

# REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION



## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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*spring assessments are over and thoughts turn toward graduations...*

## SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

### Jack Foster, Superintendent



*The real process of education should be the process of learning to think through the application of real problems.*

*-- John Dewey*

## SENATE BILL 237

Senate Bill 237 creates an REAA construction fund that would give rural areas the same level of funding predictability that urban areas have. Initially, the fund is set to contain almost \$40 million a year in funds for rural construction. SB 237 is now waiting for consideration by the governor.



## RECRUITING

We have five openings left to fill throughout the district.

- Anchorage: April 16-17
- Minneapolis State: April 19
- Minneapolis ATP: April 23-24

## SWRS GRADUATIONS

| SITE         | DATE                 | TIME     |
|--------------|----------------------|----------|
| Manokotak    | May 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 3:00 PM  |
| New Stuyahok | May 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 4:00 PM  |
| Ekwok        | May 10 <sup>th</sup> | 1:00 PM  |
| Aleknagik    | May 10 <sup>th</sup> | 6:00 PM  |
| Twin Hills   | May 11 <sup>th</sup> | 11:00 AM |
| Togiak       | May 11 <sup>th</sup> | 1:30 PM  |
| Clarks Point | May 12 <sup>th</sup> | 11:00 AM |
| Koliganek    | May 13 <sup>th</sup> | 1:00 PM  |



# CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

**David Piazza, Director of Instructional Programs**

## eRate

The District's E-Rate application has moved into the "Initial Review" stage. This means that it is being reviewed by Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) for compliance with program rules. All applications must receive both an Initial Review and a Final Review. The Form 471 may return to Initial Review status at any time before a Funding Commitment Decision Letter is issued. We continue to anticipate the 90% subsidy level for Internet, Distance Learning, and local and long distance phone charges.

## Recruiting

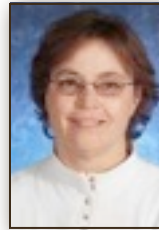
During the past month we have worked to staff our schools with new teachers as positions have become vacant due to staff resignations. The district successfully filled many of the vacant positions before the teacher's job fairs. While we were able to fill two additional positions at the Alaska job fair in Anchorage, the number of qualified candidates for Mathematics and Language Arts was low. Additional recruiting efforts are being undertaken at the two Minneapolis job fairs where the district has been successful in the past. The district will continue to recruit staff until all vacancies have been filled with qualified individuals.

## Staff Recognition

National teacher appreciation week is May 3rd through the 7th. Let your instructional staff know that you support them and appreciate the work they do for the students.

The district's Teacher of the Year, Instructional Aide of the Year, and Classified Staff Member of the Year selection process is underway. These individuals are nominated by their sites and the winners are se-

lected by the District Leadership Team before the end of the school year.



## Curriculum (Deb Endicott)

Curriculum has been busy getting ready for next year already with ordering student consumable workbooks and materials. It is important to have the classrooms all stocked with materials, supplies and equipment ready for a successful start of the school year.

We are trying to work smarter by ordering the material to arrive in Dillingham in July and then distributing the books to the different sites from the district office. This way we can react quickly to spot any missing books or supplies for teachers. We have utilized this system for three years now and have had good results.

We make a special effort to send the new teachers copies of the student materials they will be using in the classroom. This way they are familiar with the programs used in their schools and classrooms.

Continue planning the August In-Service by contracting with different vendors for professional development opportunities such as trainers to travel up to Dillingham for teacher's in-service.

Curriculum Audit process is still moving forward. We are looking forward to meeting once more at the end of April for the Language Arts, Math and Yupik committee teams. Then in May, all three teams will convene in Dillingham for one week to edit the curriculum for the three core areas.



### **Media Center (Shannon Clouse)**

#### **Koliganek Imagination Library**

The Kick Off event for the Imagination Library in Koliganek was scheduled for April 12th, but due to bad weather had to be rescheduled for April 19th. Parents and children involved with the Imagination Library are invited to come and celebrate literacy with snacks and fun literacy based activities.

Site visits are planned for Koliganek, and Aleknagik. There are tentative trips planned for New Stuyahok and Ekwok in late April and early May to organize their libraries. The school year is almost to an end, materials will be coming back from teachers. Returning teachers will be asked to recommend materials for next year. Teachers will also be asked if they plan to participate in Battle of the Books for next year.



