

# REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



**“Pissuryaraq  
ayanillerkaq-Ilu  
yuilqumi  
elitnaurutkaqluku”**

**Teach and learn  
outdoor survival and  
hunting skills.**

**--Bristol Bay Yup'ik Values**

## **Board of Education**

Kay Andrews, President  
Marie Paul, Vice-President  
Ferdinand Sharp, Sec./Treas.  
Wassillie Wonhola, Member  
Wassillie Gust, Member  
Helen Gregorio, Member  
Steven Gosuk, Jr., Member



## **Superintendent's Office**

**David J. Piazza, Superintendent**

### **Staffing**

The District has received ten resignations by certificated staff for next year. Based on “intent forms” we expect one additional resignation. We are still evaluating a few of the staffing needs for next year, due to reductions in student population at several sites and the specific program needs at each school. The majority of contracts should have been sent out on February 15th. Falling within the normal timeline for the District’s recruiting process the 30-day window of time where teachers may consider the contract offer and either accept or decline a contract for next year has begun. Most of the contracts should be returned by the middle of March, so that the District has a good idea of all vacancies before the primary teacher recruiting fairs



New Stuyahok teacher, Ben Greise, working with students at the Student Leadership Retreat.

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

held in April. Typically, the District has had success finding qualified candidates at the Anchorage and Minneapolis Job Fairs. Other efforts including utilizing the Alaska Teacher Placement website and database will continue to be primary recruiting sources.

## Superintendent Travel

Superintendent Piazza attended the Building Student Success RTI Conference in Anchorage on January 25th through 27th. Response to Instruction/Intervention (RTI) continues to be emphasized across the state as districts, schools and classrooms work to meet the learning needs of each student under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. The conference provided learning opportunities through a variety of sessions to over 1000 Alaskan school district teachers and administrators.

This year's event featured a pre-conference session lead by Lexie Domaradzki to assist with the implementation of RTI in small schools or rural school districts. While the District has worked with Lexie in the past, it was good to see and hear how RTI tools can be further utilized to make a stronger impact on student learning. Through a hybrid approach blending a linear standard protocol and a circular problem-solving plan, students can receive additional intervention instruction to meet their individual needs. Lexie discussed the need to establish non-negotiables including the universal screening for all students, the allocation of core instructional time, the adoption of a common instructional materials that will form a core reading or math program, establishing a common scope and sequence of curricular standards and objectives across the grades levels, and the establishment of whole and small group instruction. The development of a comprehensive assessment system is an important part of the RTI model. This not only includes the benchmarking or universal screening of students in the Fall, Winter, and Spring, but also includes diagnostic testing to determine the specific learning challenge that a student is encountering and checking on the student's programs as instructional interventions are put in place. The workshop also

## SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION 2012–13 GOALS

1. The Board will continue the District's long term vision through short term goals that provide students opportunities and choices in life.
2. The Board will focus on increasing their professional development opportunities as a board especially around the area of budget.
3. The Board will focus on better communication with communities, parents, the district as a whole and themselves.
4. The Board will level the playing field and assure that all sites receive the same academic focus regardless of enrollment.
5. The Board will focus on academic growth for ALL students.

provided guidance for managing small groups through skill grouping or ability grouping. Examples for structuring a 90-minute reading block helped to demonstrate how to fit the essential elements of reading (phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary) together to ensure students receive quality reading instruction. The pre-conference session concluded with a discussion of the need to plan and implement collaboration times for instructional staff to meet in professional learning communities to learn new strategies, discuss student data, and design appropriate instructional intervention groups for students.

The main conference began with a keynote speech by Dr. Deena Paramo the Superintendent of the Mat-Su Borough School District. The speech compared RTI to baseball as she feels that the implementation of response to instruction is similar to a team sport.

Dr. Anita Archer presented a full-day workshop entitled “Response to Instruction and Intervention: Increasing Reading Success for all Students. The session looked at the critical elements of effective reading instruction including each student’s ability to build skills for phonemic awareness, decoding, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Dr. Archer is well known for pointing out the need for explicit instruction and following an “I Say, You Say, We All Say” model.



