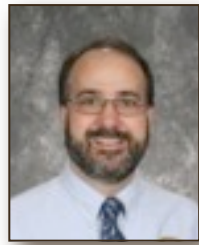


# REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



## Superintendent's Office

David J. Piazza, Superintendent

### In this Issue:

#### PARAPROFESSIONAL INSERVICE - SEPT. 7-9

This month all of the paraprofessionals in our schools attended two days of training in Dillingham on a variety of educational topics.

#### DISTRICT-WIDE ASSESSMENTS

AIMSweb and District Six-Trait Writing Assessments were completed by students in all of our schools. These assessments give teachers and administrators good baseline data to guide instruction.

#### 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

## Staffing

Classified staffing vacancies at the beginning of the year have been advertised and the schools have worked with the District Office to complete the hiring procedures to provide the necessary personnel support in the schools. The District Office was able to fill its current staffing needs by recommending for hire Stephanie McCumber as the receptionist. Please take a moment to say, "Hi" and welcome her on your next call to the office or when you come to visit District Office.

During the past month, the District received a resignation from a certified teacher in Clarks Point. The Site Administrator, Nate Crabtree and Superintendent Piazza have been actively researching candidates listed on the Alaska Teacher Placement site, as well as, following up on other leads to recruit an individual who will meet the needs of the school. Multiple interviews and reference checks have been completed to date. Hopefully, this position will be filled in time for the Board to take hiring action at the school board meeting.

The District also hired a temporary long-term substitute for New Stuyahok. Bobby Kelso has arrived on site in New Stuyahok and was able to spend a few days working with the regular classroom teacher in order to provide a smooth transition for students.

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Service Awards

Although many of the classified staff had previously been recognized for longevity awards for their time working at Southwest Region Schools during the beginning of the year inservices in August and their certificates or awards had been sent to them, it was appropriate to recognize the staff among their peers.

Awards for more than 30 years of service were presented to Grace Gamechuk from Manokotak, Tat Andrew from New Stuyahok, and Anuska Ayojiak from Togiak. Native drums were presented to each long-time employee.

Classified staff members who were not present at the instructional aide inservice who have also served 30 or more years include Sophie Walcott and Mary Wilcox from New Stuyahok. Their drum awards have been sent them.

Special Education Instructional Aide Cynthia Wolf from Manokotak had previously received a 5 Year Certificate. Instructional Aide Sophie Alexie from New Stuyahok was recognized for 25 years of service.

Martha Foster was nominated and received the district's Classified Instructional Aide of the Year award for last year. She was presented with a plaque during the inservice.



Anuska Ayojiak, Grace Gamechuk, and Tatiana Andrew  
Thirty Year Employees



Martha Foster  
Instructional Aide of the Year

# Paraprofessional Inservice

The paraprofessional inservice, held September 7–9, 2011, was about recognizing potential and providing training to assist our instructional aides in playing a greater role in their schools.



## Southwest Region Paraprofessionals

Paraprofessionals are “connectors.” They have the ability to provide linguistic and cultural continuity and act as the bridge between their local culture and that of many of our incoming certificated teaching staff. They play a vital role in helping new staff understand our region, communities and children. They help students get the most of the educational

Less than a month into the school year the District provided additional inservice training time for both certified and classified staff. On Tuesday, September 6th, the certificated teachers participated in two distance-delivered workshop sessions conducted by Lexie Domaradzki. Lexie has been working with the District for the past two years to analyze the AIMSweb benchmark data in order for teachers to pinpoint student deficiencies early in the year and to adjust instructional practice to meet the students’ needs. Teachers are in the process of completing a “quadrant-analysis” which sorts students into 4 categories (Quadrant 1: Strong Reading Rate/High Accuracy, Quadrant 2: Low Reading Rate/High

Accuracy, Quadrant 3: Strong Reading Rate/Low Accuracy, and Quadrant 4: Low Reading Rate/Low Accuracy), This process helps to identify students in Quadrant 1 who should continue with their current program, students in Quadrant 2

who need a fluency intervention to help increase speed without sacrificing accuracy, and students in Quadrants 3 and 4 who need further diagnostic testing to determine their individual specific instructional needs.

**Years of educational research shows that paraprofessionals, can play a very important role in their school’s instructional programs.**

On Wednesday, September 7th, over forty classroom instructional aides met in Dillingham to work with previous New Stuyahok teacher, Carol Thompson, and teachers Lida Storch, Shannon Clouse, Kirsten Tesch, and Deb



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Endicott on the District's K-6 Reading Mastery program. While some of the instructional aides may have used the materials in the past, this was their first formal training. Participants were lead through the steps of using the program with students. Each instructional aide also had hand-on practice in small group settings by role playing either as the instructor or as a student, to become familiar with the adopted curricular resources.

On Thursday, September 8th, the rest of the special education and Yupik Studies instructional aides joined the larger group from the previous day and participated in state mandated trainings. Deanna Baier, Case Manager for the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation "Nitaput" Child Advocacy Center, together with Tracy Eason and Esther Floresta with the State of Alaska's Office of Children's Services, presented on mandatory child abuse and neglect reporting requirements. Polly Swick, Immunization Coordinator with the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation provided information regarding blood-borne pathogens.

