

Educating our future...



“Irniaten-luu Kenkellerpegun Qiqcikluki”

Through Love, Respect Your Children.

--Bristol Bay Yup'ik Values

Board of Education

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Superintendent's Office

David J. Piazza, Superintendent

Staffing

The district has received a 20 certificated staff resignations to date. While the turn-over rate is higher than the unusually low rate from last year, this rate appears to be similar to the recent preceding years. Since forecasted revenues continue to decline, the District anticipates not filling all the vacancies. At this time, district administration has recommended for hire Sandra Cross from Shaktoolik, Alaska to be an Elementary/Special Education Teacher in Aleknagik, Debra Forkner from Gambel, Alaska to be the Principal at Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School Alex Ting from Stebbins/St. Michael, Alaska to be the Counselor at Togiak School, Drew Williams from Deer Park, Washington to be the Secondary Social Studies Teacher in Togiak, and Kyle Chapman from Portland, Oregon to be the Secondary Language Arts Teacher in Togiak.

The District has one interview team headed to the Alaska Teacher Placement (ATP) Job Fair in Seattle on Sunday April 7th, three interview teams scheduled for the Anchorage ATP Job Fair to be held on Friday, April 12th-Saturday, April 13th, one interview team continuing to the Oregon Professional Educator Fair in Portland on April 16th-17th. Superintendent Piazza will also be participating in both the Minnesota Education Job Fair in Minneapolis on Monday, April 15th, as well as, the Minneapolis ATP Job Fair on Saturday, April 20th.

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Superintendent Travel

Superintendent Piazza, School Board members Ferdinand Sharp and Wally Gust, and Director of Instruction and Information Systems Steve Noonkesser participated in the Association of Alaska School Board's (AASB) Spring Academy and Legislative Fly-in at the end of March. The team was able to meet with Representative Bryce Edgmon, Representative Bob Herron, and Senator Gary Stevens. Senator Lyman Hoffman was busy, so we were unable to meet with him in person. The team also attended a session of the Alaska House of Representatives and participated in a reception with Governor Sean Parnell at the Governor's Mansion. Wally and Steve provided verbal testimony during the Senate Education Committee on legislation regarding "Broadband Discounts for Schools".



The AASB Spring Boardsmanship Academy workshops included a presentation by Christine Culliton on Medicaid Reimbursements for Related Services. Dr. Susan McCauley with the Department of Education provided an "Update on AK State Standards for Language Arts and Math! What Board Members Need to Know!" Mat-Su Superintendent Deena Paramo presented on "School Climate Matters: Moving from Data to Action". This session discussed the AASB School Climate and Connectedness Survey and how it is used within the Mat-Su school system. The session "Getting Ready for Your Digital Learning Environment: What You Can Expect" was presented by Bob Wicker with AASB and discussed the current legislative proposal to bring "pad" technology devices to every student in Alaska within the next 4 years. Sue Hull the AASB Board of Directors President discussed the "Boards Role in Our Message" to help frame the legislative advocacy events as board members and administrators got ready to go "up on the hill". AASB Executive Director Carl Rose presented on "What is Currently Driving the Legislature", provided a "Legislative Priorities and Bill Review" and held a "Strategy Session Developing Strategies on Priorities for the Final Stretch of the Session". The Department of Education's Commissioner Mike Hanley also provided legislative insights into educational matters as a guest speaker during Sunday's luncheon.





Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Director

Visit to Legislature

Our recent visit to Juneau was one of the best we have made, in my opinion. With Board members Wally Gust, Ferdinand Sharp and Superintendent Piazza, I attended the Alaska Association of School Boards (AASB) Fly-In late last month. As we did during the Superintendents' Fly-In, we were able to visit with a number of legislators to discuss issues important to us as a district, including finding a way to change state law regarding students displaced due to school closure. Both Ferdinand and Wally spoke to legislators on a variety of topics.

Senator Coghill was moving legislation regarding Boarding Home stipends for residential facilities in the Senate (SB47). Representative Gattis presented the companion bill in the House. We believed that this legislation was the best vehicle to provide for

the changes to state law that would allow for the SWRS elementary boarding home student's financial needs to be met.