The conference ended with half-day sessions that allowed participants to learn about two additional aspects of building student success utilizing RTI structures and practices. The session “The Role of District and School Administrators in the Implementation of a Response to Instruction Model” was presented by

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Judy Elliott, the Former Chief Academic Officer for the Los Angeles Unified School District and George Batsche, Ed. D. Director of the Institute for School Reform, Florida Problem-Solving/RtI Project. The workshop helped participants to learn the barriers that threaten buy-in by the majority of staff in a school system. Strategies that were presented to address the barriers included consensus building, infrastructure building, and the ability to produce a return on investment through implementation. The workshop discussed the critical elements that are needed for successful RTI implementation including the use of district-based leadership teams and school-based leadership teams. Coaching and the use of evaluation data are also critical. The roles of district administrators as compared to the role of school principals were discussed. The session detailed the professional development in data-based decision making, coaching and consultation, problem-solving, data collection and management, instruction and intervention development, intervention fidelity, and effective interpersonal skills necessary to successfully implement RTI into the educational system. Finally the workshop looked at starting the action planning process to initiate and sustain a “Process of Systems Change” to implement an RTI model in the classroom and school.

The final half-day session that Dave was able to attend entitled “RTI, Inclusion and Differentiated Instruction: How Does It All Work Together” was presented by Dr. Sharon Azar. This session pieced 4 puzzle pieces of Administrative and Leadership Support, Inclusion/Collaborative Planning & Problem Solving, RTI/Inclusion (Co-Teaching) and Differentiated Instruction together to provide access and success for all learners.

## Instructional Support

Superintendent Piazza, Director of Instruction Noonkesser, and Technology Specialist Evans were able to attend the Student Council Leadership Retreat in New Stuyahok on Sunday, February 10th – Monday, February 11th. Twenty student leaders in grades 6-12 from Koliganek Manokotak, New Stuyahok, Togiak, and Twin Hills participated in team building activities and bullying recognition and prevention. Students used small “flip” video cameras to create short movies describing different types of bullying, the effects of bullying, and possible solutions to combat the problem.



## Legislative Report

The 28th Alaska State Legislature is well into their 90-day session. There are several bills currently in the House and Senate Education Committees that could impact the District:

- HB 17 STUDENT LOAN PRINCIPAL - An Act providing for a reduction of the principal of postsecondary education loans for residents.
- HB 21 FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK - An Act relating to the length of a school week.
- HB 27 STUDENT COUNT ESTIMATES - An Act relating to student counts, unreserved school operating fund balances, restrictions on school district money, and estimates for public school funding.
- HB 31 CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY CURRICULUM - An Act requiring school districts to develop and require completion of a history of American constitutionalism curriculum segment.
- HB 41 FORWARD FUNDING FOR EDUCATION - An Act relating to forward funding of education programs.
- HB 45 ELECTRONIC BULLYING IN SCHOOLS - An Act relating to harassment, intimidation, or bullying by students attending a public school in the state.
- HB 55 AUTHORIZE FIREARMS FOR SCHOOL PERSONNEL - An Act allowing school districts and private schools to adopt a policy authorizing one or more permanent employees to possess one or more firearms on school grounds under certain conditions.
- HB 85 EXTEND SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY - An Act extending the special education service agency.
- HB 87 EXTEND SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY - An Act extending the special education service agency.
- HB 93 CHARTER SCHOOLS - An Act relating to the authorization, monitoring, and operation of charter schools.
- HB 95 BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION; DISTRICT PLAN - An Act requiring school districts to provide a plan for hiring highly qualified teachers; adjusting the base student allocation used in the formula for state funding of public education to account for inflation since fiscal year 2011.
- HJR 1 CONST. AM: EDUCATION FUNDING - Proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to state aid for education.
- SB 6 FUNDING FOR SCHOOL MEALS - An Act providing for funding for school lunch and breakfast.
- SB 15 PREKINDERGARTEN SCHOOL PROGRAMS/PLANS - An Act relating to prekindergarten programs within a school district; relating to pre-elementary students and pre-elementary schools.
- SB 41 SCHOOL SPORTS/INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES - An Act relating to student participation in interscholastic activities in religious and other private schools



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Director



### Student Council Leadership Retreat

In the midst of a typical February weather pattern students met for two days (with a couple of weather days to continue to talk) in New Stuyahok to work on finding ways to recognize different kinds of bullying and make efforts to reduce it.

Students from New Stuyahok, Manokotak, Togiak, Koliganek and Twin Hills participated. The event was well planned and activities were engaging.

One of the highlights of the event was the student production of anti-bullying videos. The videos were relevant and made a number of important points. Students will be sharing these videos across the district as part of their efforts to help address this important topic.

A special thanks to Robin and Ben Griese at New Stuyahok for taking on the planning, Rick Rau of Koliganek, Dana Bartman of Manokotak, Kaitlyn Phillips of Togiak, and Meghan Redmond of Twin Hills for all the work helping to make this quality activity a success for our students. Thanks, also, to the teachers of 'Chief' Ivan Blunka School for all of the support, cooking and help.

## INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TEAM



Shannon Clouse  
Media Specialist



Deb Endicott  
Inst. Support  
Specialist



Corey Evans  
Computer-Aided  
Instruction Specialist



Les Parks  
Technology Coordinator

## Building Student Success

Director Noonkesser attended the Building Student Success RTI Conference in Anchorage on January 25th through 27th with Superintendent Piazza, Instructional Support Specialist Endicott and several site personnel. The conference was a good one, filled with information related to targeting instruction to student needs. One session the group found particularly relevant was the day of presentations by Dr. Anita Archer, “Response to Instruction and Intervention: Increasing Reading Success for all Students. Her session covered the key elements of learning to read: phonemic awareness, decoding, fluency, comprehension and vocabulary development. Her presentation was impressive enough to explore the possibility of having her present to our staff at fall inservice.



## MAP Assessment

The winter MAP testing window closed on Friday February 8th and we are beginning to look at the data generated during the testing window. Initial examination of the K-2 data in reading show promising gains for our students.

## Wireless Network Upgrades

As mentioned in previous reports, we are finding issues in our networks caused by the proliferation of personal handheld devices like iPods, smart phones, and iPads. Personal devices are, at times, taking over enough bandwidth that it is difficult for teachers and students to complete necessary tasks including assessments. Last month a request was sent out



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

for bids on the design and construction of the wireless network in the new Koliganek School building and an upgrade to the wireless network in Togiak School. The reviewing team has evaluated the bids that were submitted and a vendor has been chosen for the projects from the submitted proposals.

## Site Visits

Steve Noonkesser and Corey Evans recently completed a site visit to Chief Ivan Blunka School and Koliganek School. During the visits, both Corey and Steve had opportunity to meet with staff and listen to their concerns and successes and Corey was able to perform network testing in an effort to improve the MAP assessment experience of our students. New Stuyahok and Koliganek have a lot to be proud of!



## Battle of the Books

We hosted a “Practice Battle” for Battle of the Books for the third and fourth grade teams in our district. We had multiple teams from Dillingham, Unalaska and Aleknagik participate. The students were so excited to have this opportunity and to see their peers via the Video Conferencing equipment all the way in Unalaska!

Aleknagik School will represent Southwest Region Schools with a third/fourth grade team and a fifth/sixth grade team at the State level this year. Our third and fourth grade team consists of Virginia Andrews, Austin Finkenbinder, Jamal Toyukak, and Ayden Ilutsik. The fifth/sixth grade team consists of Jolynn Bavilla, Tasha Gilila, Treyton Toyukak and Autumn Coolidge. Ryan O’Sullivan coaches both teams. They will be competing the 27th and the 28th of February. I have been asked to be one of the moderators at the State level for the 5/6 grade. competition.

## Media Center

We are busy gathering magazine orders from our sites for the Migrant “Literacy in the Home” program. Migrant coordinators will also be assembling their book orders, some have already done so through Scholastic Book Orders and Scholastic Book Fairs.

Soon our RIF coordinators will be putting together RIF orders for next years distributions. Coordinators are responsible for ordering enough books for each student to have three books, which will be chosen at three separate book distributions.

## Iditaread!

Teachers are being encouraged to participate in the 2013 “Iditaread” Reading Challenge district wide. Iditaread is set up to happen during the Iditarod, or close to it. Every minute you read is equal to one mile in the race, or 5 minutes for K-2nd grade students.





## State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

### No Child Left Behind (AK STEPP)

District improvement planning is continuing and focusing on data analysis. The district improvement team is close to completing the data analysis and determining measurable goals for future achievement. I've included just the section that has been updated since January, which is the data analysis domain including indicator 7.1 through 7.10.

### Migrant Education

I was able to represent Southwest Region School District at the Alaska Migrant Education Program Service Delivery Plan development committee meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to develop strategies and measurable program objectives related to the identified needs of migrant students. The committee consisted of representatives from various districts, parents, and migrant staff. A draft of the service delivery plan will be written as a result of the meeting.

### Title VII Indian Education

Part one of the Title VII Indian Education formula grant has been completed and submitted. This part of the grant process is getting a student count of all the eligible Alaska Native/American Indian students in the district for which funding is based. There was a 4% drop (25 students) in the number of Alaska Native/American Indian students in the district that is comparable to the overall decrease in students seen throughout the district.

### Career & Technical Ed. (Industrial Arts)

The industrial arts programs at Togiak, New Stuyahok, and Koliganek will be receiving GV190 Honda small engines as part of a donation program through American Honda Company. The engines are free; we just pay the shipping and handling. Carl Perkins funding is being used to get the engines to each site. Deb Endicott brought the program to the attention of the district and helped jump-start the process.

