

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION



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On Children

"Why don't we teach our children in school what they are? We should say to them, "You are unique, you have the capacity for anything. You are a marvel."

--Charles Handy

On Optimism

"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence." "

-- Helen Keller



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

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Jack Foster, Superintendent

GREAT TEAMWORK!

As we work through the STEPP process (Steps Toward Educational Progress and Partnerships), school improvement plan, we are watching teamwork in action. When you have caring communities, caring community schools staffed with sincere, dedicated professionals providing every child with every chance for success, it is an easier process to follow.

ENROLLMENT COUNT

The "Average Daily Membership Report" was submitted on November 5th. It takes about two weeks for the state to certify the report.

AASB QUALITY SCHOOLS

This report is in your packet. Proposed activities address strengths and needs identified through student and adult surveys and student performance data.

SITE VISIT: NEW STUYAHOK

While visiting New Stuyahok I notice something very special happening with the education of one child. I ask Bob Thompson to write something on the education of one of his students. I will let Bob do the writing and I will title what I saw happening as "Miracles happen by a team approach"

There are times when special things happen in schools and one of those times has become apparent at Chief Ivan Blunka School in New Stuyahok.

Malcolm Gust has made miraculous progress over the last two years. He is a hard worker. In addition, credit goes to three people that work with him on a daily basis. Justin Gumlickpuk and Jason Chocknok take turns working with Malcolm every school day.

They are dedicated professionals that truly work in the best interests of students. The teacher in charge, Ben Griese, has also played a major role in this success story. Mr. Griese has put together a tremendously effective program that has been of great benefit to his students.

It is important to celebrate the successes we have in school as those successes lead to success in life. Malcolm Gust is a great success story because of his hard work and the dedication of people such as Ben Griese, Justin Gumlickpuk, and Jason Chocknok.

It is always a pleasure visiting each classroom and watching engaged learners being taught by dedicated professional staff. Again the professional staff provides every child with every chance for success.



SITE VISIT: KOLIGANEK

Koliganek's student count is up about six more students this year. It is really great to watch the students engaged in their learning. The class size is small but not without challenged given there may be three grades in one classroom. The instruction almost becomes an individual approach. It was great to hear that the parent teacher conferences are being led by the student, some may be at the student's home. As Cody and I walked through each classroom it became very apparent the students were really enjoying being at school. Cody is doing an excellent job working with the community, teachers and students. The hallways were filled with student work and posters about school.

It was also a pleasure watching the kids eat lunch such a great lunch. I usually plan my visits so I am able to eat the school lunch. The meal was excellent, thanks to the cooks.





Curriculum & Instruction

David Piazza, Director of Instructional Programs

eRate

The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) who manages the E-Rate program is continuing to update the application process. At this time the filing window has not been established. According to the information posted on the USAC's website, they expect the window to submit applications will open in January. That is 6 to 8 weeks later than the normal mid-November to December start date. Therefore, it is anticipated that the District's application for Telephone, Internet, and Distance Learning Services (DLS) will be submitted in early March within the filing window.

Since our present 3-year contracts for Internet and DLS will end at the conclusion of this Fiscal Year, the District will be comparing service contract proposals following E-Rate guidelines before the E-Rate application is submitted.

As stated previously, our current year's application is still being processed and no further information is available.

Site Visit

The Director of Instruction was able to travel to Manokotak at the end of October for a short site visit in conjunction with a visit from a faculty member from the University of Alaska Anchorage's Educational Leadership Department.

Mr. Piazza also assisted in the New Stuyahok Computer Technology Refresh at the beginning of November. This overnight trip provided an opportunity to get into each of the classrooms and briefly meet with students and staff as well as clean existing computers, and unbox and deploy the new laptop and desktop computers.



