



REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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school is in full swing and learners are hard at work...

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Jack Foster, Superintendent

School Starts

It is hard to believe that school has already been in session for over a month. We started school the same day as last year, August 17th. We learned about "Engaging Learners" at our beginning of the year in-service.

"Student engagement is the product of motivation and active learning. It is a product rather than a sum because it will not occur if either element is missing."

— Elizabeth F. Barley.

Enrollment Count

The new official count period will start September 27, 2010 and end on October 22, 2010. This is the twenty-day count period for enrolled students. The projection for this year was in the 640's, but it looks like we will be in the 630's

this year. This number changes everyday at the beginning of the school year.

AASB Quality Schools: Community Engagement Education Program

Lakota Murray traveled to four SWRS schools: Togiak, Manokotak, New Stuyahok and Aleknagik, and an impromptu visit to the district office in Dillingham. Annie Caulfield the newest AASB/Alaska ICE Community Engagement Educator joined Ms. Murray for the visits to Togiak, Manokotak and the district office.

On the next page is a summary of our activities in the Southwest Region School District schools including interaction with staff; students, community and some items for follow up.

We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give...

— Sir Winston Churchill



School sites staff received an SCCS overview. Staff also received some brief information about:

- Spirit of Youth recognition
- RurAL CAP's Youth Action Group contacts
- AASB scholarships
- Youth-led service opportunities
- Opportunities through the district's current Alaska Arts Education Consortium membership
- In Togiak students led a formal activity about community and school perception for 7-12 graders. In Manokotak Annie Caulfield assisted with a lesson in the Kindergarten classroom.
- In New Stuyahok 18 students were asked their opinions on the YLI flyer and she had lunch and visited with students as well. In Aleknagik Ms.

Murray led three short activities with small groups from grades K-8.

- In New Stuyahok the community was involved in a teacher night.
- In New Stuyahok a Community School Committee (CSC) member participated in an Assets training
- In Aleknagik, community will be involved in September when the ideas generated at the school will be brought to their CSC for discussion.
- Staff from all sites presented ideas and discussed items that may be included in a fourth year community engagement plan.
- Ms. Murray has enjoyed her time in our communities and wanted to thank SWRS for being part of the QS2 initiative. She looks forward to our continued work this school year.

Individual Site Reports to the Board

We will continue our ongoing efforts to improve communication across the district. Principals will be making reports to the board on a monthly basis. Each site will be submitting a written report highlighting activities at the site, and each month three sites will make an oral presentation to the board via distance delivery. The schedule has not changed from last year. The schedule for these reports is as shown in chart at right.

AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
TOG,KNW,KMO	KGK, WKK, CLP	KEK, TWA, TOG
NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY
KNW, KMO	KGK, WKK, CLP	KEK, TWA, TOG
FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
KNW, KMO	KGK, WKK, CLP	KEK, TWA, TOG
MAY		
KNW, KMO, KGK		

Site Visits

On September 1st I made my first site visit to Manokotak. Site visits are always my favorite part of my job. It was wonderful to observe what we learned in our in-service being applied at the site. The students were indeed "engaged learners". The work being done in the culture classrooms was special and students were engaged.



Happy students in Mrs. Sharp's classroom in Manokotak.

Collaboration Meetings are in Progress Across the District.

We will continue our focus on collaboration, formative assessment and progress monitoring engaged learners.

Collaborative leadership team meetings at the district office are happening on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. On Tuesdays the leadership team meeting includes the principals and lead teachers of our K-8 sites and Thursdays, the principals of our K-12 sites. The meetings with the principals and lead teachers are being held by distance delivery. These meetings begin at 8:00 A.M. and end at 8:20. While it is important to meet to enhance communication, we are doing it in a way that works best for all involved.

Through staff input we are continuing the great teamwork in order to provide the best education throughout the district. We have learned a lot since the first meetings began three years ago.

Collaboration meetings are also being held at sites to allow staff to spend focused time on issues assessment, student achievement and progress monitoring.

As a district we are working on our new curriculum. You will be hearing more about this through the individual reports.

Teacher, Brian Tesch, works with Manokotak students this past month.



Yup'ik culture instructor, Lousie Gloko, and Manokotak elders work with students.





CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

David Piazza, Director of Instructional Programs

eRate

The District's E-Rate application is running slower through the approval process this year, as by this time last year the Funding Commitment Decision Letters had been already received. The District's applications are at the "Available for Final Review" which means that the "Form 471 review has completed Initial Review and is awaiting assignment for Final Review. All applications must complete both an Initial Review and a Final Review." However, this is still well within the normal timeframe as only about 40% of the Alaska Districts have been "funded" at this time according to Valerie Oliver, State E-Rate Coordinator.

