

REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



**“Elitnaurluki,
tegumiaqluki
umyuaqegcikluki-
llu Yupiit piciryarit.**

**The Yup'ik Way of
life is to be taught
with pride.”**

--Bristol Bay Yup'ik Values

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Alaska School Leadership Institute (ASLI)

The District participated this past spring in the Alaska School Leadership Institute (ASLI) held in Anchorage May 28th – 31st. Six of the district's seven site administrators were in attendance, as well as, all three of the district's assistant principals, the four district office instructional Directors and Superintendent Piazza. This year's institute's focus was on Improving Student Learning: Linking Standards, Assessment and Educator Effectiveness. The institute was organized by the Alaska Staff Development Network (ASDN) as part of their Rural Alaska Principal Preparation and Support (RAPPS) project. Dr. Al Bertani, Lexie Domaradzki, Julia Payne-Lewis and Dr. Susan McCauley served as the ASLI Instructional Team and primary presenters. The workshop was designed to build on the previous four ASLI institutes, but focused on the three large state initiatives to provide awareness and to begin the implementation of the newly adopted Language Arts and Mathematics Standards, the new state-wide student “standardized test” assessments that will be in place during the FY 2015 school year, and the adopted changes to teacher and administrator evaluations that include the addition of using student growth data in the evaluation process slated for the FY 2016 school year.



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Staffing

The District welcomes 22 new staff members to their respective school sites. Sandra Diaz-Cross who previously taught in Shaktoolik, Alaska will be in Aleknagik. The Koliganek School will be joined by Diane O'Riley from Spokane Valley, Washington who will be teaching 2nd-3rd grade and Special Education. In addition, Shianne Perry from Power, Montana will be teaching 4th-6th grade and Sarah Ropp from Alma, Michigan will be teaching Secondary Language Arts. Deb Forkner who served as Principal in Gambell, Alaska will be the Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School's Principal. Marisa Niederreither from Etters, Pennsylvania will also teach 6th Grade at the school. The "Chief" Ivan Blunka (New Stuyahok) School welcomes Luke Owens from Port Alsworth, Alaska as the Assistant Principal/ Counselor. Additionally, Wes Nelson from Portland, Oregon will teach a second Kindergarten class, Kylie Shuneson from Grand Rapids, Michigan will teach 6th Grade, Eliza Owens will teach Elementary Special Education, Melody Rainwater from Fort Worth, Texas will teach Secondary Science, and Clayton Lamphear from North Platte, Nebraska will teach Secondary Social Studies. The Togiak School is joined by Yee "Alex" Ting who previously provided counseling services in Stebbins and St. Michael, Alaska. New staff members at the elementary level include Tina Lucio from Woodstock, GA teaching 1st grade, Sarah Keleher from Fairfield, Connecticut teaching 1st and 2nd Grade, Nick Ophaug from Lakewood, Colorado teaching 5th Grade, and Jill Howdyshell from Portland teaching 6th Grade. New secondary level staff members in Togiak will include Kyle Chapman from Portland teaching Language Arts, Donna Matthews from Houston Texas teaching Science, Drew Williams from Deer Park, Washington teaching Social Studies, and Sue Macy from Lincoln Massachusetts teaching Special Education. The Twin Hills School welcomes Megan Humphrey from Lansdale Pennsylvania as the Kindergarten-4th Grade and Special Education Teacher.



Superintendent Summer Meeting

The Alaska Association of School Administrators (AASA) and the Department of Education and Early Development (EED) held their annual Summer Meeting in Juneau on July 28th-29th. On Sunday, discussions and sessions held at the Juneau Performing Arts and Culture Center included: “What’s in Store for Alaska PreK-12 Public Education”, “Action and Telltale Signs from the 28th Legislature”, and “Major Themes in Proposed and Passed Legislation.”

The meetings continued on Monday at the Department of Education’s offices. Commissioner Hanley welcomed the superintendents and provided information regarding changes to the Alaska Learning Network (AKLAN) and the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS). Dr. Susan McCauley, EED’s Director of Teaching and Learning Support discussed the required Early Literacy Screenings. Erik McCormick provided information regarding the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. Break out sessions for all participants included information regarding the Language Arts and Mathematics content standards, educator evaluations, and the Alaska School performance Index (ASPI) & School Accountability. Additional group sessions included a federal perspective presented by Julia Martin the Legislative Director with the law firm of Brustein & Manasevit in Washington D.C. provided an legislative update regarding the effects that will be felt on school district budgets from Sequestration at the federal level. Sequestration is the process that began last winter where automatic cuts across all federal spending programs are made.

