

# REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



## Superintendent's Office

David J. Piazza, Superintendent

### Legislative Update

Superintendent Piazza, School Board member Sharp, and Director of Instruction and Information Systems Noonkesser participated in the Association of Alaska School Board's (AASB) Spring Academy and Legislative Fly-in at the end of March. The team was able to meet with Representative Bryce Edgmon, Representative Tammie Wilson, Representative Peggy Wilson, Representative Chris Tuck, and Senator Bettye Davis. A scheduled meeting with Senator Lyman Hoffman was conducted by Legislative Aide Patricia Walker due to the senator's attendance in a Finance Committee meeting.

The AASB workshops included a presentation by Kristen Ramonaoff with the Alaska Fish & Game and Bjorn Wolter from the Department of Education regarding the Alaska Environmental Literacy Plan. Cara Heitz, former Southwest Region School District Teacher and currently with the Cordova School District is the State of Alaska's 2012 Teacher of the Year. She presented on making the Shift to Digital Learning through a presentation entitled "The Transformation From Static To Dynamic Education." Bob Wicker and Steve Nelson with the AASB Consortium for Digital Learning (CDL) program discussed the continued efforts for one-to-one laptop initiatives and their latest iPad projects across the state. Norm

"Every day you may make progress. Every step may be fruitful. Yet there will stretch out before you an ever-lengthening, ever-ascending, ever-improving path. You know you will never get to the end of the journey. But this, so far from discouraging, only adds to the joy and glory of the climb."

#### 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

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Wooten, a long-time Kodiak Island School Board Member who also presented during the Southwest Region School District Community School Committee training, presented with AASB's Timi Tullis on "Board and Superintendent Relations to Create a Well Oiled Machine."

The Academy continued with a focus on the Legislative Session with a presentation by Carl Rose, the Executive Director for AASB discussing "What is Currently Driving the Legislature." This was followed by an update on the Operating and Capital budgets by Karen Rehfeld, a Director from the Office of Management and Budget. A complete review of the AASB legislative priorities and current Bill being considered by the House and Senate was conducted. A touch of humor was provided by Jeff Bush with the Alaska Public Entity Insurance during a lunch-time presentation. The Spring Academy ended with a final presentation by Carl Rose on "Developing

Strategies on Priorities for the Final Stretch of the Session." During this time, Board Members and Superintendents considered talking points that could help to share the message that public education needs to be funded at an adequate levels.

**While legislative session is scheduled to end on April 15th, it appears that there is significant legislation that still needs to be dealt with and will lead the legislature to a Special Session.**

As indicated previously, the third day began the "Fly-In" portion of the trip and allowed the SWRS team to meet with legislators. The time also allowed for attendance at the House Education Committee meeting as well as hearing from Representatives Reggie Joule and Bryce Edgmon.

Most of the fourth and final day of the Fly-In provide an opportunity to hear from 8 Alaskan School Districts as they testified at the request of the House Finance Committee. School Board Presidents or other board members orally presented their written responses to specific questions that had been selected by the Committee.

## Staffing

Following the 30-day period for employees to accept their offers for next year, the district has received a total of 14 certificated staff resignations. This turn-over rate is similar to last year. While the District anticipates not filling all the vacancies due to student reductions at Clarks Point, the District has successfully filled a high school language arts position and will hopefully have completed the recruiting process by the April School Board meeting. The District has three interview teams scheduled for the Anchorage Alaska Teacher Placement (ATP) Job Fair to be held on Friday, April 13th. While the fair continues on Saturday morning, past experience dictates that interviews must be conducted early on the first day, to have success in filling as many positions as possible in a short amount of time. One interview team will immediately head to Seattle for the Job Fair on Sunday, April 15th. Finally, one interview team is scheduled to head to Minneapolis for the ATP job fair on Sunday, April 22nd, and then to the Minnesota Educator job fair held at the convention center on Monday, April 23rd.



*Spring staff development with AASB & EED presenters, Mark Standley & Bob Whicker, on the progress of our 1-1 technology program and plans for future implementation.*

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Director

The primary activities of the past month have been travel to assist in filling open positions in our schools and finishing work on our science curriculum.