Student Records/PowerSchool Support (Nate Preston)



Since the start of the school year the student support services specialist has been updating student data for the new school year. Data that was updated included student class schedules, school enrollments (we currently have 630 students district-wide), and submitting bubble precodes to the state (so we have the correct number of tests for the HSGQE retest in Oct. which is 90). Once the data was updated, it was transferred to other systems like AIMSweb, Study Island, and Education City to name a few. In addition, teachers have been trained in accessing PowerSchool for taking attendance and grades.

Curriculum (Deb Endicott)



The curriculum office was busy before the start of school receiving and shipping the consumable workbooks out to sites that go with the district's adopted curricular resource series. These include Saxon Math, Open Court Lan-

guage Arts, and other Science and Social Studies programs.

Additional intervention instructional materials for Reading Mastery, Corrective Reading, and Corrective Math have been received, and are in the process of being cataloged into the district's Media Center before shipment to the school sites as students' needs warrant.

A pictorial catalog of each resource is being made to help identify the District adopted resources at each site. This should aid new staff in locating the appropriate materials for each of their scheduled classes. End of the year material ordering should be improved by allowing staff to "see" the consumable materials that need to be purchased for the upcoming school year.

Now that the school year is underway, the curriculum teams will continue their work from last May to complete filling the gaps in the Language Arts and Math areas before beginning work on the full review of Science.



Young readers in New Stuyahok.

Counseling/State-wide Assessments (Steve Ito)



Submitted information to the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) in order to re-enroll all SWRS sites as users for the Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS).

The Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS) is an annually updated, comprehensive career and educational research and exploration system for teens and adults. With AKCIS students can easily navigate between occupational information, the related programs of study and training, and the schools that offer the training.

Received Fall 2010 High School Graduation Qualifying Examination RETAKE booklets for the K-12 sites. Booklets and pertinent testing information have been sent to the sites, site administrators have been updated on testing protocol, and testing will take place on October 5, 6, and 7th.

The EED Revised Kindergarten Developmental Profile window for assessments will be open from September 15 through November 1. The Revised Alaska Developmental Profile is required by state law to be completed for all students entering kindergarten or students entering first grade who did not attend a public kindergarten. The purpose of the Revised Alaska Developmental Profile (RADP) is to identify, record and summarize the skills and behaviors students demonstrate at the beginning of their kindergarten year, based on teacher observations.

Media Center (Shannon Clouse)



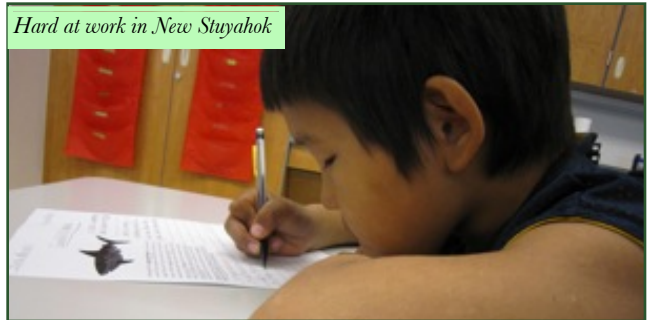
The beginning of the school year was very busy, as usual, for the Media Center.

New Stuyahok Site Visit

I was lucky to be able to travel to New Stuyahok during the first week of school and spend three days organizing and getting their library ready for the school year. I updated their Alexandria system by adding and deleting students and staff to the

system, organized their fiction books, "Everybody" books, tagged Accelerated Reader books, as well as trained interested teachers in how to use Alexandria to check books in and out of the library. I was very impressed with the positive energy from the staff and students at Chief Ivan Blunka School, it felt like a great educational place to be and I think they are going to have a great year.

Hard at work in New Stuyahok



Battle of the Books

I presented a "What is Battle of the Books" this year at the fall Inservice for new and returning teachers. I had a great turn out of about 25 teachers interested in the program. As a result we have every site participating in Battle of the Books this year. All of the books that we have received have been sent to site and ready for students to read and prepare for their upcoming battles.

Reading Is Fundamental

Southwest Region Schools will again be participating in the Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) program. RIF and First book recently awarded Southwest Region Schools 2052 free additional books to support our RIF program or to distribute as we wish. I am busy trying to plan a literacy contest to promote reading and the Accelerated Reader program in our district, and these books might be the perfect incentive.