Inservice

Inservice sessions began this year on August 5th-7th. All seven site administrators and three assistant principals were able to participate in the three days of Leadership meetings. Monday was primarily devoted to individual site meetings with each of the departments within the District Office. This time provided an opportunity for site-specific discussions to be held, as well as, provided and opportunity to continue to build individual relationships between the site and district office staff. The meetings with the



Leadership Inservice

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Superintendent and Director of Instruction included discussions regarding the evaluation of site administrators, site goals and needs, and school accountability as determined by the new Alaska School Performance Index (ASPI) model that replaces the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) model.

Tuesday's full group inservice sessions included information regarding the weekly site administrator's meeting schedule, as well as, discussion on additional staff development opportunities for staff throughout the year. With the changes from the state, the evaluation process was another topic of conversation. Additional sessions included the implementation of common curriculum and common pacing as developed over the past year, technology upgrades, PowerSchool student record management, and student activities.

The final day of principal inservices took a look at the state and federal programs of the district, as well as, an in-depth view into the components of the Alaska School Performance Index worksheets that lead to a schools one to five star accountability rating. Additional topics included changes to the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) benchmark testing. The leadership concluded the day diving further into each of the six goal areas established last year. The goals focus on ensuring that students are Reading on Grade Level by the End of Second Grade; developing a Comprehensive Instructional Plan; working to improve Student Engagement; Revitalizing the Yup'ik Studies program; developing a Post-Secondary Transition program; and revitalizing and expanding Vocational Education opportunities for students.

Thursday, August 8th, provided time for Special Education teachers to come together. Sessions regarding the use of the SEAS special education student database helped the staff learn the web-based software in order to correctly track Individual Education Plans (IEP) for students. Additional training was provided in the area of teacher caseloads, timelines, coordination with Head Start, schedules, and working with Paraprofessional staff. Several of the special education teachers presented on assessments, vision and hearing screening, and work to prepare for sessions to be held at the full staff inservices to follow.

The new teacher's inservice sessions ran Friday and Saturday, August 9th and 10th. This year's sessions continued previous years' efforts to acquaint new staff to the District, as well as, to rural Alaska and the Southwest Region. Presentations by Esther Ilutsik, Fanny Parker, Anu Wysocki, and Justing Gumlickpuk were well received. New staff members had the opportunity to go out to Kakanak Beach to see a successful subsistence catch of silver salmon, and learned the proper techniques for cleaning, cutting and hanging the fish. While the rain and weather did not afford an opportunity for a



bonfire and BBQ on the beach, the fresh caught salmon was grilled and served for dinner at the District Office.

On Sunday, August 11th, all of the returning certificated staff, arrived in Dillingham and participated in the three-day District-Wide Inservice. Following a review of the district's progress of the 6 goals, Monday's inservice sessions were lead by Dr. Susan McCauley and Deborah Riddle from the Alaska Department of Education. All certified staff were provided an introduction to the new Language Arts and Mathematics Standards, as well as, an overview of the changes to student assessment and teacher evaluation processes. The day ended with a review of the State's new Cultural Standards for Educators presented by Esther Ilutsik, Fanny Parker, and Anu Wysocki. The team introduced and recognized most of the Alaska Native educators teaching in the Southwest Region School District and the Dillingham City School District.

Tuesday's sessions focused on the awareness and use of the Danielson Framework for teacher effectiveness and its use in the evaluation process. Lynn Sawyer from the Danielson Group provided an in-sight and training for the Framework's 4 Domain Areas, 22 Components and 76 Elements. The Framework helps to provide a common definition of what good teaching is and looks like. The day concluded with a joint barbeque held between the staff of Dillingham City Schools and Southwest Region Schools.

Wednesday's sessions began with a review of the intervention and pre-referral process that must be undertaken before a student is considered for Special Education services. This included a lively song prepared and presented by the Special Education staff and a few skits demonstrating effective intervention strategies that all teachers can try to meet students with learning needs. The rest of the day provided opportunities for smaller group discussions and trainings on topics including the teacher's use of the student assessment data portfolios, PowerSchool report cards, common pacing and common assessments at the secondary school level, and the use of technology tools such as GoogleDocs, Gaggie e-mail, and the Moodle content management system within the classrooms.



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Awards

The following staff were recognized with longevity awards for their time working at Southwest Region Schools.