### Site Visit

I was invited to attend the January CSC meetings in Togiak in order to share information and answer questions relating to the various federal and state grants, including Impact Aide and Indian Education, as well as, student achievement data (Togiak and district report to the public). The CSC is very involved in building relationships between various community organizations and the school through communication and sharing resources in developing projects.



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



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

## **Migrant Education**

In order to meet new federal requirements, the state Migrant Education Office required SWRS to submit course grades for all Migrant Education students for the first time. To accomplish this, the format of the report that the state requires was analyzed and a PowerSchool query that returns most of the information needed was created. Unfortunately, not all of the information necessary for the report is available in PowerSchool, so hand-entry of data for students that had transferred and some course-related information was necessary. Kyle is continuing to look for ways to automate more of this process.

## **PowerSchool**

With the end of the first semester, grades were stored in PowerSchool so students would receive course credit. As is normal during the start of a new semester, several changes to course offerings were made, and a significant amount of time also went into ensuring that all students had a full class schedule for the second semester.

During the January Leadership Meeting Kyle presented on several PowerSchool related topics. He showed principals how to use the administrative features of the teacher grade-books, showcased the new transcript format that went into effect this semester, participated in a discussion about grading practices and GPA, and led a discussion on how semester grades were

calculated. As a result of that discussion, a how-to document was sent to all middle and high school teachers to help them properly configure their grade-books.

## **School Climate & Connectedness Survey**

Students and staff across the district took the School Climate and Connectedness survey in mid-January. We had a high participation rate with approximately 80% of staff and 76% of students taking the survey. As of this writing preliminary results were not yet available, but they are anticipated to arrive soon.

## **Alaska Performance Scholarship**

Alaska Performance Scholarship eligibility is one of the tasks that Kyle has been working on during the past month. As part of that, he has been working to create a report that will use data in PowerSchool to provide a list of students that meet the eligibility requirements for the scholarship. The report currently generates a list of students that meet the GPA, WorkKeys and ACT/SAT requirements. Determining whether students meet the curriculum requirements is more difficult to automate and is still being worked on.

## **Alaska STEPP**

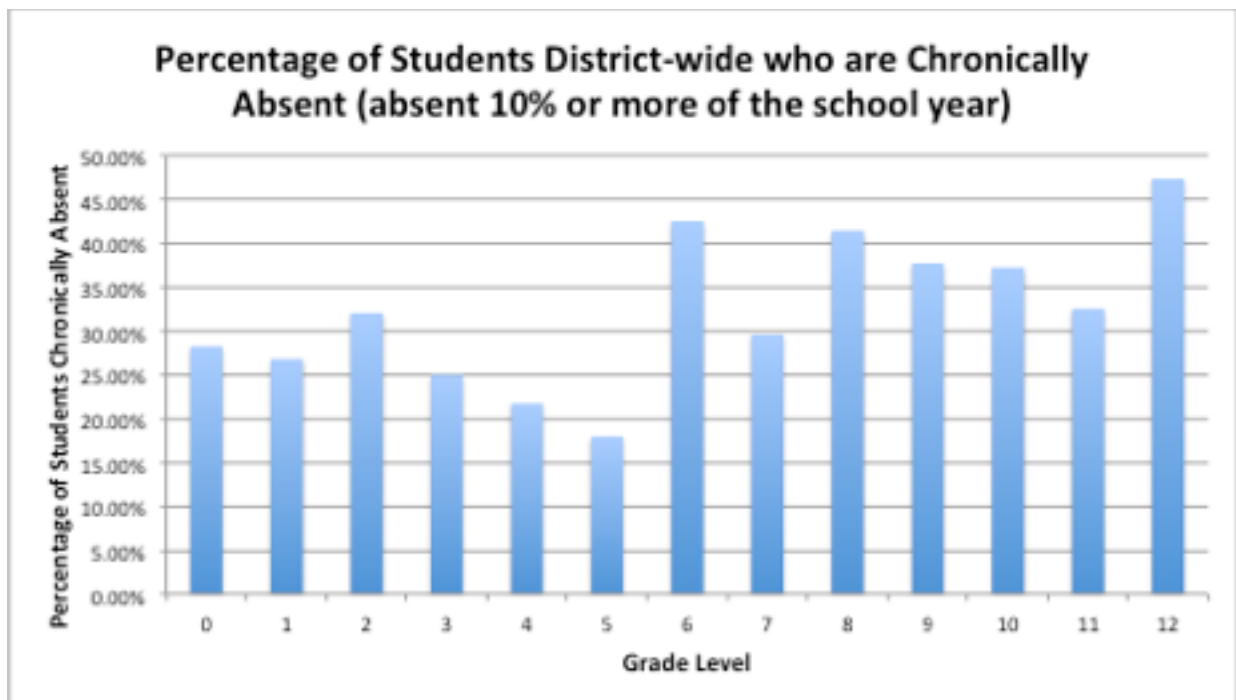
AK STEPP meetings at the District Office have resulted in several projects for Kyle. Over the past month, he has drafted letters to be sent to parents of students who are: in danger of failing a course after the first quarter of a semester, have failed a semester course and therefore will not receive credit, and have not passed one or more sections of the HSGQE.