During this visit Steve worked closely with Senator Coghill's Chief of Staff, Rynnieva Moss. She was extremely helpful and assisted us in getting the language into an amendment to the Senator's bill. It appeared that our efforts, aided by the Senator's office would be successful. Unfortunately, in a last minute move by a small of representatives on the House side, all amendments including ours were blocked and the funding for the Senator's original bill was reduced. Conversations with Ms. Moss did leave hope that the issue would again be taken up in the next session. One of the finance committee members on the House side said there was significant support for the idea. We plan to continue work with them to get a bill in as a pre-

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TEAM



Shannon Clouse
Media Specialist



Deb Endicott
Inst. Support
Specialist



Corey Evans
Computer-Aided
Instruction Specialist



Les Parks
Technology Coordinator

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

file next January. We also want to thank Representative Edgmon for his support during this process.

Another event, while in Juneau that particularly stuck with me was our breakfast meeting at the Governor's mansion. During that event, Board member Wally Gust had the opportunity to speak to the Governor about issues facing us as a district and used a story from his youth about 'Chief' Ivan Blunka to illustrate our communities' commitment to education. His story was moving and, in a place where many wear a practiced polite smile, the Governor and other gathered appeared to be genuinely moved.

We need to continue to tell our story.

New Evaluation System – ASDN Leadership Institute

Director Noonkesser, along with Superintendent Piazza, and Director of Federal Programs Clouse attended an ASDN Leadership Institute focused on the new evaluation system being implemented in Alaska. The course focused on changes to evaluation regulations and issues in implementing new systems to meet the regulation. Dr. McCauley from EED spoke on the state's requirements for the new system. It was encouraging as we are already looking at several of the approaches the state is recommending.

Curriculum

The social studies committee met this past week to continue work on an update in that area. Work continues to create a more unified K-2 social studies/Yup'ik Studies curriculum for our youngest students. After much more discussion, we believe that changes to our curriculum cycle are warranted and that we will be moving to a two year process for each committee with a year of piloting and design with an implementation year following. We will still be finishing one curriculum area per year as in the past to keep on a six year cycle, but will always have two areas working at the same time. We will be holding over some of the work on the Alaska and Yup'ik Studies portions of our social studies curricula into next school year to insure quality work is done.

Manokotak

On March 19th Manokotak suffered a tragedy when VPSO, Tom Madole, was killed in the line of duty. The event shocked the community. The school was heavily impacted as Tom was a regular visitor to the school and resided in district housing. In the two days after, personnel from BBAHC, including Board Member Marie Paul, local health aides and two clinicians from Behavioral Health in Dillingham responded with sensitivity and were very effective in helping students and staff through the situation. A heartfelt thank you to those that stepped in to help in such a hard time is in order.





State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

No Child Left Behind (AK STEPP)

District improvement planning is progressing into the indicators that are directly related to professional leadership and leadership. Indicators 5.1, 5.4, 5.5, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, and 6.6 have been reviewed and updated. A major focus during these meetings is to continue to align the six goal areas of the district to the indicators of the STEPP plan. The six goal areas include: 1) reading by third grade, 2) student engagement, 3) comprehensive instructional plan, 4) revitalize the Yup'ik Studies program, 5) Revitalize the vocational education program, and 6) Revitalize the post secondary transition program. I've included just the section that has been updated since the last board meeting, which includes the indicators above and the indicators.

Migrant Education

The migrant education program was able to order literacy-based educational games for migrant education students. These age-appropriate games will be mailed directly to the students for use in the home. The literacy-based education games was something that migrant parents wanted added to the literacy in the home initiative. In addition, the Alaska Early Learning Guidelines and age development profiles will be sent to the parents of pre-school aged migrant students. In addition, the Babies on Track DVD and book will be sent to migrant children ages 2 and under. The information provides suggestions about fun age-appropriate activities to promote the overall development of

children. The literacy-based education games was something that migrant parents wanted added to the literacy in the home initiative.

Boarding Home

Boarding home information has been distributed by sending an application and relevant information to the parents of each 8th grader that attend school at our K-8 sites, the information was or will be placed on the agenda of a CSC meeting at each K-8 site, and the information has been posted to the district website.

Title VII Indian Education

Part II of the Indian Education application is now available for submission. The Indian Education was one of several grants that I was able to present information about at a number of communities CSC meetings. It was also the grant that generated the most discussion at site CSC meetings. The overall feedback about the use of these funds has been very positive and would like to continue to see the use of the funds for the development of the district Yup'ik Studies program.