The following teachers have volunteered to take on the responsibility of running a RIF program at their individual schools. Jeff Ambrosier; Aleknagik, Rochelle Bushey; Clarks Point, Melissa Mogen; Ek-wok, Pam Johnson; Koliganek, Brian Tesch; Manokotak, Lida Storch; New Stuyahok, Dale Richesin; Togiak and Meghan Redmond; Twin Hills.



FEDERAL & STATE PROGRAMS

Jon Clouse, Federal/State Programs Director

American Reinvestment & Recovery Act (ARRA) No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

The approval of the No Child Left Behind application occurred in July, which is the earliest approval date in the last three years. This ensures that on October 1st, full allocation of the Title grants will occur. 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.

The migrant education recruiters and migrant education analyst are in the full swing of migrant education recruiting. The migrant education program provides services to approximately 108 students.

All of the instructional paraprofessionals that are required to be highly qualified have met those requirements. In addition, it has been a positive start on getting teachers highly qualified in the required content areas.

American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

This is the second year of ARRA, which includes funding for Title I-A (Improving Basic Programs), Ti-

tle II-D (Enhancing Education Through Technology), and the State Fiscal & Stabilization Funds (SFSF). The SFSF grant supports a number of activities related to improving student achievement. Those activities include the comprehensive K-12 curriculum audit, a 1-to-1 computer refresh, summer academies, professional development, funding instructional aide positions, and after school programs.

Boarding Home: Alaska Dept. of Education

There have been five applications for students within Southwest Region School District for the state boarding home program. As a reminder, students attending K-8 schools are eligible to attend one of the district's K-12 schools as a boarding student, providing that the parents of the student secure a boarding home for the student.

Alaska STEPP: Alaska Dept. of Education & NCLB

We will be participating in a pilot of the Alaska Steps Toward Educational Progress and Partnerships (STEPP) this year. The state is looking into revamping the district and school improvement process by using an online tool to track progress towards specific goals or "indicators." The STEPP process 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.

Culture Week in Koliganek





BUSINESS OFFICE

Lee Ann Andrew, Director of Administrative Services

We are close to closing all our construction grants. It seems like the closer we get the slower it moves. We sent in the final annual report for the New Stuyahok School with a total spent of \$29,867,381 which is \$29,826 over the state budget of \$29,837,555. We have \$389,360 in interest money earned that will be used for the overage and to cover the art costs of \$125,000. This will leave interest money left over to cover the \$188,154 needed for the Togiak School expenses. When the school closes we will receive \$1,361,579 to cover expenses we have incurred but have not been reimbursed for. This can go into savings to earn whatever interest we can get. The New Stuyahok housing grant should be closing soon also.

In order to secure the loans for the new housing in Manokotak and Togiak we needed to subdivide the property and create a Condominium Housing Development. After working with our lawyers, it was decided to form a condo association to avoid going through the expensive formal re-platting process. The documents are a lengthy (legal) way of saying that we will do business as usual with our housing units. Enclosed in the board packet is one set of documents, there is a set for each site. We had many questions about the complicated documents but it was determined that legally they needed to be that lengthy. By going this route we kept our costs down for our loans. The Manokotak housing cost \$2,685,772 which was \$704 over budget and will incur a loan of \$484,154. The Togiak housing cost was \$1,508,344 which was \$77,294 under budget and will incur a loan of \$331,409. The loan for the Manokotak housing has been

secured, however the loan for the Togiak housing is in the beginning stages. Our consultant is suggesting we don't get a loan and carry this amount on our books. We need to determine what the interest rate would be and how much can be saved if we went this route. The argument for doing it this way can be seen on the interest we have spent on our existing housing in Togiak. We have been paying for the older housing in Togiak since December of 2005 and have paid \$123,000 in interest and about \$16,000 of principal on a \$276,000 loan. If we could have applied the total payment of \$139,000 directly to the loan we would be half way there. Research is still being done on this option. After the closing of these grants we will have an audit by the grantor Alaska Housing Finance Corporation in November.

The 2010 audit will be the week of September 13th. We will have an unreserved balance this year. The exact amount is unknown at the time of this report but should be over \$100,000. Any unreserved money may be needed to cover our FY11 budget if the student count doesn't change or as suggested last spring apply as much as possible to the housing fund which at this point has a \$281,339 negative balance. This is down from the \$856,106 owed at the beginning of the year. We had more revenue than anticipated and applied the HVAC grant money to the fund to help cover the negative balance.