### Student Teaching Practicum

This month we have visitors in two of our schools. Deb Endicott is coordinating the visits by students from the University of Alaska Southeast. Two students are visiting Koliganek, and two more will visit Togiak. The students are completing their Rural Practicum experiences as a part of the teacher education program. We are please to host them in an effort to show them the positive aspects fo teaching in rural Alaska and in our region in particular.

We are also hosting a student from the University of Alaska Fairbanks at Togiak.

### Employee Recognition

We are currently collecting nominations for our recognition programs for Teacher of the Year, Classified Employee of the Year and Instructional Paraprofessional of the Year. We will announce winners in the fall at the all staff inservice.

### Science Curriculum

The Science Curriculum Committee will be meeting on April 17th and a subcommittee will meet again May 14-18 to finalize our science updates.

### MAP Assessment

The Technology department has been working on the districts upcoming deployment of the Measure of academic Progress Assessment (MAP). We have recently completed site proctor training with several teachers and are testing 3 sites this spring in preparation for full district deployment next fall.

## Instructional Support Team



Shannon Clouse  
Media Specialist



Deb Endicott  
Instructional Support  
Specialist



Corey Evans  
Computer-Aided  
Instruction Specialist



Les Parks  
Technology Coordinator



The MAP assessment provides a method of assessing students that does not require the students taking a “pencil and paper” test that must then be scored by teachers and have results entered into a computer. The test is given entirely on a computer and scored automatically. Student results can be obtained typically a few minutes up to a few hours eliminating a significant time burden on teachers. Another difference in the MAP test is the test itself is adaptive, as students take the test the questions presented are adjusted up or down based on the students’ skills allowing the students actual performance to be measured independent of age or grade level.

### **AASB Digital Playbook, Acceptable Use & Cyber-Bullying**

At our Spring Leadership meeting we spent a day working with presenters sponsored by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development and AASB. Mark Standley and Bob Whicker We discussed the current state of our technology programs and the policies we use to guide our implementation of the 1-1 laptop program. We received compliments from them both on the organization of our program and as a group we worked on documenting successful strategies for improving instruction. It was a good workshop and several of our policies and regulations are going to be used by AASB as models for implementation across the state.

We will also be presenting an updated Acceptable Use Policy and Internet Safety Agreement to the board in May to meet new federal guidelines for internet safety. In addition we will be bringing a plan to the board for internet safety that also addresses cyber-bullying.



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

### NCLB: Alaska STEPP

The last two years of work involving the Alaska STEPP process has resulted in a comprehensive district improvement plan that is feasible and appropriate to our circumstances. The process has created useful discussions regarding the education of our children and planning to improve the education. 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

### 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 of the participation report, boarding home program, migrant education, and graduation. The participation report is required by the Department of Education and provides information regarding student attendance on the first day of the standards based assessments. This report helps the state determine adequate yearly progress (AYP) for each school and the district as a whole. The gathering of data for the printing of diplomas and certificates of completion has started in order to have the correct document for the upcoming graduation ceremonies in May. As a district we still have eleven students in the boarding home program, the same as last month. Lastly, the district is currently looking to hire migrant recruiters for the next school year. Kristine Gaffney from the state migrant education program visited the district to review our documentation and filing of the necessary migrant education paperwork.



### Assessments: Steve Ito

HSGQE) were completed district wide for grades 3-10 within the allowable EED April testing window. The SBA and HSGQE are proficiency based criterion referenced tests developed specifically for Alaska. The purpose of the assessment is to provide information

about what students know and are able to do in reading, writing, and mathematics. The test includes multiple choice and constructed response items. Testing is used to determine site and district wide Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) when used in conjunction with site participation and performance data.

Results for the Terra Nova II, an EED mandated normative referenced test for grades 5 and 7, were distributed to site administrators in April for re-distribution to parents.

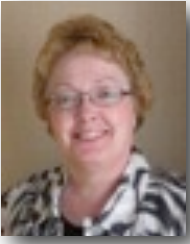
The World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment WIDA ACCESS test has been completed district-wide and submitted for scoring. The ACCESS Test is an assessment of English language acquisition required by EED for identified Limited English Proficient students that focuses on listening, speaking, reading and writing.

### Other Projects

Boarding home information has been spread by sending an application and relevant information to the parents of each 8th grader that attend school at our K-8 sites, the information was or will be placed on the agenda of a CSC meeting at each K-8 site, and the information has been posted to the district website. Migrant Ed parent surveys have been sent out in order to get feedback on how to improve the “Literacy in the Home” initiative. The No Child Left Behind application is available and time will be dedicated to developing that application.



