

REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



**“Agayumaciq-Ilu
Qigcikluku”**

Respect Spirituality.

--Bristol Bay Yup'ik Values

Board of Education

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Ferdinand Sharp, Sec./Treas.
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Superintendent's Office David J. Piazza, Superintendent

Staffing

The District welcomes a number of long-term substitutes this Spring to cover vacancies due to staff on parental leave. Wendy Anderson returns to New Stuyahok to provide 2nd Grade instruction for the first part of the semester and will then facilitate the Reading Mastery and Intervention duties later in the term. Felicia and Gary Kleven have arrived in Togiak to teach high school in the high school for the entire second semester. As long-time, but currently retired teachers from the Lower Kuskokwim School District, Felicia and Gary will primarily teach Language Arts and Science respectively in grades 9-12.

The Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School also welcomes Jason Todd as the new Kindergarten teacher at the school. Jason was previously substitute teaching in the Eugene, Oregon area. He arrived in Manokotak on January 2nd, and met the majority of the Kindergarten student's parents before the school re-opened after the Christmas break.

Superintendent Travel (ALASBO)

Superintendent Piazza and most of the Business Office staff attended the Alaska Association of School Business Officials (ALASBO) annual conference in Anchorage at the beginning of December. This was Dave's first opportunity to attend the ALASBO conference as he builds his skills in managing the business aspects of the school district. The conference theme of "40 Years of Success Through Networking" was made evident through

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pre-conference, conference, and post-conference sessions primarily focused on ensuring that students have access to quality instructional programs through the sound management of financial resources.

During the ½ day pre-conference session “Human Resources and Employee Management for School Districts”, presenter Tim Peterson, the Director of Human Resources, for the Kenai Peninsular Borough School District, presented on a variety of personnel-related topics that are useful for business office staff to be knowledgeable about. The workshop also provided each participant with a notebook and “flash-drive” containing tips & tricks, and sample procedures and forms. A second ½ day session on the “Health Care Reform Update” was presented by Scott Florsheim, and Brian Rossen with the American Fidelity company. This session provided insights into the requirements that will need to be met as the new Health Care legislation is enacted. More information may be located at <http://HCReducation.com>.

The conference began with a keynote address by Thuan-Nguyen with the Sound Strategy Group. His presentation included information regarding the impact as improvements in technology change the culture, society, and politics around the world.

Participants had the opportunity to attend multiple Round-Table sessions. These 20 minute presentations allowed the presenter to introduce a topic and provide some background information. The session on “Foundation Changes” by Mindy Lobough the School Finance Specialist with the Alaska Department of Education discussed the State’s education funding formula and the recent changes that impact the amount of Basic Need funding provided to Districts including the increased vocational educational funding factor. Presenter Elizabeth Seitz the State Program Administrator for the Alaska Child Nutrition Program, talked the school food service requirements for the reduction of fat content in milk, the increase in the use of whole grains, and changes in the vegetable subgroups. Additional information and training may be found in the State of Alaska’s eLearning Modules by logging-in at <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/elearning/>.

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.

The roundtable “Community Use of School Facilities and Liability” was presented by Grady Fisher the deputy director for the Alaska Municipal League Joint Insurance Association (AMLJIA). He discussed the use of a checklist to document the condition of the facilities before and after an event, as well as, the use of agreements to hold the District harmless while the facilities are being utilized by outside organizations. He discussed the need for event organizers to ensure for supervision and the importance of keeping keys secured. He pointed out the importance of keeping snow removed and the upkeep of a snow-shoveling log to help lower a District’s risk. The “P-Card Application Process” session was presented by Holly Wallace and Ron Everett with the Illinois Association of School Business Officials who have been utilizing “Purchasing” cards for a number of years. The P-Card program currently is used in 10 Alaskan school districts and the session helped to explain the steps needed for additional districts to utilize the credit card like features of P-Cards for smaller purchases while maintaining fiscal control and budgetary oversight.