In order to assist classified staff with locating and obtaining financial aid funding for coursework as classified staff choose to further their own education, presentations were provided by several local organizations. Ralph Andrew-Bristol Bay Campus Financial Aid Coordinator, Dr. Deborah McLean-Bristol Bay Campus Director, Serena McArthur-Bristol Bay Native Association Education Program Manager, and Pearl Strub - Bristol Bay Economic Development-Education Director provided contact information and requirements for each of their available funding sources. The district's Director of Instruction and

## What do educational paraprofessionals do in our schools?

### Paraprofessionals:

- lead small group instruction designed by the teacher,
- gather materials,
- provide assistance to students for personal care and other physical needs,
- assist students to complete directions given by the teacher,
- facilitate interactions between students,
- facilitate positive communications with community and parents,
- adapt lessons under the teacher's guidance,
- execute other, often unseen, but very important



Information Systems, Steve Noonkesser, and Director of State/Federal Programs, Jon Clouse, also provided a review of the Tuition Reimbursement program as detailed in the District's Classified Handbook.

The main sessions concluded with a presentation by the District's Computer Assisted Instruction Specialist, Corey Evans, and Coordinator of Technology, Les Parks. Each instructional aide received a full-featured digital camera to take back to their schools. The inservice provided training in the set-up, care, and use of the cameras in order for the instructional aides to take pictures of events that are taking place in their classrooms. The staff practiced downloading the photos to their laptop computers as well as saw how to organize the photos and share the pictures with other staff.

While most of the inservice participants headed home on Thursday, the Special Education and Yupik Studies aides remained for an extra day of training on Friday, September 9th. The Director

of Special Education, Robin Gray lead part of the group through a variety of special education support topics. The district's Director of Yupik Studies, Esther Ilutsik worked with rest of the instructional staff to further the Yupik Studies curricular goals within the schools.



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Superintendent Travel

As previously mentioned, Superintendent Piazza, was able to attend the first day of school at Togiak on Monday, August 15th. After spending the night he was able to make a quick stop in Twin Hills to see the beginning of the year school preparations as well as the completion of the septic system installation. Unfortunately the students were still on summer break. After the brief meeting, Dave headed on to Manokotak.

Although his plans were cut short to spend the night at the school due to uncontrolled thermostat heating issues at the school, he did have an opportunity to visit all of the classrooms. A highlight of the trip was his ability to ride the school bus from the school at the end of the day to the main village of Manokotak and back. This gave him a better understanding of the road conditions that take its toll on the maintenance of the school busses as well as some of the issues that students face getting to the new schools that are

located quite a distance from their previous locations.

Superintendent Piazza was able to visit the Clarks Point School for most of the day on Wednesday, August 17th. His site visits continued with Aleknagik School the next day. Dave and his wife, Kim, arrived just after noon and spent the rest of the school day and early evening at the school. Since this was Aleknagik School's back to school night open house, Dave and Kim were able to meet many of the parents.

Dave headed to New Stuyahok for an overnight visit on Thursday, August 25th. This

visit was in conjunction with the GCI TERRA-SW project visit and included a tour of the school and village health clinic. National and State dignitaries in attendance included the Federal Communications Chairman Julius Genachowski and Senator Mark Begich. A separate group including Lieutenant Governor Mead Treadwell traveled to Manokotak at this time as well. Superintendent Piazza was able to see the Reading Mastery program in action as well as see most of the staff and students while classroom instruction was taking place.







## Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Director

This has been a very busy month for the instructional support team with inservices, district-wide assessments and all of the normal routines involved with getting the school year up and running smoothly.

The new Language Arts and Mathematics materials are now mainly in place and teachers are using them in daily instruction. Training in the use of the new materials took place at the Fall and Paraprofessional Inservices. Initial training is being reinforced by follow-up training at weekly inservice sessions beginning on September 20. The weekly sessions will be taught by our own Lida Storch, Kirsten Tesch, Meridy Mabry, and Deb Endicott.

The whole team feels that the Paraprofessional Inservice held this past week was a positive experience. Staff attending were positive, engaged and seemed to enjoy and appreciate the training given on Reading Mastery and other topics.

### Site Visits

Steve visited both Manokotak and New Stuyahok in the opening weeks of school. During both visits he had many positive discussions with both students and staff. Community members in both communities commented on the positive feeling in school this year and seemed very optimistic. Our schools are up and running smoothly and there is a feeling of excitement and purpose as we start the school year.



# Instructional Support Team



Shannon Clouse  
Media Specialist



Deb Endicott  
Instructional Support  
Specialist



Corey Evans  
Computer-Aided  
Instruction Specialist



Les Parks  
Technology Coordinator

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Shannon visited several sites as well, including Ekwok and Manokotak. During her visit to Ekwok she worked very hard to get the school's picture books in order as well as to get the new books that were ordered last spring out on the shelves. She also made some time to observe the teachers teaching our new reading program, which seems to be going well. Shannon went to Manokotak for a day trip and uploaded all the MARC records for the new books that were ordered and received last spring. Their library has really been compacted into a smaller room so I spent a lot of time weeding the shelves- pulling out multiple copies of books and outdated books.

Deb visited both Manokotak and Aleknagik and saw evidence of Reading Mastery implementation and she commented on her return that students were focused and happy to be back at school.

