

REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



Superintendent's Office

David J. Piazza, Superintendent

Site Visits

The two weeks following the School Board Meeting on April 26th in Koliganek has been filled with additional site travel. On Monday, April 30, 2012, Superintendent Piazza, Director of Instruction Noonkesser, Principal Crabtree, three of the five families with children in the school, two of four classified employees, and three students participated in a discussion at a community meeting in Clarks Point regarding the "FY 2013 School Closure Due To Insufficient Projected Enrollment and Student Academic Options".

The following day, on Tuesday May 1st, Superintendent Piazza flew with Lieutenant Governor Mead Treadwell and Communication Specialist Colleen Cox to Koliganek for a brief meeting with the Junior and Seniors. The students under the guidance of high school teacher Rick Rau, wrote to the Governor's and Lieutenant Governor's offices earlier in the year and invited them out to see the need for a new school



"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined."

--Henry David Thoreau

"Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail"

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Board of Education

Kay Andrews, President
Marie Paul, Vice-President
Ferdinand Sharp, Sec./Treas.
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Wassillie Gust, Member
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first hand. Lt. Gov. Treadwell asked the students about their future career plans, as well as, what the students saw as needs within the community that the state government could help address. He also questioned the students and spoke about the duties and responsibilities of the position of the Lieutenant Governor. During part of the discussion he learned that three of the students had turned 18 years old, but had not filled out a voter registration application. The students quickly went on-line, downloaded and completed the application, and had Lt. Gov. Treadwell sign the application as an election judge. The students should be registered voters in short order.

Ceremonies & Celebrations

Following the quick trip to Koliganek, Superintendent Piazza and Lt. Gov. Mead Treadwell headed to Manokotak for the Graduation Ceremonies for the Kindergarten,

Eighth Grade, and Senior classes. Nine Seniors (Wesley Aliralria, Matthew Andrews, Ted Borbridge, Tiarna Fischler, Jonathan Franklin, Alexandria George, Leon George, Jason Mike and Danilyn Pauk) participated in the graduation procession.



The graduation ceremony for the “Chief” Ivan Blunka School in New Stuyahok was held on Friday, May 4th. Superintendent Piazza, Jon Clouse, Shannon Clouse, and School Board Member Ferdinand Sharp traveled from Dillingham. The program included guest speaker Shannon Clouse. The Class of 2012 included Sergai Andrew, Valerie Andrew, Heather Apokedak, Timothy Askoak, Petricia

Chunak, Daniela Epchook, Iftekia Gumlickpuk, Dionysia Gust, Lawrence Gust, Byron Kaptotak, Noah Pavella, Sophia Petla, Lita Stermer, Travis Tunguing, and Wassillie Wonhola, Jr. School Board Members Wassillie “Me Me” Wonhola and Wassillie “Wally” Gust participated as proud parents during the ceremony.

Although the weather did not appear to want to cooperate, Dave was able to attend two promotion/graduation ceremonies on Monday, May 7th. The fog lifted just in time to allow Superintendent Piazza, Nate Preston who will be Site Administrator at the William “Sonny” Nelson School in Ekwok next year, as well as, Rick Dallmann the Director of Facilities and Maintenance to attend the program. Even though the school did not have an Eighth Grade class this year, four Kindergarten students (Quinn King, Mickia Walcott, Billyboy Hurley, and Bradley Wilson) were honored for their accomplishments and promotion to First Grade. The program included speeches by community member Philip Akelkok and teacher Melissa Moede.

After a quick flight back to Dillingham and a drive up to the Lake, Dave as well as, his wife Kim, Steve Noonkesser and wife Ida, Esther Ilutsik, Director of Yup’ik Studies, and Administrative Assistant Lisa Ilutsik were able to attend the Kindergarten and Eight Grade Ceremonies in Aleknagik. The program included graduate speeches by eighth grade students Selena Andrews, Danielle Chythlook, Jason Creasey, Jr., Samuel Iltusik, Deanna Togiak and John Tugatuk, Jr. The Guest speaker was School Board President and Parent Kay Andrews.



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On Tuesday, May 8th, School Board Member Ferdinand Sharp, Esther Ilutsik, Steve Noonkesser, and Superintendent Piazza headed to Twin Hills for their Kindergarten Graduation. Students Ivan Sharp and Fritz Tommy, Jr. were honored by Guest Speaker and teacher Louann Bates.