I received a scholarship to attend the National Conference for School Business Managers from September 24th to the 27th in Florida. Due to the travel time I will be out of the office from the 22nd to the 30th.



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Lee Webster, Director of Special Education

I've had a whirlwind beginning of the first 4 weeks of school visiting 4 schools: Togiak, New Stuyahok, Ekwok, and Koliganek to help new and continuing special education staff set up their programs for the year. As always I come away mightily impressed by the energy and dedication of our school staff. The addition of Carly Feiler and Brielle Good has really helped our district. They come with excellent training in "Response to Instruction" interventions, progress monitoring and teaching strategies.

In the previous year a lot of time and effort has gone into developing an effective early intervention program.

Identifying children with delays in language development allows us to help them be more successful when they start school. As a consequence, as many as 10-12 three and four year olds will be receiving services from the special education staff I this year. With the addition of a Head Start classroom moving into Togiak, our special education staff will be able to provide the interventions those children need prior to starting kindergarten. Research has proven time and again that early intervention will alleviate the serious reading delays seen by grade 3 and above.



Facilities & Maintenance

Rick Dallmann, Maintenance Director

CIP Grants

We have submitted a grant for Koliganek new K – 12 school. We have submitted a grant for Twin Hills school this is a renovation project that would include upgrades to the entire building (new exterior doors and windows replace all the flooring install a new sprinkler system and fire panel upgrade, replace all lighting and ceilings.

Teacher Housing

Lee Ann has been working with our Developer to close out projects and get long-term loans in place.

Twin Hills

The new septic system has been permitted all materials have been ordered and are scheduled to arrive late September.

New Stuyahok

We where able to hydro – seed the main grounds of the school we are planning to hydro – seed the rest of the ditches and any remaining areas that need it next spring.

The AVEC power plant and bulk fuel facility design has been completed and is scheduled to be put out to bid late September. This work is scheduled for next spring and will involve moving our two bulk fuel tanks into the co – located tank farm. We will then be able to finish fencing around our boiler room and day tank.

District-wide

All schools are up and running and we continue to work on vehicles and outstanding work orders. We have been conducting interviews for a Maintenance Mechanic position and hope to have it filled this month



EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Steve Noonkesser, Director of Information Systems

Systems Up and Running

Schools are up and running and our networks are functional. A number of new systems are being installed this fall, including new management servers at small sites and a host of other system enhancements.

The technology team is very busy, as is usual, this time of year troubleshooting and doing individualized training with new staff on our systems. In addition to the normal day-to-day troubleshooting and remote site support, the technology team is working on a number of ongoing projects.

Student Email System

After doing some piloting this past school year, we are ready to be creating district-sponsored email accounts for all of our high school students. This new system is now operational at several sites and will be added in two more by next month.

Web Presence Enhancements

This year we will be adding several site specific websites. The process of training staff to manage these sites and edit them has begun. Whitney Christiansen, in Manokotak, has done a great job of taking on the project for her site and is busy working on content. We are looking forward to the contributions staff and students will make to telling our story.

Site Network Audits/Visits

The technology department has made several site visits already this year. A trip was made to To-giak on the 18th of August to assist the new technology liaison, Jasper Andrews, with preparing High School computers for the beginning of the year roll out. Visits have also been made to Aleknagik and Clarks Point to install new small site servers at each site. Various technical issues have been resolved via telephone or remote access at many sites most significantly, site issues with the online special education program SeasWeb.

This year the AIMS Web benchmark window was moved up by about a month as well as added 2 new online software curriculum resources. The AIMS program has been set up and the first benchmark has been completed and there is a inservice scheduled for September 17th to work with teachers on analyzing the data generated. The online resource Study Island has been set up and is ready for use and currently the set up of Education City is underway and will be completed in the next few days.



Computer Aided Instruction Specialist (Corey Evans)

In addition to site visits and other site support activities, Corey's major focus this past month has been on completing beginning of the year setup and configuration of AIMS Web, Renaissance Place, Study Island and Education City (new curriculum additions) in order to assist with teachers efforts to assess student performance and using the data generated to fine tune instruction to the needs of their students.



Technology Specialist (Les Parks)

In addition to making site visits, catching up on repairs from this past spring, and daily support activities, Les has also been working on a number of projects. He has been out to several sites to install and configure our new small site imaging and support servers. These new servers should allow enhanced support and more consistent software installation.



