

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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*Being able to read
 and write in multi-
 ple forms of media
 and integrate them
 into a meaningful
 whole is a new
 hallmark of
 literacy.*

-- Jason Ohler



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

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Jack Foster, Superintendent

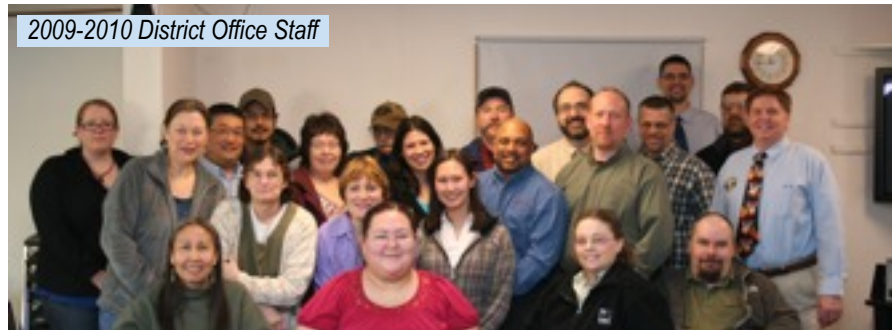
GREAT TEAMWORK!

In my December Superintendent's report of 2008, I stated and truly believe that,

"Each individual in an organization must make a choice as to what role he or she will play. The choice is either to actively participate or simply go through the motions from the sidelines. Being a reliable member of an organization means contributing." (Anatomy of a Leader)

I am very proud of our principals, district office staff teachers and staff on the reorganization they have done since the first meeting in August 2008.

2009-2010 District Office Staff



It is important for each person to believe that what he or she provides to the group is valuable. The district office is having as much growth as the principals and staff. Realizing that success increases when everyone works toward a common goal will be a powerful incentive for cooperation. Thank you staff, board of education, families and students for such cooperation. I am a lucky superintendent to be a part of such a great group.

STAFFING

It is hard to believe that February is here already and we are looking at next year's certified staffing needs. This year we found a couple of notable statistics about our staff:

- 50% of the certified teaching staff had Alaska experience when we hired them- (34 of 68)
- 100% of the principals had Alaska experience or had lived in Alaska when we hired them.

At present, we are projecting that all of our principals and district office staff will be returning for next school year.

STUDENT COUNT

The official student count for Southwest Region School District came out at 639.85; this is in line with what we built our budget for this year.

The student count at this time is 641. We are holding very well with the number of students staying in our district this year. This may be important in the later years if the state adds another count date.

SUPERINTENDENT'S AASA CONVENTION

This is the first year I have attended an AASA national convention. It started on February 11 and ended February 13th. This was a great opportunity

to see what is going on in the nation with schools and all of the new programs being introduced. The convention was excellent and the focus on learning was very motivational.

ALASKA NATIVE TEACHER INITIATIVE

We have six individuals that are in this program. One of the individuals may do their student teaching next year. We signed a letter of agreement last year in support of this new program designed to increase recruitment, certification and retention of Alaska Native educators. The program is coordinated by the Avante Garde Learning Foundation, led by former Alaska Commissioner of Education Shirley Holloway.

New Stuyahok	Aleknagik	Togiak
Pauline Andrew	Melody Noden	Kinka Parker
Tatiana Andrew		Carol Byayuk
Nick Gust, Jr.		

QS2 UPDATE

QS2 activities are progressing nicely, Lakotak Murray was out last week and met with principals and staff to discuss progress. SCCS Survey will also be given at sites during the first week of March.

2009-2010 Site Administrators





CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

David Piazza, Director of Instructional Programs

eRate

The District's Form 471 which is the "official" application for E-Rate funds was submitted before the end of the filing window. Item 21 Attachments that demonstrate proof of service levels such as previous phone bills and the internet and distance delivery contracts have been submitted as well. This allows the Universal Service Administration Company (USAC) the ability to begin the review process of our application. However, if this year follows similar patterns, our application will not be reviewed until late Spring or early Fall. Additional Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) reviews are normally conducted and require the district to submit additional paperwork to satisfy these auditor's questions.