Following the potluck in Twin Hills, the travelers continued on to the Graduation Ceremony in Togiak. The current Clarks Point principal Nate Crabtree who will be the Assistant Principal at the Togiak school next year was also able to attend. The 12 graduates of the Togiak School Class of 2012 included Angel Ayojiak, Jonathan Bartman, Robert Blue, Shaina Clark, Shanelle Coopchiak, Sandi Echuck, Kiauna Katchatag, Lynette Kohuk, Preston Nanalook, Jennifer Pauk, Michael Poulsen, and Malcolm Upton. Moses Kritz was the Guest Speaker during the ceremony.



Superintendent Piazza and Esther Ilutsik were able to attend the 8th Grade Graduation Ceremony at Clarks Point on Wednesday, May 9th. Eighth Grades students Samantha Clark, Kayla Wassily-Walker, and Kaylee Wassily Walker were honored to have their Aunt Crystal Clark from Ekwok present their Keynote Address.

The final graduation ceremony of the year was held on Friday, May 11th in Koliganek. The Eighth Grade Guest Speaker was teacher Pam Johnson, and the Senior Class Guest Speaker was teacher Rick Rau. The four high school graduates included Ryan Johnson, Cheryl Larsen, Matthew Olsen, and Gordon Pope.

Superintendent Piazza was able to watch the students and community interact during the Koliganek Prom held Friday evening. He also stayed to help honor Pam Johnson who is retiring with 30 years of Service to Southwest Region Schools. A surprise community potluck and retirement party was held on Saturday, May 12th. Many community members and students shared uplifting stories of their educational experiences in Pam's classes.



Elder's Scholarship

For the second year, the District has been able to provide educational funding to seniors in the name of the Southwest Region Schools Elders' Scholarship. This year's recipients include Cheryl Larsen from Koliganek, Tiarna Bartman Fischler from Manokotak, Sergai Andrew from New Stuyahok, and Lynette Kohuk from Togiak. The award is in the amount of \$1000 per recipient to be used at the post-secondary institution of the student's choice.



Staffing

Shortly after the conclusion of the Anchorage, Seattle, and Minneapolis job fairs that were attended by District Administration, the District was able to hire two additional candidates to complete the recruiting process for the year. The District hired 11 new staff members including 3 from other parts of Alaska and the remaining 8 from Alabama, Idaho, Texas, and Washington. This year's higher retention rate compares to 21 new staff that were hired for the current FY 2012 School Year and 22 new staff members that joined Southwest in FY 2011.



Instruction & Information Systems
Steve Noonkesser, Director

The past month has been a whirlwind of graduations, site visits and all of the other normal end of the year activities.

Curriculum Updates & Fall Planning

As we head into summer the team here at the office is hard at work planning fall inservice and preparing for staff to come in from sites to put the finishing touches on our science curriculum updates and prepare fall inservice materials and presentations. The two groups will be meeting the week of May 14-18 to complete a range of tasks.

We feel especially honored to have experienced, quality staff members to work with on projects like our curriculum updates and staff development planning.

The group plans to bring a number of course update proposals to the board at the coming meeting for approval and inclusion in the district’s approved curriculum.

MAP

This spring the technology department completed a pilot deployment of the Measure of Academic Progress test (MAP). The MAP will be deployed across the district next year as the districts new student benchmarking assessment. The initial testing was successful and uncovered a few procedural issues that can be easily reminded prior to the fall testing windows next school year.

Technology

With the year drawing to a close the technology department has been working on end of the year preparations. This process includes gathering site inventories and assisting site technology liaisons and Principals in properly preparing technology assets for summer storage. At Clarks Point this year with the school closure, the summer shutdown process has also included recovering technology assets and bringing them back to

Instructional Support Team



Shannon Clouse
Media Specialist



Deb Endicott
Instructional Support
Specialist



Corey Evans
Computer-Aided
Instruction Specialist



Les Parks
Technology Coordinator

District Office for processing and re-deployment to other sites next year.

Les Parks has been working on mass configuration of the new Principal iPads as well as the bulk software licensing procedures. This is being done now to have the iPads ready to issue to site principals this fall at the start of the year inservice.

The new Togiak phone system components have been ordered by the manufacturer and currently we have a projected install begin date of the 21st of this month.

Media Center

The last few months have been very busy in the Media Center. Items have been coming back from teachers and I have been busy checking in and putting them all back. I also have been weeding outdated and unused items from the Media Center collection, to keep it useful for our teachers as well as to make room for new items teachers are requesting.

