

REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



**“Qigcikluki-Ilu
ciulirneret
qanruytait ”**

**Respect your Elders'
Wisdom and
Knowledge .**

--Bristol Bay Yup'ik Values

Board of Education

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Superintendent's Office David J. Piazza, Superintendent

Staffing

The District has almost completed the 30-day period for all employees to accept contract offer for next year. At the present time, the District has 18 positions open and is actively recruiting internally and externally to fill the vacancies.

The District is scheduled to participate in on-line recruiting efforts through the Alaska Teacher Placement (ATP) web site, as well as to attend the Tacoma (Washington Educator Fair), Seattle ATP Fair, Anchorage ATP Fair, Minnesota Education Job Fair at the Minneapolis Convention Center, Oregon Professional Educator Fair in Portland and the Minneapolis ATP Job Fair to hire quality staff to meet the instructional needs of our students. Job Fairs are fast-paced, so it can be challenging to complete an interview, check on references, and meet with a candidate to make sure that they will be a good fit for the community and school in a short amount of time.

Superintendent Travel

Superintendent Piazza was able to participate in the University of Alaska Southeast's (UAS) Education 593 Educator Evaluation Professional Learning Community course held before the AASA Legislative Fly-in in Juneau. The course included presentations by Retired Anchorage Superintendent Carol Comeau, Previous Superintendent and UAS Instructor Marty Laster, Petersburg Superintendent Rob Thomason, and Education Commissioner Mike Hanley. Course participants looked at the

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

components of a quality educator evaluation system, a case study of Alaskan superintendents, the changes to the evaluation system as adopted by the State Board of Education, the impact of local control and centralization, elements beyond a teacher's control such as attendance, the involvement of all stakeholders, student assessment data requirements, and the requirements associated with teachers who are identified as "basic" under the new evaluation system.

In addition to attending legislative appointments, Dave was able to participate in workshops dealing with topics for superintendents and district level administrators. This included presentations by Senator Mike Dunleavy, Representative Bob Herron, Education Commissioner Mike Hanley, Senator Gary Stevens, Petersburg Superintendent and AASA President Rob Thomason, and AASA Executive Director Bruce Johnson. Retiring Superintendent Gary Baldwin from the Lower Kuskokwim School District was also honored during the events.

Legislative Report

The current legislative session is quickly approaching a conclusion on April 14th. District office staff continue to monitor the prospective legislation regarding funding and other education issues. Letters of support have been sent to the House and Senate Education and Finance Committees' members as well as to the Governor's office.

Superintendent Piazza and Director of Instruction Noonkesser, participated in the Alaska Association of School Administrator's (AASA) Legislative Fly-In at the beginning of March. They were able to hand deliver the Southwest Region School Board's resolution adopted at the September board meeting regarding the need for changes to existing state law to allow boarding home parents of elementary age students who have been displaced due to a small school closure to receive financial support. Although the resolution had been sent to the legislators in September, this personal communication was needed to bring the topic back the surface. The District also met with



Representative Bryce Edgmon and Representative Bob Herron who represent the communities of Southwest Region Schools. Senator Stevens met with the whole group of administrators to share his views on current legislation. Additional individual meetings that were able to be made included ones with Representative Chris Tuck (proponent of early childhood education), Legislative Aide Linda Sylvester to Representative Lynn Gattis, Chief of Staff Rynnieva Moss to Senator John Coghill, and Lieutenant Governor Mead Treadwell.

Presently Senator Coghill is moving legislation regarding Boarding Home stipends for residential facilities in the Senate. Representative Gattis is working on the companion bill in the House. The District believes that this legislation may be the 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.

Dave and Steve were also able to attend one of the Senate Education Committee meetings. Several superintendents as well as Director Noonkesser, provided testimony before the committee regarding the Alaska Learning Network (AKLN) as the legislature considers its continued funding. AKLN is a home grown effort to provide quality on-line courses to Alaskan students provided by Alaskan educators to meet a variety of student education needs including eligibility for the Governor's Alaskan Performance Scholarship



Senator Mike Dunleavy addresses superintendents on current legislation regarding "school choice" and a proposed amendment to the State of Alaska's Constitution.