Due to the diligence of Walter William, Nutrition Specialist, and Nate Preston, Student Support Services Specialist, the district was able to identify and certify a larger number of students who qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch from previous "Lunch Counts."

	Free	Reduced	Enrolled	Free and Reduced
Aleknagik	19	6	33	76%
Clarks Point	11	0	13	85%
Ekwok	3	6	12	75%
Koliganek	44	6	57	88%
Manokotak	106	21	128	99%
New Stuyahok	138	11	158	94%
Togiak	154	48	228	89%
Twin Hills	14	0	14	100%
Total	489	98	643	91%

Not only does this help the revenue potential for meeting student's lunch program needs, these counts are used to calculate the district's subsidy level for E-Rate eligible services. Since each school has demonstrated at least a 75% free or reduced level, this sets each schools' and the district's subsidy level for at least 90% for the next 5 years. This means that most of the local and long distance telephone calls, the internet service, and distance learning service costs the district 10 cents for each dollar of service purchased. The federal E-Rate funds are used to pay the remaining 90%. The district has requested \$967,582 in E-Rate eligible services. This will be the 13th year of the E-Rate program.

Curriculum (Deb Endicott)



Science GLEs

In February, the Curriculum Specialist worked with a team of Science Teachers from across the State to complete the Alaskan Science Grade Level Expectations for grades 3-11.

Those new GLE's are now posted on the AKEED website for teachers, school districts to align their curriculum to the GLE's.

HSGQE-related Needs

Last semester, principals identified an immediate need to help those students who were not successful in passing the exit exam requirement to earn a diploma. Upon further investigation of student data, principals identified freshman whose SBA test results and other data would suggest they would struggle with that same requirement. We are continuing to support teachers piloting new courses for the HSGQE Math and Language Arts Classes. Printed texts and resources from AGS Publishing provide lessons that are grade level equivalent using

lower reading skills. Expressive Writing from SRA (vendor for Open Court reading and Reading Mastery) is also being piloted at high school classes to reinforce writing skills. After these courses are piloted and the data is evaluated, the courses could become part of the curriculum across the district.

Math in a Cultural Context

Math in Cultural Content will host two more Saturday workshops in February. Egg Island is a 2nd grade module that teaches math concepts of grouping and place value. The 6th and 7th grade module on Salmon fishing are investigations into Probability. Teachers, Classified Aides are welcome to register for the one-day workshop held at Dillingham Elementary School. The grant from UAF will pay for the round trip flights and pay for meals and housing. Hotel accommodations can be made but to keep expenses down, we recommend to arrive in Dillingham prepared with sleeping bag and mattress to stay in the school library over night. Participants can earn college credit through the workshop. This time of year, everyone needs to make preparations and accommodations to being weathered in Dillingham. Any extra housing or meal expenses due to weather or air taxi flights eliminating traveling back to the villages will be honored.

Staff Recognition Programs

Teacher and Staff Recognition programs have been distributed to site administrators. Teacher of the Year is a program where administrators recommend candidates to complete a portfolio and submit it to district office leadership team. This team will select one teacher who will represent Southwest Region Schools as the candidate to the State of Alaska Teacher of the Year Program. Instructional Aide of the Year is one individual who represents the district for the upcoming year as the exemplary individual support student education. They are recommended by the site administrator and complete a portfolio that shows their highly qualified status, reference letters and an essay. The third award is for Classified Employee of the Year. This individual is rec-

ommended by the administrator in the form of a letter stating their unique qualifications and the service they provide the students of each community. All of those recommendations and portfolios come into the district office April 15th or 25th and selection of the winners is April 30th.

Mid-Year Graduates

The following students have now completed the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE) and have been awarded a Diploma from Southwest Region School District.

Irene Gust, New Stuyahok
Larry Arnariak, Togiak
Colten Wassillie, Togiak

Counseling/State-wide Assessments (Steve Ito)



IPT Testing

District wide proctor training including both certified and classified staff for Idea Proficiency Test training has been completed. Idea Proficiency Testing is currently underway at all sites. Site managers across our district are working diligently to complete the assessment well in advance of the mandated deadline. The Idea Proficiency Test is an assessment of English language acquisition required by EED for identified Limited English Proficient students that focuses on listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Terra Nova

District wide Terra Nova testing was completed the week of February 7th. The Terra Nova test is part of the Alaska Comprehensive System of Student Assessment and is given to grades 5 and 7 only. Mandated content areas tested are; Reading, Part 1&2, Language, and Mathematics, Part 1&2. Terra Nova testing satisfies a federal mandate requiring the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development to administer a national normative referenced assessment in two grade levels in conjunction to our state Standards Based Assessment (SBA).