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## Special Education

Robin Gray, Director

### Title VIB Grant

The Title 6B Grant will be completed by the end of April. The last section, surrogate parents, which is needed for compliance for the grant is in the final stages. We, SWRSD, are ensuring that every site has a surrogate parent that can represent our special education students if needed. Surrogate parents are individuals that will advocate for a student when a family member or parent is not available.

### Assessment Updates

This year the special education department has updated assessments needed for the identification of special education students. Assessments updated and added to our repertoire are: Connors Surveys, Dial 4, Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test, and Brigance. When included with our other resources, we are able to ensure a broader identification of students' levels of expertise and needs.

### Study Skills Curriculum

Special Education, in conjunction with Togiak and Manokotak has written a study skills curriculum in order to meet the needs of regular and special education students. This curriculum proposal is now in the hands of the instructional team that vets curriculum proposals. As soon as the instructional team has reviewed it, it will be brought before the board for approval as district-wide curriculum.

### Child Find

Child Find is wrapping up and the special education department goal is to leave no child find process unfinished for the current school year.

### Non-Violent Crisis Intervention

Three special education staff will be attending a training in Anchorage the last week in April for nonviolent crisis intervention. These three staff members will be available to instruct any and all staff in the district, if requested.





## **Business Office**

**Lee Ann Andrew, Director**

### **Fuel Bids**

Fuel bids were opened on Monday April 2. Four vendors provided a fixed price bid. Delta Western came in with the lowest bid with costs of \$4.265 at two sites, \$4.365 at one site, and \$5.515 at four to five sites. This is lower than the \$5.00 that was estimated for the Fy13 budget, so this means around a \$35,000 lower estimated cost for fuel.

### **APEI Training**

Our current liability insurance provider, Alaska Public Entity Insurance, was here on April 2-4. They provided the district office with some good training and did a walk through of the office pointing out safety hazards. They also provided a presentation on team building and working teams. The more safety training we provide for our employees the bigger discount we can qualify for when we renew our policy.

### **Preliminary Audit**

The preliminary financial audit will be April 30 to May 3. We will also have a payroll audit May 10. This payroll audit is through the state and is totally independent from the financial audit. This is a state initiated audit that occurs every few years. The main purpose of the payroll audit is to verify the PERS and TRS retirement system contributions.