Student Records/ PowerSchool Support (Nate Preston)

The Fall OASIS Report has been completed and submitted, and we have approximately 628.5 students for the count period. The state will verify our numbers, make corrections, and get the actual numbers back to us sometime in January. OASIS stands for On-Line Alaska School Information System, which is operated by the Office of Assessments and Student Information in the Division of Teaching and Learning Support. The responsibilities of the Office of Assessments and Student Information include the collection, analysis and publication of student and education information. The Fall OASIS Report is used to establish the districts population, which is used for funding and submitting student demographic information. OASIS counts student enrollment within a 20-day period. This year the period was from September 27 to October 22. For count, you add up all the days the students were enrolled in the district and divide by 20. If a student was enrolled for 10 days, they would count as 0.5 student for the districts student population. In addition, there are 22 more demographic fields for each student. The state takes all the data from the Fall OASIS and checks it against data they have from other sources. After that the state checks the OASIS data to see if there are any district that have counted the same students. Then the state sends a report to the district about the duplicate students to all districts claiming the student. The districts then compare data with each other and send in revised information back to the state. For example, if both SWRS and Dillingham claimed a student who moved during count, between the two districts we would compare enrollment and attendance data and figure out where the

student was during the count period and send back a revised enrollment number, after which the state sends out the final student population count.



Counseling/State-wide Assessments (Steve Ito)

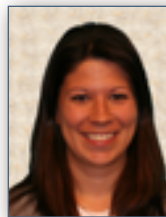
The Department of Education's (EED) training requirements for renewal of the Alternate Assessment Qualified Mentor Trainer status were completed this month, by attending the annual conference in Anchorage. The Alternate Assessment exists for students with significant cognitive disabilities to have access to, participate in, and make progress in general education curricula. The Alternate Assessment is based on Alaska standards, but measured against alternate achievement standards.

The student enrollment and pre-code filing for the spring 2011 Terra Nova Assessment has been completed. The Terra Nova is a national normative referenced assessment for grades 5 and 7. The Terra Nova is administered in February and is a mandated EED assessment needed to keep in compliance with federal guidelines for administering a national normative referenced assessment in Alaska public schools.

The student enrollment and school demographic information for the spring 2011 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) administration was submitted. The NAEP is known as the "Nations Report Card" and is the only nationally representative assessment of what students know and can do in different subjects. NAEP will be administered to selected schools/grades in the district in late January and early February.

The Revised Alaska Developmental Profiles (RADP) were completed in October. The purpose of the RADP is to identify, record and summarize the skills and behaviors students demonstrate at the beginning of their kindergarten year, based on teacher observations.

The Alaska High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE) Re-takes for grades 11-12 and Adults were completed in October. The HSGQE is a proficiency based criterion referenced test developed specifically for Alaska. The purpose of the assessment is to provide information about what students know and are able to do in reading, writing, and mathematics. The test includes multiple choice and constructed response items. Successful completion of the HSGQE along with adequate earned academic credit will enable a student to graduate with a diploma from high school.



Media Center (Shannon Clouse):

First Book/RIF Grant

The district was awarded 1,956 books from First Book/ RIF. These books were sent to our district to distribute as we choose. Although many books were sent to us there are only 29 different titles, meaning we have about 240 titles of certain books. We plan to distribute these books to our school libraries and to libraries around the region. The remaining books will be used in RIF Distributions.

Laura Bush Grant

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. I helped Carol in choosing titles of different books to buy for their library. They have inspired me to write a grant application for Aleknagik School with Jeannie Schiaffo. We plan to ask for the entirety of the grant and will have our grant proposal submitted by the December deadline.

Aleknagik Site Visit

I was able to visit Aleknagik School in early November. I delivered the grant books, visited class-

rooms and worked on the Laura Bush grant with Jeannie Schiaffo. I plan to visit Ekwok School and assist in organizing and weeding their library collection hopefully the third week in November.

Battle of the Books

Battle of the Books is well under way in our district. We had a box of battle books headed for New Stuyahok disappear so they had to be reordered. Besides Chief Ivan Blunka School the majority of our schools have all their books and will be gearing up for practice battles in December.