Media Center (Shannon Clouse)



Koliganek Imagination Library

The registration process has begun with Shannon traveling to Koliganek and soliciting applications. Margie Nelson has done a great deal of the legwork and together they have registered 11 children for the program. Both Margie and Shannon are scheduled to go to Anchorage for training from Best Beginnings, Alaska to better understand and coordinate the Imagination Library in Koliganek.

Reading Is Fundamental

The district was allocated more money from Reading Is Fundamental for the 2010 contract year, allowing us a larger budget to buy high quality books for our students. Currently our RIF coordinators at site are working on selecting the books that will be used for the three distributions to be held during 2010. Togiak and Twin Hills have submitted their orders and we are waiting for them to be processed.

Battle of the Books

During the month of January we held the district championship for Battle of the Books for 3/4 grade, 5/6 grade, 7/8 grade and the High School. We had 14 teams participate in districts this year, with almost every school in our district being represented at one grade level or another.

The 3/4 grade teams that battled this year consisted of Clarks Point School, Togiak School and Manokotak School. The Clarks Point team will go on to

represent Southwest Region at the state battle on February 18th. The last time that the Clarks Point team won the district battle was in 1987, it took 23 years for them to repeat their win.

The 5/6 grade teams were Clarks Point School, Aleknagik School, Twin Hills School, Togiak School and Manokotak School. The Aleknagik team will represent Southwest Region at the State battle on February 17th.

The 7/8 grade district battle never fails to be the most exciting battle of the year, and this year was no exception. We had five teams competing from Clarks Point, Aleknagik, Twin Hills, Togiak and Koliganek. At the end of the 16 question battle we tallied up the scores and realized we had a three way team tie between Clarks Point, Twin Hills and Aleknagik! So the battle went into "Sudden Death", meaning that the time for teams to answer questions was cut in half from 30 to 15 seconds, and each team had to answer the question correctly to proceed. After five questions one team remained: Aleknagik School. The last three questions was a battle between Aleknagik and the one-woman team, Alyssa Bushey, of Clarks Point School. What an awesome effort on all of their parts, it was Battle of the Books at its best! The Aleknagik team will represent SWRS at the State level on February 16th. The High School had two teams participate in the district battle this year: Togiak School and Koliganek School. For the first time in many years Togiak will not be representing SWRS at the state battle. Koliganek High School will represent SWRS at the State Battle.





FEDERAL & STATE PROGRAMS

Jon Clouse, Federal/State Programs Director

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

The district is making progress in the curriculum audit process in Language Arts and Math. A curriculum committee camp is shaping up in May (after the end of the school year) to provide a block of time to intensely review, update, and format the curriculum. The ParaPro Assessment Preparation Program is being funded through the State Fiscal and Stabilization Funds (SFSF) with the intent to assist all non-highly qualified instructional paraprofessionals to meet the requirements of NCLB (see section below).

Highly Qualified Plan for Title I Paraprofessionals No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

The Highly Qualified Plan for Qualified Title I Paraprofessionals was completed and submitted to the state. This report contains data about the number of currently employed instructional paraprofessionals that do not meet the highly qualified requirements of No Child Left Behind (NCLB). The plan outlines what method each paraprofessional has completed or will complete to meet the highly qualified requirements of NCLB. In addition, assurances state that all instructional paraprofessionals will meet the requirements under federal and state regulation, develop a joint plan with each paraprofessional to meet the requirements, and that instructional paraprofessionals that are not currently highly qualified will be reassigned to non-instructional duties. It is important to realize the non-highly qualified personnel cannot be hired for instructional duties after this year.

