

REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



**“Ikayurtarluten
Yuulgutevnun”**

**Be helpful to one
another.**

--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

Elementary Boarding Home Resolution

One of the highlights of the recent AASB Fall Conference described later in this report was the Rural/REAA District Forum which allowed the Southwest Region School District board members to share our concerns regarding the displacement of students when schools close due to lack of enrollment. Board President, Kay Andrews, was able to introduce a resolution adopted by the School Board regarding the need for funding of the State Boarding Home Program to be expanded to include elementary aged students who have been effected by school closures. The full resolution was adopted by the AASB membership for inclusion in the AASB Resolutions Packet during the final Business Meeting. We hope to see the resolution as part of AASB lobbying efforts this spring in Juneau.



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Staffing

The District has been busy recruiting for five long-term substitute teachers to fill anticipated vacancies for second semester due to parental leave requests.

Superintendent Travel

Superintendent Piazza and Steve Noonkesser, the Director of Instruction and Information Systems attended the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Fall Conference earlier this month with Board Members Kay Andrews, Marie Paul, Helen Gregorio, Wally Gust, Wassillie Wonhola, and Steven Gosuk. The conference theme of “Local Education. Global Citizen.” was made evident through pre-conference and conference sessions primarily focused on ensuring that students have access to quality Cultural and Arts educational opportunities which engage student success in other academic instruction.



During the pre-conference Academy for Experienced Board Members welcoming session, the 2011 Alaska Teacher of the Year Lorrie Heagy from the Juneau School District, presented on a program that brings violin instruction into the Kindergarten classroom to promote multi-sensory learning and brain development at an early age.

This was followed by a presentation “Infusing Arts into the Curriculum” by the Bering Strait School District. The Bering Strait School District has completed an Arts Curriculum Review that allows student’s the ability to “Encounter, Engage, and Reflect” on world, national, and local regional artists and artwork. This includes biographies of local artist showcasing the talents of the community members and history of the area.

The Kodiak Island Borough School District presented on “STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, & Math)”. While legislators and educational funding sources often focus on what would be considered more academic



subjects, the focused instruction on the visual or performing arts must be included as it drives imagination and initiation.

Bridget Smith with the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Initiative for Community Engagement (ICE) discussed several supported projects that were completed across the state. These include an arts project where students created paper mache bones to help learn science and health concepts. Students and community members in Seward created a mural documenting the importance of trees. A “Dancing with the Stars” competition in Healy as well as musical performances by the Juneau Youth Symphony brought students and adults together to learn. A mask making project in Tyonek and Port Graham brought the whole community together.

While the afternoon continued with additional presentations for experienced board members, Board President Kay Andrews and Superintendent David Piazza, moved over to the Board Room Boot Camp for newly elected members and presented a session on “Board & Superintendent Responsibilities.” Kay and Dave took turns presenting on the General, Policy, Meetings, Budgets/Finance, Instruction, Personnel, Negotiations, Student Services, Facilities, and Community Relation overlapping areas that School Boards and Superintendents cover. This included the similarities, but focused primarily on the differences in order for participants to see the effective division of responsibilities that allows the school system to function effectively and efficiently.

The main conference was keynoteed by Dr. Sven Haakanson who was born and raised in Old Harbor, Alaska on Kodiak Island. His presentation included work from his doctoral dissertation where he spent time researching in Russian and European countries. His research provide a greater depth of knowledge of his own local culture as he was able to study journals documenting the way of life of his ancestors, as well as, his ability to study tools and artwork that had been placed in museum collections throughout the world. He has brought what he has learned back to Kodiak Island to share with the younger generations.

A large group break out session on “School Law” allowed three lawyers who practice in Alaska an opportunity to share information and tips to keep School Boards within legal limits. Ann Gifford

discussed bullying vs free speech. Allen Clendaniel provided information regarding the need to keep political campaigning away from schools. Finally, Saul Friedman talked about legal concerns regarding employee issues.



The 22 “Snapshot” sessions allowed conference participants a variety of choice to select four to learn about in greater detail. The session “Research from Alaska’s One to One Program” was presented by Pam Lloyd, Bob Whicker, and Mark Standley and included

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

results from their study of the one to one laptop programs across the state including the Southwest Region School District's program. The session "HAZCOM to GHS Prepare for the Change" presented by Michael Lary of the Alaska Public Entity Insurance group discussed the new responsibilities to implement the labeling and handling procedures of chemicals within public schools. The "Early Learning Experiences for Families" session also presented by Bridget Smith from ICE shared information regarding resource tubs of instructional materials that could be used by parents and their children. "Student Dress Code" was presented by attorney Lael Harrison of Faulkner Banfield P.C. This session discussed a student's right to privacy vs the schools need to have rules that allow for the school to function smoothly. The importance of understanding and communicating the reason for creating a rule before implementing a new rule was highlighted.