5 Years of Service

- Lester Moore – Manokotak
- Blunka Robert Blunka – New Stuyahok
- Peter Yukluk – New Stuyahok
- Tara Kregar – Manokotak

10 Years of Service

- Natalia Ishnook – Koliganek
- Elena Norbert – Koliganek
- Agnes Ceballos – Manokotak
- Leo Kasak – Togiak
- Kim Endicott – District Office
- Walter Williams – District Office
- Anuska Wysocki - Koliganek
- Deborah Endicott – District Office

15 Years of Service

- Melody Noden - Aleknagik
- Margaret Hiratsuka – Koliganek
- Katherine Johnson – Koliganek
- Vera Blunka – New Stuyahok
- Rick Dallmann – District Office
- Cody McCanna – Koliganek
- Lester Parks – District Office

35 Years of Service

- Grace Gamechuk – Manokotak
- Tatianna Andrew – New Stuyahok

Retirement Recognition

- Nellie Gamechuk – Manokotak
- Joseph Andrew – Togiak
- Lucy Andrew – Togiak
- Nancy Sharp - Manokotak

Employee of the Year

Each Spring the District solicits candidates for three Employee of the Year awards. The following individuals were selected for additional recognition.

Instructional Aide of the Year

- Esther Thompson - Togiak

Classified Employee of the Year

- John Sharp – Twin Hills

Teacher of the Year

- Brielle Good – New Stuyahok



Alaska School Performance Index (ASPI)

On August 16th the State released the new accountability system Alaska School Performance Index (ASPI) statistics to the media. The ASPI system replaces the previous Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) system of reporting each of the schools across the state's progress towards meeting student achievement goals. As indicated in their press release sent out: "Fifty-two of 503 rated schools earned five stars, the highest rating; 190 schools are four-star schools; 162 schools are three-star schools; 49 schools are two-star schools; and 50 schools are one-star schools. Collectively, nearly 92 percent of students attended schools in 2012-2013 that earned three stars or above."

The new system also sets a goal for each school to reducing its percentage of non-proficient students by half over the next six years, in yearly increments. The goals are called Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs). The AMOs apply to the student body as a whole and to subgroups that have at least five students. The subgroups are: students with disabilities, English language learners, economically disadvantaged students, Alaska Natives and American Indians, Caucasians, African-Americans, Hispanics, Mixed Race, and Asian/Pacific Islanders.

Based on the ASPI score, Alaska gives each school a rating from one star to five stars.

Schools that are rated as one-star, two-star, or three-star schools must implement improvement plans. Improvement plans also are required for four-star and five-star schools whose graduation rate has declined from the previous year; or whose assessment scores have declined for two consecutive years; or which have not met their AMOs for two consecutive years. The last two criteria apply to achievement in the student body as a whole or any subgroup(s) of students.

The Aleknagik, Koliganek, and Manokotak 'Nunaniq' schools received three star ratings. The "Chief" Ivan Blunka (New Stuyahok) school received a two star rating. The William "Sonny" Nelson (Ekwok), Togiak, and Twin Hills schools received one star ratings.



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Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Director

Preparation for Fall Inservices

Late July and early August are always incredibly busy for the staff at District Office. Three weeks of concentrated planning and preparation goes into the fall inservices. Les, Deb, Corey and Tim were all busy supporting presentations and preparing for their own presentations during the Leadership, New Staff and All Staff events. In addition to creating and presenting on different topics to staff, there is a considerable amount of work to be done physically setting up for sessions and assuring a smooth inservice. This background work is essential as it allows staff to focus on the topics at hand and not logistics, but often invisible to participants. **A big thank you is in order to all those who quietly make inservice possible each year!**



Instruction & Fall Inservice Notes

One enhancement to our services provided to teachers was ordering their student consumables last Spring and have the workbooks, textbooks delivered right to the schools in April. Teachers opened up their classroom with materials already there. The K-5 Science tubs were re-supplied last spring so they were ready to go as well. This fall semester, students dive into Life Science with several opportunities to study the land outside the classroom window. Tubs were delivered to sites the week prior to school opening.

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TEAM



Les Parks
Technology Coordinator



Deb Endicott
Elem. Ed. Specialist



Corey Evans
Computer-Aided
Instruction Specialist



Tim Phillips
Sec. Ed. Specialist

To address student engagement: the elementary teachers spent some time and collaborated different academic events and/or competitions in the classrooms. Events like the Science Fair, Battle of the Books, Literacy night events, Academic Decathlon, Math Olympiads, Spelling Bee, Geography Bee were just a few events teachers discussed.

Support for our elementary literacy and mathematics programs will continue this year through collaboration across the district in the form of regularly scheduled video-conferences. For the past two years, K-5 teachers met via video-conference and discussed relevant topics including; reading instruction, writing, and math. Teachers and paraprofessionals alike were able to receive professional development training on a variety of topics of direct relevancy to our student population. We will continue this again this year. The calendar and topics are in the development process right now.



To start out the school year for the grade 7-12 staff, we met with curriculum committee chairpersons before in-service started to go over our continued effort to create aligned and common pacing guides and assessments district-wide. We reviewed pacing guides and assessments from last year and updated them for this school year, giving new teachers access to them. We also discussed the addition of a common grading policy between content areas district-wide and why that has become an important goal for student learning.