The district has implemented a ParaPro Assessment preparation program for all non-highly qualified instructional paraprofessionals currently employed. This program is being implemented at every school and is designed to better prepare non-highly qualified instructional paraprofessionals to pass the ParaPro Assessment. By passing the ParaPro Assessment and completing a standards checklist, instructional paraprofessionals will meet the requirements of NCLB. The district is working with the testing company and the state to secure additional testing dates, become an internet based testing site, and gather further guidance on the definition of "instructional paraprofessional."

Indian Education: U.S. Dept. of Education

Part I of the Title VII Indian Education application has been completed, certified, and submitted. During the 31-day count period occurring between December 14th, 2009 and January 13th, 2010 a total of 624 students were identified as Alaska Native with a total student count at 636 students. Certificates of eligibility were verified for each of the 624 Alaska Native students. The Yup'ik Studies curriculum committee continues to make very good progress in developing curriculum. Outcomes and formatting for the curriculum document were solidified at the last meeting on February 2nd with the intentions to begin filling in a matrix with activities for each outcome during the next meeting.



EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Steve Noonkesser, Technology Coordinator

Curriculum

Work continues on the Yup'ik Studies curriculum and a set of draft outcomes is nearly ready for review. Meetings are planned for Language Arts and Mathematics the first week of March and a week-long curriculum workshop is planned for May.

Computer Aided Instruction Specialist (Corey Evans)



A number of projects have been completed successfully over the past month. The AIMSWeb winter benchmark was completed successfully, the computer audit was completed finally updating our inventory database and

work was completed on several other site specific software issues.

Technology Specialist (Les Parks)



New UPS battery backups were researched, and ordered for the Togiak School data closets following an equipment failure. A rebuild of the LDAP server in Aleknagik was also completed including complete recov-

ery of all students and staff data. Togiak staff were assisted a range of other items as well including scanner issues. New Stuyahok staff was assisted with gaining access to and functionality on the Rose Urban Exchange website to allow participation in this exciting program. Assistance was also given to sites requesting help with barring student access to inappropriate content.

Spotlight: Migrant Education

Title I-C, commonly referred to as Migrant Education is a title grant that is part of the consolidated No Child Left Behind application. Migrant Education funds are used to support programs that benefit migratory children, which can include activities such as professional development programs for teachers, family activities, integration of technology, and employment for personnel providing instructional support. The law allows school-wide schools to combine migrant education funds with other title funds to enhance programs that serve all children in the school, which is the option that Southwest Region School District chooses for each year.

There are a number of regulations involved in determining who qualifies as a migrant education student including qualifying activities, qualifying moves, the recruiting process, and priority first students (PFS). In relevance to our students, an activity is defined as berry-picking, commercial fishing, and/or subsistence fishing (or a combination of those activities) but not hunting.

Because our district is over 15,000 square miles, a qualifying move is defined as traveling 20 or miles from the home to the activity (not round trip) or crossing the boarder of the district; and consisting of eight day and seven nights away from the home (does not have to be consecutive); and the child has to move with the worker unless the child is 14 years or older, in which they can move on their own.

The recruiting process requires a certificate of eligibility to be filled out for each family that has a student that has made a qualifying move. Once a student has been identified, that student is considered a migrant student for three years. The age range for migrant students is from birth and until they earn a high school diploma or turn 22 years old.

Priority for service students are students that are performing below grade level on the Standards Based Assessment or High School Grade Qualifying Exam and have made a qualifying move during the school year. Priority of service students must be ensured of receiving academic support before other students. The identification of migrant education students occurs during the months of August through mid-November. This year's results show that there are 151 total migrant students, which is down by five students from last year. For additional information contact Jon Clouse at jclouse@swrsd.org



Business Office

Lee Ann Andrew, Director of Administrative Services

We were successful in getting a better fuel bid than the combined effort with AVEC. In January we received the AVEC fuel bid from Delta Western for price differential of 2.5795 added to the index price at time of lift. The estimated cost at the time of the bid was \$4.5078 and it was dependent on the lift cost. We chose to go out for a fixed price bid and Delta Western came back with one with varying costs at the sites ranging from \$3.57 to 3.82. These prices are fixed so we can build our budget with real numbers. This saves us \$166,767 at the time of purchase. However due to the multi year supply at some sites it will save us around \$60,000 in FY11. This will be applied to payroll dollars that were needed after meeting with the principals on February 3rd.