Aleknagik School

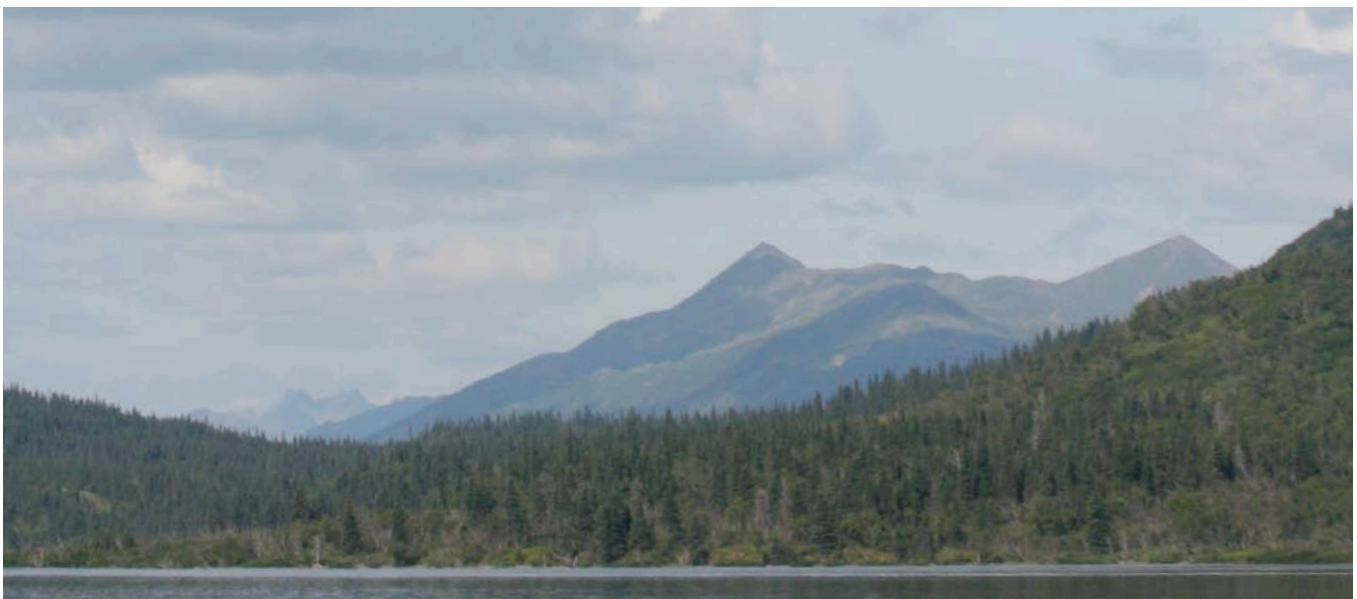
Jeff Ambrosier, Lead Teacher

We are off to a great start!

Overall the school year is off to a great start. First of all, we want to say congratulations to the students, parents, and staff for meeting AYP. The students raised their math score by 37% and their language arts score by 11%. The staff looked at the data and has come up with a strategy to further raise our achievement levels for this upcoming school year. In addition, we want all the students to be engaged all of the time. Finding that teaching strategy for each class to make it challenging but interesting is the key to keeping the students engaged and interested. In Mr. Ambrosier's math class, the 6-8th graders have been working on the order of operations. Each student created a unique poster with a mnemonic device to help them remember the order of operations. In Mrs. Schiaffo's middle school language arts class, the students are learning about how to write a good "hook", "topic sentence", or "thesis statement". The students are using their imaginations to come up with great descriptions to start off their writing projects. In Mr.

Gilbertson's language arts class, the students will be doing a weekly assignment on "Current Events." They will be given a recent news article to read and write a summary on. Students are then asked to report on what they read by giving a brief presentation in front of the class. Mrs. Gilbertson has the k-2 kids busy by making felt stories out of traditional Yupik tales. The kids will first read and learn the story then make characters and objects out of felt that were important in the story followed up by retelling the story using their felt pieces.

We are relying on our instructional aides (Melody and Clair) to really help out fill in the gaps with small group learning in multiple subject areas. They are an integral part to raising the student achievement school-wide. Of course, we couldn't be teaching if we had to cook the food, answer the phones and keep the school clean so we all appreciate the efforts of Sarah, Nina, and Randy with all the work that they do.





Clarks Point School

Doug Bushey, Principal

Off to the start of another great year!

Our students have completed the fall AIMS-Web bench-mark assessments. This data will be followed up on September 17 with training provided by the school district. Mr. & Mrs. Bushey look forward to this training and applying the new information as it relates to classroom instruction.