During the last day of All-Staff in-service, grade 7-12 content area teachers met and, with the leadership of the curriculum committee chairpersons, created an agreed-upon common grading policy for each content area for teachers to follow. We are still engaged in reviewing curriculum for social studies and will be taking another look at language arts and math in light of the new standards.

We spent some time familiarizing teachers with the updated versions of social studies resources and with the online component to those materials.

With the changes to state standards in Language Arts and Mathematics this past June, curriculum committees for math and language arts will meet to review their curriculum to see what needs to be changed, if anything, so that they are aligned with the new Alaska Standards.

This is our second year of implementing the Science curriculum. We had to adjust the curriculum and supplies for our middle and high school science courses to accommodate staffing in those areas.

Technology & Fall Inservice Notes

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

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Les was busy engaged in many other activities including:

- Preparing an updated image for site administrators; deployed during admin inservices.
 - Preparing a new laptop computers for new certified teaching staff; deployed during new teacher inservices.
 - Providing technology training to new teachers during new teacher inservice.
 - Supporting technology / networking needs during full inservice held at DCSD.
 - Deploying 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:

- Working with new staff to complete technology equipment checkout and start up procedures.
 - Providing technology support for the beginning of the year in-service schedule. Principals' in-service, new teacher in-service, and all certified staff in-service.
 - Conducting in-service session for principals on changes to the upcoming NWEA MAP assessment.
 - Conducting with curriculum in-service for K-6 staff on student data folder.
 - Provided support for new school year technology start up.
 - Rolling up new school year data and new student account creation for the battery of district supported online resources.
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Alaska School Leadership Institute (ASLI)

This past spring district leadership staff participated in the Alaska School Leadership Institute (ASLI) in Anchorage. The meetings were, as usual, very informative and provided insight into a number of state initiatives that will directly affect our district. Presentations on the new Alaska Standards, changes to

evaluation processes and new state assessments were important. Following our return home, instructional staff began planning for implementation of the new requirements.

Superintendent Summer Meeting

The summer AASA meeting provided additional information on new instruction-related changes coming. Workshops on new standards, evaluation regulation changes and assessment all provided additional details that were not available in the spring. These areas are undergoing constant change and it is important for us as a district to keep up with these changes to insure that we are properly implementing programs.

Another session that Director Noonkesser attended was the Alaska Learning Network (AKLN) Board Meeting. Steve is a member of the executive board of this state-wide organization focused on providing quality distance learning options to Alaska K-12 students. At the meeting EED staff presented a new MOA with the University of ALaska - Southeast to provide program services. During several meetings the board worked with UAS, Dean of Education, Deborah Lo to flesh out details of the program. It is a promising start and will potentially provide our students with increased options for coursework.

Summer Upgrades to Classrooms

Over the summer Maintenance staff completed the re-design and renovation of the science room at Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School. The newly opened lab area and new flooring will enable science teacher, Kirk Kofford, to teach lessons previously difficult due to the enclosed lab space and carpeted floor.

Fall Inservices

During fall inservice this year, we covered many topics, but the overall focus was on new standards, quality instruction, providing culturally relevant instruction, and moving all of our programs ahead to better serve our students. Leadership meetings included individually site-specific meetings and a review of the six area of focus identified last year in response to board goals. New Staff Inservice focused on skills necessary to be successful in our region. The All Staff inservice focused on changes coming in three important areas of standards, assessment and teacher quality and evaluation. Initial feedback from staff was very positive and the new year begins with the promise of many good things for students.



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State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

Elementary and Secondary Act Waiver (ESEA)

In late May 2013 the Alaska Department of Education received a waiver to the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Alaska is the 37th state to receive a waiver to the ESEA requirements. Under the waiver the state of Alaska agrees to the following:

- Adopt standards in English/language arts and mathematics that prepare students for education and training after high school, often referred to as college-ready and career-ready standards;
- Create an accountability system for schools and districts for the academic success of students, that include student subgroups;
- Require school districts to evaluate teachers and principals tied to the academic growth and progress of student achievement.

As a result of the approval of this waiver, states are allowed to opt out of the previous accountability system through NCLB known as Adequate Yearly Progress and the designation of schools in improvement. The Alaska State Board of Education has already adopted new standards for English/language arts and mathematics in June 2012; adopted new evaluation regulations for school districts in December 2012; and adopted the new accountability system for schools and districts in June 2013.

Information regarding the new accountability system formally called the Alaska School Performance Index (ASPI) was presented to site and district leadership during the leadership inservice on August 6th, 2013. ASPI is very different from AYP and takes into an account a number of indicators including:

- Attendance rate
- Academic growth and proficiency
- Graduation rate
- College and career readiness
- Workkeys participation

Each of the above indicators is used to determine an overall ASPI score for each school. The ASPI score is then used to determine a star-rating for each school with a five-star rating being the best possible rating.