Books have been ordered for the Migrant Literacy program, and some very fun activities were planned and implemented around the district. New Stuyahok hosted a bug themed event with live ants- which they got to view under microscopes and manipulate through mazes drawn with chalk. They also built clay skiffs and kayaks in which they loaded up with weights and floated- testing them to see who was the best builder. Their final activity was related to Alaska's State Insect; the four-spot skimmer dragonfly. Students got to create dragonflies with a clothespin, markers, sparkly pens, funky paper wings and googly eyes. Koliganek had a fun pizza night with parents and students where they received books for the summer and talked about summer reading activities.

We got a late start in ordering books for the RIF program this year. Books for most sites will be housed at the district office and sent out in the fall. These books will be distributed three times throughout the next school year with a motivational activity that accompanies them.

Deb and I have both been very busy with getting materials ready for the science curriculum that will be implemented in the fall. I am working on finding all the fiction and nonfiction science books that are needed for each lesson.

I had the honor of being chosen as New Stuyahok's Class of 2012 Commencement Speaker this year. It was a wonderful experience and I enjoyed my time back "home" and catching up with friends and families.



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State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

NCLB

Each school has been working on a school improvement/Title I Schoolwide Plan using the AK STEPP process. While these plans are constantly changing to meet the identified needs of students, these plans have been completed for the school year. The development of the plans has been more efficient this year and the instructional leaders and school improvement teams at each site have improved upon these plans from last year. The public has access to the district improvement planning process online at the following address: <http://www.centerii.org/SchoolRestructuring/Login.aspx> The login information is below.

Login: guestdAK1147

Password: guestdAK1147

The fiscal year 2013 NCLB Consolidated Application is currently being drafted. I was able to attend a NCLB application technical assistance workshop in April, which provided information regarding the new application format and about the transition to an online application in the next few years. In addition, I am representing the district and the Southwest region of Alaska on the Alaska Migrant Education Team, whose purpose is to re-evaluate the state comprehensive needs and service delivery plan. This process will take about 18 months. There are a number of other applications and reports that need attention as the end of the school year approaches.

These include the annual LEP Plan of Service, the Carl Perkins application, the Quality School application and end of year report, the supplemental education services final report, and the suspension, expulsion, truancy report to name a few. Several staff members took Praxis II exams to become highly qualified in several content areas.

Career and Technical Education

The Carl Perkins program was been found to be in compliance with the requirements of the program. We were able to work with the industrial arts curriculum review committee, CTE advisory committee, and the local UAF campus to address the areas, which needed to be adjusted. The industrial arts curriculum committee continues to work on course descriptions and pacing guides. The curriculum committee, maintenance department, and district instructional team have worked to get the equipment necessary to provide additional industrial arts course in welding (New Stuyahok & Togiak), make improvements to the safety of the work areas, and simply improving the industrial arts program.



Student Information & Support Specialist: Nate Preston

There are a number of projects occurring including end of the year reports and rollover for next year. We have 623 students enrolled in the district as May 08, 2012.

We have are starting on working on the Summer OASIS and Report Card to the Public Data Collection. These reports are used to determine adequate yearly progress and graduation rate. The Summer Oasis report has 54 data fields including when the student entered and left school and how many days they attended. Report Card to the Public Data Collection is used to see if the district and schools made the graduation rate requirements.

Rollover involves storing all grades, printing report cards and transcripts. Once all report are done and saved, next years school calendars are entered and students are promoted to next years grade levels and reenrolled in classes for next school year.



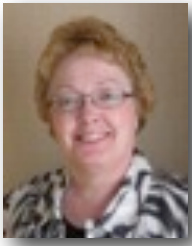
Assessments: Steve Ito

All EED mandated testing protocols have been completed without incident. Electronic scores are forthcoming from Data Recognition Corporation for the grade 3-9 SBA. The grade 10 HSGQE/SBA and grade12 HSGQE retakes scores have been received electronically and disbursed to the sites.

Without the continued support from the site managers and the professional/ethical conduct of both classified and certified staff these annual testing protocols would be difficult to accomplish. I am looking forward to the 2012-13 school year.



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Special Education

Robin Gray, Director

April and May

April and May have been months of paperwork and making sure all special education students have their IEPs compliant and their educational plans ready for the next year.

Five of the certified special education teachers are returning and the hiring for the replacements has occurred.

CPI: Educating, Empowering, & Enriching

Ben Griese and William Cesolini have become certified Crisis Prevention Institute Trainers. They are certified to provide the training for all the staff in the district.

CPI is an international training organization committed to best practices and safe behavior management methods that focus on prevention. Through a variety of specialized offerings and innovative resources, CPI educates and empowers professionals to create safe and respectful work environments. This enables professionals to enrich not only their own lives, but also the lives of the individuals they serve.