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Yup'ik Studies

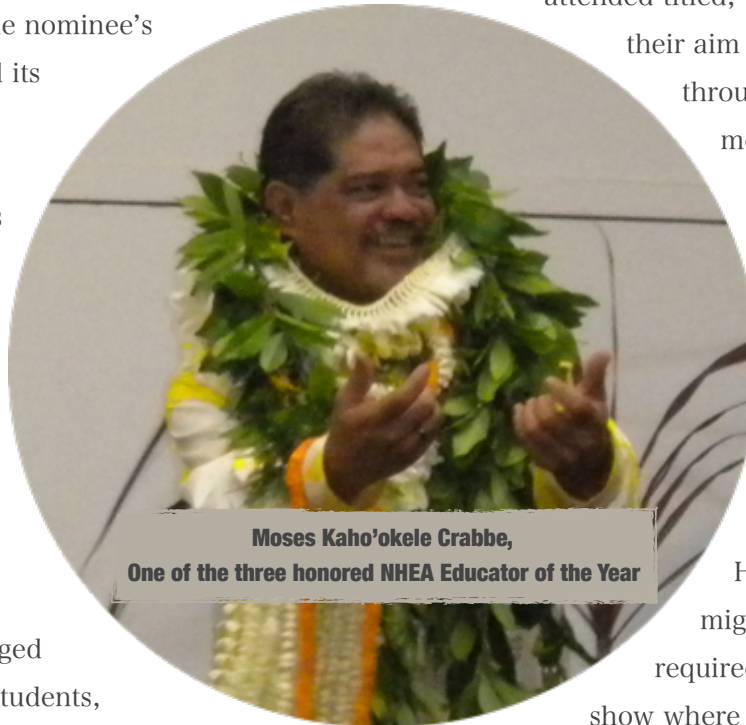
Esther Ilutsik, Director

### Native Hawaiian Education Association 13th Annual Convention

Native Hawaiian Education Association 13th Annual Convention @ Windward Community College March 23rd and 24th, 2012 annually recognizes NHEA Educator of the Year : Honoring Excellence in Hawaiian Education. The judging criteria includes the following: Kalaimana'o: The nominee's philosophy of education and its relationship to Hawaiian Accomplishments: The nominee's history of success and the reasons why the nominee deserves to be recognized. Longevity: The length of time the nominee has served and supported Hawaiian education, students and schools. Impact: How the nominee's action have changed and/or benefited Hawaiian students, community and/or groups. Aloha: The nominee's commitment to the Hawaiian community through service-oriented activities, such as volunteer work, civic and other groups. The honored educators served on a panel discussion on the traditional "Teachings of Auntie Maiki". This process included the climate of the 70's in teaching the Hawaiian language and culture – a reflection of their learning and how it

became a very important part of their teaching methodology. The other educators recognized included Vicky Holt-Takamine and Kalena Silva.

The Native Hawaiian Education Conference workshops feature programs that address the Native Hawaiian cultural and language. One of the workshops that I attended titled, Value Based Learning, where their aim is to build a sense of self through a sense of place utilizing mo'olelo (traditional stories), kaiaulu (sense of community) and huaka'i (exploration) which our district can model in teaching our own Yup'ik values. The model they used was that we were given traditional Hawaiian stories and a list of Hawaiian values that the story might address. We were required to present the story and show where those values were utilized in the story. This was a great activity to know why the traditional oral stories were told. The other session that I would like to feature was a Dissertation presentation titled, "The teaching and learning of Hawaiian in mainstream educational context in Hawai'i: Time for change?" by Dr. Richard Keaoopuaokalani NeSmith, Kawaihuelani-Center for Hawaiian Language, UH Manoa. He shared the Trends in language teaching:



**Moses Kaho'okele Crabbe,**  
**One of the three honored NHEA Educator of the Year**

Grammar Translation Method (circa 1840-1940), Audio-lingual Approach (circa 1940s – 1960s), Cognitive Code Learning (circa 1960s -1970s) and Communicative Language Teaching (circa late 1970s – present). In reviewing these methods of language teaching many of the Native Hawaiian programs still resonant from the Grammar Translation Method...we continue to translated the language and culture being taught in English. We need to change this method of instruction...in the past our language and culture teachers have not had training in how to teach the language and culture. Our teachers were expected to teach because they spoke the language. As a district we need to re-think this process so that our Yup'ik language and cultural program will provide the most benefit to our students.

I would like to thank the district for providing the NHEA Conference Registration fee, four days of professional development and four days of per diem so that I could participate in this conference. The travel, hotel and car rental was a personal expense because I strongly believe that the information provided at this conference has a strong relevance to how we can strengthen our Yup'ik Studies program. Quyana cakneq!

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Facilities & Maintenance

Rick Dallmann, Director

### Koliganek

Working out details for the fee proposal on the new school design services

Village meeting planned for April 26th @ 3:00pm after Board meeting

### Togiak

The energy efficient interior building lighting retrofit is in progress, the materials have been shipped and we are planning the installation right after the school closes for summer.

We are replacing all the old lighting fixtures in the gym and foyer areas with T-5 fluorescent fixtures. T-5's achieve significant electrical savings while increasing light levels throughout the spaces.

We are in the planning stages to construct a fire separation wall in the shop area to accommodate the welding and small engine classes planned for next year.

We have been working with the City of Togiak to try and clear the mountains of snow and ice that have accumulated this winter in front of the school to prevent too much of a flooding problem when spring does finally get here.

### Aleknagiak

Finishing up Emergency Backup Power project to include the school and teacher housing, this will also provide the Village with and operating Emergency Center

### New Stuyahok

Planning for heat recovery project from AVEC plant to the new school

Hope to be able to complete the project before school starts in Aug.

### Manokotak

Lighting retrofit is in progress, materials have been ordered. This project is geared toward the housing units and all the existing lamps will be changed to compact fluorescent bulbs, this should achieve a 20 – 50 % energy savings.

Sewer & Water upgrades are planned for this summer at the school and teacher housing, the work is being performed by ANTHC.

