

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION



BOARD OF EDUCATION

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On Dreams

"Positive images of the future are a powerful and magnetic force... They draw us on and energize us, give us courage and will to take on important initiatives..."

--William James



break is over and we are moving heading toward a wonderful spring..

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Jack Foster, Superintendent

Curriculum Progress

I am very proud of the team effort being made to make the curriculum process move forward. The Math and Language Arts should be completed by the end of the year. The Yup'ik Studies Curriculum Steering Committee is

making great progress.

Impact Aid

We will be turning in the application for impact aid in the next few days. The numbers will be a little bit higher than last years count.

New Stuyahok Eagles Win State Championship!



Site Visits

It is such a pleasure visiting the sites and watching education at its best. We are so lucky to have a great group of students. As I walked through the classrooms, I could see that the students are really making an effort to learn the material being presented. I am so proud of our students. Not only do we have the best students Southwest Region Schools has the best staff that really cares about providing every child with every chance for success.

Have we mentioned that all of the students have their new laptops? The staff and all 7th through 12th grade students have received their new laptops. Everyone seemed very happy to receive the computer. Again as with most of our successes, this is a team effort. Also for their efforts, two members of the technology staff have been nominated as Employees of the Month.





Curriculum & Instruction

David Piazza, Director of Instructional Programs

eRate

This has been a productive time span for seeing progress on each of the District's E-Rate funding years. For last year, the district has received its entitled reimbursements from the Form 472 BEAR forms from each local and long distance telephone service vendor.

The District has also received its Funding Commitment Decision Letter indicating acceptance of this year's E-Rate Form 471 application. This is the final year for our three-year contracts for Internet and Distance Delivery services, so there are no notable changes to our connectivity or use of the services this year.

Finally, the window for next year's application has opened so the District is in the process of responding to questions from vendors and will be evaluating proposals in order to obtain quality and cost effective services for next year and into the future to meet student and staff communication and learning needs.

AASB Conference & Youth Leadership Institute

Two students attended the Youth Leadership Institute held during the AASB Conference in November. Manokotak Student Body President Tiarna Fischler and Vice President Vamrie Andrews attended their specific sessions as well as participated in several of the large group sessions with Board Members Marie Paul, Helen Gregorio, Leroy Fox, and Ferdinand Sharp.

I had the opportunity to attend the conference and participated in all of the sessions for new school board members. The sessions provided information that help individuals learn the roles and responsibilities on becoming an effective board member, as well as working with district administration.



The new board member sessions were run by experienced board members and AASB staff. Sessions included: "I've been elected, now what?"; "Legal Rights and Responsibilities"; "Why Policy Matters"; "What can AASB do for me?"; "Board & Superintendent Responsibilities"; "Educational Finance"; "Standards, Instruction and Assessment"; and "Community Engagement". Several video clip scenarios were also presented to provide discussion about the handling of various issues raised during school board meetings.

Additional sessions during the general conference also provided insights into meeting the needs of students from a School Board and Superintendent's perspective.

SnapShot sessions allowed participants to learn about four (4) of twenty-two (22) possible topics presented by school district and/or state-wide non-profit/educational foundation personnel. I was able to participate in "Teaming with Advisory School Boards to Improve School Climate" presented by Superintendent Gary Baldwin. This session discussed the use of the School Climate and Connectedness Survey (SCCS) to be used by the local Community School Committees in developing action plans for improvement in one area. Two additional sessions regarding "Strengthening Family Engagement in Schools" and "How the thread of early care

and education connects with success in school” provided information about leveraging parent involvement to meet student's educational needs. Finally the presentation on “Focus on Safety” described safety curriculum developed with rural Alaskan students in mind.

I also had a chance to participate in a sectional on “Engaging Parents in Students Success” presented by the Southeast Regional Resource Center and Yupiit School District. This session described the use of Language and Cultural Liaisons to bridge the school and home. This program appears to be similar to the Home School Liaison program that Southwest Region has implemented in the past.

CSC Training

The District provided its annual Community School Committee (CSC) member training session in November. Participants from Clarks Point and Manokotak were able to travel to Dillingham to be on-site with trainer Joyanne Bloom. Additional CSC members from Ekwok and Koliganek utilized the Distance Delivery system to participate. The CSC members in attendance received a letter from Governor Sean Parnell thanking them for their service to the schools and children. The District's CSC Handbook was reviewed to provide an orientation for new members and a refresher for continuing members. The training concluded with all members conducting and participating in a mock CSC meeting.