Our school is proud to recognize our newest instructional aide Kristen George. Kristen attended East High school and graduated in 2007. Welcome Kristen to the SWRS family.



All the students attended the Alaska State Fair for their "End of the Year Trip". The students visited the Transportation Museum of Alaska, Iditarod Headquarters, Thunderbird Falls, and the Eagle River Bird Sanctuary. The students did a good job of fund raising for the past three years in order to make this trip possible. We would like to thank the following Parent/Guardian chaperones for there support: Tony Clark, Kora Wassily, and Joseph Clark.





William 'Sonny' Nelson' School

Jeff Goodrich, Lead Teacher

We hit the ground running!

The staff and students at William "Sonny" Nelson School hit the ground running on August 17 and we aren't going to stop. The first month of school has flown by at an unbelievable pace.

Our elementary teacher, Ms. Moede, is "down south" on maternity leave for a few more weeks; our thoughts and prayers are with her and her baby.

The students have completed the fall benchmarks tests for Aimsweb and they all did their best. We will continue to monitor their progress as we progress throughout the year. Our students are reading for at least 30 minutes every day and have already read several books. We are excited to begin reading the "Battle of the Books" selections and look forward to the competitions.

Archeologists from the University of Alaska Fairbanks were in town for a study and agreed to teach the students about Archeology. They taught

the students several new science vocabulary words and encouraged all of the students to work hard in school. A few of our students now want to become archeologists so that they can play in the mud too.



For science class, we studied leavening agents and experimented with baking soda, baking powder and yeast. As a culminating activity we made bread on Friday afternoon. We now have several more great bakers in Ekwok.

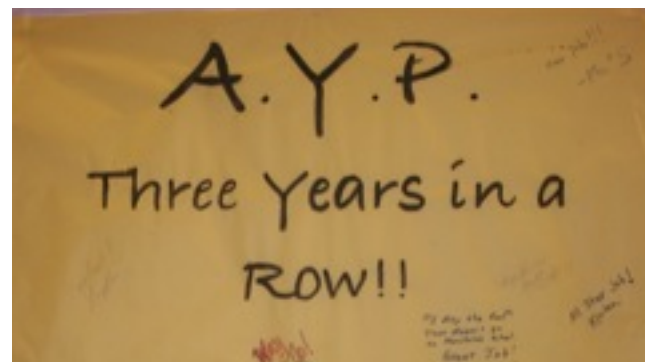


Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Herman Gerving, Principal

Celebrating Success!

Manokotak Nunaniq School is celebrating their success in making Adequate Yearly Progress for the third consecutive year. Making AYP is a tremendous accomplishment brought on by incredible efforts from many people including teachers, parents, and the community.



Fall Inservice & PEAK

Manokotak Nunaniq School would like to thank all the people who arranged & participated in this fall's inservice for the staff of SWRSD. A special thanks goes to Chane Beam of the PEAK learning systems. He used all of Friday's time to show us strategies that can easily be modified for different subjects and grade levels to help improve student success.



Head Start Returns to Manokotak

Manokotak Nunaniq School had an Open house on September 2. Parents and students were invited to visit the school and their teachers. We also had the computer 1 to 1 project explained to parents of all high school students. The parents and students also watched the video "Play for Keeps", a DVD on tobacco, alcohol and drugs.

Lakota Murray & Annie Caulfield from AASB talked to us about the leadership retreat and having the event again in SWRSD for the school year 2010-2011.

Lakota and Annie had 2 hours with the staff at Manokotak. During this time Lakota provided a review of the Developmental Assets framework information. We then moved into the summary of School Climate and Connectedness (SCCS) data. The staff had already seen the report prior to their visit. Lokota & Annie had a PowerPoint presentation with information about student, staff and community activities/opportunities in addition to SCCS data.

Student Do Well on SBAs



Gloria Tom, Kimberly Gloko, David Black, Shayla Gloko, Palakea Ayojiak, Edward George III,

Jeoffery Gloko, Chad Maud, Jada Nukwak, Bryon Mochin, Adrian Gloko, Nicole Gloko, Ben Maud II, Pacabo Mike, Clara Andrew, Helena Ayojiak, Micheal Nanalook, Theodore Borbridge



Patrisha Alakayak, Terry Ayojiak, Vanessa George, Alkayuk Moore, Jesse Nukwak, Keesha Paul, Willie Jenkins, Edward Nick, Andra Jordan, Mckenzie Nanalook, Kiana Nick, Teddy Tom, Simeon Tugatuk, Tamra Andrew, Michelle Geerhart, Grace Gloko, Clarissa Cornelison, Leah John, Paulina Jordan, Roland Andrew, Janessa Black, Kenisha Geerhart, Layne Bartman, Karina Catalone, Emilyn Jordan, Lola Paul, Ray Sean Tugatuk, Matthew Andrews, Jason Mike, Darrin Nanalook, Jordan Nukwak, Theron Paul, Francine Tikiun, Kaitlin Tom, Tiarna Fischler, Jonathan Franklin, Kiko John.