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Director

Visit to Legislature

Our recent visit to Juneau was interesting and productive. With Superintendent Piazza, I attended the Alaska Association of School Administrators (AASA) Fly-In at the beginning of the month. We were able to visit with a number of Senators and Representatives to discuss issues important to us as a district, including finding a way to change state law regarding students displaced due to school closure. While we are not yet sure of the response to these discussions they were positive in nature and we are hopeful that students needs will be addressed.

During the visit we also attended a Senate Education Committee meeting and I gave testimony on the Alaska Learning Network (AKLN). AKLN is the recent culmination of twenty years of efforts by educators to create a



INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TEAM



Shannon Clouse
Media Specialist



Deb Endicott
Inst. Support
Specialist



Corey Evans
Computer-Aided
Instruction Specialist



Les Parks
Technology Coordinator

viable, effective distance learning solution to allow Alaskan students across the state to have access to a wide variety of high quality courses.

New Evaluation System Course

Director Noonkesser attended the University of Alaska Southeast's (UAS) Education 593 Educator Evaluation Professional Learning Community with Superintendent Piazza while in Juneau. The course focused on changes to evaluation regulations and issues in implementing new systems to meet the regulation.



Upcoming Events

This next few weeks will be busy with recruiting activities in Tacoma and Anchorage. We also are planning a Leadership Meeting on March 28-29 for principals to look ahead at next year and insure that our end of year activities are all in order.



Curriculum

Curriculum groups continue to work on improving our offerings to students. The social studies committee will be meeting several more times this spring to finish work on an update in that area. Work continues with our Yup'ik Studies staff to create a more unified K-2 social studies/Yup'ik Studies curriculum for our youngest students. We believe that a K-2 social studies curriculum should be heavily focused on our local area and therefore guided by local culture, geography and history.



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



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 curriculum and instruction. Indicators 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, and 2.4 have been reviewed, updated, and tasks added in some cases in order to drive efforts towards improvement. A major focus during these meetings is to align the six goals 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 in the data analysis domain including indicator 7.1 through 7.10.

Migrant Education

The migrant education magazine subscriptions have been ordered. Migrant students should begin receiving those magazines within the next six to eight weeks. Students have also had the opportunity to select books to take home with them this spring. Also, the first family literacy night happened in New Stuyahok on February 28th. It was a very successful event! Students and parents had the opportunity to work on an art project and received information on how to support reading at home using the magazines and books the students receive. Migrant education

surveys for parents will be sent out soon in order to improve services to the migrant students.

Moore Case – Teacher Retention Grant

The teacher retention grant application through the Moore Case settlement has been submitted. The focus of this grant is to assist the district in funding the construction of new teacher housing in Twin Hills. The committee that reviews the application will meet sometime in April. So we hope to know whether we are approved or not by May 2013.

NCLB – Supplemental Ed. Services

NCLB requires schools at level 2 or higher of improvement status to provide supplemental education services to students that qualify based on free/reduced lunch status. This has been provided by the Alaska Learning Labs program through SERRC for most of our schools that need to provide this after school tutoring. School districts have not been allowed to provide these services until recently. We have submitted an application to be an approved SES provider for qualifying students in our district. We decided to apply based on a feedback from instructional leaders and a need have one after school program in the school instead of several tutoring services using different programs. However, the requirement for SES may simply go away altogether if the ESEA flexibility waiver the state applied for gets approved.



Student Information & Support Specialist: Kyle Schneider

ASTE Conference

At the end of February, Kyle attended the four-day Alaska Society for Technology in Education conference in Anchorage. He attended sessions that will help with the district-wide rollout of Google Apps for Education that began in earnest this year, as well as sessions on various technological tools that teachers can bring into the classroom.

Kyle was also able to meet with staff members of other districts across Alaska who have PowerSchool and/or state reporting job duties from. These meetings resulted in the creation of an online discussion group so that staff members at districts around the state can collaborate on the various reports required by the state and the best ways to create them.