Reading Is Fundamental

We have two sites that are completed with their required three distributions. A few of the others will be finishing up in November and December. There were some fun events planned around the district for RIF in October. Brian Tesch, our RIF coordinator in

Manokotak planned a school wide 2 week long reading contest. Each class earned "monsters" to fill their haunted houses by reading a set number of pages or books. What fun! The winners were the 5th and 6th grade room ~ reading 7,375 pages. Brian has been very innovative when planning RIF motivational activities.

Student Leadership:

Two students will be attending the Youth Leadership Institute at the AASB Conference. Utilizing funding from the School Board and the AASB QS2 project, Manokotak Student Body President Tiarna Fischler and Vice President Vamrie Andrews are scheduled to attend. Student activity travel for wrestling prohibited the New Stuyahok student counsel president from attending as previously reported.





State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Federal/State Programs Director

Parent/Community Communication & Transparency

A site visit to Togiak in the month of October was completed in order to administer the ParaPro Assessment to currently employed classified staff and to a number of community members. The ParaPro Assessment is the state adopted exam that can be used to achieve the highly qualified status to become an instructional paraprofessional. Several community members successfully passed the exam, which led to the filling of two instructional paraprofessional vacancies at Togiak School. In addition, I was able to work with the specific certified staff to develop an individualized plan to become highly qualified in certain content areas in which instruction is being provided to students.

I was able to visit Koliganek School and Twin Hills School during the month of November. During those visits I worked with certified staff to develop individualized plans to become highly qualified and administer the ParaPro Assessment to current classified employees. In addition, information was provided and feedback solicited during the CSC meetings at both schools regarding the No Child Left Behind application, the district Title I Parent Involvement Policy, the Alaska STEPP (Steps Towards Education Progress and Partnership) process, highly qualified requirements for instructional paraprofessionals, and in Twin Hills, the corrective action required for a school at level 4 of improvement.

Alaska STEPP

No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

We are preparing for the next principal's meeting, in which one of the focuses will be determining the two or three indicators that will be the district-wide emphasis. Each school is progressing through the assessment of all 22 indicators. At the district level, the improvement team is meeting weekly to develop a plan of implementation for each indicator

that has been identified as an area needing improvement. The public can check the progress of the AK STEPP process at the district level through the following website:

<http://www.centerii.org/SchoolRestructuring/login.aspx>

The login and password for guest access is: guestdAK1147. Click on the "comprehensive plan" after login to review the assessment, planning, and monitoring of the indicators.

Other Items of Interest

This is the year that Southwest Region School District will undergo the five-year No Child Left Behind monitoring by the state. There are a number of requirements for each of the title grants outlined by the No Child Left Behind Act. The monitoring process is designed to assist and monitor the compliance of school districts with the requirements of each title grant and the No Child Left Behind Act. Currently, evidence is being gathered to show that the district is following the guidelines and requirements. A monitoring team from the state will travel to the district in March to interview staff, visit schools, and get clarification on specific points.

On another note, Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School has been invited to apply for the Title I Distinguished Schools Recognition Program for Closing the Achievement Gap between Student Groups including Alaska Native, economically disadvantaged, and limited English proficient subgroups. We are working with Herman on completing that application by the November 19th deadline.



Business Office

Lee Ann Andrew, Director of Administrative Services

The business office developed a video conference for the site secretaries and administrators on payroll guidance. Hopefully this is the first of many. Being able to discuss issues and train via video conference will be a great tool that will hopefully help make all our jobs more efficient. The video conference was planned for the 12th or 15th of November.

The district is still in the process of closing the loan for the Manokotak housing project. It was delayed due to a title issue that was never done with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It sounds like it is taken care of and the process is moving forward. There is still no loan for the Togiak project and research has uncovered the possibility of two separate loans, one at 7.875% interest and one closer to 4.5% interest. The decision needs to be made soon, there should be more information available at the board meeting.

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation came out to Dillingham to audit our books on the Manokotak and Togiak housing projects. We should receive that report in late November.