Top ten students with the most improvement in raw scores: (In reverse order): Andra Jordan, Norman Gloko, Roland Andrew, Teddy Tom, Kenisha Geerhart, Simeon Tugatuk, Leah John, Kiana Nick, Bryon Mochin, Edward Nick.



Koliganek School

Cody McCanna, Lead Teacher

Another great start!

Koliganek School is off to another great start! Yes, we made A.Y.P., but no we are not satisfied yet. We have a lot of progress that we still want to make. We opened the first day of school with an open house for parents and guardians in the afternoon followed by an assembly and a dessert buffet. The school went over the new student handbook with parents. The open house gave parents an opportunity to meet the staff and sign some necessary paperwork for their students. It was a positive start for an enthusiastic school year.

Culture Week

This year Koliganek School will be conducting two different Culture Weeks. The purpose of the Culture Weeks is to provide students with an opportunity to be exposed to various cultural activities while integrating lessons with the regular curriculum. We conducted the first Culture Week from August 23 to August 27. Parents and community experts were given the opportunity to become Cultural Teachers for students by taking them berry picking or moose hunting. Parents of students in grades 6-12 were given the opportunity to check their children out of school and take them on various cultural experiences or have them stay in school and participate in the activities planned in the school. Mrs. Johnson's class got the opportunity to make a kakiivik (traditional needle and thread holder for men and women) with the assistance from Tonya Lockuk. All students got the opportunity to listen to Gust Tunglung, Katherine Tunglung, and Elia Ishnook (Elders in our community)



Monday and Tuesday afternoon tell traditional stories about old village sites and the tools that were used. It was a learning experience for everyone involved. Monday and Tuesday morning was devoted to building fish racks for students in grades 6-12. Students peeled logs and built two fish racks that can be used by anyone in the village. Then on Wednesday morning students got the opportunity to learn how to split and hang fish on their new racks with assistance from Paliscovia Johnson. Wednesday afternoon found the entire school at the end of the road picking berries to take home to their families. Thursday and Friday was devoted to Native Youth Olympics. Students in grades 6-12 taught the younger students how to compete in the various events. Then on Friday afternoon we had an N.Y.O. event for the community to watch the younger kids compete in, which was followed by a community potluck. The food for the potluck was provided by the AmeriCorps program, which is operated by Diana Ishnook in Koliganek. Culture Week was a learning experience for all, and we look forward to providing an even better experience for students in January. Quyanana to all those who helped make it happen!



Educational Programs

Teachers have been working hard to set up schedules to provide students with the best possible programs to meet their educational needs. With multi-grade classrooms it takes a unique touch every year to change our schedules to meet the needs of our students. We are going to expand our use of Education City (K-2) and Study Island (3-12) for students to master their Alaska Standards.

Cross Country

Koliganek held the first cross country meet of the year on September 3rd for high school and middle school. New Stuyahok was the only team that made the trip, but it was a successful experience for everyone who participated. Tia Gumlickpuk and Isaiah Gumlickpuk took first for high school girls and boys, while Darrell Andrews and Roberta Christopher took first for middle school boys and girls respectively. Runners will be heading to New Stuyahok September 10th for their next competition.





‘Chief’ Ivan Blunka School

Bob Thompson, Principal

It has been a great start to the school year at Chief Ivan Blunka School. We have eight 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.

Greenhouse Grant

Chief Ivan Blunka School now has a greenhouse that is growing plants and providing fresh greens for the community. The greenhouse was constructed as part of a grant from the Rasmussen Foundation and Hidden Valley Ranch. Plans for the greenhouse include involving students in science, foods and nutrition, and entrepreneurship programs. Full production from the greenhouse is about a year away. A garden area is being cleared to finish growing starts and other outdoor vegetables, such as cabbage and potatoes. By next fall there should be enough produce to begin supplying our food service program and selling produce to the village residents.