PowerSchool

During February, Kyle worked to import SBA test scores from 2010, 2011 and 2012 into PowerSchool. This information was attached to the electronic records for each student. He also imported the results from the WorkKeys test given earlier this year into PowerSchool.

Kyle also worked with teachers to ensure that their PowerTeacher Gradebooks were set up to correctly calculate second semester grades at the middle and high school level. Teachers had to make these changes because by default, PowerSchool does not

account for a semester broken up into two equally weighted quarters and a final exam.

Finally, Kyle completed a project that places an alert on the PowerSchool pages seen by principals and secretaries when a student exceeds certain absence thresholds (5, 10 and 15 daily absences). The next steps in this project will be making these alerts visible to teachers and students when they log into PowerSchool.

Alaska Steps Toward Education Progress and Partnership (AK STEPP)

Kyle completed the drafts of a letter to go home to the parents of students receive a D or F during the 1st or 3rd quarter, a letter to the parents of students who do not receive credit for a course and a letter to the parents of students who do not pass a section of the HSGQE. These drafts were approved by the district STEPP team and will be sent to families this spring. The intent of these letters is to notify parents of their students' graduation progress and inform them of the requirements for a diploma.

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Counseling & Assessment Specialist: Steve Ito

WIDA ACCESS Testing concludes March 31st. All sites administered tests to identified LEP students district wide. Completed answer sheets will be delivered 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.

Alternate Assessment testing has been completed for students with significant cognitive disabilities. The Alternate Assessment satisfies the requirement for all students in grades 3-10 to participate in statewide assessments. The Alternate Assessment is a non-diploma track test, based on Alaska standards but measured against alternate achievement goals.

Standards Based Assessments (SBA) and High School Graduating Qualifying Exams (HSGQE) have been received and are currently being shipped to sites. The grade 3-9 SBA and grade 10 SBA/HSGQE are proficiency-based, criterion-referenced tests

developed specifically for Alaska. The purpose of the assessments is to provide information about what students know and are able to do in reading, writing, math, and science (science for grades 4,8, & 10). The tests include multiple-choice and constructed-response items. District-wide SBA reading, writing and math testing will be on April 2nd - 4th make-up testing will follow if needed. District-wide SBA science testing will take place on April 9th.

The Grade 10 SBA–HSGQE and the HSGQE Retest are proficiency-based, criterion-referenced tests developed specifically for Alaska. Test administration will occur April 2nd through April 4th. Schools administer the reading test on April 2, the writing test on April 3, and the mathematics test on April 4. EED regulation does not permit variations on this schedule. There are no provisions for make-up testing with the HSGQE. There is no Science test for HSGQE retest individuals.

SBA scores are used to determine Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) based on participation and performance for schools and school districts statewide each year.



Business Office

Lee Ann Andrew, Director

After reviewing the health consultant proposals we decided to negotiate a contract with Marsh & McLennan Agency which is the same agency that provides the consultant services for our liability insurance. The annual fee will be about half of what we are currently paying beginning next January. We are still working out the legal details of the contract but should have it signed before the board meeting.

Sites were quick to their spring orders in this year and most items have already shipped and should be received at sites soon.

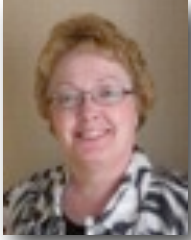
The bid proposals went out for the annual fuel purchase and auditing services on March 13. Both of them are due mid-April. We are also in the process of renewing our liability insurance continuing coverage with Alaska Public Entity Insurance (APEI). They continue to give us rebates each year. There should be very little increase in the cost of coverage this year due to our low claims.

There still has not been a third Impact Aid payment however sources from Washington have indicated that there should be one more payment no later than June. Unbalanced budgets went out to sites with a note that we are expecting that one more payment. The directorate will be working on prioritizing budgetary needs over the next few weeks to get a balance budget.

The state foundation funding final closeout budget was received however this may change depending on what the SPED intensive numbers end up being.