## Battle of the Books

All of the Battle of the Books are ordered and we have all 8 sites competing this year at one or more grade levels. Shannon also found money in the budget to order the K-2 books for our sites. These books have just arrived and are getting labeled and then will be sent out.

## Reading is Fundamental

Although RIF didn't get federally funded for next year, our contract year doesn't end until December. Most of our sites have one or two remaining distributions left until they are finished with their requirements. Koliganek just held their last distribution this month and have completed their requirements for the program. Shannon has pledged, on behalf of the district, to continue our efforts of distributing free age appropriate books to the children in our district. This pledge also gives us special book discounts with RIF approved companies.

## Writing Assessment

Deb Endicott organized and Steve helped facilitate this year's District-wide Writing Assessment. Following on the heels of the Six-trait Writing training held at this year's Fall Inservice for all staff, the assessment was a return to a district-wide approach to monitoring our students' progress in writing. Based on SBA data from the past few years, a need has been identified to increase student skills in writing, especially in the area of revision. A team of ten teacher came to Dillingham and in two days scored nearly 600 papers. Teachers across the district will soon have a good baseline for writing instruction and a measure to compare against in the winter and spring assessments to see growth.







## TERRA Kick-off Event

Superintendent Piazza, Steve Noonkesser and Les Parks attended the TERRA kickoff event and spoke to the group on behalf of the district. In his talk, Steve emphasized the importance of quality telecommunications services to our students and staff. Steve also traveled to New Stuyahok with Senator Begich and FCC Chairman Genachowski to visit the school, clinic and new GCI microwave tower site. The visit was excellent. An assembly was held for the high school students to meet the visitors and ask questions. Les hosted another group, including Lt. Governor Treadwell, that traveled to Manokotak for a similar visit. The students at Manokotak planned and held an assembly to welcome the visitors. Both site visits went smoothly despite marginal weather, and our students represented themselves and their communities very well. Senator Begich had many positive things to say about the visit on his return to Dillingham.



## AIMSweb Assessments

Corey Evans recently coordinated the AIMS in-service via distance delivery with Lexie Domaradzki. Teachers were shown how to perform a quadrant analysis and then given an opportunity to perform the analysis with their classroom data. The quadrant analysis is helpful in identifying students in need of intervention or further assessment. The presenter is in great demand around the country and has a way of helping staff understand the data on level that help teachers make sound instructional decisions.

## Paraprofessional Technology Training

Corey and Les provided support for the Aide in-service that concluded September 9. During the in-service each aide was issued a canon digital camera and given basic instruction in its operation and downloading pictures to their laptops. The cameras were issued with the idea that the instruction aides would be well-positioned to document what is going on in our schools from a local point of view.



## Continuing Education Assistance for Staff

Deb has been working with the committee on making sure all staff knows about the benefits of tuition reimbursement for all of our staff members. Teachers and Aides can obtain pre-approval to take a course for professional development. Upon successful completion of the course, proof of payment and proof of passing grade are submitted for tuition cost reimbursement. Jon and Steve also provided information about additional programs available through local organizations like BBEDC and BBNA that can assist our staff in pursuing additional education at the Paraprofessional Inservice.

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

As always, the beginning of the year is a busy time with many state and federal reports due and last year's grants closing out.

### Paraprofessional Inservice

Jon was involved on the second day of the paraprofessional inservice. The second day included completing three state mandated trainings in the areas of Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention, Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Prevention, and Precautions Against Blood Borne Pathogens. Polly Swick from the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation provided training about blood-borne pathogens and other infectious diseases and their prevention. Tracey Eason from the Office of Child Services and Deanna Baier from the Child Advocacy Center presented information about child abuse/neglect as well as domestic violence/sexual assault.

Also, information regarding the Educator: Paraprofessional (EDPA) certificate and A.S. degree programs were presented to those paraprofessionals in attendance. Debbie McLean and Ralph Andrew from the Bristol Bay Campus spoke on their programs, registration process, and financial aid opportunities. Representatives from Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation, Bristol Bay Native Association, and Southwest Region School District presented information about additional financial aid opportunities for those pursuing college level course, certificate programs, and degree programs.

### NCLB: Program Monitoring

Results from the on-site monitoring of the NCLB programs including Title I-A, Title I-C (migrant education), Title II-A, Title II-D, and Title III-A (English



proficiency acquisition) have been received. Programs that were determined to be in full compliance included the NCLB general provision, Title II-A, and Title II-D. There were a few findings of non-compliance in the Title I-A, Title I-C, and Title III-A programs. Additional detail will be provided during the regional school board meeting.

### NCLB: Other

A number of parent notifications have been sent out including information about district adequate yearly progress, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, the right to request teacher qualifications, Title I eligibility, protection of pupil rights amendment, and Limited English Proficient notifications.

Supplemental education services surveys were sent to parents of qualifying children attending Twin Hills School, Togiak School, Chief Ivan Blunka School, and Koliganek School because these schools are designated as schools in improvement at level 2 or higher. These surveys give the parents of qualifying children the opportunity to enroll

their children into a free after school tutoring service. Because of limited funding, students that are enrolled in the supplemental education program will be prioritized to receive services based on academic need.

Twin Hills School is at level 5, year 1 of improvement, which will require the development of an Alternative Governance Plan. This plan is a restructuring plan created by district office staff, school staff, parents, and community members. This plan is to be implemented during this school year.