The cornerstone of CPI is the Nonviolent Crisis Intervention® program, which is considered the worldwide standard for crisis prevention and intervention training. With a core philosophy of providing for the Care, Welfare, Safety, and SecuritySM of everyone involved in a crisis situation, the program's proven strategies give human service providers and educators the skills to safely and effectively respond to anxious, hostile, or violent behavior while balancing the responsibilities of care.

Planning

Planning for next year is ongoing and the focus is continued compliance of all requirements to meet the needs of our students. We are also focusing on processes that are required for identification and support of all our students. This includes: intervention, Childfind, Pre-referral, Referral, HeadStart, and transition.





Business Office

Lee Ann Andrew, Director

Fuel Bids

Due to the extremely cold winter and the fall barges not making it up river we have loaned or sold over 37,000 gallons of fuel this winter. As fuel is delivered this spring we will be putting in the extra effort to ensure the loans are repaid. The district tries to have a two year supply on hand just in case a barge cannot make it to a site during the delivery time. We have not had two years for Koliganek, New Stuyahok or Ekwok however this year we increased the gallons purchased so that it will be around a two year supply. The fuel inventory numbers really affect our unreserved balance. We may see a decrease in unreserved and an increase in fuel at the end of this year. A lot depends on what fuel gets delivered before the end of the fiscal year.

Time Clock

We have been looking into a time clock system for the hourly employees. TimeClock Plus is a low cost system and is being used in another Alaska district. We will probably do a test run over the summer with the staff that will be here. If it works well we will implement it a one site to test then expand to all sites.

Preliminary Audit

The auditors were here the week of April 30 to May 3 to do the preliminary audit. They performed the compliance check on the major grants and the general fund. No discrepancies were found, they will be back for the final audit in September.

TERS/PERS

April 23 and 24, Roberto Aceveda, the regional representative for state retirement was here in Dillingham and met with some employees to discuss their retirement needs. We filled every slot we had. Anyone who did not get to talk to Roberto can call him and do a session over the phone with him. It is always a good idea to start discussing retirement well ahead of the projected year of retirement so that you know you will have enough to sustain the life style you want in retirement. It was good to see so many people take advantage of this opportunity.

We are gearing up for the payroll audit that the state does. They will be focusing on the retirement system aspects of payroll but will audit all payroll transactions.

Other

We are in the process of renewing liability insurance for our property. Our current provider is Alaska Public Entity Insurance (APEI). We will be getting quotes from both APEI and AMLJIA and go with the best value.

The FY13 budget has been updated to reflect the new teacher salaries and all other known costs.

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Aleknagik School

Audra Finkenbinder, Principal

The school year has just flown by at Aleknagik North Shore School! It feels like just yesterday we were greeting students on the first day of school, establishing routines, and introducing them to the Reading Mastery curriculum and here we are already at the end of the year with summer right around the corner.

The last few weeks of school are quite busy with the conclusion of lessons, reorganization of the library, and a general cleaning of the school. During this time, we have also completed the District Writing Assessment, AIMSweb testing, a swim trip to Naknek, a School Grounds Clean up Day, awards assembly, and graduation for kindergarten and eighth grade students.

Thank You

I would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to the students, parents, staff members, community, CSC, School Board, and District Office for making this year so wonderful. My family and I are very much looking

forward to next school year and wish everyone a fantastic summer!

Student Council

The Student Council, advised by Randy Finkenbinder, was very active this year with hosting numerous lock-ins and 3-on-3 Basketball tournaments, as well as designing school-themed T-shirts. Although the end of the school year has arrived, the student council members remain enthusiastic and are looking forward to planning more exciting events next year.

STEPP

We have received the final round of monitoring and feedback based on all of the indicators of the STEPP. We will be finalizing the indicators of Assessment, Instruction, Supportive Learning Environment, Leadership, Data Analysis, and the Title 1 Schoolwide Plan.





Clarks Point School

Nate Crabtree, Principal

The Clarks Point School finished the school year on a strong note. Much of the community participated in an event we called the Clarks Point Cookout. The students helped grill hamburgers and hotdogs. After the meal, most folks headed down to the beach where we made a small bonfire and cooked s'mores.

One of our eighth grade students participated in the Native Youth Olympics in Dillingham. She represented Clarks Point well by taking second place in the Eskimo Stick Pull. She will not be going to the state meet, but the school is very proud of what she was able to accomplish.

The elementary students recently returned from a school trip to Naknek. They had an enjoyable time eating pizza at D & D Restaurant and, of course, at the swimming pool. Some of the students showed remarkable growth in their swimming abilities in just several hours of being in the pool.