Site Visit: Manokotak

I was able to travel to Manokotak to attend a CSC meeting in March. I presented information about the different grants including a short synopsis of the purpose and budgets for those grants and state programs. There were representatives from Manokotak Natives Limited and the Village Council.

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Student Information & Support Specialist: Kyle Schneider

PowerSchool

Kyle completed a project that places an icon on student pages which allows secretaries and principals to easily determine where students are at any given time. This, along with the attendance icons added last month, are designed to help make information in PowerSchool more accessible to staff.

Alaska Steps Toward Education Progress and Partnership (AK STEPP)

With the end of the third quarter on March 7th, form letters were generated for the parents of any students who had a D or F in a class for that term. These letters informed parents of their students' grades and included information explaining that high school students have to earn a D or higher for the semester in order to receive credit for a course. Information was also included about how to access grades via PowerSchool and about contacting their students' teachers.

Participation Rate Report

With the start of Standards Based Assessment (SBA) and High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE) testing on April 2nd, information about the students enrolled in our schools on that date has to be sent into the Department of Education and Early Development (EED). This information is used to determine our participation rate in the tests for AYP purposes. Kyle has completed this report and submitted it to EED.

Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS)

The Alaska Performance Scholarship is now requiring documentation of which courses the district deems eligible for progress towards earning the scholarship. Our course offerings have been analyzed and a list of the eligible courses has been created. Any course with a name that does not exactly match what is listed on the APS checklist (http://acpe.alaska.gov/Portals/0/APS/Forms/APS_2015_Checklist.pdf) has to have a course eligibility form completed.



Counseling & Assessment Specialist: Steve Ito

The Standards Based Assessments (SBA) and High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE) were completed district wide for grades 3-10 within the allowable EED April testing window. The SBA and HSGQE are proficiency based criterion referenced tests 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. Testing is used to determine site and district wide Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) when used in conjunction with site participation and performance data.

The World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment WIDA ACCESS test has been completed district-wide and submitted for scoring. The ACCESS Test is an assessment of English language acquisition required by EED for identified Limited English Proficient students that focuses on listening, speaking, reading and writing.



Business Office

Lee Ann Andrew, Director

Fuel bids were due the 10th. A vendor will have been chosen by the time of the board meeting. Both Manokotak Natives Limited and Stuyahok Limited joined us in the process.

We have been working with the Village Safe Water program to get the Manokotak school hooked up with the city water and sewer. However due to cuts to the Village Safe Water program's budget they cannot cover the costs of hooking up a school. Included with the packet is the MOA that shows our cost and responsibility in the project. After the project is done we will write a capital improvement grant for the state and try to get that money back.

FY13 revenue and expenses are on track so far. There is potential to come in under budget but it is too early to tell. At this point the plan is to apply any savings to the housing projects and now (if approved) the water/sewer project.

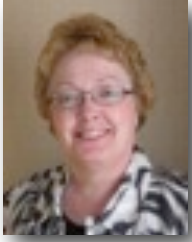
We are now working with our new health insurance consultant. They are sending us the information for the Health Advocate Program. This program will allow employees to call a single source for billing problems and questions about medical issues. They will even allow employees to ask questions about health issues for their parents.

We got the ball rolling with Alaska Housing Finance Corporation for housing in Koliganek. The next package will be available in May. There will be a participating share for this housing, however AHFC will cover about 80% if we get a grant.

Only one bus at each site, Togiak and Manokotak, passed the initial inspection. Togiak had the mechanic on site so within a few days a second bus had been approved and could be used. Manokotak's mechanic went over with the inspector but parts were on order so at this time they are still down to one bus.

Still nothing new on the final Impact Aid payment but we are very hopeful that we will receive at least 5% more. The budget has been built on that premise.

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Special Education

Robin Gray, Director

Staff in the special education department has been busy getting referrals, early childhood, and end of the year paperwork done. The goal of everyone is to have all compliance issues for the year complete.

Robin Gray visited Togiak and Aleknagik and did vision and hearing screening with the kindergarten students.

Robin will also be attending the Anchorage and Portland, Oregon Job Fairs this month.

End of the year reports for compliance and funding are being worked on and will be completed before the end of May.

Another round of updating the birth to five-year-old lists are being accomplished on a site-by-site basis. These lists will be updated on a month-by-month basis from now on.



Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director

Staff Development

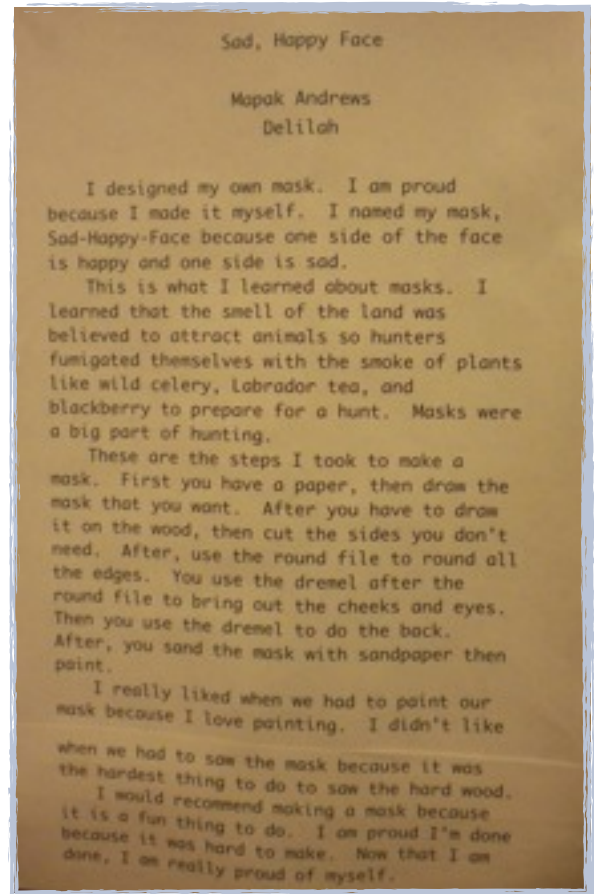
Eight instructional aides (Bertha Pavian-Lockuk and Herbert Lockuk, Togiak; Martha Foster, Twin Hills; Louise Gloko, Grace Gamechuk and Agnes Ceballos, Manokotak; Alice Karasti, Ekwok and Justin Gumlikpuk, New Stuyahok) participated in the Ed F190 Integrating Local Knowledge into the Curriculum that was held March 15-16th, 2013 here in Dillingham at the Bristol Bay Campus. The class focused on the book entitled: *The Life and Times of John W. Clark of Nushagak, Alaska, 1846-1896* by John B. Branson with the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, 2012. And *Yup'ik Elders at the Ethnologisches Museum Berlin: Fieldwork Turned on Its Head* by Ann Fienup-Riordan, University of Washington Press, 2005. Jacobsen collected Yup'ik artifacts (actually they were tools used in their everyday lives) during that same time (1882-1883) Clark was establishing himself in Alaska. So it was fascinating to read about some of the traditional celebrations occurring during Clark's time in the Nushagak area. It was also interesting to see how the Moravian church went about recruiting students. One photograph stood out with Lake Aleknagik in the background having recruited students from the old village site. The teachers will integrate this information into their teaching assignments.



Lastly, we would like to thank the support that we received from the Bristol Bay Campus in travel from the villages to Dillingham and having the Clark book available for them. Quyanacakneq!

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Randy Finkenbinder, Aleknagik 7th & 8th grade teacher and I presented at the Lilly Arctic Institute on Innovation & Excellence in Teaching & Learning, 8th Annual Institute: Celebrating Culture, Community and Curriculum Development UAF Bristol Bay Campus Dillingham, Alaska March 21-23, 2013. Our presentation titled: Rural Alaska Teachers Orientation Through the Lens of Native and Non-Native Educators. During this session we shared how the Southwest Region School Districts support and enhance the cultural understanding of the region for all the new teachers coming into the district. Randy also shared a unit he created that involved working with the local Yup'ik Studies Instructional Aide Melody Noden. He first made sure that the parents approved of him teaching this unit and with their blessing proceeded with the theme of "Mask-Making". The audience was impressed and awed with the masks (we shared Selena and Delilah Andrews masks) and how this experience provided such a positive impact on the students' understanding of their cultural heritage.