### District-Wide

- Planning projects for summer
- Custodial orders have been placed
- Ordering new equipment
- Planning Inspections for all the schools



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Aleknagik School

Audra Finkenbinder, Principal

Time is passing ever so quickly at Aleknagik North Shore School and we are rapidly closing in on the end of the school year. Since the last report, quite a few activities have taken place: MAP Training, 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, Dental Clinic Visit, Standards Based Assessments, Choose Respect Potluck, and an Easter Carnival. Future activities include the District Writing Assessment, AIMSweb testing, a swim trip to Naknek, an end-of-year picnic, and graduation for kindergarten and eighth grade students.

### Student of the Month

I would like to congratulate the Students of the Month for March: Robin Toyukak Jr., Jolynn Bavilla, and Kona Creasey. Keep up the great work!

### Student Council

The Student Council, advised by Randy Finkenbinder, has been very active with hosting numerous lock-ins and a 3-on-3 Basketball tournament. They recently began designing school-themed T-shirts and are looking forward to launching some sales before the end of the year and plan to continue the “business next year. The student council members remain highly enthusiastic, and are developing great leadership skills.

### STEPP

After completing plans for the Data Analysis Domain indicator, the Aleknagik School staff composed School Improvement Plans for the Assessment, Instruction, and Title 1 Schoolwide indicators.





## Clarks Point School

Nate Crabtree, Principal

### General Information

The Clarks Point School continues to function in a productive and efficient manner. We have persistently progressed through district-approved curriculum this year and will finish having accomplished much. We will be using what we have learned thus far this year to complete some final school projects.

Recently, we were fortunate that the weather cooperated with us and we were able to take an ice-fishing trip. The students averaged over a hundred fish apiece! Not too bad for only a few hours. The students and chaperones had an excellent time. We appreciate those that volunteered to help.

### Academics

Clarks Point School continues to have a strong academic focus. Here is some of the academic

material that the seventh and eighth grade students will be working on during the fourth quarter

### Art

Students will be trying their hand at pottery this month. If previous art projects are any indication of what is to come, then we should be in store for some incredible projects. The first project will involve making a pinch pot.

### STEPP

Clarks Point School has completed all of the necessary indicators for the current school year. What remains to be completed is some final monitoring and adjusting necessary to maximize the effectiveness of the AK STEPP for Clarks Point School.

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## William 'Sonny' Nelson School

Jeff Goodrich, Lead Teacher

The students of William "Sonny" Nelson School worked very hard as they prepared for the SBAs. The practice questions and practice tests were used to help familiarize the students with the format of the test. To encourage the students to do their best, we had breakfast for the students on the morning of the test and fruit and vegetables throughout the day. We had 100% attendance for the tests and each student did his or her best.

PBS Frontline was recently in Bristol Bay Region filming a follow up to their documentary from several years ago titled "Red Gold." They made a visit to Ekwok to interview community members and asked if they could come to the school to film the building. They agreed to talk to the students about what it means to be a producer and cameraman. They emphasized the importance of education and how much was needed to get their jobs. After they talked to the students they allowed the students to explore the camera and ask questions. The students enjoyed learning more about how TV shows are made. We also hosted an Easter egg hunt for the community the day before Easter and we had 20 kids between the ages of one and fourteen. Everyone that came had a great time. It looks like we will have more than the minimum required enrollment for the foreseeable future.

As we are concluding the year, we are maintaining our focus on language arts, math, and science. We are completing reading and language arts lessons from Reading Mastery every day and will continue to do so until the end of the year. As we have concluded the state testing, our math efforts are focused on retaining the skills that we have developed and on preparing students for their next academic level. Students are working on learning and exploring more with physical science. Time is quickly getting away from us and we are going to keep working hard until the very end.





## Koliganek School

Cody McCanna, Principal

### Alaska STEPP

Koliganek School is working on its AK STEPP plan. The focus lately has been looking at a system to help improve the teaching and learning at Koliganek School. The instructional leader is looking into utilizing a new framework for teaching based on Charlotte Danielson's research. Danielson's framework would allow the instructional leader to provide better feedback to teacher's on their performance so they could target specific areas to improve. Moreover, iObservation is a program that utilizes the Danielson framework on a web-based system so teachers would have the opportunity to log on to review their personal data while having a chance to watch videos of other teachers across the country that have been deemed distinguished on the Danielson framework rubrics.