Employees of the Year

During the district-wide inservice this Fall, the 2010 Southwest Region School District's Teacher of the Year, Lida Storch, was recognized by her peers. Lida currently teaches 5th grade in New Stuyahok. At the November School Board meeting, Denise Gregoire was recognized at the 2010 Classified Employee of the Year. Denise performs all of the Payroll duties for the entire school district and is based at the District Office.

Teacher of the Year
Lida Storch



Classified Employee of the Year
Denise Gregoire



Student Records/ PowerSchool Support (Nate Preston)

We are currently in the process of gathering and recording Impact Aid data. The Impact Aid data is used to compile the Impact Aid report. The data we gather is very important as we received approximately 4.4 million dollars from Impact Aid last year.

We are also in the process of rolling over the Powerschool system to a new semester. Student grades for semester one are being recorded and students are being enrolled in semester two courses. Lastly, we are in the process of getting the HSGQE pre-coded (student and school data pre

filled in) for all students who will be taking the HSGQE this year.



Counseling/State-wide Assessments (Steve Ito)

Completed the annual EED mandated Idea Proficiency Testing (IPT) coordinator training updates for spring 2011 Limited English Proficiency testing cycle. Coordination of IPT training at all sites will take place in January. Identified teachers will complete web-based proficiency training in order to be qualified assessor/proctors for the February administration of the IPT to required grade level students. The IPT is family of tests are comprehensive

standardized tests that assess listening, speaking, reading and writing. Fall High School Graduating Qualifying Exam (HSGQE) Retake scores were available 12-04-10 for review. The HSGQE is offered two times every school year (fall and spring). A sophomore may take the HSGQE for the first time in the spring of their 10th grade year. The HSGQE assesses for Reading, Writing and Math skills a graduating senior in Alaska would be required to know.

Have identified and currently training two certified staff SPED members to be Alternate Assessment Protégés for 2011 testing of significant cognitively disabled students. The Alternate Assessment exists for students with significant cognitive disabilities to have access to,

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

Spring HSGQE & SBA district wide testing enrollments have been submitted to Data Recognition Corporation. Pre Code labeling data transfer will take place in January. Submitting enrollments and Pre-Code data greatly enhances the quality and accuracy of test administration during the mandated spring Standards Based Assessment and High School Qualifying Exam testing window.

Updating McKinney-Vento homeless school data as required by The Department of Education and Early Development.



**Media Center
(Shannon Clouse):**

Koliganek Imagination Library Best Beginnings

Margie Nelson and I were both able to go to training in Anchorage hosted by Best Beginnings



about the Imagination Library. We received great information and ideas from the Imagination Libraries that are running all over Alaska. Margie hosted a family literacy night in October for the children who are receiving books in Koliganek. She used an activity provided on the website from Best Beginnings. She read two books, one of which was "Hands are Not for Hitting." Margie also provided information to parents on language and literacy.

The Imagination Library mails a free, high-quality, brand-new book each month to children from birth to age 5 who live in communities that support the program. Best Beginnings strongly believes that Imagination Libraries must be organized and promoted from within their community, if you would like more information you can go to www.bestbeginningsalaska.org. You can also contact Barbara Brown, the project manager, at bbrown@bestbeginningsalaska.org.

First Book/RIF Grant

The district was awarded 1,956 books (30 titles) as a grant from First Book and RIF. These books were sent to our district to distribute as we choose.

It has been a struggle to decide what to do with these books, mainly because of the quantity with not very many titles. So far I have labeled (spine labels, AR points) and sorted 30 titles for each of the libraries in our school district, and mailed about 50 boxes of books to school and public libraries in our region. We still have about a pallet of books left and I plan to use the remaining books for our RIF distributions.



Ekwok Site Visit

At the request of principal Jeff Goodrich I traveled to Ekwok to work in their library and try to make it more of a functional, working library. I spent almost every minute I was in Ekwok weeding their collection and organizing the Nonfiction section. It was very discouraging for me to discover that the average age of their Nonfiction collection is from 1975. This means that the average nonfiction book in their library was published in or around 1975, making this collection hopelessly outdated. I was able to get the nonfiction section into working order, but as is the case in most of our small libraries, although they are organized on the shelf, there is no way to know what the library contains because the card catalog is extremely out of date and the library is not automated. I am planning another visit to Ekwok, this time to work on their fiction section.