We had some issues that they gave us guidance on fixing.

Two members of the business office will be attending the Alaska Business Officer's conference in early December. There will be sessions on the health care reform, food service, budgeting, payroll issues and many more. One session in particular is on the "P" card which is being adopted by many school districts around the country. The card is similar to the "Discover Card" which pays dividends back to the users.

This card is unique because it pays dividends based on the total use of all districts combined not just an individual district. If our district was to get into this program, procedures could be established to pay for many purchases with the card, which could make purchasing more efficient and earn us dividends based on the total paid with the card. More information will be available after the conference.



Special Education

Lee Webster, Director of Special Education

Confidentiality is the key component to delivering special education services to students. Teachers and instructional assistants are reminded of the proper handling of this sensitive information yearly. Personal information about students and their families are secured in locked files when not in use. This assurance is defined in the Procedural Safeguards document distributed yearly to parents whose children are involved in special education. Special Education staff is required to assess children who are suspected of disability.

The law reauthorized in 2006 requires that we consider how the child is responds to instruction before labeling a child with a disability. Data about how the child is progressing is collected over a period of time during instruction. This is not based on how they do on summative assessments, like the SBA, but on how they react to the actual instruction they are given. This is a major change from previous years and has taken the staff some time to adjust to this requirement.

When a child is identified as disabled, Special Education services are required to be delivered in the least restrictive environment possible. Because they are required to take the same summative testing, SBA and HSGQE, as their peers, the special education teacher and aides work with students in their classrooms so that they are exposed to the same general education curriculum taught by highly qualified teachers as other students. Special education staff will assist students in learning the standards-based curriculum in many different ways, such as, by explaining concepts in other ways, helping them understand and complete assignments and making adjustments to the quantity and manner in which they demonstrate understanding of the concepts being taught. In a few cases, it's necessary to give students, who do not take the SBA or HSGQE, an entirely different curriculum based on life skills.

Although the Alaska Legislation has not required early childhood education, the special education staff works with 3 & 4 year olds who have been identified with developmental delays. This has really had tremendous pay-off for the children who just need more exposure and repetition for basic developmental skills. For children with more persistent problems, by the age of 8, we are required to identify one of the 14 eligible disabilities for that student to continue services.

Special education is a tightly regulated and technical service, but it is strictly based on a parent's consent at each and every step. All of us involved with special education know that our students should be identified as "otherwise able" children, not "disabled" because we can see each child having talents and gifts not measured in conventional school terms. But, until the laws are revised, we will continue to provide the broad range of service models required by federal law.



Educational Technology

Steve Noonkesser, Technology Director

T4 Renewal

The educational technology team has been busy this past few weeks. The new computers are here and visits have begun to sites to install the new equipment. The past few weeks, our main focus has been the 2010 technology refresh project. Through the use of state fiscal stabilization funds (SFSF), we have been able to obtain new computers for students and teachers district-wide.

During the week of November 1st the technology department completed a four day trip to New Stuyahok. During that trip, the major activities included updating the student server and adding a new web-server, installing new software on student desktop machines, updating instructional aide machines, and deploying 14 new teacher and 43 new student laptops. Due to the fact that many of the former Stuyahok High School machines are relatively new, we will be able to refurbish those machines and issue student laptops at a 1 to 1 ratio down to 6th grade across the district.

During the week of November 8th, the technology team completed a three day trip to Koliganek School. During the Koliganek trip, major activities included installing a new server and adding a new web-server, replacing aging airports with new airports, adding 5 new desktop machines, and deploying 5 new teacher laptops and 21 new student laptops.

With these first two trips completed, we remain on schedule to completing the refresh prior to Christmas break. Weather permitting, of course...

Study Island

Upcoming at the end of the month we have webinar delivered training for Study Island a supplemental student program that was purchased at the beginning of the year district wide. Teachers will be able to attend via their laptops and the training will cover the use of the program with students.



Mickia Walcott working late, transferring teacher data to new laptops..



Les Parks cloning new laptops for student use.