In addition, there are new Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) for schools and districts. The language for the new AMO is to reduce the percentage of non-proficient students by half over six years, including in each subgroup of students. These AMOs will be school and district specific using the 2011-2012 SBA results as the baseline year.



Student Information & Support Specialist: Kyle Schneider

PowerSchool University

Over the summer, three staff members from the district attended PowerSchool University trainings. Kyle Schneider (District Office), Alex Ting (Togiak), and Michael Lee (Togiak) attended weeklong events put on by Pearson School Systems, the company that makes PowerSchool. Over the course of the week, attendees take eight classes for a total of twenty-four hours of instruction. These courses cover topics ranging from best practices for student data, tools for scheduling students in courses to customization of PowerSchool to meet our district's unique needs.

Inservice

Kyle presented on the changes that had been made to PowerSchool during the summer at the principal's inservice, new teacher inservice, and all staff inservice. He also did sessions designed to help teachers get their gradebooks set up for the beginning of the year and how to use the features of PowerSchool gradebook.

Schoolnet

Over the summer, Kyle worked on implementation of Southwest's new assessment data warehousing and analysis solution, which is a product from Pearson School Systems called Schoolnet. Schoolnet allows the district to put all of our students' testing results in one central location and use all of that data to get a better idea about how our schools and students are doing.

Schoolnet also includes a feature that will allow our teachers to create online tests and quizzes for

students using NWEA's (the creator of the MAP test) and Pearson's test item banks that are aligned to Alaskan and Common Core standards. Schoolnet also includes an online lesson-planning tool that teachers can use to plan their daily lessons.



Counseling & Assessment Specialist: Steve Ito

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.

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Business Office

Lee Ann Andrew, Director

Purchase cards – The National Association for School Business Officials has made a purchasing program available to school districts that gives each district control over cards that are issued in their district. This program could benefit the district immediately in two areas. We would have the ability to issue purchase cards to our principals for site purchases and to chaperones traveling with students. This program differs from the Wells Fargo program in that we can turn cards on and off immediately ourselves. We can set dollar and types of purchase limits and have the ability to change them immediately also. Currently principals often use their personal credit cards to purchase school store items then end up writing themselves a check on the site checking account. The purchase card tightens up the internal controls. Currently when coaches travel with a team of students to Anchorage they are often handed a check of \$3000 or more for the per diem for all the travelers. The purchase card program will allow us to issue each high school a card for boys sports and a card for girls sports. We can set a limit for that trip and limit it to restaurants only. This does not eliminate all cash but it lowers the amount they have to carry. To be able to enter into this program the district must submit a resolution from the board approving this agreement.

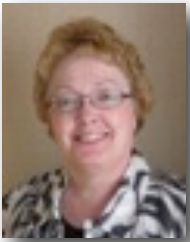
American Fidelity is our new carrier for Section 125 Insurance – Section 125 is a law that allows businesses to offer health insurance as a pre-tax option. We have had a Section 125 plan in place since 1997. In the past we have offered AFLAC as a supplemental insurance option under this program. This year we have changed to American Fidelity. They have more to offer us than our previous program for a lower cost to the district. They also offer education to employees and employers on their section 125 options and health care reform.

Unreserved Fund balance – Late May when final costs for fuel and electricity were known we found we were too close for comfort on having more than our 10% left over at the end of the year. We made some year end purchases to stay under the maximum 10% allowed. We purchased 3 copiers for the district office because the maintenance copier was becoming obsolete this year and the other 2 copiers will be obsolete next year. This allows us to utilize more replacement funding in FY14 for vehicles after we get the maintenance mechanic on board who can better assess our vehicle situation. We were able to stock a few emergency type items for the maintenance department.

TimeClock Plus – Year end money also purchased hand scanners for the 3 large sites and licenses for all sites so that all hourly employees can utilize electronic time sheets as opposed to the hand written ones we have been using. The payroll staff and principals are excited to get this system going. It will save the secretaries a lot of time once employees get used to it.

FY13 Audit – The auditors will be here September 16- 20 for our final audit.

FY14 Budget – The approved budget submitted to the state was so close to meeting the 70% towards instruction and we had enough projected revenue left over that they did not accept our budget until changes were made to reach the 70%. They advised us that a waiver would not get approved if there was revenue left over. (I learned something new this year) Without a waiver we will have to pay extra attention to what we are spending for instruction and maintenance throughout the year.