New Stuyahok Site Visit

Chief Ivan Blunka School received a Laura Bush Grant that allowed them to buy \$6,000 worth of books for their libraries, thanks to Carol and Bob Thompson. Carol ordered books from Follett Title-

wave as well as an independent publisher out of Canada. During my visit to New Stuyahok I downloaded the MARC records for the new books from Follett, thus making them immediately available to students to check out and read. I also spent a lot of time getting barcodes and spine labels on the early reader nonfiction books. These early reader books are a wonderful addition to New Stuyahok's collection because they feature Alaska type scenarios and Native people and have titles like "Eating Moose Stew." Carol did a wonderful job in choosing books for their library, students are sure to be excited and motivated to read in New Stuyahok!

Battle of the Books

We have the largest amount of schools participating in Battle of the Books this year since I have become Media Specialist. With just about a month to go before districts determine who will represent Southwest Region Schools at the State tournament we will be having practice battles to get our students excited about competing and of course reading.

Reading Is Fundamental

Our performance report for 2010 and the RIF Books for Ownership 2011 service were submitted during the Christmas break. They have been reviewed and accepted. We will begin ordering our books in late January/ early February for the 2011 school year. During this time our volunteer RIF coordinators will plan and implement 3 book distributions in which students will get to participate in a motivational literacy based activity and choose a book of their very own to take home.



**Curriculum (Deb Endicott)**

Language Arts

New materials for Language Arts are now in the hands of teachers and students. These courses will provide student the essential credits for the English Graduation requirements. Step up to Writing, a K-3 Writing program, is being piloted at three school sites. This may be recommended as a supplement to the existing writing components targeting primary writing skills.

One committee and staff identified areas of reading needing improvement is vocabulary. The Language Arts Curriculum Committee is researching materials to address this and will include a solution in its recommendation for adoption later this spring.

E-books have been introduced to the students as part of the EMC Mirrors and Windows series. Each grade level is given a pin-code from the publisher that provides students access various electronic resources from their laptops. Teachers then utilize this resource into their instructional plans.

Mathematics

The Math Curriculum Committee is also nearly done with its work this year. Presently it is looking at intervention strategies and materials to improve student achievement in this area.

Science

We are also preparing to begin the work of the Science Curriculum Committee. A team will be formed in the near future to review current curriculum and recommend necessary changes to meet state requirements.

This district continues to participate in the Alaska Science Consortium. This year, Kyle Casper and Deb Endicott represented the district for the second year. One workgroup at the meeting developed a support to teachers to implement Science Fairs in the schools to promote more science in the classrooms. Once the Science Curriculum Committee is organized, it will also look at the possibility of implementing a district wide Science Fair events taking advantage of the support from the Alaska Science Consortium.

As the Spring 2011 semester begins several teachers make request for student and teacher materials. We continue to provide those materials at a cost effective and as fast as we can to support teachers.

Curriculum Library

Continues to grow to represent the materials used out at sites. Our goal is to have complete library by start of 2011/2012 school year. This library is essential to support teachers in the field giving them a visual connection to what they should find in their classrooms.

Used Textbooks

We continue to sell used textbooks to a company that pays for the shipping to them and then credits our account. Since some of our materials are older, we also use this company to purchase teacher materials as needed to fill gaps. The credits for old books help cover this cost. We are using this process as a resource to supply the curriculum library.



State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Federal/State Programs Director

Alaska STEPP

No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

As a reminder, only schools and districts at level 2 or higher in improvement are required to have school improvement plans, however, all of our schools are participating in the Alaska STEPP process in an effort to improve student achievement throughout the district. That being said, during the November 30th principals meeting, time was dedicated to the development of the district and school improvement plans through the Alaska STEPP process.

As a result of the meeting, three out of the 22 Alaska STEPP indicators were selected as areas of emphasis and will be addressed in more depth by each school and the district. The three indicators of emphasis are 3.2 – district-wide & school efforts to help low-performing students become proficient will be coordinated; 3.3 – district and schools will incorporate scientifically based research strategies into the district –approved curriculum to strengthen the core academic programs in the schools; and 5.1- district and school achievement data are a primary factor in determining professional development priorities. The three indicators were selected after reviewing data from the indicator assessments scores, priority scores, opportunity scores, and current implementation of the 22 indicators for each school and the district. Feedback from school improvement teams, which include CSC members, teachers, paraprofessionals, and parents has played a vital role in the planning process.