## **FEDERAL & STATE PROGRAMS**

**Jon Clouse, Federal/State Programs Director**

### **Reports and Plans No Child Left Behind (NCLB)**

Each school district with a school that is attended by at least eight LEP pupils is required to file a Plan of Service. The Title III-A LEP Plan of Service has been completed and submitted to the state. This plan is outlines the educational goals for LEP students, the method for identifying LEP students, parent notification procedures, LEP programs, assessment procedures, and professional development procedures for staff.

Each site has, in conjunction with parents and community members, completed a 2010 - 2011 Title I School-wide Plan. The school-wide plans are designed to provide a framework regarding the instruction and instructional support provided to students. Each Title I School-wide Plan has been posted to the district website.

### **Highly Qualified Plan for Title I Paraprofessionals**

#### **No Child Left Behind (NCLB)**

Twenty-one instructional aides will be taking the ParaPro Assessment in Dillingham on April 24th in an effort to become highly qualified as outlined un-

der the NCLB Act. It has been about nine weeks since the implementation of the ParaPro Prep Program at each of our schools, which provides instructional time for those instructional aides that choose to attend. The attendance rate of the paraprofessionals in the ParaPro Prep Program is 65% through those nine weeks.

Southwest Region School District has also been approved as an internet-based testing center for the ParaPro Assessment. Steps are being taken to configure a small lab of laptops to the specifications of the Educational Testing Service in order for participants to take the internet-based version of the ParaPro Assessment in the future.

### **Applications No Child Left Behind (NCLB)**

The 2010-2011 No Child Left Behind consolidated application is now available. The state is providing a technical assistance session for representatives from all districts regarding the application on April 28th and 29th. I will be attending this session in order to work individually with representatives from the state during the application process and to bring concerns about the application process.



## EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

**Steve Noonkesser, Technology Coordinator**

### Curriculum

March saw some good meetings with the leadership team, including all principals, working through the details of how to move ahead with our curriculum audit. The next meetings are scheduled for April 30th and May 1st. A weeklong work session with the full committees for language arts, mathematics and Yup'ik Studies is also planned for May 17-21, 2010.

### Planning

Our team is researching models for a netbook pilot at several of our sites. These small inexpensive laptops with the Linux operating system may provide a very cost effective option for student day-to-day computing needs. Work is also ongoing in preparation for a refresh of the one-to-one laptops across the district over the summer.

The technology department is making preparations for the end of the storage and inventory of equipment as well as advanced planning for next years technology needs.



### Computer Aided Instruction Specialist (Corey Evans)

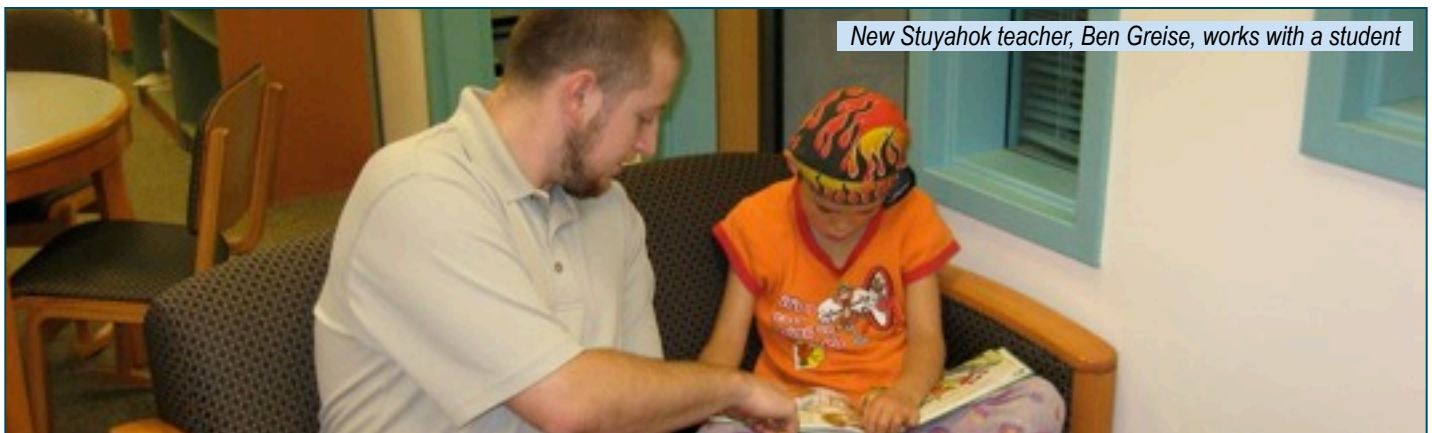
Corey has spent the past few weeks preparing for the Spring AIMS benchmark testing window which is April 26th through April 30th. We also attended training for WIN for WorkKeys in preparation for implementing this new requirement next fall.