As part of this drafting process, Kyle has been analyzing data and found some important trends:

- 66% of Southwest students who do not graduate with a high school diploma in 4 years never receive a Southwest diploma.
- Based upon data extrapolated from first semester, 32% of Southwest students are on track to be chronically absent this school year (absent 10% or more of the school year). This compares to an estimated national average of 14-15% of students being chronically absent.
- 16.8% of the student body is on track to miss 30 or more days of school this year, another 10.7% will miss between 20 and 30 days.

Research has shown that:

- There can be a 50% (or more) difference in the graduation rates of students who miss 0 to 5 days of school and students who miss 15 or more days a year.
- The reason a student misses school has no impact on the effect of being absent. Excused and unexcused absences are equally harmful.
- Students that are chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade scored 60 points below good attenders on California's third grade reading test and 100 points below on the third grade math test. (Scores range from 150-600, 350 marks the proficient level.)



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



**Counseling & Assessment Specialist: Steve Ito**

WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificates for grade 11 & 12 students that completed the WorkKeys test have been received and disbursed. Electronic reports with both reportable and state allowable scores will be available through EED the end of February to upload to Powerschool. The WorkKeys assessment targets the workplace "foundational" skills that are needed for virtually all occupations and at any level of education.

Alternate Assessment testing are being 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.

EED mandated World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) ACCESS Test for the spring 2013 Limited English Proficiency testing cycle has begun. Coordination of training at all sites is currently taking place. Testing will be district-wide February through March. Identified teachers will complete web-based proficiency training in order to be qualified assessor/proctors for the February administration of the WIDA Access Test to identified Limited English Proficient grade level students. The WIDA Access test is family of tests are comprehensive standardized tests that assess listening, speaking, reading and writing.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) administration is currently taking place at selected sites within Southwest Region School District. The NAEP is also known as the "Nations Report Card" and is the only nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas. Since 1969, assessments have been conducted periodically in reading, mathematics, science, writing, U.S. history, civics, geography, and the arts.

In the winter of 2013 (from January 28-March 8, 2013), schools will take part in grade 4 and grade 8 NAEP reading and mathematics assessments. The NAEP in grade 4 and grade 8 reading and mathematics is given every other year; the 2013 administration will be the sixth administration of NAEP in Alaska since 2003.





## Business Office

Lee Ann Andrew, Director

---

We received the FY13 Preliminary Foundation funding based on the OASIS count. (included in board packet) There is an increase in the expected funding for this year. The increase is reflected in the budget revision this month. The revision also has updated numbers for health insurance and salaries. We have around \$329,000 of revenue for FY13 that is not currently allocated for anything in particular.

I am planning on going in for the Koliganek School bid opening on February 21. This is a part of the process I have not seen yet. I am sure it will be a learning experience.

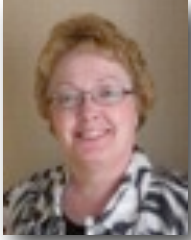
The district received five proposals for a health consultant. The proposals are currently being reviewed. Hopefully a decision will be made soon and I can meet with the new firm when I am in Anchorage for the bid opening. The proposals are very comprehensive and any choice we make looks like they have the resources to research health insurance thoroughly and offer us a good package.

We are still on hold with the FY14 budget to see if any more Impact Aid funding is allocated. Without another allocation we will have to make adjustments to the currently proposed budget.

Sites are preparing their orders for supplies for next fiscal year. We plan to have everything ordered and received at sites before people leave for the summer.

We have found some vendors that can supply the district with Alaskan, grown, harvested or produced foods so that we can utilize the \$38,556 that the state awarded us this year. Some of the items available to us this year are fish burritos, pollock breaded with sweet potatoes and breaded pollock patties. If this program continues next year there may be other options because Alaska vendors will be able to prepare to supply to school districts.

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Special Education

Robin Gray, Director

During the month of February I went to the State of Alaska Response to Instruction/Intervention Conference in Anchorage. Training on providing intervention and instruction appropriate to the needs of the students occurred. Presenters from inside and out of the state brought research, programs, and resources for all who attended. Different districts presented their own intervention processes. What was exception about the opportunity was to have access to a variety of resources and then networking with professionals and districts in various stages of Response to Instruction, RTI.