The second keynote address by Meagan Johnson was entitled “Zap the Gap! How to Maneuver, Make Your Way & Make Money in a Multi-Generational World.” This presentation took a look at the challenges that companies and organizations face as several different generations of employees come together to meet the personnel resource needs. Through humor, Meagan discussed how to attract, train, manage, and retain employees from the “Traditional Generation”, the “Baby Boomers”, the “Generation X”, and the “Generation Y”.

The conference also provided for hour-long sectionals that allowed for a more in-depth look at various business office topics. The sectional “Student Activity Funds – Cash Management” by Alex Beckman with Mikunda Cottrell & Co, discussed the District’s fiduciary responsibilities and best practices for managing student extra-curricular activity funds. Carolyn Heyman-Layne with Sedor, Wendlandt, Evans & Filippi discussed the “Alaska Personal Information Protection Act.” The presentation included information regarding the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA), the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH) and the Alaska Personal Information Protection Act (AK PIPA). The session provided guidance in the proper management of employee and student information as well as the required steps to take if a “breach of information” occurs. The sectional “Community Relations and Public Speaking” presented by Heidi Embley the Acting Executive Director of Communications with the Anchorage School District provided help in building public speaking and community relation skills. Topics included looking at pre-presentation skills, the use of presentation time, and the development of supplemental materials including PowerPoint slides and handouts.

The conference structure also provided for “Discussions Groups” that allowed participants to ask questions and share effective strategies with other participants and presenters. Dave Jones the Assistant Superintendent and Business Manager for the Kenai Peninsula Borough school District discussed the “Business Office and Negotiations.” Ideas were presented to help prepare information that is necessary for efficient and timely during salary and benefit negotiations. Gordon Brown, the Sate Records Manager for

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the Alaska State Archives discussed “Records Retention, Scanning Records and Business Essential Records.” The states model records and retention schedule was discussed, as well as, the proper storage and weeding of student, financial, and personnel records.

The Division of Retirement and Benefits provided a post-conference session to help participants understand the processes and paperwork for the PERS and TERS retirement systems. Discussions regarding the effects and proper handling of employees with Leave With Out Pay situations was held.

Superintendent Travel (AASB Winter Boardsmanship)

Superintendent Piazza along with Board Members Ferdinand Sharp, Helen Gregorio, Wally Gust, and Steven Gosuk attended the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Winter Boardsmanship Academy in early December. This year’s topics included Budgeting and Negotiations.

The first day of the academy provided School Board Members with information regarding school district budgeting. Joseph Reeves with AASB presented on the “Boards Fiduciary Responsibility.” This presentation looked at the State Law, District Policies, and School Board Standards in regard to budget planning, managing, and oversight. The session “Where the Money Comes from to Support Alaska’s Schools” was presented by Karen Goodwin with the Northwest Arctic Borough School District. This session provided an overview of the state of Alaska’s Public School Funding Program formula. Dave Jones the Kenai Business Manager presented on the “Basics of the Budget Process/Developing a Budget” and “Linking the Budget to Your District Goals.” These included information regarding the development of a calendar or timeline for developing the budget, as well as, ensuring that the budget provides for resources to meet student’s instructional needs as the priority. Board Member Norm Wooten, Superintendent Steward McDonald, and Business Manager Lisa Pearce with the Kodiak Island Borough School District presented on “Reading and Understanding Financial Reports.”

The second day of the Academy was dedicated to Negotiations training. John Greely with AASB presented a “Negotiations Update.” This included information regarding national and state trends in employee salary and benefit trends. The session “Preparing for Negotiations” was presented by John Sedor with Sedor, Wendlandt, Evans and Filippi. His presentation discussed the Boards roles, power and responsibilities for Negotiations. Saul Friedman with the law firm of Jermain, Dunnagan, and Owens discussed “School District Negotiations.” This presentation focused on public sector bargaining and discussed unfair labor practices, negotiation team members, and communication between the Board and the negotiations team. Jean Ward a long-time hearing officer also presented “What is the Alaska Labor Relations Agency?” This session provided information to help Board members understand the role of the Labor Relations Agency and the various services that it provides.

SWRS Leadership Team Areas of Action 2012–13

Reading On Grade Level Before Third Grade

Urgency & Focus: Research has shown that students who do not read on grade level by the end of grade two will have great difficulty ever getting back on grade level. Our reading programs must insure that students are reading on grade level before third grade.