Another large group break out session wrapped up the first day of the conference. The session on "Framing an Effective Message for the Legislature" was presented by Pegge Erkeneff who is the Communications Specialist working for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. Information was provided suggesting the need to build relationships (public relationships) and not just develop public relation materials. The idea of creating Frequent, Quality and Reciprocity of communication with the legislature is important. She also suggested the continuation of sending out a consistent message celebrating our students though a theme similar to "We Are Part of Something Great! Alaska Public Schools!"

The second day of the conference began with an opening presentation by Rhonda Kite, the Founder and Managing Director of the New Zealand company Kiwa Media. The session showcased the companies work with digital publishing including their work to keep the Maori language in print for the younger generations. A part of the presentation included the display of an electronic book created by the students attending the Youth Leadership Institute. The book provided students the opportunity to share traditional stories or village life experiences with the reader.

An additional large group breakout session provided information on the School Boards role in evaluating the superintendent. The Petersburg and Kenai school districts provided examples of forms and procedures that may be used.

The final sessions of the conference were mainly comprised of business meeting activities.





Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Director

Interior Education Conference

This month, Director of Yup'ik Studies, Esther Ilutsik and I traveled to Fairbanks to attend the Interior Education Summit sponsored by the Tanana Chiefs organization. It was an interesting two days of presentations on rural education issues and Alaska Native studies topics. The trip highlighted much of the work we are currently engaged in and left me with the feeling that we are making good progress towards revitalizing our programs and many ideas for social studies curriculum development.

The trip also provided the opportunity to meet with history department staff at the University of Alaska and to visit the Alaska Native Language Center where we picked up a number of materials for preview by our social studies committees.

Discussions focused on both the need to update our curriculum and to provide better pre-service and in-

service training for staff that are new to our state and region as they engage in Alaska studies instruction.

Curriculum and Writing Assessment

The week of November 5-9 was a busy one with Writing Assessment district-wide scoring, social studies and science teams all meeting here in Dillingham.



INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TEAM



Shannon Clouse
Media Specialist



Deb Endicott
Inst. Support
Specialist



Corey Evans
Computer-Aided
Instruction Specialist



Les Parks
Technology Coordinator

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Writing team did a great job of getting almost 600 papers scored and recorded in our student database in two days. Reports are being generated to go out to schools for use by teachers and parents.

The science team worked on orders and putting the finishing touches on the K-8 science curriculum materials, in addition to preparing the next set of science tubs for K-5.

The social studies committee met with the Yup'ik Studies committee to discuss the possibility of combining our K-2 social studies and Yup'ik Studies curriculum. It was decided to create a combined K-2 curriculum that meets the need of student and the goals of both programs. Much discussion also centered around the creation of upper elementary, middle school and high school Alaska Studies courses that are focused on a regional perspective. Steve also had a good conversation with Paul Ongtooguk, a Senior Research Fellow and professor at the University of Alaska-Anchorage, who has extensive experience in the creation of Alaska Studies materials and courses, about the possibility of enlisting his assistance and that of his department in our efforts to create a set of quality courses that are relevant to our students.

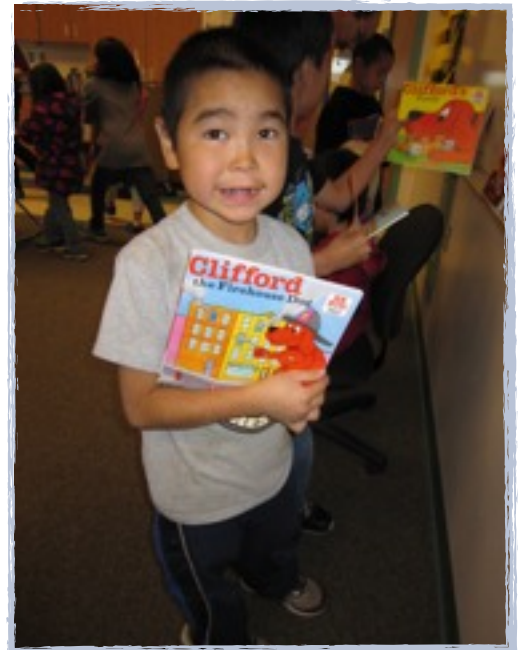
Writing Assessment

During the week of October 15-19, each site set aside time for students to complete the Fall Writing Assessment. Students were responded to one of eight prompts. Primary grades chose one story and responded to their selection about the story components. Each classroom teacher sent in their student samples and a team of 10 teachers from across the district came into the District Office and scored the papers.

This year we had a teacher working on their administration program, lead the scoring sessions as part of his program in becoming a school leader. The sessions went very smoothly and the team was very professional and completed their tasks in record



Literacy Activities: Clifford visits New Stuyahok and reading with students.



time. Following the scoring, the group had a good discussion about ways to improve the assessment process and feedback to students and staff.

Alaska Literacy Conference

Instructional Support Specialist, Deb Endicott attended the Alaska Literacy Conference in Girdwood this year and it proved to be quite informational and inspirational. It was great to hear from the “experts” that what we are doing in Southwest Region Schools, is what they recommend for building literacy in our students.