Twin Hills finally got half of their FY13 fuel delivery. Delta Western agreed to deliver the second half at this year's price next spring. That saved them the cost of flying in an additional 4000 gallons and will save us on the cost this year.

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Special Education

Robin Gray, Director

During the month of March, the special education department has been working on assessing referrals from site I-Teams and the childfind process. The goal continues to be all signed permissions to assess, with the referral process being completed before the end of school in May.

Orders and program planning for the next school year is occurring. All materials will be on site before the end of this year to ensure that every site has the needed supports for the upcoming school year.

Robin Gray, LeEsia O'Sullivan, Kelli Hammond and Lisa Ilutsik will be attending the Fetal Alcohol Workshops on March 21 and 22 in Dillingham. Coverage on this topic will include:

- Effect of alcohol on the development of the fetus
- Clinical issues, alcohol use and addiction
- Treatment and support across the lifespan
- Primary and secondary disabilities
- Resources for assessment and diagnosis Alaska
- Knowledge gained will be used to support the needs of students in all of our seven sites.

Robin Gray will be attending Job Fairs to support the hiring of certified staff for the upcoming school year. Robin will be participating in the Anchorage and Portland, Oregon Job Fairs.

Robin Gray has visited New Stuyahok and Ekwok this past month and done hearing and visions screening of referral students and kindergarteners at these sites. Further visits to the other sites will result in kindergarteners being assessed and referrals to clinics made as needed for more in-depth testing of students with hearing or visions concerns.



Facilities & Maintenance

Rick Dallmann, Director

Ekwok

Planning to build a new Teacher Housing Duplex this summer, we are getting prices and bids from contractors to accomplish this project as well as putting together prices to construct the units In – House using local labor as much as we can and utilizing local sub- contractors for the specialty work

Koliganek

Bid opening for new school was held Feb.21st in Anchorage. Unit Co. was the low responsive Bidder. (same company that built New Stuyahok. There where no formal protests during the ten day bid protest period. A Contract has been signed with Unit Co. to build the school. Work has already begun and the contractor is planning to bring equipment and materials to the site this spring.

New Stuyahok

Working on AK Energy Authority grants for Waste Heat system: we have made it into the final Ranking stage and Funding List, We should know in July if funding is available. Dust Collection System and room filtration units have been hooked up.

Manokotak

Arts Room air filtration units have been hooked up. Planning for science classroom remodel for this summer, new flooring to allow for actual science experiments, planning for future shop remodel.

Twin Hills

Planning to build a new Teacher Housing Duplex this summer ,we are getting prices and bids from contractors to accomplish this project as well as putting together prices to construct In – House using local labor as much as we can and utilizing local sub- contractors for specialty work. Putting together material list and ordering materials to convert the housing unit in the school over to use as a classroom.

District_Wide

- Fuel Bid getting ready to put RFP out
- Materials being ordered for projects
- Spring Custodial orders being placed
- Reviewing the Impact Aid Grant Application for Discretionary Construction Program. The Fed's are once again funding some projects. I will be looking at projects for our smaller sites that meet the criteria