### Technology Specialist (Les Parks)

Les Parks and David Piazza successfully passed Apple repair certification tests. This allows the tech department to maintain it's certification as an Apple authorized repair center. Les Parks has also completed the required training and certification tests making him a copper and fiber optic network testing technician as certified by FLUKE testing interments.

Several student machines as well as a few staff machines have come to the district office and been successful repaired and returned to service. Machines have come from Koliganek, Chief Ivan Blunka, and Manokotak Schools. The technology department also repaired the District office Special Education fax machine



*New Stuyahok teacher, Ben Greise, works with a student*





## Business Office

**Lee Ann Andrew, Director of Administrative Services**

We secured Altman, Rogers, Co. for the FY10 audit. The preliminary audit will be April 26-30. The final audit will be August 23-27. Included in the packet is the engagement letter addressing the details of roles and responsibilities.

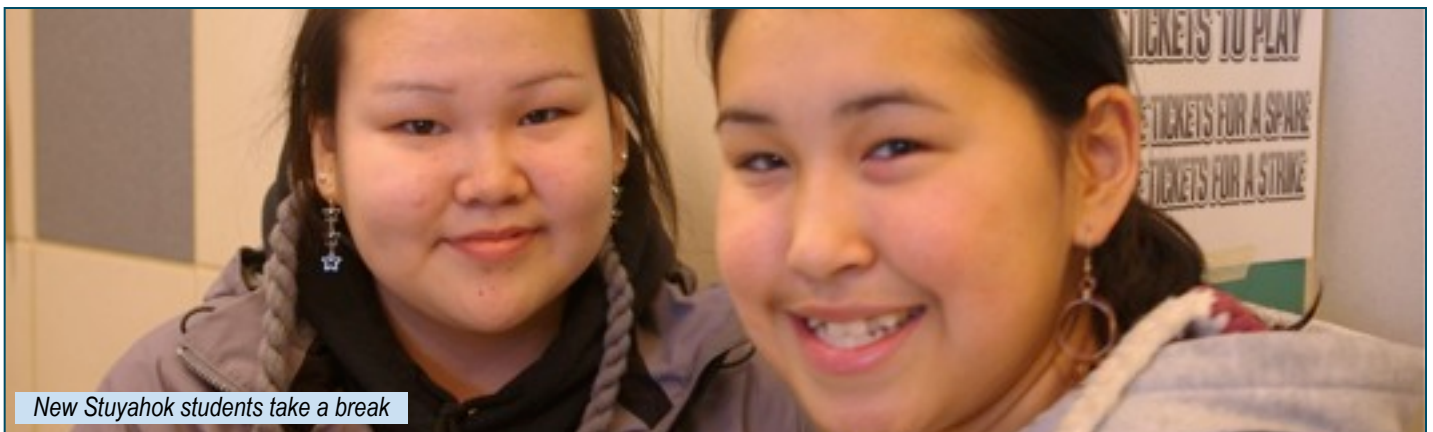
We are working with maintenance on coordinating the 2010 summer projects. In order to get the best price and to get large items on the barge we are purchasing some items now. There is a chance that this may put maintenance over budget for FY10, the amount spent now will be deducted from their FY11 budget. We are working at getting back to having the funding for the summer projects in the budget that will allow us to put items on the barge but this year it did not work out that way.

We have been working with Alaska Public Entity Insurance updating our insurance needs to get the FY11 cost. We should have it by the April board meeting. We will be going into the second year of a three agreement with them because their proposal last year offered a 10% discount for the three year agreement.

Worked with Dean Hamburg from Kenai supporting a bill that would allow state funds to help with the school lunch program. The bill does not allocate a large amount of funding but it is a start.

