflecting on Teaching, 4b Maintaining Accurate Records, 4d Participating in a Professional Community.



School Activities

Koliganek School has been participating in cross-country. Husky runners went to New Stuyahok on August 30 to compete and ran at home in Koliganek on September 6. The Husky runners will be traveling to Manokotak September 13 and then on to Dillingham on the 20th. The Husky squad is coached by Rich Harrelson.



Behavior Reward Recipients

Students earn Behavior Reward tickets by doing positive things in the school. At the end of each month there is a drawing to reward one student from each class. The student receives recognition during a Pep Assembly and gets free school supplies.

August Winners:

- K-1: Nastasha Nelson
- 2-3: Tristan Tunguing
- 4-5: Bradely Johnson
- 6-8: Natasha Hobson
- 9-12: Crystal Petla



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Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Deb Forkner, Principal

Manokotak Nunaniq School had a very successful Open House on Aug. 29 with 68 parents signing in. Parents visited classrooms, enjoyed cookies, attended the AASA TAD video and 1 to 1 computer presentation. Five door prizes were awarded throughout the night.

Student council elections were held on September 3. Officers for Manokotak this year are: Emily Jordan, Secretary, Nicole Gloko, Treasurer, Ray Sean Tugatuk, Vice President and Byron Mochin, President.

Cross country practice has been going well. There are 16 students participating. The Lynx look forward to hosting a meet this month.

The High School Yup'ik Studies classes have been busy learning about boating, four wheeler and gun safety. They are also learning about edible plants, berries and medicinal plants. Using the Yungnapiallerput Book the students have learned about tools their ancestors were using and tools for ocean hunting. The Middle School class has been learning the names of the months, days of the week and weather patterns in Yup'ik, as well as moose hunting vocabulary words.

Two new CSC members have been appointed to fill vacant seats. They are Wassillie Tugatuk Sr and Bibiana Gloko.





'Chief' Ivan Blunka School

Robin Jones, Principal

Recently, I was down by the river getting my boat ready for fishing when three of my students came running toward me with fish in their hands and big smiles on their faces. "Ms. Jones, Ms. Jones look at the fish we caught," they said with excitement. I affirmed that their catches were quite impressive and shared in their delight. Then, one of the students, a 6th grader, told me something that was so amazing and insightful:

"Ms. Jones, do you want to hear the coolest thing? Earlier, all of the new teachers were down here trying to fish, and you know how they are usually the teachers, and we are the students? Well, for the first time, I got to be the teacher and they were my students and I taught them all how to fish. They even caught a couple fish, so I must be a really good teacher!"

What a powerful message and reminder this young student communicated. Often times, we get so caught up in teaching the students that we forget to take the time to learn from them, too. Our students are wise beyond their years, live such culturally rich and fulfilled lives, and have so much to offer each and every one of us. From time to time, let your students take the lead and try to take on the role of a student in their classroom, the vast Bristol Bay region. I guarantee you will not only learn a great deal from them, but you may catch more fish, as well!

Student of the Month

Travis Neketa-6th Grade



Student of the Month

Nadezhda Walcott- 11th Grade



Employee of the Month

Peter Yukluk - Custodian



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Togiak School

Sam Gosuk, Principal

This year had a good start. We have gained nine new teachers, which allowed for some changes in our school structure.

We now have seventh and eighth graders being allowed to mix with high school students. This allows them to go to classes in the same area as high school and be in the high school section of the school.

The community has had a good reception of our new teachers. A young peoples group sponsored with the help of our young peoples advocate and CSC member Anna May Ferguson welcomed back our school with a community potluck downtown.



Before the potluck, the youth did a presentation of the their travel which happened with Anna May Ferguson which included their travel pictures. They also did an Eskimo dance for them.

Both the tenured and new teachers thoroughly enjoyed the welcome and the potluck. Some of the teachers both old and new were talking with the parents and teachers. An elder stood up and told the community to give support to our teachers.

During the first part of the school year, our old and new teachers got together and got to do some subsistence fishing using an old net which had been repaired during cultural week in the spring. They got the fish and cooked at the beach with the fish they caught.

The staff has got a good start and they will get to know the parents more at the Togiak Open House. With the incentives the Tri-council has donated, the community should come and get to know that staff more. Hopefully this community engagement will allow the teachers to built good relationships with the community and the parents.





Twin Hills School

Meghan Redmond, Lead Teacher

We are all excited to be back in the swing of things at Twin Hills School. We have one new staff member this year, and are pleased to welcome Megan Humphrey as our new PK-3rd grade and special education teacher. We welcome back Agnes Gamechuk, Special Education Aide; Martha Foster, Secretary and Bilingual Aide; Andrew Redmond, Instructional Aide; John Sharp, Maintenance; and Gladys Small, Cook.

Our student count is at 18 students, preschool through 8th grade. Those students are split throughout the school day into four reading and language arts groups, five math groups, three science groups, and three Yup'ik groups. Kindergarten through fifth grade students attend school 9:00-3:15. Sixth grad through eighth grade students attends school 9:30-3:45. We have staff meetings with all staff, including instructional aides every Monday before school. We also have Reading Mastery planning meetings and Saxon Math planning meetings every Friday after school to lesson plan collaboratively for the next week and communicate grades to the classroom teacher from the previous week.

An open house potluck and conferences was the first parent involvement activity for the school year. The conferences were goal setting conferences with parents and students in attendance. We went over the student handbook, educational team compact, and made goals for each student to work on throughout the year. The conferences were followed by a potluck and a goal setting activity.

The Twin Hills Village Council will be sponsoring a trip to Fairbanks for the AFN Elders and Youth Conference in October. Two 7th grade students, Curtis Pleasant and Carlton Small, will be attending the valuable conference.

Improving attendance is again a big focus for this school year. The secretary will continue to call the home of any student who has not arrived to school within ten minutes after the school day begins. We are also logging reasons for absences to look for patterns that will help us improve attendance in the future.