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

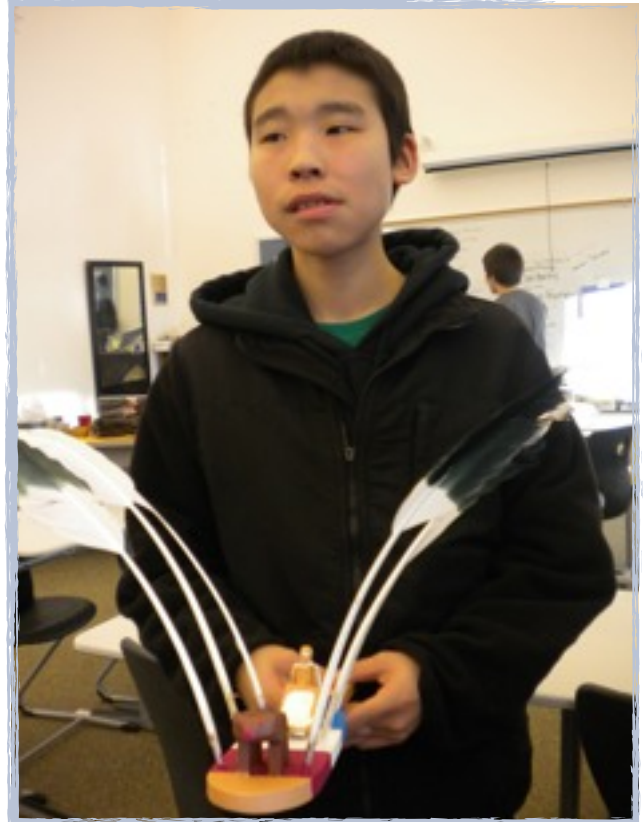


Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director

Around the District

A mini-Keviq (Messenger Feast) A major winter event (traditional times) of dancing, gift exchange and games was re-enacted in the village of Iquaq 'the little end' (12 students) the host village with Ingricuar 'a small mountain' (7 students) and Alaqnaqiq 'related to error' (4 students) villages as invited guests, February 22, 1013. The gathering convened with a story about Piiri and a dance (which was detailed in the story) that the students learned was composed by the late Aruvak (Elena Bartman) of Dillingham. This followed with the students being introduced to a traditional Yupik game using the Uivetaaq (wooden top) and a guessing game using a wooden model of a girl and boy figure. The Ingricuar teacher and students taught the other students Yup'ik dances they had learned in the past. The students then made a dancing mouse using pipe cleaners (also featured in the story). This followed with dinner featuring akutaq and neqerrluk (as in traditional festivals). And ended with the students participating in the gift exchange with Alaqnaqiq bringing beautiful hand made yo-yos, Ingricuar bringing colorful beaded necklaces and bracelets and the host village Iquaq with beaded necklaces and hoodies featuring Ekwoq Warriors logo.



Twin Hills William Cesolini, K- 4 teacher is blessed with a Yup'ik name – Pik'ak by Martha Foster, Yup'ik Studies Instructor. A small ceremony with his students watching was performed followed in the traditional Yup'ik manner of being welcomed by the students with a shake of a hand and using his Yup'ik name. Camai Pik'ak!

Manokotak was a joy! The students in Louise's Yup'ik Studies class recited the Yuuyaraq with conviction. This followed with a quiz by the elders as to what they were reciting. We recite this Yup'ik philosophy because as Yup'ik descendants we need to remind ourselves the importance of life and how to live it properly within the customs of our traditional Yup'ik people.



New Stuyahok was fascinating to watch the elders as they were engaged with the students. Elder Nick Gumlickpuk shared oral stories during the Yup'ik Orthography session that is taught by Margie Hastings with the University of Alaska Bristol Bay Campus. Those students in her class are getting dual credit and is supported by the local New Stuyahok Traditional Council. Quyanana for your support!

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Aleknagik School

Audra Finkenbinder, Principal

Time is really flying by this school year – here we are already in the month of March! To celebrate the longer, brighter days, the students were treated to an afternoon of ice fishing with the poles they made in Mr. O’Sullivan’s class. Although not many fish were caught, everyone had a blast!

The 6th-8th graders learned how to hand sew baby booties as well as bead earrings in Yupik class. Melody Noden provided superb instruction and together they made 18 pairs of booties. The crafts were sold during Beaver Round-Up at the beginning of March as a fundraiser for upcoming student travel.

Aleknagik School concluded the third quarter with Parent/Teacher Conferences during which parents were presented with the Student Data Folders containing AIMSweb, MAP, STAR, and Writing Assessment results as well as the current report card.

Right around the corner are the Standards Based Assessments so we are reviewing important test topics as well as test taking skills in order to prepare the students for the upcoming tests.

Alaska Migratory Bird Calendar Winners

Aleknagik School is proud to announce that three students have won honors in the Alaska Migratory Bird Calendar Literature Contest. Robin Toyukak Jr., Nathan Ilutsik, and Karyn Andrews! Congratulations to the students and their teacher, LeEsia O’Sullivan!