We have been working with the sites getting the spring orders in for next year's classroom supplies and for utilizing the grant funding designated to sites. Most of the orders on in. The later they come in the harder it is to make sure grants are spent by June 30.

Next month there will be an updated budget with adjustments that have been made since November's revision. By then we should have a good idea of all the changes necessary for the year. Currently it appears that the food service program will need additional money transferred from the general fund. It is too early to tell if there will need to be any other major adjustments. Electricity and heating fuel budgets may be close but a lot depends on the last fuel inventory in June. There will be some payroll adjustments between functions that will be explained with the budget revision.



*New Stuyahok students take a break*



## Aleknagik School

Jeff Ambrosier, Lead Teacher

### A good year draws to a close...

This past month the staff and students have really focused on preparing for the SBA's. All students in grades 3-8 have taken practice tests as well as learning important test taking strategies. Even the 2nd graders have practiced taking bubble tests just to get used to the idea of filling in circles for answers. The entire staff worked well together in preparation for the big week. All the classified staff pitched in and helped proctor or read tests depending on where they were needed. With everyone's help, the whole process went off without a hitch.



In Mr. Christners class, with the help of Ms. Spoford, they were able to acquire a guest speaker from Jamaica, Mrs. Cotterfield. She spent the morning showing pictures of Jamaica, talking about the kids and culture, and she also told great stories of her country that had been passed down for generations. This gave our students an amazing perspective of culture and what it is like in other parts of the world.

In Mr. Ambrosier's class, the 5th graders have been using whiteboards for their guided practice in math and they like using them in place of scratch paper for learning the new concepts of the week. This enables them to quickly write the problem and easily make changes to their work. In addition, they feel that it's more like "drawing" than actually having to write math problems. They are all making great progress.

In Mrs. Schiaffo's class, they are working on test taking strategies in reading and math. Paying close attention to things like reading the question and options before the problem/ story, re-reading, and underlining key words. They have also been using the reading comprehension hot dots nearly every day to boost reading skills and have fun with reading.

Upgrading our technology has used a large portion of the SFSF funds. We have purchased a multi year subscription to Renaissance Learning to upgrade our Accelerated Reading program. We have also purchased a subscription to Education City which will help the students in Reading and Math. We have also spent some money upgrading and organizing the library so hopefully by the end of the year, our library checkout system will be electronic. Without the SFSF funds we would not have been able to purchase most of these supplemental activities.

Now that the SBA's are over, we have resumed work on the hickory sleds with the help of Randy Tinker. We hope to have them done by the time this board meeting adjourns.





## Clarks Point School

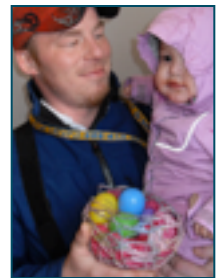
**Doug Bushey, Principal**



Our students have completed the Math in a Cultural Context (MCC) "Going to Egg Island" developed by UAF. The students used the Yup'ik Drum to reinforce the students' growing understanding of grouping and place values. MCC curriculum has permitted the students to use multiple learning modalities to retain math concepts. Clarks Point School faculty would like to thank Deb Endicott and Carrie Jones with UAF for all the training and assistance in order to bring MCC to Clarks Point School.

The students and community members enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast. Mr. Bushey cooked pancakes, biscuits & gravy and oatmeal. There were over 30 community members in attendance.

The students celebrated National "Drop Everything and Read Day" on April 12 (Beverly Clearly's Birthday) with a RIF distribution. The students chose a book to read and keep. This is Clarks Point School's second distribution for the year.



## District-wide Student Activities

**Doug Bushey, Activities Coordinator**

Dillingham Jr/Sr High School hosted the 2010 Area Wide NYO Tournament April 16 & 17. Students from Southwest Region Schools participated in 10 events. The following students qualified to represent Southwest Region Schools at the state tournament. Let's give our student athletes a big congratulation and wish them well for the state competition that is being held April 22-24 in Anchorage at the Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center.