The State of Alaska Special Education Conference occurred this month and most of the special education staff went to Anchorage. Presentations in the areas of assistive technology, autism, transition data tracking systems, SEAS, and new special education teacher training, are just a few of the sessions.

We have made this the year to make a concentrated effort to work on the special education transition process. With the different training that has occurred in Dillingham, and the conference, the quality of our IEPs and services to our students have improved. Everyone in the department feels good about the direction we are going.

Transition planning for students from their freshman year through their senior year will occur and the list of agencies, outside resources, post secondary training, and working with students and families are becoming more defined.



New Stuyahok Kindergarteners come in each morning and without direct instructions, find their materials, sit down and get straight to work. A great example of students in our classrooms working with a purpose and focus.



## Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director

### Total Physical Response Storytelling

The K-2nd Yup'ik Studies Curriculum Committee traveled into Anchorage (January 31st – Feb 3rd) to be introduced to a method of second language instruction known as Total Physical Response Storytelling. They first observed TPRS in action in Ms. Martina Bex's (teaches Spanish) classroom at the Clark Middle School. It was fascinating to watch the method in action and to take note of the classroom highlighting words in the language of instruction. This followed with a session with Ms. Martina Bex and Ms. Michele Whaley (teaches Russian) where the committee was totally immersed into this method using Russian as the language of instruction. The instruction involved lots of talk, lots of motion, visuals and acting out the different motions. The presentation was based on a Yup'ik oral story that was translated into the Russian language. This followed with the committee developing a lesson unit on a Yup'ik oral story that is known throughout our district. Each of the members participated in presenting using this method of instruction and being coached by Martina and Michele. The committee members will take this lesson and present this lesson in their respective communities with the students that they work with. This will be followed with sessions over the DLS and then coming into to work on the development of the K-2nd Yup'ik Studies Curriculum. We are looking at piloting-testing this curriculum at all the sites in the Fall of 2013 following intensive training.



Workshop Participants: Fanny Parker of Togiak, Martha Foster of Twin Hills, Nancy Sharp of Manokotak, Tatianna Andrew of New Stuyahok and Anu Wysocki of Koliganek.

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Aleknagik School

Audra Finkenbinder, Principal

It is hard to believe that we are already in the month of February and that the middle of the third quarter has come and gone! Progress reports were sent home during the second week of February and we will be holding Parent/Teacher Conferences at the end of the quarter in March.

Aleknagik School has recently completed a round of student assessments that include the District Writing Assessment, and MAPS. Thus far, the results have been positive with an overall improvement in scores. We will be completing the AIMSweb Fluency Assessment in the upcoming weeks and the results will be placed in the students' data folders and shared with parents during the Parent/Teacher Conferences.

wonderful volleyball season, the Lakers kicked off an exciting basketball season. Coached by Randy Finkenbinder, our basketball team had a successful season. The level of enthusiasm and participation was extraordinary and we look forward to another successful season next year!

### Students of the Month

Katrena Finkenbinder

Treyton Toyukak

Treyton Toyukak

Congratulations! Keep up the good work!

### Battle of the Books

Coached by Ryan O'Sullivan, the 3rd/4th and 5th/6th grade teams will be competing in the State Battle of the Books contest. Congratulations Lakers – keep on reading!

### Basketball

One of the goals of Aleknagik School this year was to begin building an athletic program. After a





## Koliganek School

Cody McCanna, Principal

### Professional Development

The professional educators at Koliganek School are involved in several activities that provide for professional growth throughout the year. For starters, Koliganek School is utilizing Charlotte Danielson's Framework for Teaching as a tool to reflect on "effective" teaching practices. Educators spend time during weekly Collaborative Meetings on Tuesdays to focus on specific domains and elements of Danielson's framework. Educators reviewed Domain 2- The Classroom Environment, and especially elements 2c. Managing Classroom Procedures and 2d. Managing Student Behavior. The current focus for educators at Koliganek School is Domain 3-Instruction and specifically element 3b. Using Questioning and Discussion Techniques. The instructional leader facilitates the discussions at the Collaborative Meetings and provides educators with opportunities to review the "effective" and "proficient" aspects of the various elements as outlined in Danielson's books that all educators utilize. Educators are also given specific examples of effective Kagan Cooperative Learning Strategies that they can use in their classrooms to improve specific elements of their questioning strategies.