Students of the Month

Jamal Romie
Reagan Finkenbinder
Marie Bartman

Congratulations!
Keep up the good work!





William ‘Sonny’ Nelson School

Nate Preston, Principal/Teacher

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

William “Sonny” Nelson School is continually working to create positive and productive lines of communication between staff, students, parents, and community members. This month we have started working with the city and village offices to hold a carnival at Ekwok next year.

For long-term vision, William “Sonny” Nelson School staff is very involved in helping our students reach their full potential. During weekly collaborative meetings for STEPP plan and student achievement, we have put in many hours into analyzing data, looking at students individually, and use knowledge gained from professional development training to place each student in the best environment for their learning and growth in all subjects. Starting this month we will go over 4 STEPP indicators a CSC meeting to keep everyone informed of the plan and our status.

In the area of professional development, William “Sonny” Nelson School has attended district wide in-services and participated in the Alaska Administrators Coaching Project. We are using the first three lenses taught there to provide feedback to teachers and Para Pros. This month the

principal will attend the districts site administrator meeting.

In the area of academic focus and growth, William “Sonny” Nelson School is small enough to easily determine that the district-approved curriculum is utilized. Walk-throughs have shown that everyone is using the appropriate materials. In addition, being a small school let us give student individual attention and place them where they need to be in a successful way. This month we are using Map scores to focus on individual student weaknesses before testing next month.

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

The days are getting longer and warmer, which means two things: geese and SBA's. The sounds of geese calls will be filling our hallways soon enough, but the staff will be focusing on preparing 3-10th grade students for the SBA assessments that will be here in a few short weeks. Teachers have spent a lot of time preparing students for the assessments by doing practice tests and teaching specific test taking strategies. Moreover, students who are actively participating for all three days of testing will be rewarded that Friday with a Lock-In at the school.

Professional Development

The professional educators at Koliganek School are utilizing a new professional development tool called iObservation. iObservation is an online resource that allows teachers to conduct self-assessments utilizing Charlotte Danielson's Framework for Teaching. Teachers are currently working in Domain 3: Instruction, Component 3c: Engaging Students in Learning. This online resource allows teachers to view video clips of other teachers using effective elements of teaching as well as clips from Danielson herself explain the various elements of effective teaching.

Student Activities

Koliganek girls are headed to State on February 14, 2013. The lady huskies defeated King Cove and Manokotak at the Regional tournament in

Newhalen to become the number two seed representing the Aleutian Chain region. The afterschool program, run by Rich Harrelson, has finally run out of sessions for the year. Students had a big afterschool party on March 8 to celebrate their accomplishments.

School Carnival

Koliganek School ran a very successful carnival February 20-24. The carnival started with a Family Night on Wednesday that had youth basketball games, Eskimo bingo for all ages, cakewalk, and drawing for a round-trip ticket to Anchorage with Dena'ina Air. The carnival was only possible with the volunteers who stepped up to help the school make it successful. Volunteers included: Francis Nelson, Cheryl Goodell, Anecia Johnson, Margo Hiratsuka, Elena Norbert, John Norbert, Rick Rau, Caleb Jurkowski, Charity Jurkowski, Pam Johnson, Jessica St. Louis, Rick St. Louis, Pam Johnson, Skin Wysocki, Anu Wysocki, Louann Bates, Edward Kapatak, Delores Larson, Sophie Ishnook, Carol Johnson, and a handful of others who stepped up to help when needed.



Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Larry Johnson, Principal

Alaska STEPP

Our STEPP team is working together reviewing the school improvement plan. The team has been taking a close look at those indicators that have been identified for review. The team is reviewing and updating any plans and tasks that were previously developed and need revising to fit the school needs at this time and if no change is needed at this time, that is noted also.