### 11th & 12th Grade Trip

All juniors and seniors at Koliganek School went on a trip to Anchorage, Seward, and Palmer from April 9-13. The entire trip was funded by Bristol Industries, LLC. Robin Thompson, the manager of internal development

at Bristol, worked with the school to provide funding and other resources to make the trip a reality. The purpose of the trip was to give students a chance to have some fun and visit various career centers and universities to help them think about their future. Students did tours with Bristol Industries, BBNA, and Kakivik Assetts Management. During the tours students had the opportunity to talk with the CEO's and be introduced to the various job opportunities that are available. Students visited AVTEC, UAA, and Job Corp as well. During the visits students got a tour of the campus while getting a hands-on look at the type of training and training facilities that are available to them upon graduation. Students got an opportunity to visit the Medallion Foundation and use their flight simulators to experience what it would be like to be a pilot. On the fun side of things, students went on a half-day whale-watching cruise in Resurrection Bay. They spent the night at the Sea Life Center in Seward where they received a private tour and were treated to two learning sessions with the professional staff at the center.





# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

## SBA Testing

Like the entire state, Standards Based Assessments were administered in Koliganek on April 3, 4, and 5. Every morning started off with a pancake breakfast from 8:00 to 9:00. Kids were lining up to get another stack of Pam's famous flapjacks. All the students who were testing met in the gym at 9:00 for our morning assembly. During the assembly students were put into four groups on the gym floor to do various activities as a team. For example, on math day students got into a circle and had one student walk the radius of the circle. At the end of each assembly each team would create a cheer about the test happening for the day. The assembly in the morning gives the school an opportunity to make sure all students are present for testing while giving the students a chance to wake up and get their blood flowing before testing. The testing itself went well and we are sure that a lot of students made some progress.

## Reading Mastery

Students from Kindergarten to fifth grade have been learning to read using the new Reading Mastery curriculum this year. The paraprofessionals at Koliganek School have been doing an amazing job all year with students as the instructional teacher of the program. As a staff we have been making small adjustments to ensure that the program is being done with validity. The certified staff will be meeting to discuss next year's groups and the various aspects of the program that can be improved for next year. For example, all instructors have found it very useful to compile all the necessary paperwork into a three ring binder to review as a group on a regular basis.

## SBA Preparation

Koliganek School is working on a schedule for next year. For starters, we are going to have a teacher working with 2nd and 3rd graders and taking care of our special education needs as well. This added staff member will give us the opportunity to deliver the curriculum more effectively to the entire elementary. Moreover, we are excited about our high school scheduling opportunities.





## Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Larry Johnson, Principal

### Place-Based Education

Manokotak School planned for two days of outdoor place based activities, but on the 23rd of April there was a winter snow blizzard so, that trip was cancelled. We combined all the 7th-12th graders for the second trip. On the 30th of April 32 snow machines, 46 students and 20 plus teacher and chaperones headed up to First Lake for an outdoor education trip. Several of our chaperones talked to our students about survival shelter building and survival fire building. In the morning everyone had a chance to try his or her luck at fishing. In the afternoon the students listened to the instructions on how to survive if they ever were stuck in a winter snowstorm. Then the student broke up into teams of 4 or 5 and competed on who could build the best fire and shelter.

### Parent Involvement

Over one hundred adult community members, mostly parents of students, attended our second Family Activity Night. At the Literacy Fun Night we had free

hot dogs and door prizes and the following Literacy themed events:

**Read Aloud** – Idea short stories from seven different genres (Science fiction, mystery, bibliography, fantasy, mythology, Poetry and Yup'ik culture) being read to small groups of people. Every 7 minutes the groups will rotate until they have a chance to hear all seven short stories from different the different genres.

**Board Games Idea:** Families play Literacy games. There will be a literature-focused game room. All games deal with words. (Scramble, boggle, etc.).

**GREAT Literacy Web-sites** –Computer Lab S BA's– Idea: What makes a Literacy site good? Where are they?

### School and Community

Open Gym is operated by the Manokotak Village Corporation and offered to the public. The junior class has a continuing fundraiser offering Yoga night on Tuesdays & Thursdays with their class advisor teaching



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

it. The public is welcome for a cost of one dollar per night. Students are coming to after school tutoring to be eligible to play in the evening games.

The local dental team is now visiting the Manokotak School twice a month.