Attended and participated in the first Alaska Native Studies Conference -April 5-6, 2013, Transforming the University: Alaska Native Studies in the 21st Century. Dr. Graham Singangaroa Smith, Distinguished Professor of Education and Vice Chancellor, Te Whare Wananga o Awanuiarangi:

Indigenous-university gave the keynote address. His talk was impressive providing a means to

reflect and much to think about as we work towards finding an educational system that will provide a positive and solid indigenous educational foundation.

Below I've bulleted nuggets of Dr. Smith's speech inlaid within his keynote address.

- Colonization has not died out but changed in form.
- A fern fond (cetugaraq or nengqaaq) withers and another arises to take its' place.
- We stand on the shoulders of others.
- Native studies do not have a theory of own.
- Superficial pride of culture.
- A culturally distinctive space is critical.
- Build a foundation on culture.
- Learning situation belongs to everyone.
- Rurality rather than rural.
- Account for language, culture & knowledge by maintaining a positive and proactive stance.

The keynote address followed with many sessions that focused on current research taking place. I would just like to highlight two sessions - "Reforming Education as a Decolonization Process" where Cand.Paed, Karl Kristen Olsen (Government of Greenland) & MSc.Social Anthropology Aviaja E. Lynge, Greenland (Institute of Learning Process). In this session they shared the process of educational reform where the educational program will be based on research on education and the Greenlandic values and cultures. This followed with a session from Canada

"The Kokum Connection: A Consideration of Western and indigenous Pedagogy within Chief Kahkewistahaw Community School" where Larry Steeves, PhD, Associate Professor, University of Regina, Canada shared their children experiencing academic success while retaining their traditional culture and beliefs. Methods used and incorporated used culturally appropriate teaching and leaning methods.



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Aleknagik School

Audra Finkenbinder, Principal

Students of the Month

Alysonne Andrews,
Virginia Andrews
Riley Rogers

Congratulations!
Keep up the good work!

As the end of the school year nears, the faster time seems to fly! Since the last report, quite a few activities have taken place: Standards Based Assessments, Game Nights, Dental Clinic Visit, an Easter Carnival, and CSC Elections. Future activities include the District Writing Assessment, AIMSweb Fluency Assessment, MAP Testing, an end-of-year picnic, and graduation for kindergarten and eighth grade students.

Standards-Based Assessments (SBAs)

The students exuded great focus while preparing for the Standards Based Assessments and it was wonderful to see their level of concentration during the testing days. Although the K-2 students are not included in the testing, they were involved in the process as they volunteered to help and enthusiastically served lunch to the testing groups.

At the conclusion of testing, the students were able to relax and have some fun by going on a sledding trip. They were all smiles and laughs as their sleds raced down the hill and as they ran back to the top to slide down again!

In the Classroom

Mrs. O'Sullivan's K-2 students continue to progress rapidly through the Reading Mastery program and Saxon Math lessons. They are also learning about different types of clouds. The K-2 students are working diligently on the District Writing Assessment and are eager to share their writings with others.

In Mr. O'Sullivan's classroom, the students are charting weather and investigating tap water.

They are also exploring the geographical make-up of the world and labeling maps. The writing classes are working on the District Writing Assessment and will be completing the AIMSweb fluency assessment afterward.

Mr. Finkenbinder's science class is exploring the scientific method through individual science projects. His math classes are continuing to enjoy math and are making positive gains. The 3rd and 4th graders are working with fractions, the 5th and 6th graders are solving fraction equations, and the 7th and 8th graders are learning about linear, exponential, and quadratic equations.





William ‘Sonny’ Nelson School

Nate Preston, Principal/Teacher

This year William “Sonny” Nelson School is working on effective communication, long-term vision, academic focus and growth.

William “Sonny” Nelson School is continually working to create positive and productive lines of communication among staff, students, parents, and community members. We held CSC elections and Buck Williams, Sandra Stermer and Crystal Clark were elected. We are also meeting individually with each family to go over the plan and expectations for the middle school trip to Disneyland. In an effort to reach the district’s goal of all students reading by 3rd grade, we have taken the following steps at Ekwok: we have grouped the students by ability and we are running four different reading groups K-2. In addition, we have worked with every student and their family to ensure everyone has someone to read with them at home and it is happening nightly.

For long-term vision, William “Sonny” Nelson School staff is very involved in helping our students reach their full potential. We have taken steps to increase or attendances for next year. Most of Ekwok’s absences are when the families travel around the holidays. Our proposed schedule for next year should help for Thanksgiving. If families travel during the in-service days, Ekwok can cut its absences by around 20%.