Technology

Along with typical technology support and repair duties, the technology department has completed several important projects in the last month.

The technology department has had opportunity make recommendations on the technology design that will be included in the new Koliganek School design, these recommendations have been submitted to architect designing the school. The yearly, deployed computer and network inventory has been completed and submitted to Alaska Education and Early Development (EED). The required technology literacy assessment for 8th grades students and certified staff has been completed and submitted to EED.

Several important eRate milestones have been achieved. The form 472 (BEAR), reimbursement checks have been coming in from vendors with only one more check still outstanding. The 2013-2014 Budget Inventory Analysis, which demonstrates planned, carefully considered use of eRate funds, has been completed and submitted to EED in preparation for filling for next year's eRate application. Finally The 2013-2014 eRate Form 470 has been filled This submission is the first step in securing funding for our email, Internet, Video Conferencing, and telephone services for the district.



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

No Child Left Behind (Report to the Public)

The report to the public, often called the “report card” have been completed and mailed to each parent, Tribal organization, and Village Corporation. There are a number of education related areas provided in the reports including student achievement data and trends, graduation and attendance rates, adequate yearly progress information, teacher qualifications and highly qualified information, and other demographic information. In addition, a synopsis of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act grants, Indian Education grant, Impact Aide grant, and other grants and state programs were sent to parents, tribal councils, and village corporations. The information will be presented at a public meeting (CSC) where parents, community members, and representatives from the tribal council and village council can comment and provide input. All of the information has been included in the board packet.

Site Visits

I traveled to Manokotak from November 5th & 6th to administer the ParaPro Assessment and complete migrant recruiting. The first day of the visit was dedicated to giving the ParaPro Assessment to community members. At the end of the day, eleven community members took the assessment. Recruiting students for the migrant education program was the focus of the second day. Several families were contacted for an interview to

determine the eligibility of their children and I was able to go out into the community to meet with these families.

Boarding Home

In the past, 9th-12th grade students that live in Aleknagik and attend high school in Dillingham have not be eligible for the secondary boarding home program. In response to parent input, we have partnered with the Dillingham City School District in an effort to make these students eligible. This partnership was successful and high school students living in Aleknagik but attending Dillingham High School are now eligible for the secondary boarding home program..



Student Information & Support Specialist: Kyle Schneider

Site Visit – Manokotak

On October 11th, Kyle flew to Manokotak for a site visit to work with staff on PowerSchool and to assist the Migrant Education recruiters with paperwork questions. While in Manokotak, Kyle visited with certified and classified staff members to see if they had any PowerSchool or grading questions. He ended up working with four teachers to address issues they were having.

Kyle also worked with Dana Bartman and Larry Johnson to review transcripts for 12th grade students and to prepare first quarter report cards.

Migrant Recruiting

Migrant Education recruiting has wound down and we have submitted our paperwork to the Alaska Department of Early Education & Development (EED) Migrant Education Office. As of November 12th, EED has approved the paperwork we submitted for 142 students. We are awaiting approval for an additional 65 students before the enrollment window closes on November 15th.

If all of the students are approved, this will put our Migrant Education numbers at 207 for the year, compared to 227 during the 2011-2012 school year. With the 6.5% drop in enrollment from last year figured in, our Migrant Numbers are within 1% of last year's numbers.

As students are approved by the state, letters are being sent to parents to notify them of their child's eligibility and the services offered under the program. Once the enrollment period closes, village-based Migrant Education Coordinators will begin working to provide services.

Civil Rights Data Collection

The Civil Rights Data Collection is a federal program that gathers data every two years related to enrollment, race, sex, limited English proficiency and disability. The report it generates is designed to show how well schools and school districts are doing at providing equal educational opportunities for all students.

The Federal Civil Rights Data Collection report for our 2011-2012 school year data has been completed and submitted to the Federal Department of Education..

PowerSchool

Several PowerSchool pages that have been customized in past years have been updated to match the page layouts of version 7 of PowerSchool, which was installed on our servers last school year. These updates have been more than cosmetic. Among other things, they allow easier recording and reporting of technical assessments for Carl Perkins and future Civil Rights Data Collection reports.

Another project during the past month was setting PowerSchool up to record data on suspensions that must be submitted to EED every year. In the past, principals had two options for reporting this data: EED's Suspension, Expulsions and Truancies website, or an Excel spreadsheet that they turned into the Director of Federal Programs, who then uploaded it to EED. This year, after interest expressed by the Togiak School administrators, that data can be recorded in PowerSchool and then submitted to EED by district office staff.

Kyle also wrote several short how-to guides for accomplishing various tasks in PowerSchool at the request of site and district office staff. These guides ranged from printing report cards, using PowerSchool to report suspensions, and creating lists of Limited English Proficiency and Migrant Education students.

Finally, Kyle has been working on 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

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Alaska Performance Scholarship as required by 4 AAC 43.010. As part of this, he has been working to add ACT and WorkKeys scores to students' records in PowerSchool.