Student Engagement

Urgency & Focus: In the past year, there were ten thousand, nine hundred and thirty absences from school across the district. All stakeholders must view education as relevant to students' lives for them to actively engage and take ownership in learning.

Comprehensive Instructional Plan

Urgency & Focus: Less than one-third of our students are proficient in mathematics, less than half are proficient in reading, and none have qualified for the Alaska Performance Scholarship to date. Students who do not have a strong academic background will be limited in pursuing their choices in life. We believe that a strong academic program will prepare students to live independently in the manner they choose for themselves.

Revitalize Yup'ik Studies Program

Urgency & Focus: Culture is the foundation of our identity and in order for our communities to thrive a sense of culture must remain strong. The traditional Yup'ik knowledge base in our communities is diminishing with our elders passing and our Yup'ik Studies instructors reaching retirement age. Our schools are reflections of the wishes of our parents and community members for their children and should value and positively reinforce culture.

Revitalize Vocation Education Programs

Urgency & Focus: In order for our communities to thrive, an educated workforce is needed in many areas including, commercial fishing related trades, health care, education, business & technology, culinary arts, construction trades. Our current vocational education programs are not meeting a majority of workforce needs of our communities. Our vocational programs must address the workforce preparation needs of our students.

Revitalize Post-Secondary Transition Program

Urgency & Focus: Our students' choices are limited due to geography and exposure to careers and post-secondary options. Are our students prepared to make choices about their futures? How are we ensuring that our program teaches students about their options and gives them the skills necessary to pursue their goals?

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Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Director

Assessments

This month students will be completing the second window of several key assessments. The second MAP assessment for the year will be held next week, which will be begin to allow us to see growth trends this school year. We are looking forward to having good growth data on all of our students K-12 for the first time. Preparations for the winter MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) benchmark are completed and the testing window opens on the 21st of January. This will be the second district wide implementation of the MAP test and we will now have at least 2 points of data at all of our schools so we can begin to chart growth and spot areas of concern as identified by the MAP tool.

Students are also doing their second District Writing Assessment.

Elementary Literacy Inservice

Twenty-four K-5 staff from across the district completed our 2012 Literacy Inservice. Over seven sessions spread across the first semester, staff discussed a range of topics related to language skills development. Surveys of participants came back with positive comments, in particular that staff enjoyed the opportunity to work with colleagues across the district.

MS/HS Collaboration

On Wednesday, January 9, 2012 upper grade staff spent the day working in subject area collaborative groups. Work was done to help align pacing and curriculum across all sites. There was a productive discussion about how pacing and deliver went during the first semester and ideas to help insure we are working together to give all of our students a similar experience in high school and middle school courses.

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TEAM



Shannon Clouse
Media Specialist



Deb Endicott
Inst. Support
Specialist



Corey Evans
Computer-Aided
Instruction Specialist



Les Parks
Technology Coordinator

The discussion among staff in regard to efforts was positive and very encouraging. One staff member commented that “while we are still not where we want to be, we are ‘miles’ from where we were last year.” We hope to continue the progress again this semester.

Technology

The Technology Department recently completed technology training for the school board. Due to weather several board members could not be present but with those that could attend we covered adding the ability to check personal email accounts to district issued computers and personal mobile devices as well as adding printers to the available printer list in the laptop.

The eRate form 471 and item 21 attachments (funding for 2013-2014) have been filed. And an RFP for wireless network upgrades for our schools has also been filed.

An RFP has been release to solicit bids for a new wireless system to be installed at Togiak School. The new wireless system is intended to allow staff to better allow access to the rapidly growing number of personal electronic devices connecting to our networks. The RFP also lays the groundwork for installation of these systems across the district in the near future.



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State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

No Child Left Behind (AK STEPP)

The district leadership team is continuing to update and revise the district improvement plan using the AK STEPP online tool to document the process. The focus for the improvement plan will be to continue current efforts based around the six goal areas that are aligned to the board goals and developed by the leadership team, including site instructional leaders. Regularly scheduled meeting will be occurring for the remainder of the school year to revise the improvement plan based on student achievement data, research-based best practices, staff and community input, and any regulations adopted by the Alaska State Board of Education.