### NCLB: Alaska STEPP

As a review, the district and each of our schools are participating in AK STEPP process in an effort to improve academic success for all of our students. The STEPP will meet the requirements for schools at level 2 or higher in improvement that need a school improvement plan and for the district improvement plan. It also has a component that will satisfy the requirements of the Title I schoolwide plan required by all of our schools. This process will be continuously reviewed and adjusted throughout the year as indicators are addressed.

The district and schools will be resuming the review, planning, and monitoring of the improvement plans via the AK STEPP process. Improvement teams will work together to review student achievement data and address each indicator based upon that data. There are a number of domains addressed in each plan including curriculum, assessment, instruction, professional development, supportive learning environment, and leadership. There are between 20 and 22 key and/or SMART indicators spread across six domains. Key indicators are “rapid improvement indicators” that are high leverage and/or first phase indicators. SMART indicators relate directly to SMART goals written for the student subgroups that do not make AYP and support the implementation of the SMART goals developed through the Needs Assessment.



### Student Information & Support Specialist: Nate Preston

We have been re-enrolling students in the District, hiring and training Migrant

Recruiters and started processing Boarding

Home applications. As of Thursday September 8th we have 642 students enrolled in the district, if we keep this number through the count period of Oct 3 – Oct 28 it would give us 15 more students than last year. This would be the biggest increase in enrollment since 2005.

Southwest Region School District is responsible for in-district boarding home students attending any one of our four high schools (Chief Ivan Blunka School, Koliganek School, Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School, and Togiak School). The boarding home program provides a stipend to the host parents to assist with the food and housing costs for supporting a boarding home student. The boarding home program also provides or reimburses the cost of transportation for one-round trip airfare for the boarding home student. As a district we currently have ten students in the boarding home program and have a packet out to another family, which would raise our numbers to eleven when completed.

We have hired six Migrant Recruiters and packets have gone out to them containing the information they need to start recruiting students to the Migrant Education Program. The recruiters will be recruiting until the cut off date of Nov 15 or until they have contacted everyone who could possibly be eligible. Current migrant students will be participating in a new literature initiative through migrant education funds. This initiative is the result of a parent survey asking what services parents of migrant students would like to receive. Migrant students will choose a magazine that will be sent to their home from a previously approved list and have the ability to participate in follow-up migrant activities.



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## **District Test Coordinator: Steve Ito**

High School Graduation Qualifying Examination (HSGQE) re-take materials have been received and disbursed to the four secondary schools. The HSGQE Retest is a proficiency-based criterion-referenced test developed specifically for Alaska.

Test administration will occur October 4 through October 6, 2011. The re-test is for current grade 11, 12 and former students that have exited school with a certificate of attendance that have not successfully completed one of the three required content areas (Reading Writing and Math) in order to receive an Alaska High School Diploma.

The Alaska Developmental Profile for Kindergarten and First grade students that have not attended a public school will begin within a window from September 15th to November 1st. The purpose of the Alaska Developmental Profile is to identify, record and summarize the skills and behaviors students demonstrate at the beginning of their kindergarten year, based on teacher observations. Student skills and behaviors are defined by goals and indicators in five domains including Physical Well-Being, Health, and Motor Development; Social and Emotional Development; Approaches to Learning; Cognition and General Knowledge; and Communication, Language, and Literacy.

The annual District Test Coordinator training sponsored by Alaska Department of Education and Early Development was attended. Updates to statewide assessment protocol and procedure were reviewed. Pertinent application district-wide will be implemented through out the school year.



## **Southwest Region Schools School Board Goals**

- The Board would like to establish a long-term vision for the district through a strategic plan or similar process.
- The Board would like to establish a long-term vision for the district through a strategic plan or similar process.
- The Board will focus on better communication with communities, parents, the district as a whole and themselves.
- The Board hopes to level the playing field and assure that all sites receive the same academic focus.
- The Board will focus on academic growth for ALL students.



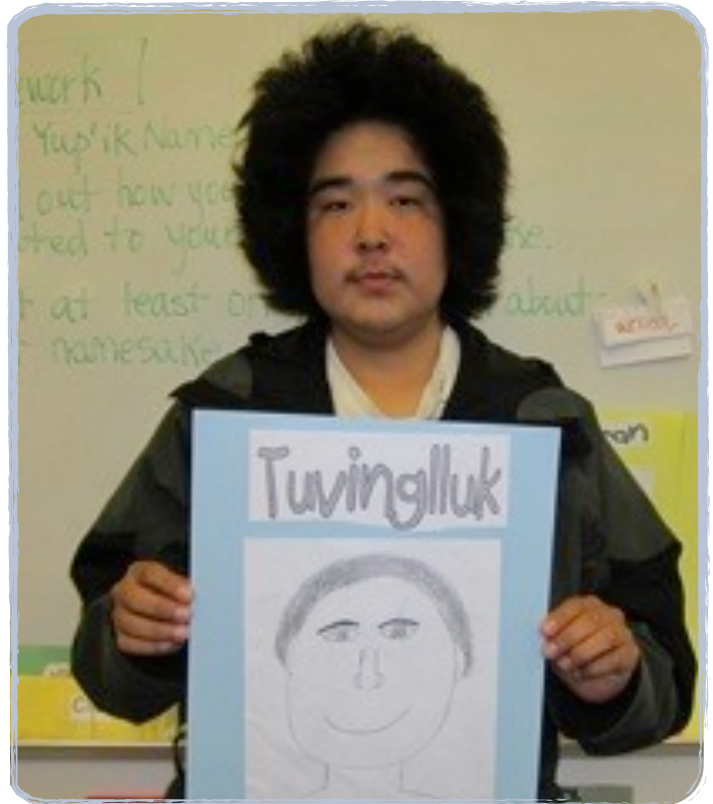
## Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director