Facilities & Maintenance

Rick Dallmann, Maintenance Director

Manokotak

We have sold two of the properties the Board will be finalizing the sale

Two other properties are pending bid result's and final approval by the Board

Twin Hills

New water line was installed. The new Septic system was not able to be completed this year the installer could not get to the site. We have pumped the old tanks and have done what we could to make sure we can get through the year.

All the materials are on site.

The bulk fuel project is on schedule and a final inspection is scheduled for November 22nd this was a Alaska Energy Grant Funded project. The Department of Education has released their Initial Decision on Major Maintenance Grant Funding

The Twin Hills K-8 Renovation project is number 49 out of 117 projects. The eligible amount is \$1,368,336 the Districts participating share would be \$27,367 funding will depend on what the legislators pass for this program

Koliganek

The Department of Education has released their Initial Decision on School Construction Grant Funding. Koliganek new school construction is number 5 out of 32 projects (last year we where number 9 on the list) The eligible amount is \$23,538,122 the Districts participating share would be \$470,762 funding will depend on what the Legislators pass for this program

Aleknagik

New Stove and Warming Oven has been installed work is continuing on getting the kitchen a warm serving line also.

District-Wide

- All fuel delivers have been completed
- All Propane deliveries have been completed
- All inspections to the Fire Alarm and Sprinkler systems are completed
- Water testing continues at all four Class A systems



Student Activities

Doug Bushey, Student Activities Coordinator

Congratulations to the CIBS volleyball team for winning the Ninilchik Tournament.

Volleyball and Wrestling are about to come to an end. I would like to invite all to attend the Region 1, Great Alaska Conference tournament to be held at CIBS. The following teams should be there: Aniak, Bristol Bay, Kalskag, King Cove, Koliganek, Koyuk, Togiak, Unalaska, and Port Lions. Hope to see you there.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR for VOLLEYBALL & WRESTLING

CIBS	Region 1A/2A V-Ball Tournament	Dec. 2-4
Bethel	Region 1A/2A/3A Wrestling Tournament	Dec. 3-4
Dimond H.S.	State 1A/2A V-Ball Tournament	Dec. 9-11
Nikiski H.S.	State 1A/2A/3A Wrestling Tournament	Dec. 10-11

The basketball season will kick off November 29, 2010. Good Luck to All.



Aleknagik School

Jeff Ambrosier, Lead Teacher

Students and staff are well underway into the second quarter. The staff has met and worked through the first part of the STEPP process which is an online data base which combines School improvement plans and Title 1 school-wide plans. The data has been given to the parents and the CSC. One benefit to using STEPP is that when input is given from the parents or CSC we can go back and add this into the program when in years past once the SIP (School improvement Plan) is given to the state we can't modify the plan.

One of our assessments that we give the students is the STAR reading and math. This is done through the computer and reports can be stored and looked at over long periods of time. 78% of the students that were tested this month increased their STAR math score and 74% increased their STAR reading score. Students are then placed into a group and then are given interventions that usually last several weeks and then are monitored again to see if their achievement increases.

In Mrs. Gilbertson's class the kids wrote rough and final drafts about haunted houses and their Halloween costumes. Then they used photo booth to take and distort pictures to match their Halloween costumes. In Mr. Gilbertson's class students are beginning to write a paper on what it would be like living back when the village was first founded. He is encouraging students to interview parents, grandparents, relatives, neighbors, etc. and find out what and how things were done when they were young. In Mr. Ambrosier's science class the students just finished using the application Inspiration to build concept maps that identified the life cycle of flowering plants as well as seasonal changes that plants go through. Mrs. Schiaffo has her lan-



guage arts students focusing on the writing process. They have writing assignments that focus on each step of the writing process so no matter what the writing topic, students can follow the steps and become successful writers.

The after school program that is being offered for an hour every day has added something to the menu--- snacks. This allows the students to re-charge a little before tackling their homework or working through different GLE's on Study Island or Education City.