Fall OASIS Report

Count period ended on the 26th of October and we have submitted our numbers to the EED. The numbers submitted to EED based on the number of students enrolled from October 1st through October 26th are as follows:

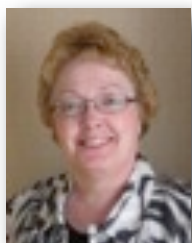
	Elementary (PK-6)	Secondary (7-12)	Total (PK-12)	Intensive
Aleknagik School (450020)	20.95	6.75	27.70	0
Chief Ivan Blunka School (450080)	66.10	62.15	128.25	2
Koliganek School (450050)	37.00	21.20	58.20	1
Manokotak School (450070)	62.60	60.35	122.95	0
Togiak School (450110)	124.35	97.25	221.60	5
Twin Hills School (450120)	13.00	3.00	16.00	1
William "Sonny" Nelson School (450040)	10.00	2.00	12.00	0
Total	334.00	252.70	586.7	9

Impact Aid

With the end of the count period, the next large project that Kyle will be working on is the Impact Aid report. To date, he has been working on preparing data in PowerSchool to create the reports that school secretaries will use to determine students' eligibility for Impact Aid funding.

Math is everywhere! Sometimes the best way to figure out just how big something is measuring it accurately. Fun math lessons are all around us...





Special Education

Robin Gray, Director

CPI Training

The Crisis Prevention Intervention training went very well. SWRSD had fourteen staff members attending and Dillingham City Schools had seven attendees. The whole process was met with enthusiasm and comments from some of the participants were:

The CPI training was very enlightening. It provided me with resources that I have taken back to my classroom and applied. I have caught myself keeping my bottom line in focus, not giving in to situations. I know that I can handle and am prepared for any behavioral issues that may arise in the classroom or the school; I feel confident that I can take care of any out-of-control situation. The program gave me intervention strategies and techniques to apply within many different situations. I like how they focused on maintaining a rapport with students whom may have a behavioral issue. Overall, I feel that the training was outstanding and something that I hope to continually apply and grow from throughout my teaching experience. --LeEsia O'Sullivan

As an assistant principal, the CPI training was very beneficial. I am at times asked to intervene in situations on the verge of escalating or have escalated beyond rational actions and behaviors. CPI has given me another set of tools in which to handle these types of situations. Since the CPI training occurred, I have been called to a classroom where I was able to put into practice the skills, which I was taught. --Nate Crabtree



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

The CPI Training was very helpful, mostly in the verbal component for me. Luckily I have never had to do any physical components. The entire training was helpful at KMO, as I have a fellow teacher who has discussed a student with me, and I have been able to give her advice based on the training. I really want her to attend the training, as she has had to deal with both verbal and physical situations in the past week. --Kelli Hammond

Transition Training

Shawn Bernard, from SERRC, spent a day working with staff on the special education transition process. Much of this day was training on the special education paperwork to be in compliance with state and federal guidelines in regards to children transitioning from two years old to three years old and in need of Individual Education Plans, and then the transition process for students sixteen years old to leaving school. This progression of services is important for students being prepared for life after school. The intent is to ensure students have the skills and resources needed for as independent and productive a life after they leave school as possible.

Mr. Bernard shared a list of resources that transcend special education and can be utilized for all high school students. This list includes career options, school and training resources for all students, agencies that would benefit students as they leave school, and ideas to use with high school students to aid them in identifying areas of career interest. This list is being made available to the district counselors and principals.

Some participant's comments for the Transition training were:

The Transition training from SERRC explained to me the process of transitions. I'll be able to share this knowledge with my upper elementary parents and start students thinking about what they want to be when they grow-up, because their choices today do effect their choices tomorrow. --Kirsten Tesch

The Transition training was very beneficial, as I have never had to complete more than a basic transition for students entering high school. I haven't had to complete a transition as of yet, but will soon. I just hope I can remember it all@ It was so interesting learning about the resources out there, and I actually look forward to discussing the future with my students. --Kelli Hammond

The Transition training solidified the need for there to be a connection between present and post high school goals in a student's educational plan. --Kip Layton

Early Learning Memorandum of Agreement

The annual Memorandum of Agreement meeting with Head Start, Infant Learning Program, Dillingham City Schools, Lake and Peninsula School District, Southwest Region School District, and Bristol Bay Borough School District occurred on November 14, 2012. The result is an updated MOA with all agencies involved and collaboration that supports all students.



Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director

National Indian Education Association Conference

The 43rd National Indian Education Association Conference was held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, October 18-21, 2012

The theme of the conference was “Maintaining Traditions in a Digital Era” with many sessions focusing on how the indigenous knowledge can be strengthened using the digital tools of current technology. One session in particular focused on research findings that 80 % of Native Americans are visual learners and how the Native American thought process is visual and circular in philosophy. In this session they showed how the visual learning aspect is integrated into the digital age. Another session shared how the Dine Language Immersion Curriculum incorporated common core state standards. This Dine Language Immersion has been in place for 20 years and research to show that students do better if they have a strong tribal language and cultural program. One of the important aspects of the thought relationship is with the cycle of the earth and the universe.