| EVENT                    | BOYS             | SCHOOL | GIRLS             | SCHOOL |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|
| <b>Knee Jump</b>         | Wesley Alircirn  | KMO    | Magdaline Kapatak | KGK    |
| <b>Toe Kick</b>          | Zachary Gust     | CIBS   | Sandra Larson     | KGK    |
| <b>Wrist Carry</b>       | Wassillie Andrew | CIBS   | Samantha Ishnook  | KGK    |
| <b>Eskimo Stick Pull</b> | Spencer Walcott  | CIBS   | Kenisha Geerhart  | KMO    |
| <b>1 Foot Kick</b>       | Robert Blue      | Togiak | Samantha Ishnook  | KGK    |
| <b>2 Foot Kick</b>       | Zachary Gust     | CIBS   | Magdaline Kapatak | KGK    |
| <b>Indian Stick Pull</b> | Tharon Paul      | KMO    | Magdaline Kapatak | KGK    |
| <b>Alaska High Kick</b>  | Zachary Gust     | CIBS   | Magdaline Kapatak | KGK    |
| <b>1 Arm</b>             | Zachary Gust     | CIBS   | None              |        |
| <b>Seal Hop</b>          | Daniel German    | CIBS   | Sandra Larson     | KGK    |



## William 'Sonny Nelson' School

**Audra Finkenbinder, Lead Teacher**

The much-anticipated State Based Assessments have just been completed and I would like to compliment the students at William "Sonny" Nelson School for working hard in preparing for the tests as well as the diligence they exuded during the assessments.

To relax a little before the SBAs, we ventured out one Friday afternoon to do a little ice fishing. Even though we did not catch dinner, everyone had a good time.

The seventh and eighth graders are currently reading Anne Frank The Diary of a Young Girl. The reading of this story has brought the opportunity to extend into other subject areas: history, geography, and vocabulary to list a few. Another great extension to this story will be visiting Pearl Harbor during the eighth grade trip. (The eighth graders will be enjoying the beauty of Hawaii at the end of April.) In addition to visiting Pearl Harbor, they will also be hiking Diamond Head, going to the Honolulu Zoo, the Bishop museum as well as many other attractions. The trip will certainly be an experience of a lifetime!

Another educational trip that we are planning at William "Sonny" Nelson School is to take the whole student body to Naknek for a water safety course. Being that we live right on the Nushagak and many students fish, we believe a water safety course is imperative.

As spring enters the air and the school year is quickly coming to a close, the students are becoming excited about getting outside and enjoying the longer days and the gorgeous weather. What a wonderful time of year!







# Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

**Herman Gerving, Principal**

State testing has been the focus at Nunaniq School at this time of the year; we eagerly await the SBA and HSGQE results!

All high school students received First Aid/CPR training. Theron Paul, Randa Moore, and Tiarna Bartman-Fischler represented Manokotak School and Southwest Region School District at the Alaska Association of Student Governments Spring Conference at Eielson High School. Three planeloads of high school students attended the Dillingham Career Fair courtesy of Bristol Bay Native Association; we sincerely appreciate their support!



Our student council hosted a pre-testing potluck and awards assembly, and a mini-carnival after testing.

Eleven athletes participated in the Native Youth Olympics meet hosted by Dillingham, with Wesley Aliralria, Theron Paul, and Kenisha Geerhart qualifying for state competition. Seventeen high school students will be attending the Youth Leadership Symposium in Dillingham with support from UAF-Bristol Bay Campus.

The academic year is swiftly coming to a close, with graduation scheduled for May 7.





# Koliganek School

**Cody McCanna, Lead Teacher**

## Standards Based Assessment Testing

Like all schools in Alaska, Koliganek spent the first week in April testing. Each testing day started with Pam Johnson cooking pancakes for the entire school from 8:30 to 9:00. After a good breakfast, students were engaged in a pep assembly in the gym to get their creative juices flowing before the tests. Overall, testing went without any glitches. There was only one high school student who missed a test day, and the staff did not have to make a single phone call to get students to school.

## Future Mushers



Students in Anu Wysocki and Pam Johnson's classrooms followed specific mushers during the annual Iditarod. Students chose their favorite musher and followed them along the trail to Nome. At the conclusion of the Iditarod all students got the opportunity to step on the back of the runners themselves. Cody brought a few dogs to school and showed students the equipment and allowed them to mush

through the village. Screams of excitement and joy could be heard throughout the village.

## Professional Learning Communities (PLC's)

Teachers at Koliganek have a new SMART goal that they work towards every Friday from 8:30 to 10:30. Teachers are choosing engaging, cooperative, and questioning strategies from Spence Rogers book "Teaching for Excellence". As a team of professionals, each staff member will have one of their peers come into their classroom and observe them while they are trying a new strategy. The goal is to improve student learning by using more engaging and motivating teaching strategies.