A weekend basketball tournament was held with several teams from Manokotak and Dillingham participating.

## Sports

NYO practice is going on every evening. Our 4th -8th graders are playing basketball games every Monday night. The 9th -12th graders are doing a 3 on 3 league every Tuesday and Thursday nights.

## Community School Committee

Two of our CSC members were recently re-elected for another 3-year term.

The Manokotak CSC has been well represented at our meetings with all members being present. Only a couple times have there been less than five members present.

## Assessments

We had a very successful SBA testing week. We have only two students that need to do make up test. Our attendance was very high almost perfect. Monday April 9, 2012 the 4th, 8th, & 10th graders took the science SBA. Other up coming assessments are the Spring Aims-web benchmarks Assessment given to all K-8th grade students and all students in grades k-12 will be doing the Spring Writing Assessments.







## **‘Chief’ Ivan Blunka School**

**Brett Scott, Principal**

It is hard to believe there are only a few weeks left in the school year. So much has happened, and it has all gone by so fast. Spring fever is setting in and many young minds are thinking about summer plans and being outdoors.

April is testing month. The Standards Based Assessments and the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam were given during the first two weeks of April. Students at Chief Ivan Blunka School worked all day for three days straight and put in a great effort on the tests. We had excellent attendance and support from the community on testing days as well.

Chief Ivan Blunka School is working hard to make AYP. Regular monitoring of students has shown much improvement over the last year. Students and staff have worked to make this happen. The SBAs are one test. We hope the progress we have made will be demonstrated in the test results. Regardless, we can be assured that our students and school are on the right track.

### **NYO**

We held our first NYO meet in the new school on April 6th and 7th. Athletes from Koliganek, and New Stuyahok competed in a variety of events from the Indian Stick Pull to the Seal Hop to the One Foot High Kick. The competition was friendly but intense. Athletes tried three times to do their best in each event. As the third time approached the crowd would get into it with slow clapping, energizing the competitors. It was great fun!! Thank you to all the coaches and athletes that made this event such a success.

### **STEPP**

Our school improvement team has just finished putting the finishing touches on our STEPP plan for the 2011-12 school year. The team has spent many hours after school making sure that the plan written has the students, staff and community of Chief Ivan Blunka School best interest at heart. We still have many tasks yet to complete before the current school year comes to an end but we will accomplish them, to ensure that our school is making strides to help our students become the best students possible

### **Family Night**

A Science Family Night is planned for April 27th. Activities will center around the theme of bugs. Students will perform a variety of activities and take home books related to the subject. This is the third and final Family Night of the year. The activities have been well attended and the feedback from the community has been nothing but positive, with requests that the family nights continue next year.

### **Graduation**

Graduation is scheduled for sixteen high school graduates this year on May 4th at 1:00 p.m. The ceremony will be the culmination of years of hard work and a week's worth of fun activities. Afterwards there will be a dance and other activities for the graduating seniors. Good luck to the Class of 2012!



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Twin Hills School

**Meghan Redmond, Lead Teacher**

The end of March and the beginning of April were very focused on preparing for the Standards Based Assessments. Each day of testing, our instructional aides and some volunteer parents prepared breakfast for the students. All of the staff members worked hard to provide a quiet, focused environment for testing week. The parents worked hard to make sure their children were well rested and at school on time each day of testing. The students worked hard to complete their tests carefully and do their best. A big thank you goes out to all who made testing week a smooth, productive, and positive week!

Throughout this school year, BBAHC has sponsored open gym nights. Three evenings per week, students and adults have the opportunity to use the school gym to exercise and play. We have a great supervisor who organizes activities for the students and supervises all of the activities.

This month, our students who fall into the Migrant category were allowed to pick their own books to order and then take home. It was very exciting for the students to get to browse Amazon.com and make their very own choices of what would end up in their shopping cart and eventually to their own home.

For our Alaska STEPP plan, we are continuing to work on tracking assessments and interventions used with our students who are performing far below grade level. One-on-one math tutoring with one of our instructional aides is proving to be very beneficial for our middle school students. In addition to this plan, we have also begun to form a plan to help improve the fluency of our students. We plan to use the AIMSweb assessments to track the fluency of each student and then utilize Reading Mastery lessons and Reading Mastery fluency assessments to encourage the improvement of fluency.