And this needs to be incorporated into the curriculum. And most importantly that we need qualified immersion programs who are passionate in teaching the native language and culture. The session recommended a book by Jon Reyhner titled “Revitalizing Indigenous Languages”. In reviewing the book he cites Fishman’s eight stages of language loss: Stage 8: Only a few elders speak the language; Stage 7: Only adults beyond child bearing age speak the language; Stage 6: Some intergenerational use of the language; Stage 5: Language is still very much alive and used in community; Stage 4 : Language is required in elementary schools; Stage 3: Language is used in places of business and by employees less specialized work areas; Stage 2: Language is used by local government and in the mass media in the minority community and Stage 1: Some language use by higher levels of government and in higher education. What is most frightening is that Stage 8 languages are on the verge of extinction. There were so many good sessions and that the information gleamed from these sessions will be helpful as we strengthen our own language and culture curriculum within the Southwest Region School District.



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

K-2 Yup'ik Studies Curriculum Committee Meeting – November 7-8, 2012

The purpose of this committee is to create a K-2nd Yup'ik Studies Curriculum that will be address and the include Yup'ik Studies Program: Student Outcomes with the following main themes: Self, Family & Community aligning with the Social Studies Curriculum. We were able to meet with the Social Studies curriculum committee and had the privilege of working with PREL (Pacific Resources Education and Learning) Emily Lam, Bilingual/ELL/Literacy Specialist who joined us using Elluminate and shared topics on “Who is a heritage language learner, “What is Language Experience Approach” and “Conditions for Natural Language Learning”.



The following Yup'ik Studies certified teachers and paraprofessional teachers were invited and have been assigned to the K-2nd Yup'ik Studies Curriculum Committee:

- **Fanny Parker**, 5th grade & High School Yup'ik Studies of Togiak who first begin her teaching career working with Mrs. Stewart, 1975-76 and graduated with a teaching degree through the XCED (Center for Cross Cultural Education Development Program through the University of Alaska Fairbanks) in May of 1991
- **Martha Foster**, K-8th Yup'ik Studies teacher (part-time) of Twin Hills begin her teaching career in 1985 when her late mother Lucy Sharp the Bilingual Instructional Aide retired. She has an AA degree in Early Childhood education through the University of Alaska Fairbanks/Bristol Bay Campus
- **Nancy Sharp**, 1st and 2nd grade teacher of Manokotak who first begin her teaching career in 1971 as a Title 1 Aide. She received her teaching degree in 1983 and was hired as a certified teacher in Manokotak in 1985.
- **Tatianna Andrew**, K-12th Yup'ik Studies teachers of New Stuyahok begin her career in education 34 years ago working as SPED Aides and the Headstart program. She has an AA degree Early Childhood, 1979-1980. She has worked as Yup'ik Studies instructor for the past three years
- **Anu Wysocki**, K-1st grade & Yup'ik Studies high school teacher of Koliganek first begin her teaching career in 1991 graduating through the XCED program but was not hired by the district until 1993 and first taught in New Stuyahok for one year before being hired in Koliganek. She has also taught the Bilingual Program K-12th for the Dillingham City schools before returning to Koliganek.



Business Office

Lee Ann Andrew, Director

Johnson-O'Malley

The JOM student numbers are based on the “frozen 1995 student count” by the BIA. No changes can be made to the student numbers so in some cases we are getting more than we would with current numbers and some cases we may be getting less. They are already looking at changing it to current numbers. The option to take JOM funding goes first to the individual tribes. They can choose to take it or do a resolution to “reprogram” it to BBNA. If they choose to do that then BBNA requires the Village Councils to do another resolution to allow the district to administer it on their behalf. The initial tentative numbers come out in the summer prior to the Federal fiscal year that begins in October. By the time all the decisions are made and the paperwork follows, BBNA does not get final numbers until around January. This explains why we don’t often get a budget until the year is over. At this point Manokotak, Togiak and New Stuyahok have chosen not to “reprogram” their FY13 funds. These sites can choose to use the money for any student group in their village. The schools at these locations know to go to the Village Councils and request funding for activities.

Student Activities Fund

Brett Scott has done a great job at anticipating district costs for Regional and State wrestling and volleyball. We have the potential of going over the amount unofficially held for those two sports. Due to the many unknowns we don’t officially designate funding for the sports. As a heads up if things go well for our teams there may be a need to transfer money into the student activity fund later in the year.

Health Insurance

Our current health insurance rates will go down 9.85% on January 1, 2013 if we do not change anything with our policy. This is a good time to make minor changes. Three options were sent out to staff to consider and their votes will be tallied and the decision will be made on whether to make any changes based on their input. If no changes are made we could potentially save between \$100,000 and \$130,000. The savings depends on our third party administrator claims. This year’s claims are the highest they have been since beginning the program probably because we have been working with BenefitHelp Solutions for three years and staff knows what to do now. This savings could be used for any additional funding needed for sports activities.