In the area of academic focus and growth, William “Sonny” Nelson School we are using the last writing assessment and MAP scores for the year to level them where they need to be for the start of next year. We have made a concerted effort to make homework a priority this year and we are now receiving homework from all students at all grades. K-2 is doing half an hour to an hour a night. Students behind in reading have extra time with a designated person. For grades five to eight it varies by student from 2.5 to 1.5 deepening on student needs. In addition, I help student with math homework for half an hour after school when not in meetings.

Lastly, the enrollment at William “Sonny” Nelson School is looking good for the next school year.



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Koliganek School

Cody McCanna, Principal

Koliganek School is getting ready for Spring, if it ever decides to show up! SBA testing is over, but students are still working hard and engaged in their learning. Students also completed the District Writing Assessment the week after SBA testing. Teachers are helping students by giving them specific projects to work on to keep their focus. Paraprofessional annual evaluations were all done the first week of April. Koliganek School has a group of hard working paraprofessionals that help to create a positive learning environment for all students.

SBA Testing

The Standards Based Assessments (SBA) were completed April 2, 3, and 4. We had 100% participation and the testing was done successfully. Each day started with the school serving a pancake breakfast for all students. Then fresh fruit (apples, oranges, pears, veggie trays) was provided to students during each break throughout the day. End of testing was celebrated on Friday with an ice-cream party for the entire school to reward everyone for their hard work on the tests. There was a "Lock-In" at the school for all students who took the SBA's on Friday from 6-11P.M. that was put on by the teachers at the school. Students enjoyed gym time, watching movies, and playing games.

Student Activities

Koliganek girls' basketball team went 2-2 at the State tournament in Anchorage. They played hard and represented the village and our school in a positive way. In fact, they received the Sportsmanship Award for 1A girls at the tournament. Native Youth Olympics (NYO) is off and running as well. Several students will be participating at the Dillingham meet on April 12 & 13. The District will be using this event as a State-qualifying event for the State NYO meet in Anchorage on April 25-27. The juniors and seniors at Koliganek School will be going on a trip to Anchorage and Seward to look at possible options for their future on the week of April 22-26. Larson, Sophie Ishnook, Carol Johnson, and a handful of others who stepped up to help when needed.





Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Larry Johnson, Principal

Assessments

During the SBA testing week of April 2,3, & 4, our attendance was very high almost perfect. We had one student that went to a doctor appointment on the 4th, and then had to make up the math test. The make up test had to be done by April 9th. When all the testing time had expired, our school had 100% attendance for the reading & writing & Math SBA's.

Tuesday April 9, 2013 the 4th, 8th, & 10th graders took the science SBA. Our school had 100% attendance for this test.

All students in grades k-12 will complete the Spring Writing Assessments during the week of April 8th to 12th.

Another up coming assessment is the Spring MAP's assessment given to all K-12th grade students scheduled for the week of April 22nd to 26th

Annual Survival Trip

Our sixth through twelfth graders enjoyed two days of outdoor survival activities. On Monday March 18th all of the 6th, 7th, & 8th grader enjoyed a very sunny beautiful day trip up to our Second Lake. There were 25 to 30 snow machines with parents, staff and students that made the journey to the Lake that day. On Tuesday March 19th the 9th thru 12th grade students also enjoyed a very sunny beautiful day at the Second Lake. Over 30 snow machines with parents, staff, and students traveled to the Second Lake on that day. Several of our chaperones talked to our students about survival

shelter building and survival fire building. In the morning everyone had a chance to try his or her luck at fishing. In the afternoon the students listened to the instructions on how to survive if they ever were stuck in a winter snowstorm. Then the student broke up into teams of 4 and competed on who could build the best fire and shelter.



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Alaska STEPP

Manokotak School STEPP team is continuing to work together reviewing the school improvement plan. There are a number of domains with 20 plus smart and key indicators to address using student achievement data. Our students are continually being assessed giving us data to process and use in implementing interventions.

All the upcoming assessments help our school meet the indicator 2.3 under the Assessment domain.