Community Activities

Open House was held on Tuesday, August 31st. Over 100 people attended with door prizes, refreshments and visits to classrooms. Lakota Murray with the Alaska Association of School Boards addressed the community about Quality Schools Quality Students programs. Chief Ivan Blunka School used QS2 grant money for a number of programs last year, including a literacy night, culture week, Beaver Festival mini-carnival, recycling, and youth programs.

In addition to Open House, meetings are being held to work out a budget for our Johnson O'Malley program grant money. Money will be earmarked to upgrade our elders' program with new equipment and supplies for carving, art projects, drum making, net mending, fishing, and trapping.

Library

Shannon Clouse visited New Stuyahok at the beginning of the school year to get our library up and running again. We have a lot of activity in the library this year with regular visits by students in all grades and an Accelerated Reader program with incentives for reading books and earning points. In addition, we are purchasing \$6,000 worth of new “high interest” books for our students with money awarded our school in a grant from the Laura Bush Foundation. Students were surveyed last year and topics high on the list included sports, hunting, fishing and anything having to do with the outdoors.





Togiak School

David Morris, Principal

The school year in Togiak is off to a great start! We are working diligently to transform Togiak School to best meet the needs of our students and adequately prepare them for a bright and prosperous future. Nearly one third of our students are not proficient in Language Arts and Mathematics as defined by the Alaska Student Based Assessments. Therefore, our focus for the beginning of school has been to implement new structures and programs to improve student achievement in reading, writing, and mathematics.

In the elementary and middle grades, we have contracted with Alternate Learning Styles, a private reading clinic in Fairbanks, to provide intense reading and writing instruction. The director and two of her instructors have been in our school for over a month training our teachers and paraprofessionals with interventions to help students with decoding, phonemic awareness, fluency, comprehension, and writing skills.

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.

In our high school, we have moved to a block schedule with 100-minute classes. The new schedule is allowing us to provide more in-depth instruction with more opportunities for students to master content under the supervision of our teachers. In this model, teachers have time to use multiple instructional strategies to address the needs of individual students. With longer class periods, the curriculum is less fragmented and there is more time for in-depth projects and cross-curricular activities.

We are really excited about the changes we have made in Togiak this year. The initial result has been a higher level of student engagement, which will ultimately lead to greater success for our students..





Twin Hills School

Esther Ilutsik, Principal/Teacher

Camai! Greetings from Twin Hills School!

Field Trip

The Twin Hills school opened its' doors to another exciting and challenging new school year. On the first day of school (with tides not aligned with school schedules) the students and staff with parents and community members ventured on our 2nd annual field trip to Anchor Point at 2:00 pm. We arrived to the Anchor Point grounds a little before the minus tide giving some of us time to visit the Stone Lady's "writing on the rocks". Then back to the grounds where the students begin to gather treasures of the seashore-snails, seaweed, empty cockle shells, mussel shells, a "teq" sea anemone, cockle and razor clams. Information gleamed from this adventure will be implemented into the following disciplines – science, writing, art and the Yup'ik programs of study.



Yup'ik Program

The students and staff were guided into the meaning of a true bilingual program. Martha Foster, Yup'ik instructor with the help of Agnes Gamechuk, instructional aide and Meghan Redmond, middle school teacher with an integrated student body K-8th grade were guided into presenting what a real bilingual program would look and feel like. We began by re-capping our field trip, modeling our questions in Yup'ik & English and responding in both languages – concurrently. We ended up with a list of words in Yup'ik and English that will be used in the science, writing, art and Yup'ik classes. It was truly an experience to see the "awe" of the students as they were actively engaged in this process.



Open House Potluck

Twin Hills school hosted a "Welcome Back to School" potluck for the parents and community on Friday the 20th of August. We had an excellent turn-out with nearly 50 people coming together to greet and welcome our new staff member Meghan Redmond, middle school teacher and her husband Andy. In addition, we covered the school calendar year, AYP, the student/parent/teacher compacts, cell phone policy, after school activities, homework and the next scheduled CSC meeting – September 8, 2010 @ 3:00 pm.

English	Yupik
Ancher Point	Tarvunguag
Clam Digging	Tavrtaarvurluta
Cockle Shell clams	Tavtaaq
Sea Anemone	Teq
Snails	nepcurliq
Sea weed	qelluag
boulders	Teggagurpūt
Creeks	Kvigghayut
First Creek	Qusuvug
mud	Marayaq
Razor Clams	Aliiruaq

Quyana cakneq!

The Twin Hills School and staff would like to thank all the parents and community members for the wonderful turn-out for both the field trip and potluck (despite the sun coming out). We appreciate all this positive support. We look forward to working with you all this year! Quayana!