The Halloween carnival was a huge success for the kids. They had a great time and the student activity account even made some money. Thank you to the people that made it happen.





Clarks Point School

Doug Bushey, Principal

School Improvement

All the students have taken the Star Math & Reading benchmark assessment this second quarter and will take it again prior to the winter break. This information will be used in regards to academic placement and accommodations.

The staff is working on gathering the data for the S.T.E.P.P. program and has presented this information to the CSC board on November 9, 2010. S.T.E.P.P. is a working document that will require further input from the parents.

We are proud to report that all parents have participated in a parent/teacher conference in regards to the first quarter achievements.

Student Activities

All of the students participated in the Halloween decorations. The students did a great job in manning the booths and participating in all the activities presented. Mrs. Bushey set up a R.I.F. distribution for all the students due to having extra books from last school year. Apples were provided for all participants from BBNHC Diabetes Prevention Program.

The school held its first assembly in regards to academic excellence and presented students with a medal and pins in areas of achievement for first quarter.

Visitors and Community Activities

On November 8, 2010 Jennie Simpson with BBAHC Diabetes Prevention Program presented an educational program to all the students of Clarks Point. The students were instructed in regards to what they can do to help prevent diabetes in their own lives. Jennie presented another program on fruits and vegetables to the entire community in the school later that evening. We would like to thank all at BBNHC for supporting our community through the diabetes education program.





Koliganek School

Cody McCanna, Lead Teacher

Alaska STEPP

Koliganek School has been utilizing the STEPP process to improve student learning. For starters, there are currently fifteen people who are a part of our School Team, which includes teachers, parents, paraprofessionals, and CSC members. The School Indicator Assessment was completed by the staff at the school and then shared with the CSC during the November 2nd meeting. The CSC requested that the staff at the school start the School Action Plan and then share that plan with them at the next regular CSC meeting on December 7th. On November 5th the teachers and paraprofessionals met during part of the in-service day to create a School Action Plan for indicators 3.3 (Research based educational teaching strategies) and 6.7 (Instructional leader providing feedback to teachers). Using the STEPP process the instructional staff, through the guidance of the principal, created four different tasks that would need to be completed to reach the objectives of 3.3 and 6.7. One of the tasks, for example, is to have a monthly collaborative meeting for all paraprofessionals and teachers to meet to discuss teaching strategies and their effectiveness in our school. During those meetings the principal will work with all the students and their parents doing some educational activities in the gym (Reading Olympics, etc...). All three of the tasks that were created for 3.3 have been completed as of the 11th of November. Feel free to access the Koliganek School STEPP site as a guest using the following information: Login: guestAK1344 Password:AK1344.

Students

Students in Pam Johnson's class have been studying cells. Cody came into the class and helped show students how to make their own slides out an onion. Gust Tunguing Jr., the VPSO, came into Pam's class to talk with them about the dangers of thin ice. All the junior high and high school students will be receiving their new laptop computers this month as well. Everyone is excited to get his or her hands on the new technology.



Halloween Carnival

Students and parents enjoyed a Halloween Carnival put on by the school on October 29th. Junior and senior high school students helped run the booths so the little tikes could have a fun filled Halloween. Students enjoyed face painting, putting other students in "jail", and especially turning their tickets in for prizes. It was a fun filled afternoon that was enjoyed by all.





‘Chief’ Ivan Blunka School

Bob Thompson, Principal

It was a good first quarter at Chief Ivan Blunka School. We finished the quarter with 82% of our students making the honor roll! This means that we have students that are on task and doing what good students do. This means that we have teachers that are teaching and students that are learning. It also means that we have a high standard to maintain as we progress through the school year. It is a goal that is well worth pursuing.

School Improvement

A lot of changes have taken place at Chief Ivan Blunka School over the last year and a half. We are now using research-based SRA materials with 80% of our elementary and middle school students. We are closely monitoring students with progress monitoring every three weeks. Interventions are being provided to students that are lagging behind.