Transportation

Togiak has a brand new bus they put in service this fall. They now have 4 buses to utilize where only 2 are needed for the bus runs. Manokotak has a new purchase planned for next year. They are struggling with only 2 buses that are working. They have been trying to keep both buses running. However there were some days that only one bus was running which put the school in a bind for attendance while the second run was being made. The road situation in both villages puts extra wear and tear on the buses.

Staff Development

Four out of the six business office staff along with the superintendent will head into Anchorage for the annual Alaska Association of School Business Officials conference December 3-5. There will be presentations on health care reform, the new Child Nutrition regulations and many more topics that are pertinent to the administration of financial resources.

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Aleknagik School

Audra Finkenbinder, Principal

The month of October contained quite a few events: Instructional Aide inservice was held at the District Office, students completed the District Writing Assessment, AACP Conference, Principals' Conference, and CPI Training.

Aleknagik School ended the month of October with a Halloween Carnival. From the fishpond to the dart throw, children of all ages were all smiles! Other events included a 50/50 Split the Pot, a cakewalk, costume contest, and a haunted house (designed by Braden Tinker) at the end of the night. Shellie Aloysius offered a wonderful array of food at the concession stand that included funnel cakes and corn fritters. A huge THANK YOU is extended to all who helped make the Halloween Carnival a successful, fun event for all.

At the beginning of November, the Lakers hosted the Manokotak Lynx middle school volleyball team for Friday/Saturday matches. It was great to watch the teams compete and the improvement of skills over night. The girls, coaches, and spectators all

had a wonderful time and the Lakers look forward to hosting more athletic events!

It is hard to believe that we are already in the month of November and that the middle of the second quarter has arrived! Aleknagik School will be sending home progress reports prior to the Thanksgiving break and before we know it, the second quarter will conclude.

Aleknagik School will be celebrating Thanksgiving on Tuesday the 20th with a community potluck, student skit, cakewalk, and RIF book distribution. I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and safe travels for those who will be visiting relatives out of town.

Students of the Month

Jake Ilutsik

Austin Finkenbinder

Lodi Active

Congratulations! Keep up the good work!





William ‘Sonny’ Nelson School

Nate Preston, Principal/Teacher

William “Sonny” Nelson School currently has 12 students and it looks that the number should increase next year. We will lose one student who will graduate next year but we will gain two to three Kindergarten students next year. One possible Kindergarten student could be an early entry if she passes the tests. In addition, Ekwok should also have 6 new HUD houses finished before the start of next school year and that should further increase the student count at William “Sonny” Nelson School.

We are currently preparing for the Thanksgiving potluck and cakewalk. Students at William “Sonny” Nelson School have been working very diligently this quarter. Reading mastery is going very well and students are engaged in the lessons. The direct instruction is helping our struggling readers to increase their fluency and comprehension. This is having a positive impact in Social Studies and Science as well. We have weekly “Reader Buddies” where students from the upper class pair with the younger students and they read

together. It has been fun to have the older students mentor the younger ones and the older students enjoy the confidence boost of proving that they are good readers.

Our students continue to work on their math utilizing district curriculum. They also receive additional practice of math facts to help them become more proficient. Six Traits writing is emphasized for all our writing assignments. The students feel empowered as they evaluate where they are and then edit their work so that they can earn a higher score. As the students become better writers, they are enjoying sharing their thoughts on paper. The Six Traits writing is applied when students have writing assignments because it provides the students with a clear vision of what good writing should look like.

Lastly, we are meeting as a team to go over each student’s MAP and AIMS scores. This allows us to adapt our lessons in order to meet each student’s individual needs.

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Koliganek School

Cody McCanna, Principal

In the Classrooms

Koliganek School teachers and paraprofessionals have been working extremely hard to provide the best education for all students in Koliganek. Staff has been working together to make minor changes to the schedules and the grouping of specific students to ensure that all students are receiving the appropriate instruction. Moreover, teachers are using the math problem solving process that they developed during their PLC time to help improve students' understanding of mathematics. The high school Yupik class is making a difference in students' self-image. Students are getting an opportunity to learn the Yupik language and learn specific family values. They also had the chance to create maps and identify specific areas traditionally used for subsistence and the corresponding Yupik names.

Student-Led Conferences

Koliganek School held student-led conferences on October 25th and 26th. During that time students brought their parent/guardian to their classroom. The student shared their report card with their parent/guardian and also shared their goals as well. Parents got the opportunity to write three goals for themselves on how they could help improve their child's learning. Conferences were a huge success because we only had two parents who missed the conferences in grades K-12.

Extra Curricular

The husky volleyball team has been doing great this year. The girls placed second at Dillingham and at the Bristol Bay tournament. The lady huskies will be traveling to Kalskag for Regions on November 28, 2012. The community finally got the opportunity to watch the girls play on November 16 when they played Newhalen and Dillingham J.V. here in Koliganek. The wrestling team is down to five wrestlers. They have worked hard all season and are preparing for Regions in Bethel.