### Peer Observations

Professional educators at Koliganek School have been trained to conduct peer observations using

Measured Progress's lenses. Educators invite one of their peers into their classroom to collect data on a specific aspect of their teaching. Peer observations are a three-step process that include a Planning Conversation, Classroom Data Collection, and a Reflecting Conversation. Peer observations are a tool that Koliganek School utilized last year and will continue to utilize this year.

### Student Activities

Koliganek girls and boys basketball teams have been traveling around the area. They played in Dillingham, New Stuyahok, Koliganek, and will be playing games the rest of the season in Naknek and Newhalen. Koliganek's middle school players have been practicing from 7:45-8:45 in the morning. They will be traveling to Newhalen, Dillingham, and hopefully a home game this year as well. There have been some concerns from teachers that high school students are missing a lot of school due to the various tournaments in the area. Koliganek staff is working with the coaches to ensure that students are given ample time during travel to complete their schoolwork. High school student government traveled to New Stuyahok to participate in a retreat February 10-12. Students did some great anti-bullying activities that they will share with the other students when they return.

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

## School Carnival

Koliganek School has taken on the task of running the local carnival for the third year now. The CSC and local volunteers have once again thrown their buoy into the water to help out Koliganek's youth. The carnival is scheduled for February 20-24.





## Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Larry Johnson, Principal

Manokotak staff and three of our CSC members attended 12 hours of CPI training. All those who completed the entire 12 hours of training will receive a certificate.

We held our 2nd Quarter Awards Assembly. There were 14 elementary students and 6 MS/HS students who received Perfect Attendance awards. There were 7 Honor Roll students with 3.0 to 3.49 GPAs and 4 students who made the Principal's list with 3.5 to 3.99 GPAs.

The Students of the Month for November were for grades K-5- Kiersten Kapatok, for grades 6th-8th- Vanessa George, and for grades 9th-12th- Sonya Ayojiak. The Students of the Month for December were for grades K-5- Selena Ayojiak, for grades 6th-8th- Kiana Nick, and for grades 9th-12th- Lieua Nick.

Alaska Learning Labs tutoring is continuing on Mondays, Tuesday's, and Thursday's after school. Alaska Learning Labs has planned for several Saturday tutoring sessions. Our school is also offering after school tutoring to any student that is not part of the Alaska Learning Labs program.

Jordan Kontra, a Martial Arts instructor visited our school for a week. Teaching our students Brazilian Jiu-jitsu. Jordan worked with all PE classes and after school with any community members interested in Martial Arts.

Fish & Wildlife personnel, Terry "Birdman" Fuller came to our school and gave presentations to our students concerning the state wide Migratory Bird calendar contest.

Theron Paul a senior at Manokotak, who also represents all of Region 7 schools attended The Alaska Association of Student Government (AASG) Executive Board meeting in Anchorage. At the same time five of our student government students attended the district retreat in New Stu.

On Tuesday January 19, 2013 our school closed due to Blizzard/road hazards. Friday, February 22, 2013 was scheduled to be a vacation day, but is now scheduled to be our make up day for the missed school day.

Our new kindergarten teacher Jason Todd, came to Manokotak on January 2, 2013. He has been in the classroom for half of the 3rd quarter and we realize he is a good addition to our team and our school.

The Cultural Arts classes has one of its male Elders, Moses John, back at school helping in the



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

classroom. He is excited about being able to use the shop and working with the students on different projects.

Our staff has used some of our collaborative meeting times to work on updating our crisis emergency plan. A completed plan has been given to district office. As a staff we are still making minor changes and working on finalizing the Crisis Plan.

## 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

## Sports

There has been a big turnout for our basketball teams. Our high school teams have traveled and played in the Dillingham for Sockeye tournament, the Showdown in New Stu, played against Bristol Bay, Togiak and Dillingham teams.

Our Middle school teams have hosted a home tournament and have travel to Dillingham and to Aleknagik.

The basketball schedule is full of games every weekend and our students are working hard at keeping their grades up to be eligible to play.







## **‘Chief’ Ivan Blunka School**

**Brett Scott, Principal**

We have had a great start to the 2nd semester. Our students came back rested and energized ready to finish the school year strong. Also, as the school year continues down the home stretch, it is time to evaluate our progress and reflect on what is working and what needs changing for the upcoming school term. Through this continual process of self-analysis we can stay on a path of continuous improvement. Teachers will look at data and make decisions on programs.

As we evaluate our progress we have many successes to celebrate. Students are definitely making progress. Reading and math scores continue to climb. Our student government is very active and involved with our school. Nearly half of our students are making honor roll.

### **Student Leadership Retreat**

Students' from around the district all traveled to New Stuyahok to participate in the district sponsored student leadership retreat.