No Child Left Behind (Migrant Education)

The services for migrant students have started at New Stuyahok. Lida Storch, the local migrant serviced coordinator, held the first book distribution which provided each migrant student with a \$30 dollar voucher to be spent on books at the book fair this past November. There will be another book fair this semester for students to spend the rest of their voucher, a migrant family night, and students will be selecting a magazine subscription. Similar activities will be starting up at all of our schools this semester.

No Child Left Behind (Migrant Education)

In last month's meeting agenda the district parent involvement policy was presented. The district policy is a compilation of the site parent involvement

policies created by school staff, CSC members, and parents. Parent and community comments and input during local CSC meetings are reviewed when developing the district parent involvement policy. The parent involvement policies are revised or created each year.

No Child Left Behind (Corrective Action)

Koliganek School is in level four of school improvement, which means that adequate yearly progress (AYP) has not been reached in the past four years. No Child Left Behind requires a corrective action to be developed and implemented this year for any school at level 4 in improvement. As a result, the district leadership team is working closely with Cody McCanna, Koliganek's principal, in the development and implementation of this plan. Cody is working closely with the staff, and parents to improve achievement in specific content areas.

No Child Left Behind (Corrective Action)

I was invited to attend the November CSC meetings in Ekwok, via video conferencing and Aleknagik, in person. I also attended the December CSC meeting in Twin Hills (in person). The purpose was to share information and answer questions regarding the various federal and state grants that district receives to improve instruction and learning. Impact Aide and Indian Education were discussed at these meetings. In addition, information regarding adequate yearly progress, the district and site report to the public, and school and district improvement efforts was presented and discussed.



Student Information & Support Specialist: Kyle Schneider

Migrant Education

After the close of the Migrant Education recruiting window in November, letters were sent out to parents who had not yet been notified to inform them that their children had been approved by the state's Migrant Education Office. These letters included details about the services that would be provided to their children.

Eligibility for all Migrant Education students was input in PowerSchool and documents were sent to site principals and secretaries about how to create lists of Migrant students in their schools.

PowerSchool

Kyle has finished preparing an update to the secondary transcript which will provide more information about students' careers with SWRS and contain information about students' eligibility for the Alaska Performance Scholarship as required by 4 AAC 43.010. As part of this, he has been added ACT and WorkKeys scores to students' records in PowerSchool. The new transcript format will be introduced at the January principals' meeting.

At the end of the semester, a VTC for teachers to ask questions about quarter and semester grade entry occurred.

School Climate & Connectedness Survey

The district has been registered for the Spring 2013 School Climate and Connectedness Survey.

The window for the survey will be January 14th - January 25th.

Impact Aid

Impact Aid data was sent to site secretaries and BBHC for correction at the beginning of December. Once the data was returned, Kyle created the Impact Aid Certification paperwork and sent it to sites. Principals and village administrators then reviewed the data a final time and signed it. Impact Aid information was sent to the business office before winter break so the report can be created for the federal government.



Counseling & Assessment Specialist: Steve Ito

The fall High School Graduating Qualifying Exam (HSGQE) Retake scores were available in December and electronically sent to K-12 sites for review and disbursement. The HSGQE is offered two times every school year (fall and spring) A sophomore may take the HSGQE for the first time in the spring of their 10th grade year. The HSGQE assesses for Reading, Writing and Math skills a graduating senior in Alaska would be required to know.

Identified and trained certified staff SPED members to be the Alternate Assessment Qualified Test Proctor for 2013 testing of significant cognitively disabled students. The Alternate Assessment The Alternate Assessment exists for students with significant cognitive disabilities to

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have access to, participate in, and make progress in general education curricula. The Alternate Assessment is based on Alaska standards but measured against alternate achievement standards.