Special Education

Robin Gray, Director

There have been a lot of staff changes for the special education department in the district this year. Here is a list of our new special education teachers:

- Sandra Diaz Cross – Aleknagik
- Diane O’Riley – Koliganek
- Megan Humphrey – Twin Hills
- Sue Macy – Togiak
- Belynda Weideman – Togiak
- Kelli Hammond – Manokotak
- LeEsia O’Sullivan – Manokotak
- Ben Griesse – New Stuyahok
- Eliza Owens – New Stuyahok

Our team of returning special education teachers came together to prepare and present a portion of the all District in-service. We presented on interventions and the pre-referral/intervention process for the district.

We, as a department, are working with other staff members in the district to create a list of resources that support interventions. It has been amazing to see how many support materials we already have in our district and where we need to work to fill in “holes.”

The special education teaching staff met August 8, 2013 for a day of learning our procedures and reporting system. We will do target video sessions on a monthly basis for the remainder of the year to ensure that training and support is given in a timely manner, and to everyone needing the initial and additional support.

The special education department, in conjunction with Head Start will be doing Child Find during the months of August and September. They will also be screening the kindergarten and first grade students in the district.

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Facilities & Maintenance

Rick Dallmann, Director

Aleknagik

- Some minor housing work and finished back up power project

Ekwok

- Replaced the old kitchen stove
- Prep work for new teacher housing unit, including all new utilities
- Removed old fuel tanks and installed new piping
- Purchased new code compliant fuel tanks
- Remodel part of school library to accommodate teacher living quarters

Koliganek

- The new school project is moving ahead very fast and is staying on schedule
- We moved two portable classrooms and two teacher-housing buildings and set them back up.

New Stuyahok

- Working on heat recovery project documents hope to have the project ready for bidding sometime this fall and will be trying to get the underground piping in before freeze up.

Manokotak

- Remodeled the science classroom removed walls and put down new flooring to accommodate the science program
- Worked on outside lighting issues.
- Putting together a bid package for next spring to remodel the school roof we have sealed everything to make it through the winter.

Twin Hills

- Remodeled teacher housing unit in the school back into a classroom and sound proofed the room

- Prep work for the two new teacher-housing units, this included running all new utilities and building pads to set the units on. At this time we are still trying to work out the barging to get them to site
- Installed a new kitchen hood suppression system final hook up scheduled for later this month during fire system inspections

Togiak

- Total remodel of teacher housing unit down in the village
- Window replacement in teacher housing
- School window replacement (still need one more that was broken during install
- Purchased a skid steer to help with snow removal

District_Wide

- Fuel deliveries where made up river and to Twin Hills still waiting for the Togiak and Aleknagik sites.
- HVAC control work has been completed at all sites
- Fire extinguishers have been inspected at all site
- Fire alarm and kitchen hood suppression systems are scheduled for inspection later this month

District Wide Summer Vandalism

We had some housing break-ins in Manokotak (report filed with VPSO). We had a window broken in the Manokotak School no one got into the school and the window has been replaced.

We had a break in at New Stuyahok School (report filed with VPSO). Break down of Damages: 3 door knob sleeves - \$75, 3 door plates - \$50, 8 hours of labor for repairs - \$520, Round trip airfare for freight and personnel - \$1,600



Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director

K-2 Yup'ik Studies Curriculum

K-2 Yup'ik Studies Committee met May 20-24, 2013 here in Dillingham to create units using the TPRS (Total Physical Response Storytelling) model. The stories that are featured are traditional Yup'ik legends that stem from across the vast Yup'ik region. The units are created using a spiral cycle where the beginning of the story is introduced during year one with the middle and concluding following with year 2 and concluding in year 3. The following units were created during the spring work session: Pitegurliq (Robin), Uugnara'urluq (Poor Little Mouse), An'gaqtar (Stone Lady) and Qaillun Irniaruat Piurtelirat (How the Dolls Came to Be). The Yup'ik Studies Instructional Aides will be trained using this method in the up-coming September in-service. This session will follow with immediate implementation.

K-2 Yup'ik Studies Committee Members: Anu Wysocki of Koliganke, Tatianna Andrew of New Stuyahok, Fanny Parker of Togiak, Grace Gamechuk of Manokotak and Martha Foster of Twin Hills.

New Teacher Inservice

Twenty-two certified staff members were introduced to the Yup'ik Language and Culture featuring village slide presentations from Kiarpair Fanny Parker of Togiak, Anguk'aq Justin Gumlickpuk of New Stuyahok, Cirunerquaq Anu Wysocki of Koliganek and Arnaq Esther A Ilutsik who touched on the villages of Twin Hills, Manokotak, Aleknagik and Ekwok. Additionally, they were taken through a quick Yup'ik language session featuring vernacular exercises that strengthen the sounds of the Yup'ik language (a video clip of Tan'iq Larry Bartman's high school Yup'ik class).