Approximately 20 students took part in an anti-bullying program presented by Robin Jones, Asst. Principal at Chief Ivan Blunka School. The students worked hard and long hours on group videos. After they were complete, the students' shared their video to the entire retreat. There are some amazing video's compiled, that we be shown to the school board at their next meeting.

### **School Improvement**

The school improvement team has been meeting to work on the Alaska STEPP process for school improvement. The team is working on the identified indicators to make sure that the plans and tasks



developed are being implemented and still relevant to our school. The team is also continually monitoring the indicators to determine if revising the tasks is in the best interest of the school. Some of these indicators are work on formative assessments, professional development, extended learning opportunities for students and cultural awareness.

### **New Stuyahok Showdown**

Girls' and boys' basketball teams from around the region visited New Stuyahok for the New Stu Showdown during the first week of February. There were teams from Koliganek, Manokotak, Aniak and Dillingham. The sell-out crowds enjoyed many close and entertaining games. The Dillingham girls prevailed in a hard-fought championship game over the Koliganek Huskies, and the boys from Dillingham also battled to a championship win again over the New Stuyahok boys' team. New Stuyahok rolled out the hospitality for this event. Coaches and players expressed their appreciation for a great tournament and the warm welcome they received in New Stuyahok.

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



**Togiak School**  
Sam Gosuk, Principal

Spring is just around the corner. This year we have noticed that our weather is not as cold as last year. This month we experience lot of wet weather which affected traveling both for students and the community members.

We had to cancel some of our plans for sports basketball travel to Manokotak and to Dillingham. In spite of these, this year we had more home games in Togiak School. We continue to stress importance of attendance at each ball game, reminding parents that students who travel in sports need to have good grades and that one of the things that affect good grades is consistent attendance.

With the support given by the Tri-Council of Togiak consisting of the City of Togiak, Togiak Traditional Council, and Togiak Native Limited, we have passed on their support to parents with students of good attendance with possible chance of winning about 27.5 gallons of gas each quarter. This support for parents' students' good attendance is also passed on in a student newsletter yet to be printed.

We had to move our Cultural Activity due to community loss of one of our community member due to weather this month. We have scheduled it to later this month so when we do, we will make sure we have some pictures of our student cultural field trip. One of the topics we are to share with our students is making shelter in winter conditions.

In our scheduled Parent Night, for this month, we will continue to pass on the importance of attendance and how they as parents can help their child succeed. Library computers are now set up so parents who want to come check on their MS or HS students' grades will be able to do so at the library. We as staff look forward for our cultural trip and an evening of Parent and Teacher night, which parents will get to meet with their child's teachers this month. Hopefully, this event will help the relationship between the school and the community parents.



## Twin Hills School

Meghan Redmond, Lead Teacher

As we work through the month of February, we have much to look forward to throughout the remainder of the school year. Our student count has increased over the winter, and our student count is now at 18 K-8 students and 2 preschool students.

The students are especially excited for student travel activities that will occur over the next few months. In mid-February, 8th grade students Darshana Sharp, Trevor Pleasant, and Mathew Pleasant traveled to New Stuyahok to participate in the student council leadership retreat. At the end of February, 3rd-8th grade students traveled to Ekwok for the annual Pinewood Derby. Still coming through the spring is a JOM sponsored trip to Naknek to go swimming and the 8th grade trip to Chicago and Wisconsin. For the 8th grade trip, the 8th graders took the lead on planning and organizing the travel and activities for the trip.

In the middle school classroom, the students are excited to start using the email address that have been set up for them at school. The mail accounts have been set up on all the middle school laptops. We plan on using the email addresses to utilize websites that require email address to create accounts. Emailing will also provide authentic writing practice.

The two certified teachers, Meghan Redmond and William Cesolini, traveled to Chicago in November to attend the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics annual conference as part of our school improvement plan. Great information was gained in the areas of mathematics technology, parental involvement, pattern making, helping low performing students, and many other topics.

All Twin Hills School certified and classified staff participated in the CPI training that has been offered throughout the district this year. The staff learn about how to help students head off anxiety that can cause behavior issues and how to calmly work with students who are having a behavior.

We continue our Yup'ik Value of the Month positive behavior program. The value for December was "Be helpful to one another." The student with the most 'Caught following the Yup'ik value' cards was Curtis Pleasant. Our value for January and February is "Teach and learn hunting and outdoor survival skills."

We have started a student of the month program as well. Each month, we will choose one student from kindergarten, one student from 1st-4th grade, and one student from 5th-8th grade for our students of the month. For the month of February, the students of the month are...

- Kindergarten- Daniel Sharp
- 1st-4th Grade- Ciara Hernandez
- 5th-8th Grade- Mathew Pleasant