The Yup'ik Studies Instructional Aides from Koliganek, New Stuyahok, Ekwok, Aleknagik, Manokotak, Twin Hills and Togiak came together on the afternoon of the 8th of September followed on the 9th with a morning and afternoon session. The focal point of the sessions was reviewing the Yup'ik Studies Program - Student Outcomes. The question asked of them, "How are these "outcomes" being addressed in the program that is being delivered?"

### Ilut (Kinship)

One of the outcomes Ilut (Kinship) Students will understand the origin of names, importance of relationships among immediate and extended family, and how these values are an integral part of Yup'ik society. Currently, this outcome is being addressed in the YCC 101 – Introduction to Yup'ik where the students are asked what their Yup'ik names, how they are related to this namesake and positive characteristics about that person. If the students are not able to recall this information then that becomes a homework assignment. They then draw a self-portrait (in many cases they have not done this since primary school) and write up the information on their laptops. The finished information is pasted on poster size colored paper, laminated and then displayed in a prominent location in the school. Tatianna Andrew shared the positives results of this activity with the New Stuyahok high school students.



### Ak'a Tamani (History)

Students will develop an understanding and appreciation of regional, community and family history, beliefs, customs, and values through the involvement of the elders. This can be addressed by utilizing the Bristol Bay Yup'ik Values poster (developed by a delegation of Bristol Bay Elders in 1983 and adopted by the Ciulistet Research Association Elders in the Spring of 1998). Inlaid within the values are beliefs, customs, values, community and family history of which will result in developing an understanding and appreciation of the regional and community differences. One way is to teach the values one-by-one on a weekly basis. It would only take a few minutes on a daily basis to cite the value and then continue with discussion of the value and how it can be seen and implemented within the school and community.



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

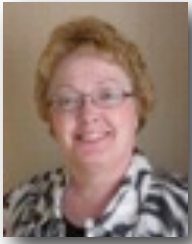
## Other Topics

This session followed and ended with teachers discussing what can we teach within a 30 minute timeframe, reviewing materials as developed by LSKD – Upingaurluta(A Thematic Model) and a cd and book of songs: Mikelnguut Yuarutait Yugecetun.

Although, the focal point was to share Yup'ik Studies Program - Student Outcomes and how these outcomes become an integral part of the Yup'ik program we asked the instructors to share their program at their sites and asked them to fill out a detailed survey that will provide the district data that will be utilized to develop a strong Yup'ik studies program at the district level.







## Special Education

Robin Gray, Director

Special Education teachers came in to Dillingham September 1, 2011 for training with the SEAS program. Erbey Gomez came from SEAS and worked with all certified special education teachers from SWRSD and two from Dillingham Schools. Staff were taught to use the program, read reports, and be more efficient with the special education process.

### New Staff Member

Thomas Roatch, the new certified special education teacher, is in the district now, living in Koliganek and traveling to Aleknagik and Ekwok. As students get identified at the villages with no on site special education

teacher, Tom will provide those services. We are very glad he is here and welcome him to our district.

### Paraprofessional Inservice

September 8 and 9, 2011 thirteen of the district's special education paraprofessionals came in to Dillingham and had training. This additional training is part of the district's efforts to support professional growth with all employees. Work was done on providing services to our students, developing classroom management expectations and skills, identifying behaviors and interventions to help students function in ways that support learning, and communication with students, parents, families, and staff.



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Facilities & Maintenance

Rick Dallmann, Director

### Aleknagik

Back up generator has been moved from Manokotak and is ready to be installed. Transfer gear and equipment has been ordered we expect to have the back up power on line by mid October.

### Ekwok

Housing work has been completed, AVEC has taken over the power generation for the village new meters have been installed.

### New Stuyahok

Bulk fuel project is on schedule and should be completed by late fall. Bulk water tank project has been delayed but could still be completed by late fall.

### Koliganek

Clean up after the water leak have been completed still working on replacing sheetrock and ceiling tiles.

### Manokotak

Sewer project is moving forward we hope to connected to the city sewer service by the end of October.

### Twin Hills

Twin Hills sewer project is completed still waiting for the engineers to do final inspection to get system approved we have temporary approval to operate.

### Maintenance Inservice

We had a District Wide Custodial In- Service in Dillingham on Sept. 7th. Unisourse ( custodial products vendor) provided a trainer to go over our new program, Blood Borne Pathogen training was provided as well as training for all new chemicals and equipment. All participants seemed to enjoy the training and will hopefully bring what they learned back to sites and improve our custodial care throughout the District. A follow up visit to each site will happen in the spring to work with individual custodians and provide some refresher training.