The FY11 budget went out to the sites with the principals on the third. They were given to March 12 to review them and present to their CSC's.

In April 2009 we received \$166,456 of ARRA Impact Aid money which was to be applied as part of our participating share for the new housing units in Togiak and Manokotak. The final report utilizing that money was submitted on January 13.

Negotiations with the certified staff will begin this month. Proposals from NEA and the district will be exchanged by February 19. The first meeting will be February 26th and 27th.

February is a busy month for travel with staff going to ASTE the technology conference and ASSEC the special education conference.



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Lee Webster, Director of Special Education

One significant change in Special Education this month was the finalizing and agreement to a smooth referral process between the various agencies involved with Child Find in Bristol Bay. This is the process of locating and evaluating children with special needs and this agreement should allow all of us involved to have smoother transitions.

All the teaching staff resumed their duties by the 2nd week of January with new transfer students arriving in Togiak. The transferring district helped us by sending IEP information so that the staff could prepare for the new arrivals. Many kudos go out to

Dave Morris and his staff. Mark Snell and his instructional assistants are doing a commendable job adjusting to difficult changes.

On January 14&15, I had the privilege of attending the annual Alaska Winter Conference where national experts conveyed what is happening with Response to Instruction (RtI) nationwide.

Referrals and exits have impacted the number of children identified with disabilities in SWR. Since we are in the evaluation process with a number of children I can best approximate that about 80 children are identified as of this date.



Facilities & Maintenance

Rick Dallmann, Maintenance Director

Manokotak

The housing transfer has been completed with the city of Manokotak

This was the two duplex units and A frame house that were on leased property from the city

The two District owned houses have been put up for sale using a bid process, there were no Qualifying Bids received, we are going to lower the minimum price and put the houses up for sale to any interested parties and will consider all offers above the minimum price.

We are working towards the final paper work to get D.E.C. approval for the water and sewer systems on the new teacher units as well as the platting and long-term loans to close out the grant.

New Stuyahok

The attorneys have drawn up Quitclaim paper work for the city to review on the transfer of the old school property. The city has accepted and the Deed has been recorded. The attorneys also have provided a Indemnity agreement on the soils cleanup effort.

This agreement will protect the city's interest in the property until the soils can be totally cleaned up to D.E.C. standards. We have applied for a D.E.C. Brown-field grant and have been approved for a site assessment in the spring. The city has decided they do not want to keep the two duplex units on the property, we will be putting them out to bid to demo and remove from the site.

We have provided a Deed of Easement to the City of New Stuyahok for ANTHC to construct their new Water Storage Tank up near the new school.

Togiak

We are completing paper work to get D.E.C. approval on the water and sewer systems along with platting and long-term loans to be able to close out the grant for the new Teachers housing

We hope to have the final plat of the old school site done this month (we have been waiting on DNR for 16 months) this will allow us to complete the transfer of buildings and property to the City of Togiak

District wide we are working on boilers and air handlers trying to stay ahead of freeze ups, and catching up on preventative maintenance.

Bulk Fuel Upgrades (KGK/TWA/KEK)

We are still working with the Alaska Energy Authority on Bulk Fuel Upgrade Grants

Ekwok project has been moved back to possible 2011 construction

Twin Hills could start construction this spring 2010

Koliganek could move to the final design stage and possible construction 2011.



Aleknagik School

Jeff Ambrosier, Lead Teacher

The First Semester Flew By...

As this is being written, we have ten weeks until the Standards Based Assessment which determines our Adequate Yearly Progress. The staff has come up with a schedule that involves a weekly review to prepare our kids for their maximum achievement on the upcoming tests. Parents can help out at home by asking students to talk about the books their children are reading or by asking to look at and help out with their math homework.

There is a lot to celebrate this month at the Aleknagik School. Both the 5th/6th and the 7th/8th Battle of the Books teams (pictured above) won districts. The 7/8 team had to go to the 5th round of sudden death to pull out a victory over the competition (Clarks Pt). The state battle is going to be held the week of Feb 15th so the kids are feverishly practicing and reviewing books. The basketball



team just returned from the tournament in Ekwok. While we didn't bring home the championship trophy, the kids had a great time and behaved wonderfully. However, they did bring home the Sportsmanship trophy. They are looking forward to the upcoming Super Cub tournament in DLG near the end of the month.