Emergency Procedures

Deborah Endicott visited our school and while she was here we held a practice lockdown. The lockdown lasted between ten and fifteen minutes. The entire school was locked down in less than two minutes. The local VPO & VPSO were called and made aware of the lockdown. They both responded to the lockdown practice. It took them approximately five minutes to reach the school from the time they received our call for a lockdown practice. As a staff, because of having a simulated lockdown, we learned vital information on how to improve future lockdowns. Students responded well and are eager to practice another lockdown in the near future.

We as a staff have also put our final update to our Emergency Crisis Plan. A Dangerous Animal procedure will be added, a Bomb Threat Information form will be added and several more phone numbers for bus drivers and after hour health aides have been added.

Testing

Our students have just finished the computer based Winter MAPs testing. All of our students completed the fall district wide writing assessments. All students and staff were asked to complete the School Climate and Connection Survey done on the computer

Family Involvement

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

On Thursday, March 14th we are having a Math Fun Night. There will be free hot dogs and juice. A name will be drawn every 15 minutes to win a door prize and the following math theme events will be available:

- Estimation Station Ideas: Jars/boxes/flats of cookies... how many? WHAT is estimation? How does it differ from a 'guess'?
- Board Games Idea: Families play games.
- Read Aloud –Idea: Read 'math-based' stories in the library.
- Chess Room- Idea: Have chess sets available for students and parents to play chess. Teaches mathematical reasoning and use of grids.
- GREAT Math Websites –Computer Lab S BA's– Idea: What makes a math site good? Where are they?

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

- S BA's & Graduation Requirements– Idea: What is it? How will Manokotak staff use this data? What does the new graduation form look like and how to use and understand it?
- Math Art- Ideas: Parents and students make Origami & Tessellations.
- Saxon Math Parent Trouble Shooting – Idea: Set up a room with a teacher fielding technical questions from parents about the program.
- Chances Are- A Probability Station- Idea: Have activities that are fun and teach probability.
- Paper Airplane Building – Idea: In the gym – student or parent makes an airplane, throws their airplane, then measures the distance that each airplane flies after it is thrown.

Last year's math fun night was a big success, so we are expecting a large turnout and fun- filled night.

School & Community

Staff, students, parents, community members and Elders will be involved in two days of outdoor place based activities. We are taking the classroom to the outdoors on a trip to the Second Lake where students will learn from the Elders on Instruction for survival shelter construction, survival fire preparation and other activities; GPS location activity and Moanokotak Search and rescue presentation. These activities will reflect cultural awareness and understanding of cultural values of the students and community.

On January 29th our school was closed due to blizzard conditions and the inability of our school buses to drive the road to our school. On Friday, February 22nd we used a vacation day to make up our snow day.

Terry Fuller and Jon Dyasuk from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service came to Manokotak School to visit with students about the AK Migratory Bird Calendar.

The local dental team is now visiting the Manokotak School twice a month. The week of March 18th to 22nd the dentist from Dillingham will be at our school to service students and the community.

A school wide Spelling Bee for 3rd through 8th grades was held and the top five students were selected to compete in the District Spelling Bee. On Tuesday March 5th, the SWRS District Spelling Bee took Place. It took twenty-two rounds to decide the top three spellers. Sixth grader Alkayuk Moore took 1st place at our school Spelling Bee and 2nd place at the District Spelling Bee. Third grader Victoria Geerhart took 3rd at our school Spelling Bee and 3rd at the District Spelling Bee.

School orders were due by March 31st and our staff worked diligently over a two-week period to submit orders for their individual classrooms needs and worked together as a team to put together and submit a supply order to fill the school needs.

Remember you are always welcome to come visit our school and see for yourself the great things that are happening here.



‘Chief’ Ivan Blunka School

Brett Scott, Principal

Students of the Month

Yakov Askoak
Simeon Askoak

The third quarter is over and preparations for the Standards Based Assessments are beginning in earnest. Students have been working hard all year and the final push has begun. At our 3rd quarter Awards Assembly we gave Honor Roll certificates to 54% of our high school and middle school students! 20% percent made High Honor Roll.