Five students in the lower elementary class made their year-long reading goal. It is great to watch students work for and accomplish a goal over an entire year! At the time of this report, their prizes have been ordered and are being waited for with eager expectation.

Clarks Point School graduates three eighth grade students this year. These three young ladies have been with each other for nearly their whole lives, literally. Two of the young ladies are twins and the other student was born only a day apart from the twins and three doors down in the same hospital! The options that they are considering for high school include Mt. Edgecumbe and Dillingham.

In addition to finishing up the year with the district-adopted curriculum, we have incorporated some project-based learning. One of those projects is the

dissection of fetal pigs. Besides nearly scaring the maintenance man to death late one night, the pigs have been an excellent opportunity for the students to put into practice that which they are learning from books. While some students experience some squeamishness from the sights and smells, others thrive on this sort of exploration and insight. I fully expect that several students will explore options in the medical field sometime down the road. Despite the varying comfort levels, I am very proud of all the students in this project.

A community meeting was held on April 30, 2012 to discuss the unfortunate need to close the Clarks Point School due to insufficient projected enrollment numbers. The community members discussed the school closure plan with district office and site staff. Some of the six projected remaining remaining students are considering plans that would keep in them in Southwest Region School District, while other students are considering plans that would take them outside the district, but would keep them in the area. It is a sad day when a school closes its doors and for Clarks Point it is no different. Throughout the year, district leadership has approached this issue from several different angles, but the results after discussions with the community led to the same conclusion that there just aren't going to be enough students present in the community to meet the required ten students for state funding for the foreseeable future. Although disappointed, the community understands the decision.



‘Chief’ Ivan Blunka School
Brett Scott, Principal

It’s been a good school year at Chief Ivan Blunka School. It’s the first full year in our new building. We have hosted many regional and community events. We have students that have made great progress. It is time now for a break. The geese are flying. The river is open, and the skiffs are on the beach ready for a summer of adventure, harvest, and fun.

NYO

We are proud of our Native Youth Olympics team. Six members went to state this year and represented the Eagles well. Travis Tunguing had a 2h place finish in the Eskimo Stick Pull. The other members of the NYO team that qualified for state where Janea Pamamarioff, Raisa Gust, Dionysia Gust, Nickloas Christopher, and Dan Decker Jr. They all represented Chief Ivan Blunka School and Southwest Region School District with class and great sportsmanship.

Graduation

Congratulations to our seniors that have completed their secondary education. All have enrolled and have made plans for next fall in post-secondary institutions!

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Sergai Andrew | Valerie Andrew |
| Heather Apokedak | Timothy Askoak |
| Petricia Chunak | Daniela Epchook |
| Iftekia Gumlickpuk | Dionysia Gust |
| Lawrence Gust | Bryon Kapotak |
| Noah Pavella | Sophia Petla |
| Letia Stermer | Travis Tunguing |
| Wassillie Wonhola Jr. | |



Moving On

Some staff members are leaving the Southwest Region School District after spending years working at Chief Ivan Blunka School. Their presence has made a difference and they will be remembered for their commitment to our students. We wish them well.

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Ann Edwards | Peter Bergmann |
| Rachel Panamarioff | Jon Sharp |
| Staci Gulsvig | |



Twin Hills School

Meghan Redmond, Lead Teacher

If you ask the Twin Hills Middle School students what the highlight of the past month was, they would say the swimming trip to Naknek. After having to postpone due to weather, the 3rd through 7th grade students along, with chaperones Meghan and Andrew Redmond, flew to King Salmon and then traveled on to Naknek for a day of swimming. The staff at the Naknek pool were very welcoming and helpful in helping the group navigate the day. They went out of their way to make sure everyone was comfortable and happy, knew their way around the pool and Naknek, and understood the pool rules. Thanks to the trip, the students learned about water safety and improved their comfort level in the water.

If you ask the Twin Hills School staff and kindergarteners what the highlight of the past month was, they would say kindergarten graduation. On May 8, we had a very special ceremony for two kindergarten graduates. We had a great turnout of parents and community members to help us celebrate. It took a long year filled with a lot of hard work to get to graduation, and everyone was very happy to finally celebrate all that hard work. Graduation was followed by a delicious potluck. A special thank you goes out to the staff members who helped make this year's graduation a success... Louann Bates, Martha Foster, Agnes Gamechuk, Gladys Small, and John Sharp.

As the last week of school draws to a close, desks and lockers are being cleaned and the building is being prepared to be closed for the summer. We are looking forward to the challenges and triumphs that await us in the 2012-2013 school year.