A timeline to complete the plans for the indicators and beginning the monitoring of those indicators was developed during the principals meeting. This timeline will ensure that the district and school im-

provement plans for 2010-2011 will be ready for submission by next year.

The public has access to each school's Alaska STEPP (school improvement) planning process and progress. Contact the principal of the school or myself for guest access for a particular school. Attached is the comprehensive plan from January 3rd, 2011. 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**

Monitoring

No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (EED) will be monitoring the district's NCLB Title grants and related programs. There are 114 program requirements in which the state monitoring team will be reviewing for compliance. Each applicable program requirement requires evidence showing that the district is meeting the requirement. All of the evidence will be sent to the state monitoring team in January. The state monitoring team will travel to the district in March to continue the monitoring process. The district team has been working on gathering evidence for the program requirements and look forward to the opportunity to work with EED regarding the Title grants and related programs.



Business Office

Lee Ann Andrew, Director of Administrative Services

Early in December Denise and Lee Ann attended the Alaska Association of School Business Officials conference in Anchorage. Lee Ann was elected by her peers to be on the association's board of directors for the next two years. This entails one hour long teleconference each month and one additional leadership meeting per year. The conference had a lot of good information about payroll, food service programs and purchasing.

Genevieve Dyasuk resigned as of December 28 to attend school in Fairbanks. We all wish her well. The business office hired Cindra Barrett as a temporary employee and will fill the vacant position soon. The business office is reviewing job duties and may do some reorganizing before advertising the position.

We finalized the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation audit and received the letter that our case is closed. (enclosed) We had a few items to obtain for our permanent files.

In late December we obtained all necessary approvals to close the Southwest Alaska School

Health Trust that has been inactive since 2003. The district received \$154,400.68. The current plan is to apply this revenue toward the Togiak/Manokotak housing project costs. If the district can utilize the current unreserved balance toward these projects it will save the district over one million dollars in interest fees over the next 30 years. Revenue and expenses for FY11 are currently on track which should allow this to happen.

Health insurance quotes for the same coverage came in with a 47% increase. After working with the broker and the staff it was decided to go with an increased deductible and stay with the current provider. The deductible with Premiera went from \$1000 to \$4000. The district is still utilizing a 3rd party administrator and is covering the deductible from \$250 to \$4000. Currently the district deductible costs are low enough that the district is not passing this cost on to the employees. Since January 2010, this program has cost the district \$20,000. When the cost is significant there will be a need to pass a portion on to the employees.



CSC Training in Dillingham



Special Education

Lee Webster, Director of Special Education

December passed by so fast with holiday celebrations. Many of our special education students participated with their peers in class and school-wide activities. Meanwhile, the Special Education staff began preparing for a very busy January and February.

January 18-21

Special education students, ages 16 on up, will be coming into Dillingham to participate in SERRC's Transition Camp at Dillingham High School. This is the first Transition Camp in SW area and has taken more than a year to coordinate. These transition camps are most often done in Juneau and Anchorage, so this is a great opportunity for our students to learn about the regional options. Students will be learning about job opportunities and training in this area and other parts of Alaska. They will be learning how to see their dreams and set their goals to achieve it. They will plan for the next few years before they graduate and make connections with the local services available to them before and after they graduate.. High School Special Education teachers will also be attending with their students and training in transition planning. They will be supervising students during their stay in Dillingham.

January 24-27

Monitoring Special Education program: a team of experts from EED will be reviewing the procedures and compliance with the regulations in Special Education. This is a 5-year review and will help determine the areas of need for the program.

Feb. 20-23

Special Education Staff will be attending the annual Alaska State Special Education Conference at the Sheraton Hotel. This is an event they all look forward to because they have the opportunity to meet so many colleagues and share ideas. Because one of our staff must stay at their site and another is attending the Florida NCLB conference, six of our teachers will be going this year. With all the new changes in the federal laws it will be very interesting to learn how special education is affected.



Educational Technology

Steve Noonkesser, Technology Director

2010 Refresh Complete!

Over the past six weeks the technology department's main focus has been the implementation of the 2010 technology refresh project. Through the use of state fiscal stabilization funds (SFSF), the district has been able to obtain new computers for students and teachers district wide. With the cooperation of the weather, staff was able to finish all of the site deployments with the exception of Twin Hills prior to the break. Twin Hills was completes the first week back after break.