Completed the EED mandated WorkKeys testing for grade 11 students at all K-12 sites. The WorkKeys assessment targets the workplace "foundational" skills that are needed for virtually all occupations and at any level of education. The three major skill areas in Alaska Career Ready are: Applied Mathematics — measures the skills people use when they apply mathematical reasoning, critical thinking, and problem-solving techniques to work-related problems. The test questions require the examinee to set up and solve the types of problems and do the types of calculations that actually occur in the workplace.

Reading for Information — measures the skills people use when they read and use written text in order to do a job. The written texts include memos, letters, directions, signs, notices, bulletins, policies, and regulations. Locating Information — measures the skills people use when they locate, synthesize, and use information from workplace graphics such as charts, graphs, tables, forms, flowcharts, diagrams, floor plans, maps, and instrument gauges, as typically found in workplace situations.

Completion of the WorkKeys test provides students with a National Career Ready Certificate and may allow qualifying students to apply for the Alaska Performance Scholarship.

Spring HSGQE & SBA district wide testing enrollments have been submitted to Data Recognition Corporation. Pre Code labeling data transfer will take place in January. Submitting enrollments and Pre-Code data greatly enhances the quality and accuracy of test administration during the mandated spring Standards Based Assessment for grades 3-10, and the High School Qualifying Exam testing window. Staff utilized during the April testing window will be required to submit test security agreements and adhere to EED mandated testing integrity and protocol standards.





Business Office

Lee Ann Andrew, Director

The district received the first \$7.4 million for the Koliganek School Grant. As of January 8, \$3.4 million is invested in CD's. CD's currently have better returns than Treasury Bills. We are trying to invest in CD's that offer at least a .3% return. Most of the CD's purchased have .5 to .75% returns and range from 1 to 2 years in duration. The next payment from the state is expected sometime during February which will give allow for more investments. The key is to make sure the money matures before payments are due.

We have Request's for Proposals out for a Health Insurance Consultant (closes 1-31), Wireless network upgrades (closes 1-31), and a vendor to perform electrical services (closes 1-15). By going out for bids we will be able to get the best deal for the district's funding. Per Board Policy Manual AR3311 for purchases over \$50,000 the formal bid process is required. All three have the potential for going over \$50,000. Currently the annual audit costs about \$35,000 which requires three firms to be contacted for quotes. The district has been purchasing these services with a Sole Source Justification. The board should consider putting the audit services out to bid for FY13.

The business office is in the process of changing over to a web based version of the financial software. There have been a lot of issues with the software certificate that is required for security reasons. The server based software we are currently using will not be supported after June 2013. We have tested the web version and found it to be very similar to the server version so we do not anticipate any problems once the certificate issue gets solved.

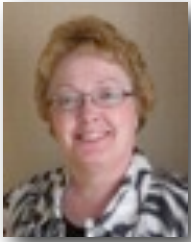
Negotiations will begin with the Southwest Region Education Association on January 10, 2013 with the first face to face meeting January 18-19.

The Indirect Cost for grants application was submitted before the December 31st deadline. The district percentage will be around 5.6% down from 9.37% this year. These rates use a three year average formula which was skewed when we had the stimulus funding. The average percentage for Indirect is between 5% and 6%.

The Impact Aid application will be completed and submitted before the board meeting. The information has been compiled and just needs to be entered onto the online application.

Work has begun on the FY14 budget. The state revenue looks like it will remain steady which does not allow for inflation. I was delayed requesting for budget items from the sites so they have until January 31 to get them in. In the meantime we will be working on departmental budgets

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Special Education

Robin Gray, Director

During the month of January, the special education department will open another scheduled Child Find window. Notification will go out to all the district's communities. All related service providers will be scheduled for the months of January and February.

Keeping current in the latest educational research and skills is an ongoing process. I will be attending the Alaska Response to Intervention, RTI, conference, at the end of January. This will continue to support the district with our process of addressing students' needs and our pre-referral/referral process.

Three Crisis Prevention Intervention, CPI, classes occurred during the month of January. Twin Hills, Manokotak, and a portion of the New Stuyahok staff, went through the 12- hour training. We now have approximately 35 staff members in the district trained in CPI.

Special education staff will be increasing their skills in dyslexia and autism through educational resources such as learning modules, articles, books, and professional development.





Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director

Integrating Local Culture into the Regular School Classroom

A can'giiq/blackfish swimming along and checking out all those people and their villages...a traditional Yup'ik oral story known throughout the vast Yup'ik regions was shared in skit form by the K-5th grade students in Aleknagik during the annual school Thanksgiving potluck. LeEsia O'Sullivan, K-2nd teacher along with Ryan O'Sullivan, 3rd -5th grade teacher both enrolled in the Orientation to Teaching in Rural Alaska class and Melody Noden, Yup'ik Studies Instructor of Aleknagik all worked together in integrating this story into the regular language arts classroom.

The can'giiq/blackfish portrayed by Ayden Ilutsik who is shown with a can'giiq/blackfish tail. He checks out the villages to make sure the people are careful and respectful of each other and all the food that they gather from the natural environment. Only when he sees a village where everything is in order with people being respectful to each other and the food that they have gathered does he let himself be caught in their taluyaq/fish trap.

This story has so much to offer our people and students in our communities. As teachers we can be much like the can'giiq/blackfish when we work with our students. We look at students who work hard and try their best. We notice students who make sure that they come to school every day so they don't miss out on anything. And we respect those students who interact with their fellow students, teachers and adults in the community in a respectful manner. We notice how orderly they keep their desks or cubbies. And as teachers when we see these things we work extra hard to make sure that learning is taking place that will mold them to become the REAL people that we all strive to be.



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Aleknagik School

Audra Finkenbinder, Principal

Aleknagik North Shore School began the third semester on January 10, 2013. Within the first few weeks of the New Year, the students will be participating in the Winter Writing Assessment, MAPS Testing, the School Connectiveness Survey, as well as having a visit from Terry Fuller for the Alaska Migratory Bird Calendar.

In the Classroom

Mrs. O'Sullivan's K-2 students are continuing to move right through the Reading Mastery program in both Reading and Language Arts, are ordering two digit numbers in math, and are documenting results in science with the current focus on sink, float, objects, matter, physical properties, texture, and weight.

Mr. O'Sullivan's classes are working on 6-Trait Writing, Double Negatives, Reflexive & Intensive Pronouns, as well as Fun Science & Technology for Kids!

Mr. Finkenbinder's math classes are learning about Measures of Central Tendency, Exponents, Symmetry, and Division. In science class, the 6th-8th graders are exploring Elements and Atoms.

Student Activities

This year Aleknagik School has been building the athletic program by establishing volleyball and basketball teams. The volleyball team had quite a successful season and the basketball team is enthusiastically preparing for upcoming games and tournaments. In addition to traveling to Manokotak and Dillingham, the Lakers will be hosting a tournament on February 8th & 9th.

Students of the Month

Bluey Toyukak

Tasha Gilila

Jessyka Creasey

Congratulations! Keep up the good work!



William ‘Sonny’ Nelson School

Nate Preston, Principal/Teacher

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

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.

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.

William “Sonny” Nelson School is continually working to create positive and productive lines of communication between staff, students, parents, and community members. We held an open house and potluck at the beginning of the year. We have many activities at the school including, cake walks, bingos, potlucks and holiday activities. In addition, we have had 100% turn out for all parent teacher

conferences at the end of the quarter. Being such a small site we are constantly in touch with parents and community members. One success we have had this year is open gym. With the support of the community open gym is happening again after two years.

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’s us give student individual attention and place them where they need to be successful. For example: the seven students from Kindergarten thru 2nd grade have four reading groups.

Lastly, the enrollment at William “Sonny” Nelson School is looking good for the next school year. We will be enrolling one new 7th grader this month, which will bring us to thirteen students. In addition, we are looking at four new Kindergarteners next school year along with an unknown number of students we should gain from seven new homes in our community.

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'Chief' Ivan Blunka School

Brett Scott, Principal

As we end the 1st semester and begin the new semester, 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. A record number of exams were passed in the high school qualifying re-test this fall.

Our extra-curricular programs are thriving. We had large turnouts this year for wrestling and Middle School Volleyball. Both teams had very successful seasons with home tournaments for middle and high school in wrestling and in middle school volleyball. Everyone is looking forward to the upcoming basketball seasons.