## Aleknagik School

Audra Finkenbinder, Principal

Aleknagik North Shore School hit the ground running on August 15th and has yet to slow down. We began the year with the magnificent news that the Lakers made AYP last year! I'd like to congratulate the teachers and students for a job well done. With the continued hard work of the teachers and students as well as parental support, we aim to raise the number of students who are proficient and make AYP again this year.

The first of three AIMsweb tests were administered during the week of August 22nd-26th after which all teachers and principals completed a day long in-service. The in-service focused on analyzing the AIMsweb results as well as being introduced to new charts that aid in determining which students are likely to pass the State Based Assessments.

Aleknagik now has over 300 new Scholastic books in the library that are available for students to enjoy. The new selection will be even more significant as students begin utilizing Renaissance Place.

We have implemented the new core reading Program for grades K-5: Reading Mastery. Overall, the students are adjusting well to the new format and we're progressing through the lessons.

For Language Arts in grades 6-8, Basic English Composition and Mirrors and Windows Connecting with Literature (EMC) are being utilized again this year. In addition to this, a Daily Oral Language Program (DOL) is used at the beginning of every class. The goal of DOL is to increase the proficiency level of the Revision Strand of the SBA Writing Test. Another new exercise that the middle school students complete is a daily Vocabulary Builder, which defines a word, provides an example as well as a list of synonyms.

In Mrs. Gilbertson's class, the students are learning repeating patterns, studying how animals grow and change, writing descriptive sentences, and reading difficult words.

Mr. Gilbertson's students are currently busy studying the ten body systems, composing "How-to" papers, learning about Alaska climates, as well as the Odyssey.

Mr. Finkenbinder's students are learning one and two-step equations, studying compounds and substances, in addition to the Great Lakes. We are teaming up with BBAHC to offer Open Gym to the students and community on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6-9PM. The goal of the program is to increase activity among the youth, adults, and elders to prevent diabetes and/or diabetes related complications.

Time is certainly passing quickly; mid-quarter progress reports were printed and mailed on the 13th, student and community photos are scheduled for October 3rd, and the count period begins on October 3rd and lasts until October 28th.

Things are moving right along at Aleknagik North Shore School and we are all looking forward to a great school year!





# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Clarks Point School

Nate Crabtree, Principal

### General Information

Fall is here and Clarks Point School is in full swing. The students are to be commended on their willingness to work and be challenged. It is nice to see them coming to school expecting to accomplish good things. Students have exhibited responsibility for turning in assignments they missed in regards to attendance. This sort of perseverance will pay big dividends throughout the course of the year. Finally, it is nice to observe students helping one another with their academic endeavors. No matter what grade, students are willing to help one another with their studies when called to do so.

### Tutoring

The purpose of tutoring here at Clarks Point School is two-fold: to receive assistance in mastering grade-level content and to progress beyond grade-level content when mastery has been demonstrated. As you can see, this positively impacts all students. The expectation this year is that all students will receive at least 15 minutes of one-on-one instructional time everyday with the instructional aide in addition to regular classroom instruction.

### Physical Education

We have started a new club here in Clarks Point; it is called the One Hundred Mile Club. Throughout the course of the year the students will be keeping track of how many miles they walk, run or jog during physical education time. We have measured the distance around the gym and it takes twenty-two laps to complete one mile. The focus is not to see who can run the fastest mile or even to run the most miles; the focus is to develop healthy habits. When the students reach one hundred miles, they will be given a t-shirt that documents their healthy choice of exercise and they will be apart of the One Hundred Mile Club.



### Technology

All students in Clarks Point enjoy using technology in the school building, especially their computers. As of late, the 7th and 8th graders have been using their laptops to locate and read their Mirrors and Windows textbook online. Astounding to think that you can teach reading without a paper book in front you!

### Upcoming Happenings

The schedule looks to be filling up. We have school pictures at the end of this month. We have begun to make preparations to re-open the school store. Plans have begun to take shape regarding a fall festival sometime toward the end of October. Students have been reading their Battle of the Books materials and look forward to competing again this year.





## William ‘Sonny’ Nelson School

Jeff Goodrich, Lead Teacher

We are off to a great start here at William “Sonny” Nelson School. Only 10 students are enrolled here this year and they are excited to be back in school and are working hard. With 3 new Kindergarteners and 3 returning first graders Ms. Moede is using Reading Mastery to continue to help the students learn to read. Her students are all engaged during reading time and they are enjoying learning to read. The interaction and positive reinforcement help the children to do their best. The kindergarteners are practicing their routines and learning the rules as they learn who helps them at school and also learn to help each other. They have been working on several fall themed projects and have been enjoying the nice autumn weather.

**The students in Mr. Goodrich’s class are working hard. Reading Mastery is going well and the students like the fast pace and the engaging stories. The students are also liking their math and science lessons.**

Aimsweb testing data is being utilized to better understand students’ strengths and weaknesses so that we can tailor our instruction to each student’s needs. One of the benefits of being in such a small school is that the students receive a lot of one on one time with their teachers and instruction can be directed to help each student.

Ekwok experienced a prolonged power outage of four days. School was held as normal with minimal interruption. As a service

project, the students in the older class delivered cases of bottled water to the elders, and others in need, throughout the community. They said that it made them feel good to help provide this basic need. Twenty cases of water were distributed. The elders were all very gracious to the students as they brought the water to the elders’ doors.