## Student Handbook

Koliganek CSC members and staff have started to compile a new Student Handbook. Koliganek has not had a complete Student Handbook in several years, so this will be a major accomplishment and a good step forward for Koliganek School. There will be a community review night to give all stakeholders an opportunity to review and make any necessary changes before it goes into place next year.

## Fuel Up for 60 State Winners!

Sandra Macklin's middle school students won the state competition for Fuel Up for 60. Fuel Up for 60 is a program sponsored by the National Football League. Students track the food they eat and the amount of exercise on a daily basis. Koliganek School will receive a \$1000 check for their efforts. Middle school students are going to decide how that money should be spent to improve the physical education at the school.



# **‘Chief’ Ivan Blunka School**

**Bob Thompson, Principal**

It is hard to believe there are only a few weeks left in the school year. So much has happened, and it has all gone by so fast. Spring fever is setting in and many young minds are thinking about summer plans and being outdoors. Yet, there are still a few things to finish up before the school year ends. Here is what has happened in the last month and what is planned for the future at Chief Ivan Blunka School.

## **Student Council**

Our student council has been active all year and has contributed to a great climate in our school this year. We have some leaders that will be making a large impact on our community in the future. At the end of March the Student Council made a trip to Manokotak for a district leadership conference. Our students had a great experience and have brought back ideas for our school. A large group of students have participated in leadership activities this year. through the Bristol Bay Campus with Nearly 30 students are heading to Dillingham on April 28th to attend a Leadership Conference.

## **Spring Testing**

We began a “Get Off the List” campaign this year. This is a two-year campaign to make AYP and go from a level five school to level zero! The community has responded. Students came to school and were prepared for taking the tests this year. Everyone was getting to bed early, breakfast was served at school, and attendance was over 98% for all three days. Teachers reported students working especially hard on the tests and trying their best.

## **Rose Urban Rural Exchange**

The last week of March had four visitors coming to New Stuyahok from Sitka High School. Three students and their teacher/chaperone arrived and spent a week learning about Yupik life in New Stuyahok. Students stayed with local families, came to school, and did a variety of activities. The students were able to ride a dogsled, go ice fishing, eat Yupik food, and have a maqii. At first, the students were a bit timid and shy, but when it was time to leave they did not want to go. The end of April will have our students and Rachel Panamarioff, the teacher that has arranged all of this, heading to Sitka for a week of activities there.

## **Graduation**

Nine seniors are preparing for graduation on May 7th, at 4:00 p.m. at Chief Ivan Blunka School. This group of seniors has provided leadership and been excellent role models for our school this year. We are very proud of them. Many seniors have plans to attend Job Corps, UAF Bristol Bay, or UAA next fall. The rest have put together other post-secondary plans. We wish them well and know they will do well.

## **End of Year Picnic**

An end-of-the-year picnic is being planned to celebrate the completion of the school year. A BBQ potluck will be on either Thursday or Friday the last week of school. The community is invited and students and staff will all be there.



## Togiak School

**Dave Morris, Principal**

It is hard to believe May is just around the corner and summer will soon be upon us. After finishing the state assessments, our elementary students spent the following week celebrating Yupik Culture. Teachers, community members, and students spent their afternoons focused on several cultural activities including skin sewing, beading and dancing. The instructors did a marvelous job and our students had a wonderful time. As we plan for next year, we are going to put a greater emphasis on providing more culturally based electives and workshops for our middle and high school students.

We are happy to have reading specialists from Alaska Alternative Learning Styles working with our students and staff over the last 2 weeks of April. They are helping us develop clear processes to accurately assess our student's reading abilities, then share, model and help establish strategies for effective interventions.

It is with a heavy heart that we end our school year. On Saturday, April 3rd, 2010, we lost a child in our community. There are few things that are more somber than laying a child to rest. It is still hard to believe that Jaime Forbes is no longer with us. Jaime was a beautiful girl with a warm, infectious personality. She was kind, bright, and actively involved in our high school. She served as a member of our student council and was part of our varsity basketball team. Jaime's absence has left a void in nearly everyone's life in Togiak. Our thoughts and prayers remain with Jaime's family. Rest in peace Jaime.