Part of the change has been to better utilize the resource we have in our paraprofessional staff. We now have para-pros involved in direct instruction with students under the supervision of a certified staff member. Our talented para-pro staff is able to provide instruction thus lowering class sizes and allowing for more personalized instruction.

Wrestling & Volleyball

The wrestling and volleyball seasons are well under way. The volleyball team traveled early in the season to Nikiski where they took 1st place in the Borealis Conference Tournament. A successful home wrestling meet was held the first week of November and a big home tournament in volleyball is scheduled for November 18th, 19th and 20th. Following that tournament Chief Ivan Blunka School will be hosting regionals in volleyball for Region 1. Hopes are high for the Eagles to have participants at State this year in both wrestling and volleyball.



Halloween

New Stuyahok held its annual Halloween Parade at Chief Ivan Blunka School the week of Halloween. Students, pre-schoolers from Head Start, staff, and community members participated. There were great costumes this year, including a visit by Popeye and Olive Oil, monsters, Minnie Mouse, witches, and fairies. Afterwards everyone got a huge, delicious apple courtesy of the Bristol Bay Area Health Association.



Togiak School

David Morris, Principal

In Togiak we are adjusting how we chart our path for school improvement. SWRSD, along with a cohort of schools and districts across the state are piloting the new web-based school improvement system, Alaska STEPP.

We began the process with a needs assessment where we identified things we are doing well and places where we could focus our improvement efforts. We looked at student achievement data from multiple sources for a variety of subgroups.

After looking at our achievement data, we assessed the level of implementation we have achieved for critical indicators of school improvement. There are twenty-two specific indicators that we have evaluated in terms of implementation, priority and opportunity. Based on our priority and opportunity scores, we will focus on urgent goals that can be implemented with little or no additional resources.

The Alaska STEPP process will help us develop a comprehensive plan for school improvement. This plan will be documented on-line and can be analyzed, assessed and modified over time to best meet the needs of our students.





Twin Hills School

Esther Ilutsik, Principal/Teacher

Greetings from Twin Hills!

Parent & Community Involvement

Parental involvement is a very important part of education that we encourage either through working with your children on homework and making sure that that homework is returned to the school, coming into the school to participate in watching your child perform, participating in the school functions, making sure to attend your child's teacher/parent conferences, helping us with monthly field trips, through the village council helping to sponsor educational trips and most importantly serving on our CSC (Community School Committee).



At the Twin Hills school our parent involvement has been exceptional with most of the parents making sure that the students return their homework, and we've had great turn-outs during our little holiday celebrations with parents actively participating in our RIF distribution, almost a 100 % parent/teacher conference and the help we've received during our field trips.

We went on our monthly field trip driving down to the seashore where all the students, parents, community members and staff participated in collecting taperrnat (seashore grass). Martha Foster, bilingual/bicultural instructor demonstrated and showed the students how to extract the grass from the main plant (one-by-one) and then when you had a bundle, that fit your hand, the process of tying it up. She, also, shared that the grass with the purplish color were the most valuable as they are strong and sought after by the basket weavers. Extensions of this excursion were integrated into writing, social studies and bilingual/bicultural component of the school.

Our local Twin Hills village council is very supportive of our school based activities. We can always count on them when we either need help with another vehicle to transport students and sponsoring student related activities. We thank them for sponsoring the three 8th graders, Chelsey Abraham, Daisy Kuku, Nick Sharp and chaperone, Meghan Redmond on the trip to the AFN (Alaska Federation of Natives) Elders and Youth Conference in Fairbanks, October 18-20, 2010.



The 8th graders had an opportunity to be actively engaged and brought back with them experiences and stories that they shared with fellow students, the village council and the CSC.

We have an active CSC committee who met a monthly basis to ensure that the school is addressing the needs of the students. Our members are William Ilutsik, Chairperson, Julius Henry, Vice-Chairperson and Jessica Mark, Board Member. We appreciate their hard work and commitment to the well-being of our students. Qu yana cakneq!