Our Parent Involvement plan activities are helping our school and teachers communicate things that are happening at school

Tragedy

On Tuesday March 19th Tom Madole our VPSO was killed in the line of Duty. Our school and community are suffering from the loss of Tom, who was much more than a VPSO to us. He was a friend to most and will be considered a true hero to those of us who knew him. Our community will be holding a “Celebration of Life” service on the 40th day of Tom’s passing. The service will be on Sunday April 28, 2013 at 2:00 pm in the school gym.



Sports

NYO has started and several students have been actively practicing. There will be a meet in Dillingham on the weekend of the 12th & 13th where all of the SWRSD state qualifiers will be determined from the results of the competition.

CSC

Two of our CSC members, Sarah Catalone and Melvin Andrew, were recently re-elected for another 3-year term. Our next CSC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 23rd. At that meeting the two will be sworn in.



‘Chief’ Ivan Blunka School

Brett Scott, Principal

It is hard to believe there are only a few weeks left in the school year. So much has happened, and it has all gone by so fast. Spring fever is setting in and many young minds are thinking about summer plans and being outdoors. Yet, there are still a few things to finish up before the school year ends.

April is testing month. The Standards Based Assessments and the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam were given during the first week of April. Students at Chief Ivan Blunka School worked all day for three days straight and put in a great effort on the tests. We had excellent attendance and support from the community on testing days as well.

Chief Ivan Blunka School is working hard to make AYP again. Regular monitoring of students has shown much improvement over the last year. Students and staff have worked to make this happen. The SBAs are one test. We hope the progress we have made will be demonstrated in the test results. Regardless, we can be assured that our students and school are on the right track.

Student Council

Our student council has been active all year and has contributed to a great climate in our school this year. We have some leaders that will be making a large impact on our community in the future.

Rose Urban Rural Exchange

During the week of March 25th five middle school students along with their advisor, made the long trek to Fairbanks to visit their sister school Ben Eielson Middle School. Students stayed with local families, went to school, and did a variety of activities. The students were able to carve ice, tour the air force base and watch

movies. During the week of May 6th, students from Ben Eielson Middle School will visit Chief Ivan school. We are looking forward to having them here!

Graduation

Ten seniors are preparing for graduation on May 10th, at 2:00 p.m. at Chief Ivan Blunka School. This group of seniors has provided leadership and been excellent role models for our school this year. We are very proud of them. Many seniors have plans to attend Job Corps, UAF Bristol Bay, or UAA next fall. The rest have put together other post-secondary plans. We wish them well and know they will do well.

End of Year Picnic

An end-of-the-year picnic is being planned to celebrate the completion of the school year. A BBQ potluck will be on either Thursday or Friday the last week of school. The community is invited and students and staff will all be there.





Twin Hills School

Meghan Redmond, Lead Teacher

In March and the beginning of April, Twin Hills School focused heavily on preparing and then taking the Alaska Standards Based Assessments. Eleven of the eighteen students in the school were required to take the assessments. All of the staff members worked hard to provide a quiet environment and rearrange schedules to accommodate for test-taking. Each day of testing, the teachers and parent volunteers prepared a hot breakfast for the students. The parents worked hard to make sure their children were well rested and at school on time each day of testing. The students worked hard to complete their tests carefully and do their best. A big thank you goes out to all who made testing week a smooth, productive, and positive week!

In the coming month, we plan on completing our battery of assessments for the school year. Now that SBAs are complete, we plan on completing the district writing assessment, MAP, and AIMSweb testing. We will also assess our kindergarten students with the PPVT and Brigance assessments.

In the month of April, students who fall into the Migrant category were able to participate in two activities. The first activity was to allow the students to personally select and order \$30.00 of book from Amazon.com. They spent a long time carefully choosing books they want to have on their own bookshelves. The other activity for Migrant students was a family event held in mid-April. The teachers organized a Book Bingo. The students attended with their parents. Together, they made a bingo card with the titles of books on it. To get the bingo card marked off, the students and parents had to read the books on the card. Prizes were given when a bingo card had 2 bingos on it.

The last several weeks of school always seem to fly by. It will be the end of another school year before we know it! The students and staff are looking forward to many exciting activities that the end of the school year brings, especially graduation. This year, we will have 3 kindergarten students and 3 8th grade students graduating

For the month of April, the students of the month are...

- Kindergarten- Nicole Small
- 1st-4th Grade- Tommy Pleasant
- 5th-8th Grade- Trevor Pleasant