New School Progress

Koliganek School is in the 65% drawing stage with USKH. The 65% drawings were shared with the community on November 13, 2012. The site administrator conducted the meeting and shared the drawings with the community. Community members were disappointed that the new school did not have a full size gym and that there was not going to be a "commons area". The school will be working closely with Rick Dallman and with USKH architect Dale Smythe to move towards the 95% drawings.



Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Larry Johnson, Principal

The First quarter ended on Tuesday, October 16th. Friday the 19th was an in-service day for teachers to work on grades and curriculum items.

I was able to attend the 2012 Alaska Principal's Conference in Anchorage. At the same time three students and one teacher chaperone attended AFN. All of our students completed the fall district wide writing assessments.

We hosted two dental teams from BBHC in the school for one week.

On Monday night the 15th (in school commons) IGAP presented to community on Landfill Burnable - Non Burnable Hazardous Waste.

On Tuesday night the 16th (in commons) the City of Manokotak held a public meeting, with two personal from Juneau. The topic was about water and sewage price increases.

On Oct. 22-24th, Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday both community & school Diabetes presentations were presented from Lois Schumacher, BBAHC, Diabetes Program Coordinator.

Wednesday & Thursday Oct. 24th & 25th we had early release for students due to Parent conferences being held on those two days.

On Monday Oct. 29th the CSC held its monthly meeting at 3:30pm instead on the normal 10:00am time.

Theron Paul a senior at Manokotak, who also represents all of Region 7 schools attended The Alaska Association of Student Government (AASG)

Fallboard meeting in Wasilla. I traveled as Theron's chaperone for the first day.

Our First Quarter Awards assembly was held on Thursday at 2:30 pm. There were many parents there to watch as their child(s) received awards.

Our seniors sponsored an all night Lock-In on Friday night to Saturday morning. (10pm Fri. - 10am Sat.)

IGAP sponsored a Halloween Dance on Saturday night the 27th of October.

Alaska Learning Labs tutoring started Monday Oct. 28th after school and will be on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday during most weeks.

Our Halloween Carnival was on Wednesday Oct. 31st from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. A large number of students, parents, and community members enjoyed all the games, activities and food.



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Manokotak Tribal held its Annual meeting in commons on Saturday Oct. 17th.

On Thursday Nov. 1st during first period our students (grades 2-12) went to the library to participate in the official National Mock Election.

On Tuesday Nov. 6th the day of the national elections, four of our high school students went to the city office at different times to help with the elections.

Our staff continues to be involved in several different in-service and committee meeting. Three teachers participated in the District Writing Assessment scoring in Dillingham. One of our high school teachers traveled to Dillingham for the science curriculum committee meeting. . Another high school teacher traveled to Dillingham for the social studies curriculum committee meeting. Our SPED teachers traveled to Dillingham to attend CPI Training.

Family Night

On Wednesday November 7th the Alaska Learning Labs held a Family night for parents of students that are enrolled in the program.

Activities

Teacher, Katrina Campbell and Parpro, Christy Johnson have been very busy coaching our middle school volley ballers. The team traveled up to Aleknagik on the 9th & 10th of November and are finishing out the season with a trip to the Dillingham middle school volleyball tournament this weekend November 16th -18th.

Due to poor attendance at practices and failure to meet grade eligibility requirements, our high school volleyball coaches made the difficult decision to end the season.

Our wrestler will be traveling to New Stuyahok this weekend November 16th & 17th.

The Regionals for wrestling take place in Bethel on the weekend of Nov. 29th to Dec. 1.

Basketball players are excited for the season's first practice on the 26th of November. That will give them enough time to get in the required number of practices needed before our first games in December.

The senior class sponsored a community basketball tournament that started on the evening of Friday the 19th and ended on Saturday evening.

Pee Wee Wrestling started on Monday November 5th. There will be four practices and then on Monday Nov. 19th a tournament will be held starting at 6:30 pm. At last count 42 kindergarten thru fifth graders were out for the wrestling program.

Testing & STEPP

The district maintenance personal spent over a week at our site to hook up our newer teacher apartments to the school electrical power. The apartments had been connected to the city power until a short of some type happened under ground. The short was located somewhere in a 600ft stretch of buried power line from the pole to the apartments. Gas generators were used to keep the heat going in the apartments.

The district maintenance personal ran a new power line from the school to the apartments.

Jon Clouse, the district Director of Federal/State grants was at our school for two days to proctor the Para Pro Praxis test. Twelve individuals came to the school and took the test. We now have a large group of highly qualified subs and job applicants.

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

As we are approaching the middle of the 2nd Quarter, we could not be more pleased with how the 2012-2013 school year has gone. Our student body is made up of enthusiastic, actively involved students who are always excited about learning. 70% of our secondary students made Quarter One Honor Roll and all of our students continue to make substantial progress in reading, writing, and math. Our community cares deeply about the success of the students and supports them in all activities. We are so fortunate to operate our school in such an enriching environment.