At this time of year, it is also appropriate to celebrate our blessings. We have great students at Chief Ivan Blunka School. We have a wonderful facility. Our community is terrific. The support for our school is almost overwhelming at times. Community events bring hundreds of people into the school. We have many healthy families and a great amount of support for one another. These things are truly blessings that make New Stuyahok a great place to live and work.

Holiday Celebrations

December is always a busy month at Chief Ivan Blunka School. School quickly moved to preparations for our Christmas program and



finishing out the first semester of school. A huge tree was put up and decorated for the commons area. A Christmas bazaar and visit by Santa were all part of the festivities. Our Christmas program featured each class singing and dancing and a high school candle dance. The staff got involved with a small combo singing and playing Christmas carols. Even with all of this activity our students studied hard and took finals the last week before the break.

Wrestling

Our wrestling program had another fantastic year. We had 23 high school wrestlers participate this year, along with 12 middle school wrestlers. The high school wrestlers traveled to Bethel for regions. They finished in 6th place, winning the Region 1 small school's trophy, and were able to qualify 6 wrestlers for the state tournament. They just returned from the state tournament, where they finished 16th out of more than 40 1A, 2A, & 3A schools. Individually, the 6 boys did well, with 4 wrestlers placing in 6th or better. We are so proud of the way they represent our school and district. It seems that others think this as well, as the New Stuyahok wrestlers were awarded the Sportsmanship trophy at the awards ceremony at the state tournament.

Second Semester

Second semester starts on January 14th at Chief Ivan Blunka School. We are looking forward to a very successful second half of the year after a great first half. Our students are demonstrating a renewed commitment to their education while continuing to have great success in extra-curricular activities.

Basketball season is well underway leading up to the New Stu Showdown the first week of February and the boys' regional tournament in New King Cove and girls' tournament in Newhalen, the second weekend of March. It's going to be a fun 2013!

Culture Days

Culture days were held December 13th and 14th for all 7th – 12th graders. The students were able to participate in several activities. The students were lucky enough to have 2 guest instructors come to our school. Annie Fritze taught skin sewing to our upper level Yupik classes. Mickia Walcott II instructed students' on how to make traditional basket sleds. The students were also able to learn how to use a GPS and take a short trip and learn survival skills. The students' commented that this was the best culture days yet.



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Togiak School
Sam Gosuk, Principal

I would like to start out saying Happy New Year to all the Southwest Region School Board members. We made it through the Christmas Break and now we as Togiak Staff are back.

To start the year, we have two new long-term subs for the High School Language Arts and Science Class. They have been teaching in rural Alaska for years and know a lot of people in the Bethel area. One the student they use to teach is working in Togiak School. They bring a lot of experience to the school they have good rapport with staff and students already.

During our in-service, one of the topics we looked at was our Lockdown Procedure in the light of the recent Sandy Hook school shooting tragedy. We went over it and discussed it then made some revisions to it to present to our CSC for approval. We will share it with them on our next meeting. After the CSC meeting we as a school will plan a practice Lockdown with the community VPSO.

We were going to have a Safe Talk in-service, but since the material didn't arrive in time, we changed the in-service to two topics. One was encouraging teachers and giving them a structure for student led parent conferences at the end of the quarter. Students according to their ability will practice three questions to talk to their parents. This would be done at the end of the quarter we thought that it was a good idea to start talking about it now. In this way, the students would be more responsible for their work in school and take more ownership of it.

The other topic we discussed and then planned cultural activities according to Middle School & High School, and Kindergarten to 5th Grade. The teachers were excited about it because this had been talked about in the past but haven't been done. One of the activities that come out of this is fishing for smelts at the mouth of the river. This will be done in the next two weeks. After the Awards Ceremony today, we had one of the teachers give them the news. Teachers and students are excited about this coming event we certainly will share some pictures of the event for next Board Report.

Moose season opened yesterday, we are thankful to the Fish and Game for giving us a chance to get some moose. This good news ends my report to the Board. Thank you.