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Yup'ik Words Introduced at New Staff Sessions

- Greeting after long absence - cama-i
- What is your purpose? - waqaa
- To continue as s/he has been- piura
- Thank you - quyana
- You're welcome - aa-ang
- Thank you all for coming - quyana tailuci
- That's it, that's the end - tua-i
- How are you? - cangacit?
- I'm fine. - assirtua
- What are you doing? calisit?
- What? Ca?
- Why? Ciin?
- Who? Kina?
- Where? Nani?
- How? Qaillun
- When? Qaku?

Yup'ik Names of Central Office and SWRS Sites

- Curyung 'murky waters'
- Tuyuryaq 'a place of sending'
- Ingricuar 'a small mountain'
- Manuquutaq 'on a lap of a mountain'
- Alaqnaqiq 'related to error'
- Iquaq 'the little end'
- Cetuyaraq 'the way to follow the current'
- Qalirneq 'the upper one'

During the morning tea and lunch break the participants observed Steve Ito's, Lead Counselor, subsistence net operation and were introduced to four species of our salmon – red, chum, pink and silver. Nikki Noonkesser (Steve Noonkesser's daughter) demonstrated the process of filleting fish using the uuluaq (women' knife) followed with some of the participants taking part in the experience. Assirpaa!

The session ended with an overview of the Ed. 495 Orientation to Teaching in Rural Alaska and a salmon barbecue with all the dinner fixings! Special thanks goes to the Special Education staff and Deb Endicott for salad, rice and the yummy desserts. Quyana cakneq!



High School Yup'ik Studies Courses

The following Yup'ik Studies High School Classes were approved by the board during its May, 2013 meeting:

- **YCC 100 Traditional and Modern Yup'ik Dancing:** a year- long course (two semesters) which fulfills one credit of Alaska Native Studies
- **YCC 150 Traditional Yup'ik Tools, Clothing & Materials:** a one semester class which fulfills one-half credit of Alaska Native Studies
- **YCC 200 Traditional Yup'ik Place Names:** a one semester class which fulfills on-half credit of Alaska Native Studies
- **YCC 301 Yup'ik Studies Subsistence I:** a year- long course (two semesters) which fulfills one credit of Alaska Native Studies
- **YCC 401 Yup'ik Studies Subsistence II:** a year- long course (two semesters) which fulfills one credit of Alaska Native Studies

Check with your school to see if they are being offered.

Tua-i! Piurci!



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Aleknagik School

Audra Finkenbinder, Principal/Teacher

Aleknagik North Shore School welcomes Sandra Diaz-Cross to the teaching staff this year. Sandra comes to us from the Bering Strait School District and will be instructing a variety of subjects throughout the day.

We are in the second year of using the new science curriculum and science kits. The students enjoyed all of the hands-on activities last year and I can foresee that enjoyment continuing. We are in the third year of using the Reading Mastery program in grades K-5 and in the past two years have seen wonderful gains in the students' reading abilities.

As the new school year begins, we are slated to continue the following programs/activities:

- Student of the Month
- Student Council
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Battle of the Books
- Spelling Bee
- Science Fair
- Game Nights
- Movie Nights

In addition to these activities, we are working in conjunction with the Park Rangers to provide a safety course in boating and water crossing.

All students in Aleknagik School will also receive instruction in Basic Internet Safety on a quarterly basis throughout the school year. This training is in accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act and Southwest Region School's Acceptable Use Policy.

If you have not had a chance to meet Mrs. Cross, would like to see what we have going on, or have any questions, please feel free to stop by.

We are all looking forward to a great school year!

Please note: School and Community Pictures are scheduled for September 9th.

We are teaming up with BBAHC again this year to offer Open Gym to the students and community. 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 The O'Sullivans, 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

We are looking forward to starting the new school year in Ekwok. This year we are going to focus on the leadership team goals/areas of focus #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 wish to continue the success we are currently having. At the beginning of last year 3 students were reading below grade level K-3 on MAP Ekwok. At the end of the year only one student was below grade level and that student was meeting growth targets that would get them to grade level by the time they reach third grade. We are working with all students' families to get them reading at home and are providing them with resources to help them to be successful.

Goal 2: Student Engagement is another goal where we are planning on continuing the success of last year. We plan on increasing the school day, continue working and meeting with all parents and adding positive reinforcement for attendance. Last year working with and meeting all families at parent teacher conferences helped us go from 263 absences for ten children FY12 to 181.5 absences for 12 students in FY 13. That averages out to just over 11 more days in attendance. We are going to add positive reinforcement awards for attendance each semester for the year. Ekwok's CSC and Student Government will determine the awards for attendance after school starts. In addition, we will be adding 30 minutes to the school day, which will give our school 85 more contact hours, which equates to just over 15 more days in school over the year. Between the adding half an hour and improving attendance from last year it should give Ekwok on average 26 more contact days in FY14 than in FY12 but we still need to improve student attendance and we believe calendar changes and positives attendance will help us do that.