For Language Arts in grades 6-8, Basic English Composition and Mirrors and Windows Connecting with Literature (EMC) are being utilized again this year. In addition to this, a Daily Oral Language Program (DOL) is used at the beginning of every class. The goal of DOL is to increase the proficiency level of the Revision Strand of the SBA Writing Test. Another new exercise that the middle school students complete is a daily Vocabulary Builder, which defines a word, provides an example as well as a list of synonyms.

**We all look forward to the rest of a great year at William “Sonny” Nelson School!**



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Koliganek School

Cody McCanna, Principal

### School Changes

Koliganek School is off and running. We have some new staff members and some new programs that we are excited about this year. Our school year started a little wet, but we overcame it and are excited about the opportunities this year holds for our students. Reading Mastery is the new K-5 reading and language arts program that is being utilized across the District. Paraprofessionals are doing an outstanding job of stepping up to the plate and taking on the responsibility of teaching Reading Mastery.

### Wet Start

Koliganek School experienced some flooding on the evening of August 17th. There were a few inches of water in our K-2 classroom, the office, and in our library downstairs. The accident occurred in our K-2 classroom sink. The village turned the water off during the school day and a student accidentally put a piece of paper towel in the sink. When the water came back on later in the day the faucet was turned on and the water filled over the sink. It created some new challenges for our staff and we spent the next few days drying things out. Needless to say that we had to cancel school on the 18th and 19th to allow the carpet to dry and to make sure there was no structural damage done to the floor and ceiling that would be dangerous to the students. Parts of the library ceiling were torn out and the drywall was replaced.

### Professional Learning Community (PLC)

Koliganek School's teaching staff will participate in a PLC again this year. A PLC calendar has been set for the entire year with the first meeting occurring on September 23rd. Teachers will be meeting from 8:00 to 10:00 on every other Friday morning to discuss school improvement efforts. Teachers will also be doing peer-to-peer

observations throughout the year to improve their teaching practices. The focus of the work comes from the SBA data and the AIMS web data that illustrate the areas of particular weaknesses of our students.

### Culture Week

August 22, 23, 24, and 25 was designated as our Culture Week this year. Students participated in various cultural activities throughout the week. The K-5 students had a regular morning schedule and then did cultural activities in the afternoon while the 6-12 students did all day activities. More than 75% of the 6-12 students were checked out by an adult in the community to participate in moose hunting or berry picking activities. The remainder of the 6-12 students helped with the K-5 students in the afternoon and made some fish shaped plaques that have the Bristol Bay Elder Values on each plaque. The plaques are going to be hung in the corridor by the gym so all visitors can appreciate them.







## Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Larry Johnson, Principal

Manokotak School staff and students have had a busy six weeks since school opened on August 15th. Our new reading programs have been implemented. The elementary students are very active in the new Reading Master program. Our teacher aides have come to after school trainings and were excited to travel to Dillingham for more training on how to deliver the Reading mastery program. The Saxon math curriculum, new to us this year, is being well accepted in the k-6 grades.

This year Manokotak School has added Yupik Language studies as an elective in our high school. The class is held daily. All juniors are taking this class to meet the two years of language requirement.

We held a Parent Night on Tuesday August 21st starting at 4:15 pm at the school. Many parents of high school age students attended. The meeting had a couple of purposes; one was for parents and students to hear the district computer use rules and sign an agreement to follow those rules. The second purpose for the Parent Night was to have parents and student athletics to view the required drug, alcohol & tobacco video. Also, this year coaches and parents are required to view online video information dealing with concussions.

On August 25th the Lt. Governor, Mead Treadwell, along with several of his staff, several GCI personnel, including a State Legislator visited our school. We held an assembly and invited the community to attend. The Lt. Governor spoke for a few minutes and then the group was given a chance to tour our school. Most of the group stopped at one of the glass display cases and purchased several items that our Yupik culture class had made and put on display. The Lt. Governor stated that he wanted to come back to our school. We invited him to come to graduation in May.

Two health education directors from Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation came to our school and did presentations on the dangers of tobacco.

Sept. 6 was in-service for teachers. Reading consultant Lexie Domaradzki was on video across the district instructing us on the use Aimsweb data. It was a very informative and useful training. All instructional aides attended Reading Mastery, SPED or Yupik in-service in Dillingham from the 7th -9th. I heard many positive comments from the aides about the in-service trainings.

Our Cross Country team got a late start due to our challenge of having sports physicals done here at our school. After several calls to the Bristol Bay Health Corporation the doctor finally made it out on the 7th of September.

To honor those who died on 9-11 our school participated in different activities on Friday 9-9 and Monday 9-12. On Monday an assembly was held to honor all the veterans, search & rescue, firemen, and police officers from our village.

As you can see we have been very active here at Manokotak School for the first six weeks that school has been in session.



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## ‘Chief’ Ivan Blunka School

Brett Scott, Principal

It has been a great start to the school year at Chief Ivan Blunka School. We have 3 new staff members that are bringing energy, creativity, and new ideas to our programs. Everyone is working hard, including students. There seems to be a nice “get to work” attitude within the staff and the students. I couldn’t be more proud of our students, staff, and community with the efforts that have been made so far this year at Chief Ivan Blunka School. We have changed a lot of things, but we have also kept those things that needed to be kept. Instruction has changed, monitoring student progress has changed, schedules have changed, both certified and classified staff assignments have changed, but the attitudes of our students and community have not changed. School spirit and pride are as strong as ever. Parent and community support for the school is as strong as ever. Community participation is still a given in New Stuyahok.