Over the last 3 days Randy Tinker and Cody Aloysius took all the students ice fishing. Each group caught fish and everyone had a great time. The 6th-8th grade class is also going to start building a freight sled out of hickory with direct help and supervision of Randy. We are excited to see the finished product. Mr. Christner's class (k-2) has read a couple of fairytales and are working on creating their own fairytale. Mr. Ambrosier's class took a short break from math to design and make pine-wood derby cars for the Ekwok tournament. Cars had to be under 5 oz so wood was cut off and weights were added to maximize performance. As always, feel free to stop by the school to see what we are up to.



Clarks Point School

Doug Bushey, Principal

In January the 3/4 grade, 5/6 grade and 7/8 grade students all participated in the Battle of the Books. We are proud of all the students who participated. The 3/4 grade team took first place in the district and will be competing at the state competition on February 18th. We congratulate our 4th grade students Devynn Wassily and Kurtis Bushey.

The student's went to Ekwok for the 6-8-grade basketball tournament and pinewood derby. All of our students attending participated in the Pine-wood Derby. In the two categories (K-4 & 5-8) Clarks Point student's won seven of the eight top places. We are proud of all our students who made a car and raced. We would like to thank the community and school staff of Ekwok who made it possible for this event to take place.

In Clarks Point the students are concluding the IPT assessments and the Terra Nova's. Mrs. Bushey has completed the third unit of Math in a Cultural Context (MCC), Parkas and Patterns. Mrs. Bushey is continuing with Professional Development through UAF for training in two more MCC units this month. Mr. Bushey attended the Special Education Conference along with other teachers from the district.





Student Activities

Doug Bushey, Activities Coordinator

Chief Ivan Blunka School will host the Boys 1A Basketball District Playoffs to determine which team will attend the Region 1 Tournament in Sand Point. The Girls 1A Basketball teams will travel to Newhalen for their Region 1 Tournament and Togiak will be hosting the Region 1, 2A Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament March 4-6. The district is looking forward to supporting our teams that attend the state tournament.



William 'Sonny Nelson' School

Audra Finkenbinder, Lead Teacher

We are already more than halfway into the third quarter and as quickly as time has been passing this school year, the State Based Assessments (SBA) will be here in no time. We have been holding short, daily reviews since returning from Christmas Break to prepare the students for the SBA Tests scheduled for April 6th-8th.



The Alex Nelson Memorial Basketball Tournament and Pine Wood Derby that was held at the end of January was a huge success! We would like to thank Aleknagik, Clarks Point, Koliganek, New Stuyahok and Twin Hills for traveling to Ekwok to compete. William "Sonny" Nelson School was filled with excited students and great basketball games. Other events included Principal Bushey's

"IHOP in Ekwok" breakfasts, a dance and movie night. Everyone had a great time and we are looking forward to hosting the event again next year.

The Dental Team was in Ekwok February 8th – 12th providing check-ups and dental care to the students and community members; we would like to thank them for their dedication and hard work.



We will be celebrating Read Across America Day on March 2nd with the third RIF book distribution and other activities. It's always enjoyable to watch the children get excited when they get to pick out new books to read.



Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Herman Gerving, Principal

Manokotak Nunaniq School hosted Head Start and Trading activities over the holiday break, with teachers returning for inservices on school connectedness, effective teaching, and CPR/First Aid in preparation for the spring semester.

Our staff proposed an additional thirty minute study hall period be added to our students' school day for the spring semester. Students have adjusted well to the "7th period," which has also allowed for special assemblies or presentations without affecting the regular class schedule.



John Dyasuk and Terry Fuller of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service visited to encourage student participation in the annual calendar contest. An awards assembly was held to recognize students for second quarter honor roll and perfect attendance. Our high school and middle school basketball teams are immersed in their season. The girls had one home game in January, and the boys are looking forward to hosting New Stuyahok just before districts.

The spring semester has gotten off to a smooth start, but we've had dental team, public health nurse, and kitchen inspection visits, in addition to an unusually high number of staff calls for jury duty, all of which have presented unique challenges.