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. We hope the progress we have made will be demonstrated in our SBA test results. Regardless, we can be assured that our students and school are on the right track.

Our seniors are a primary focus this time of year. We will graduate 10 students in the spring. These students are preparing to continue their education beyond high school. Our seniors are enrolled, or preparing to enroll, in a post-secondary institution, including Job Corps, the University of Alaska, and UAF Bristol Bay. These students are also preparing by submitting scholarship applications to help with financing their post-secondary work. We are proud of our seniors, not only for graduating from high school, but also for making the choice to prepare to make the leap to post secondary education!!

Basketball Regionals

The Aleutian Chain Conference Boys Regional Basketball Tournament was held in King Cove on March 6th, 7th, and 8th. Schools from St. Paul, King Cove, Sand Point, Newhalen, and New Stuyahok competed for the title. Each day's games played to a packed house. The championship game was between King Cove and New Stuyahok. It was a hard fought battle with King Cove prevailing in the end. This year

the ASAA changed the state basketball tournament format. Each region will send to two representatives to state, which allows the New Stuyahok Eagles to represent our region at the state level, along with King Cove.

School Improvement

The school improvement team has been working extremely hard to revise the current STEPP plan to help meet the needs of our school and students. The team has been focusing on the area's of Data Analysis, which covers indicator's 7.01 thru 7.10, and Professional Development, which covers indicator's 5.01 thru 5.04. We have incorporated SBA test prep time for grades 3 – 10, and brought in outside trainers and resources to help provide our staff with professional development opportunities to help further the success of our students. The school improvement team would like to thank Jon Clouse for all the guidance and suggestions that he has given to help keep our STEPP plan up to date.

Spelling Bee

At Chief Ivan Blunka School, 25 students got stung by the bee, the Spelling Bee, that is. Participants, grades K-8, studied hard and lasted 13 rounds of competition before naming a school winner: Casey Konukpeak (7th Grade). Joining Casey in the top five was Sydney Panamarioff (6th grade), Damian Gust (6th Grade), Darrel Andrew (8th Grade), and Danae Carducci (7th Grade). The top five spellers from the school competition went on to battle in the district wide contest held on March 5th. After 33 intense rounds, Chief Ivan Blunka's very own, Sydney Panamarioff, came away victorious after spelling "snarky" correctly. All in all, it was a fun and educational experience for all participants.



Twin Hills School

Meghan Redmond, Lead Teacher

The highlight of the past month was traveling to Ekwok to participate in the annual Pinewood Derby. The students look forward to this all year long. They spend hours and hours perfecting their cars, and it is very rewarding to finally race them against other schools. This year, the Pinewood Derby also included some cultural activities. Meghan Redmond, Mathew Pleasant, and Trevor Pleasant helped teach the other students several Yup'ik dances that we do in our school.

In addition to racing in Ekwok, we also hold our own Pinewood Derby in Twin Hills. This year, it was held two weeks after the Ekwok Pinewood Derby. The students that made cars this year had the chance to race again. We also allowed the younger students to use old cars and race against each other.

Five middle school students participated in the district spelling bee. To determine who would participate, we held a spelling bee in our middle school classroom. Mathew Pleasant, 8th grade, received 1st place in the Twin Hills Spelling Bee. Even though no student from Twin Hills placed, they stuck it out far into the competition. They were excited to participate with students from across the district.

We continue our Yup'ik Value of the Month positive behavior program. The value for March is "Respect your Elders' wisdom and knowledge." The middle school is planning focusing on careers this month. To go along with the value, adults in the community are going to be invited into the classroom to talk about what they do in their career.

The 8th grade students are finishing up the year with several small fundraising activities to prepare for the 8th grade trip to Chicago. The trip is completely planned and reservations have been made.

The classified and certified staff of Twin Hills would like to say a special thank you to the school board for approving the new teacher housing. The new housing, and classroom space it will create, will be greatly appreciated by all and will be put to good use!

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

- Kindergarten- Layla Hernandez
- 1st-4th Grade- Abby Kvamme
- 5th-8th Grade- Daniel Pleasant