### Culture Days

For the first time, we held our high school Culture Days during the opening three days of moose season this year. It was a huge success!! Elders were in our school every day interacting with the students and staff alike. Students learned traditional ways of making nets, splitting and canning fish, and were treated to a full day of activities on the river. Our elementary students only participated in the Culture Activities on Wednesday, but they made and painted some the best-looking birdhouses and feeders, that most of us had ever seen!

### Cross Country

We have 18 students out for cross-country this year, 13 high school and 5 middle school runners. Their first meet was held in Koliganek. Three skiffs took the runners, coach, and chaperones up river to compete



against other students in the district. They all ran hard and came home with some great results. We held our annual cross country meet on September 7th, hosting over 50 middle and high school runners, from schools across the district and surrounding communities. Community support was over whelming, and coaches left saying what a fantastic community we have in New Stuyahok. Our district runners had great results. We are looking forward to September 24th, when will host the Region One South Cross Country Meet. We are expecting over 150 runners from across the region. The school and the community could not be more excited! The school and community would like to extend an invite to the Southwest Region School District School Board to come to New Stuyahok and enjoy what is going to a great race and great hospitality!!





## Togiak School

### Jason Mabry, Principal

We are enjoying an excellent start to the school year at Togiak School! I am very impressed by the positive climate in the school as well as the community. The staff has really pulled together to make our new teachers feel at home and to welcome our children. A Core Team of staff members is working together to develop a handbook for our school that details procedures and policies in our school building. We plan to have this completed and ready for review by the CSC prior to their November meeting. This will provide our community with a better understanding of the practices at the school. The core team is also evaluating the way that RTP works in our school with a focus on making sure that we are following the philosophy of the program. We will also be looking toward integrating the Bristol Bay Cultural Values into plans that are developed by our students. We will be inviting our Elders into the school to assist students in developing their plans and to proactively talk with students.

### Reading Mastery: Read To Win Program

We officially kicked off our Togiak School "Read to Win" program in September at an elementary school-wide assembly. Students participated in games similar to those on the "Minute to Win It" game show. Students practiced the basic procedures of the Reading Mastery program and learned about the incentives in place for students that attend regularly. Student earn stars for participating each day which can be redeemed for prizes. Students that attend regularly and participate fully will have the opportunity to attend a quarterly extravaganza event at the school. Our first event will feature a new release movie, popcorn, and open gym for those that do not want to view the movie. We are very excited about the Reading Mastery program and the increases in reading achievement that will occur.

### Extra-Curricular Activities

The cross-country running season is in full swing. We started the season with six high school runners and thirteen middle school runners. Several 5th graders are also practicing as we look to grow our cross-country program for future years. The team has been very active with regard to fund-raising in order to fund travel opportunities for the current school year. Students will be traveling to New Stuyahok and Bethel this month in preparation for the Regional Meet. One of our high school students also traveled to Palmer and participated in the Colony Invitational Meet in Palmer.

### Student Council

The Togiak School Student Council is sponsoring a Spirit Week during the week of September 19th. Students will be invited to dress for the occasion each day to show their Husky Spirit. The culminating event is a school-wide assembly on Thursday, September 22nd where we will recognize our student-athletes. The Student Council will be actively working this year to increase school spirit and make our school a more welcoming place for all. We want our students to work hard but we also want to enjoy each other and make school a fun place to be. Go Huskies!!







## Twin Hills School

Meghan Redmond, Lead Teacher

The first month of school in Twin Hills has just flown by. We started the school year being very thankful to have our new septic system completed just in time for school to start. It was quite a huge project, but it is a big worry off of our minds to have that new system in place. We can already see improvements with how our plumbing is functioning day to day.

We of course also had an open house potluck dinner the first week of school, to go over expectations with our parents and welcome our new teacher to the village.

Along with all other sites, Twin Hills is implementing Reading Mastery as our main reading curriculum. We started off with Reading Mastery groups in the first week of school and are already seeing that having the students in the leveled groups is having a positive impact. It is making our lives as multi-grade teachers much more manageable, and our students are getting instruction that is matching their needs. Now that our instructional aides have returned from the Reading Mastery training in Dillingham, we are very excited about getting them more involved with leading reading groups.

All staff and instructional aides, most of our students, and even a former student trekked down our beach to take our annual clamming field trip the first Saturday of September. Upon arrival, the tide wasn't quite low enough to start clamming, so the students searched the appearing tidal pools for sea anemone and mussels. Once the tide was out, all in attendance trooped out into the mud to search for clams. It was a successful trip, despite a little bit of 4-wheeler trouble on the return trip.

The months of September and October are proving to be busy travel months for us. In September our custodian and instructional aides traveled to Dillingham for inservices and Louann Bates, K-4 teacher, traveled to Dillingham to be part of the district writing assessment scoring team. The 7th graders are gearing up for a Twin Hills Village Council sponsored trip to Anchorage in October for AFN Elders and Youth Conference.