All 7-12 students now have a new laptop, as do all teacher and principals. K-6 students are now using new desktop computers and all classified aides and 6th grade students have updated laptops as well.

The 2010 technology refresh project as it has become known has involved the deployment of approximately 440 new technology assets in our eight schools. The installation included new computers

for teachers and students, new wireless network equipment, new servers, as well as upgrades to classified staff computers that will ensure classified staff will be able to better access online college classes.

Staff and students appear to really be enjoying the use of the upgraded equipment and had very little disruption to their routines during installation. The project's success is largely due to the level of funding the board provided and the extensive time and effort spent by Les Parks and Corey Evans in thorough preparation for each site installation visit.

AIMSweb Window

Testing materials are being prepared for the upcoming AIMS Web benchmark window which opens January 17 and runs through the 20 with an inservice day planned at sites on the 21st for to teachers to enter and analyze the data collected during the benchmark assessment.



Principals using their new laptops at a recent administrator's meeting.



Facilities & Maintenance

Rick Dallmann, Maintenance Director

Twin Hills

Kitchen upgrades have been completed, new commercial stove and oven were installed along with a self-contained warming tray rack system.

The new bulk fuel farm has been commissioned and is in service.

The Dept. of Education has released their final decision on the Major Maintenance Grant Funding; we are still # 49 out of 117 projects.

The Governor has requested in his budget \$ 19.9 million for school major maintenance, this would fund 14 projects

Our eligible project amount is \$ 1,368,336 for Renovations.

Koliganek

We have been working on outstanding work orders and trying to take care of some housing issues over the holiday break.

The Dept. of Education has released their final decision on the School Construction Funding; we are still # 5 out of 32 projects.

The Governor has requested in his budget \$28.5 million for new school construction. This will only fund the # 1 school on the list.

I am hoping the Legislators will request \$ 100 million for school construction as this is the amount they normally like to fund; this would fund

the top 3 schools and move us up the list. Our eligible amount is \$ 23,538,122.

We could be funded in FY 13 State budget; we will need to start looking at funding our participating share for this project (\$ 470,762)

Aleknagik

We have received our order of new lights for the gym and hope to do installation over the holiday break (thirty-year-old lighting). I am sure the kids and community will be happy to be able to see in there gym again!

I thank Jeff for his patience as this project has taken some time to get completed.

District-Wide

We continue to work on outstanding work orders and our preventative work order system.

Jason Munster has completed his Probationary period and is now a full time Maintenance Mechanic. We are very happy to have him on board and are starting to get caught up on outstanding work orders and complete some much needed upgrades at sites.

Water testing continues at all four Class A Systems



Aleknagik School

Jeff Ambrosier, Principal

Aleknagik finished up the first semester with a little testing, a great potluck, and some sledding. The students are progressing through their different reading levels under the care of Mrs. Schiaffo. The staff realizes that when students can read and write more effectively that other subjects become easier to learn. We are looking forward to the January benchmark to give us more formal data to compare back to the September benchmark.

The basketball team is off and running under the direction of Mr. Gilbertson. They are looking forward to the tournament in Ekwok at the end of the month.



The Christmas potluck featured performances from the different classes as well as an awards assembly followed by the drawing of the hickory sleds that were made by last years 6th-8th graders. The raffle earned 1500.00 and the winners of sleds were excited to receive their prize.

The staff is continuing to work on the online process of STEPP during the collaboration meetings then bringing data to the CSC for review. The username and password has been given to the CSC and if parents are interested in reviewing this data they can contact the school and be given this information.



Clarks Point School

Doug Bushey, Principal

School Improvement

All the students will participate in the AIMS Web benchmarking assessment for reading and math this month. The staff with analyzes the AIMS Web data by a quadrant method to help determine educational modifications and interventions.

The staff is continuing to provide data for the S.T.E.P.P. planning and will continue to provide this updated information to the CSC board at the monthly meeting.

Student Activities

The student council hosted the Christmas program on December 17 with a community potluck, piñata, and church service. The students had an award assembly regarding "Achievement in Excellence" prior to the event.

The student body is assisting the local environmental office in building safety/travel tripods for travelers during the winter months between Clarks Point and the Nushagak River. This project is planned on being completed by the end of March.



Visitors and Community Activities

On December 17 Father Scott of Dillingham provided the church service at the Christmas school program. On December 21 the Dillingham Moravian Church provided a community Christmas service.