Goal 3: Comprehensive Instructional Plan, we are working to improve the plan from last year. We will be implementing a new daily schedule developed with assistance from Deb Endicott, which covers Ekwok's new daily schedule and provides more time and academic rigor. We will continue to use district testing to match student weaknesses with the standards and modify instruction so that students will meet the state standards. We will expand to include looking at the new standards that take effect next year so we are prepared when that happens.

Goal 4: Revitalize the Yupik Studies Program is an area we are also working on. We are looking to hire a new Yupik Instructor to help revitalize our program. We are currently working with Esther Ilutsik and Ekwok's CSC in order to find a suitable candidate. In addition, we are also looking at getting elders into classrooms to help include Yupik into all subject areas.

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Koliganek School
Cody McCanna, Principal

Off and Running!

Koliganek School is excited to kick the school year off on August 19, 2013. We are excited to bring three new faces to our collaborative teaching staff. Diane O'Riley will be teaching 2nd and 3rd grade and doing our special education duties. Shianne Perry will be teaching 4th and 5th grade this year. Then Sarah Ropp will be teaching 6th-12th grade Language Arts. We have a special treat this year as well with two local graduates coming back to do their student teaching. Genevieve Kapatak and Anastasia Ishnook will be completing their student teaching in the elementary school with Anu Wysocki and Diane O'Riley respectively.



The staff at Koliganek School will be continuing their work this year to improve the quality of instruction. The staff will be utilizing Danielson's Framework for Effective Teaching. The Framework will allow the instructional leader the opportunity to have discussions with the entire staff that are focused on effective teaching practices. Furthermore, it will allow our professional educators to work collaboratively to identify and focus on individual and group weaknesses so teaching and learning can improve.

Koliganek School is excited about the new school building that is currently under construction. The progress this summer included moving some portable classrooms, moving two housing units, and the foundation of the new building being put into place. It is an exciting process to be involved in and everyone is excited to move into the new building in January of 2015.





Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Deb Forkner, Principal

My husband and I came here from Gambell, AK, where I was the principal for the past two years. Other new staff members joining us in Manokotak this year include: Ryan and LeEsia O'Sullivan who transferred from Aleknagik, Lorraine Masterman transferring from Toigak, and Marisa Niederreither who joins us as a new teacher.

There is an Open House scheduled for August 27 for parents and community to visit the school and meet staff members.

In order to give our Kindergarten teacher an opportunity to administer the required kindergarten screenings, classes for K students will begin a week after the other students. Parents have been notified and K students are scheduled for a screening time. We look forward to welcoming them to the first day of Kindergarten on Monday, August 26.

We are happy to report that Manokotak received a 3 star rating from the state (they no longer do AYP). We are not very far into the 3 star category so our goal this year will be to move well up into the 3 star area as we work our way to becoming a 4 star school.

There are two CSC positions open in Manokotak. Two former members resigned their positions over the summer. CSC will be accepting letters of interest and making appointments to the vacant positions.

Thank you to the maintenance department for completing the remodel of the science classroom. A wall and the old carpeting were removed over the summer. The room is more open and has easier access to the lab area now. The new flooring is much safer and easier to take care of.



BEFORE...



AFTER!



'Chief' Ivan Blunka School

Robin Jones, Principal

We could not be more excited about the upcoming school year at Chief Ivan Blunka School! We are very fortunate this year to have 6 new staff members, each bringing a wealth of experience and energy to our team. All of the teachers are eager to set up their classrooms, meet the students, and join the New Stu community. Listed below are the new additions to our staff and their respective positions:

- Luke Owens will be our new Assistant Principal/School Counselor
- Eliza Owens will be our new Elementary Special Education Teacher
- Kylie Shuneson will be our new 5th/6th Grade Teacher
- Clayton Lamphear will be our new Secondary Social Studies Teacher
- Melody Rainwater will be our new Secondary Science & Math Teacher
- Ann Edwards will be returning to us as our 1st/2nd Teacher



This summer, we also had the privilege to host both a Girl Scout camp and a basketball camp at the school, which were both wildly successful. We enjoy being able to help facilitate activities in the school that the students enjoy so much! We will also be hosting a "Welcome Back to School" BBQ the first week of school, which will allow everyone the chance to enjoy some delicious food and great company. We really hope to strengthen the relationship between the school and the community, so there will many more activities to come.

Again, we are thrilled for this upcoming school year and all of the great things that will happen!