Red Ribbon Week

The Student Council put on Red Ribbon Week 2012. The theme of Red Ribbon Week was: "The Best ME is Drug Free!" The students and staff participated in a full week of activities, including spirit days, pep assemblies, essay, poster and door decorating contests, along with guidance lessons on resisting peer pressure, enhancing self esteem, and learning how to say no to drugs and alcohol. The Student Council also hosted an awards assembly, a Halloween Parade, and a Haunted House, which were all huge successes.

From a winning elementary essay on the topic: "What Does the Best ME is Drug Free Mean to You?"

"This paragraph is about the best ME! The best me has a family, cousins, grandparents, and glusnas. The best me has a life. The best me can breathe, maqii, walk, run, and smell. The best me is healthy, alive, happy, and pretty. The best me is drug free!"

-Amber Konukpeok

Professional Learning Communities

We had esteemed privilege of hosting Gary Whitely for a two-day in-service to help us establish



Professional Learning Communities (PLC). His dynamic and interactive training provided the perfect for foundation for successful implementation. Our teams have each developed specific goals aimed at meeting the diverse needs of our student population. In addition, the team members are growing closer and becoming a stronger front for supporting the students and maintaining a school culture that is positive and uplifting. The PLC is such a powerful addition to our continued staff development, and we look forward to seeing the countless benefits.

Wrestling & Middle School Volleyball

Both wrestling & middle school volleyball seasons are in full swing. The wrestlers had the opportunity to compete in Seward and Anchorage at two of the biggest tournaments in the state and did very well. The wrestlers will host their own tournament November 16 & 17 with regionals in Bethel and state in Nikiski to follow. We are confident that Chief Ivan Blunka School will have representatives and victors at the state level this year. The middle school volleyball team competed against Dillingham and local volleyball alumni and has really shown progress. The volleyball team is athletic, energetic, and has made us very proud this year.

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Togiak School

Sam Gosuk, Principal

We will have the results of our MAP testing by the 19th of November. It will be interesting of what kind of progress our students have had from last years MAP Testing.

One of the issues we have talked as staff is tardies and how we as a school can work as a team to lower the rate of tardies. When looking at the Togiak School's tardies, it was more than half the amount of other schools in the district combined. Most of the tardies were in the Middle School and High School. So during our inservice, the MS and HS were given a time to discuss a policy to and the time in between classes which more than one parent had a concerned about.

The result was a tardy policy that was presented to the CSC which approved it. The next step was to write to all the parents whose child the Tardy Policy would be affected. The plan also is to give a class by class presentation to all students affected so that they would understand it completely. The Tardy Policy will also be posted for the community to see. The policy will be in affect by the 19th of November. This should give the school time to communicate the new policy to the community institutes such as the Togiak City, Togiak Traditional Council, and the Togiak Native Limited. We will need student, parent, and community support for our student's timely attendance to take place.

The winter is coming in slower than last year as far as ice in the sea is concerned. The people in village have taken advantage of the warmer than usual fall to get some seal. The sea has been calm at weekends allowing seal hunters to go out and get seal that are hungry for the smelt that is coming in.

The seal are fat this time and this is the time of the year to go out and get the seal for seal meat and seal oil.

The community will have seal as part of their dish in the coming Thanksgiving next week. Togiak School looking forward to our Thanksgiving break next week.





Twin Hills School

Meghan Redmond, Lead Teacher

November is here, and at Twin Hills School we are excited for the coming holiday season. The Yup'ik value of the month for November at Twin Hills School is "Share possessions and knowledge with honor." The staff chose this value for November to go along with the Thanksgiving holiday. We want to remind the students to be thankful and generous.

In the first week of November, we held parent/teacher conferences. Most of the students' parents were able to attend. Important topics were discussed between the parents and teachers, including attendance, completing homework, and having open communication between the home and the school. We also used the time to fill in paperwork gaps and make sure our records are up to date. The staff would like to thank the parents for taking the time out of their busy schedules to attend conferences.

The whole village truly looks forward to Halloween every year. Just like every year, Twin Hills School held a Halloween party on Halloween. All the students attended in costume. At the party, we had a costume contest, jello-eating contest, and cake walk.

Every Monday morning, we hold a collaborative staff meeting. We were able to work out our schedules so that all certified teachers and instructional aides can attend the meeting every week. Monday mornings work very well, because it helps us to be prepared for our busy week. We use this meeting to discuss important events, behavior issues, Reading Mastery lesson plans, and our School Improvement Plan, among any other issue that may come up. Even though we are a small site, our days are so busy that having this time set aside every week becomes very important to us.

Our three eighth grade students traveled to Anchorage in the middle of October to attend the AFN Elders and Youth Conference. While in Anchorage, the group attended all of the conference events, and even attended their first concert to see Pamyua. The students stated that their favorite part of the conference was when all the attendees split into men's and women's houses for discussions. One student was brave enough to go on stage and dance when the audience was invited to join the dance groups. Thank you so much for the Twin Hills Village Council for providing the funds for this trip each year.