Koliganek School

Cody McCanna, Lead Teacher

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!! December was a short, but busy month around Koliganek School. It is hard to believe that half the school year is already behind us. I would like to thank my entire staff for their devotion to the students at Koliganek School. I would also like to thank our CSC members, Dixie Tun-guing, Cheryl Goodell, Mary Apokedok, Grace Ishnook, and Lindsey Rau for their support and efforts to make Koliganek School a better place.

December was filled with high school final exams and Christmas decorations all around. We had our annual Christmas Program on December 21st, which was highlighted by a surprise visit from my old buddy up North in a red suit. Community members enjoyed the singing and poems read by students while getting a chance to have their picture taken with Old Saint Nick.

Terry Fuller from Togiak National Wildlife Refuge gave several presentations to our students about migratory birds and the annual Bird Calendar contest. Terry had some amazing facts and pictures to share with students to increase their knowledge about migratory birds around Koliganek.

Koliganek also had our annual Santa's Workshop on Monday the 20th of December. Thanks to a hard working staff, community members had the opportunity to come and buy some gifts for family and friends. Pam Johnson does an amazing job of making Santa's Workshop a reality year after year.



The teaching staff at Koliganek spent some time in their PLC to practice the art of peer observations. Teachers are spending time in each other's classrooms as data collectors and tools for improving their teaching practices. This is a new art in the education profession, but our staff is willing to dive right in to try new things to improve their already outstanding teaching practices.





Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Herman Gerving, Principal

Our Student Council President and Vice-President, Tiarna Fischler and Vamrie Andrew, represented Nunaniq School and Southwest Region School District at the 2010 Alaska Association of School Board Youth Leadership Institute in Anchorage. Almost one hundred students from around the state attended, with several days of workshops, sessions, and presentations. As part of full participation in the conference, they donated one king salmon subsistence net from the Nunaniq Culture classes to the June Nelson Memorial Scholarship fundraising auction which ultimately sold to the highest bidder for \$275!



Student Council President, Tiarna Fischler, was appointed to the State Board of Education and Early Development as Student Advisor. Tiarna was one of four finalists selected by the Alaska Association of Student Governments (AASG) to interview with the State Board in December. As SBEED Representative, she is also a member of the AASG Executive Board, and her advisor, Dana Bartman, becomes a member of the AASG Steering Committee. The assignments come with incredible responsibility, and Tiarna is well-prepared to meet the challenges and represent the community of Manokotak, Nunaniq School, and Southwest Region School District.

Manokotak Nunaniq School hosted the Bristol Bay Vision Meeting for students and community



members. All students grades 7-12 participated in an afternoon session, and numerous community members attended the evening session.

At the community's request, Nunaniq School also hosted two separate presentations for all students to address growing concerns with vehicle safety and inhalant use. The village and city councils, clinic, public safety, and youth program provided personnel and information to share with the students.

The annual Christmas Program was a particular success this year: well-attended by community members, showcasing an interesting variety of performances, and including a special visit with treats from Santa Claus.





‘Chief’ Ivan Blunka School

Bob Thompson, Principal

The Eagles are State Champions in volleyball! Our girls went through a challenging round of regionals with both Koli-ganek and Port Lions providing tough competition, but the Eagles came out on top. Then, in a close match with Skag-way in the first round at State it took the Eagles five sets to put away the southeast team. After that the Lady Eagles were able to quickly dispatch Cook Inlet Academy before meeting Port Lions again in the final. The Eagles won it in three sets to become State Champs.



Holiday Celebrations

December is always a busy month with tournaments and holiday celebrations. After hosting regionals in volleyball this year, Chief Ivan Blunka School quickly moved to preparations for our Christmas program and finishing out the first semester of school. A huge tree was put up and decorated for the commons area. A Christmas bazaar and visit by Santa were all part of the festivities. Our Christmas program featured each class singing and dancing and a high school candle dance. The staff got involved with a small combo singing and playing Christmas carols. Even with all of this activity our students studied hard and took finals the last week before the break.

New Year

The New Year started off with Russian Orthodox Christmas and New Years the week of January 10th. Groups of students and adults traveled from house to house as part of the Slavi celebration. The week was topped off with a bonfire at midnight on Russian Orthodox New Years Eve followed by a church service. Everyone walks around the bonfire three times for good luck. These great traditions always help New Stuyahok celebrate the holidays and provide a great start to the new year.



Second Semester

Second semester starts on January 17th at Chief Ivan Blunka School. We are looking forward to a very successful second half of the year after a great first half. Our students are demonstrating a renewed commitment to their education while continuing to have great success in extra-curricular activities. Basketball season is well underway leading up to the New Stu Showdown the first week of February and the boys' regional tournament in New Stuyahok in March. It's going to be a fun 2011!



Togiak School

David Morris, Principal

It is hard to imagine that the school year has reached the midway point. It is a good time to take stock in the progress our students have made over the course of the first semester. Students and staff alike have been committing great effort toward improving our educational programs and student achievement. We are seeing results that confirm our efforts to date.

In the elementary, our supplemental reading and writing interventions have strengthened and complimented classroom language arts instruction. Alternate Learning Styles Director, Michelle Walker, is back, providing more training for teachers and paraprofessionals. The focus is on reading and writing interventions to help students with decoding, phonemic awareness, fluency, comprehension, and writing skills. We are seeing exceptional gains from students who are involved in the program.

In the middle school we have scheduled two 40-minute blocks each day. One is used to instruct and support students with specific content they have struggled with on the Standards Based Assessments. The second 40-minute block is used to provide targeted reading instruction and interventions for our middle school students. There is more good instruction and learning taking place in the middle school than at any time in the past two years.

In our high school, expectations and support for our students, as they strive to reach their educational goals, is also at a very high. Many of our high school students have recently earned dual credit for courses taken during the Fall Semester in Ivory Carving and Grass Weaving.

The success we are having can be directly attributed to the efforts of our students, staff, and teachers, as well as support from our parents. I want to thank everyone who is working hard on behalf of our students and wish everyone a safe, happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Togiak High School 1st Semester Honor Roll

Keith Fox
Brianna Katchatag
Drew Carlos
Loni Lowry
Kristi Gonzalez
Damien Lockuk
Aubrey Gosuk
Garron Nanalook
Richard Poulson
Clara Gosuk
Tristan Lee
Tyler Blue
Kiauna Katchatag
Robert Blue





Twin Hills School

Esther Ilutsik, Principal/Teacher

Greetings from Twin Hills!

Staff Training

The certified staff of Twin Hills School attended the Introduction to the 6+1 Trait Writing: Model of Instruction and Assessment hosted by Education Northwest Lab and held in San Diego, California November 30 – December 2, 2010. The sessions were divided into two intense sessions with Meghan Redmond participating in the middle school section and Esther Ilutsik participating in the primary school section. Each of the groups had about 16 participants coming from many private schools and public schools across the United States (Memphis) and even a participant from South American. The presenters guided us through the understanding of the 6 + 1 Traits: Ideas, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, Conventions and Presentation. We were given the opportunity to actually participate in the activities where each trait was introduced, samples of actual student work and making materials that we would use in the implementation process. We begin the implementation of the 6+1 Traits of Writing upon our return to the classrooms. In addition, mini-writing traits sessions will be introduced on a weekly basis (weekly Friday sessions) to the instructional aides



Christmas Program

The Twin Hill School program was held on December 15, 2010 @ 3:30 pm. The students presented Christmas songs accompanied with pianist Bev Cano and directed by Nick Sharp, 8th grade student. The pre-k, k and 1st grade sang, "Jingle Bells" followed with the students singing traditional Christmas carols. Then the students presented orally the Yuyaaraq, 3rd & 4th grade presented choral reading, "The Christmas Stocking", which was adapted to local theme, and 6th and 8th grade presented in choral reading, " 'Twas the Night Before Christmas". The program ended with more songs and was followed by a pot-luck dinner. During the dinner community members sang carols before we transitioned into the raffle drawing.



Raffle

First of all the Twin Hills School would like to thank all those who donated prizes to their raffle. We would especially like to thank PenAir who donated a RT ticket from Dillingham to Anchorage. Members of the Twin Hills community made many contributions which included a dried seal skin, a jar of seal oil, a bag of black berries, home-made maqi hat, a croqueted doily, a croqueted afghan, gaspeq material, a junior laminator, beaded earring donated by Chickie Andrews of Aleknagik, and most importantly rocks that will serve as paper weights and door stoppers that were collected and painted by the students. It was a great time to be held for all with our own community member John Mark winning the RT ticket! Quyana cak-neq, thank you all for supporting our students in the fund drive effort! They have reached their goal and we will be able to send two planeloads of children with chaperones to Ekwok small school activities gathering in January 2011.