Continued professional development includes Kathy Parsons and Kirsten Schmidt's attendance at the Special Ed Conference. Max Sanchez, Marlis Evans, and Kirk Kofford accepted an invitation from Lower Yukon School District to participate in their Effective Teaching inservice. Lida Storch will attend the 2010 Alaska Society for Technology in Education conference. Dana Bartman participated in the U.S. Marine Corps Educator Workshop and portions of the AASB legislative fly-in, youth advocacy institute, and QS2 community engagement meetings in Juneau.

Our student council remains highly active, meeting weekly to plan and approve activities and discuss issues. We are finalizing plans to host a Leadership Retreat, tentatively during the second week in March. We look forward to student participants from Togiak, New Stuyahok, and Koliganek joining us for training, networking, and building leadership skills.





Koliganek School

Cody McCanna, Lead Teacher

School Activities

We are celebrating some recent academic success here at Koliganek. Our High School Battle of the Books team won the District competition and will be competing at the state competition on February 15th. Also, Sierra Tunguing was the District Spelling Bee champion for grades 1-4 and Isaiah Gumlickpuk was the District Spelling Bee champion. Isaiah will be competing at the State Spelling Bee competition in Anchorage on February 25th. Kolianek is proud of all the students in the entire District that competed in both of these academic challenges.

Natural High Challenge

All students in grades K-12 created a Natural High poster to illustrate what activities they choose to do instead of using tobacco, alcohol, or drugs. Students also wrote essays to explain why being tobacco free is important to them and their future. Chelsey Kasayulie and Ashley Suskuk were the winners of the Natural High contest. They received a certificate and a fifty-dollar bill for their efforts.



Professional Learning Communities (PLC's)

The teachers at Koliganek School have started a Professional Learning Community (PLC). This gives teachers the opportunity to set goals and work together to improve specific areas of teaching and learning. The PLC established their first goal around improving student writing. Teachers met for the first time on January 29th and they will have their third meeting on the February 19th. Our PLC members meet every other Friday from 8:00 to 10:00 in the morning. During that time the site counselor, Cody McCanna, works with students on various counseling activities. Last week students worked on ways to say "no" to tobacco and alcohol.

100th Day of School

Students in grades kindergarten through 6th grade participated in the 100th day of school celebration. Pam Johnson and Anu Wysocki had a full day of activities for students to do that were centered on 100. It was a fun filled day for all!





‘Chief’ Ivan Blunka School

Bob Thompson, Principal

It has been a busy start to the new year in New Stuyahok. Slovi celebrations brought in the new year with starring ceremonies at homes throughout the community. A huge bonfire on New Year's Eve, January 13th, had community members starting the new year off by circling the bonfire three times followed by a final starring ceremony in the church.

Chief Ivan Blunka School has enjoyed many activities at the start of the year, but academics remain the focus for students. Students have been issued a challenge to have every student pass every class this semester. In addition, students are working to stay eligible for basketball in middle and high school. Students have responded with renewed focus and effort. There are many challenges, but by working together any obstacle can be overcome.

HSGQE Classes

We are well into the second semester at Chief Ivan Blunka School. Students are back in school, working hard, and making progress. There were many schedule changes for second semester as HSGQE classes in math, reading, and writing were added to the schedule. All students not proficient on state exams are now enrolled in special classes that focus specifically on the GLE's for their age group. We are pleased with the success students are having in these courses and are seeing improvements.

New Stu Showdown

Girls' and boys' basketball teams from around the region visited New Stuyahok for the New Stu Showdown during the first week of February. There were teams from around the district and region. The sell-out crowds enjoyed many close and entertaining games. The Hooper Bay girls prevailed in a hard-fought championship game over the New Stu Eagles, and the boys from New Stu battled to a championship win over the Hooper Bay boys' team. New Stuyahok rolled out the hospitality for this event. Coaches and players expressed their appreciation for a great tournament and the warm welcome they received in New Stuyahok.



Carnival

The New Stuyahok Carnival was held the week of February 8th. There were daily events including family nights, Pee Wee basketball games, middle school basketball, a mini-carnival, dog races, and a crafts fair. Lots of visitors came to town looking forward to this annual event.





Togiak School

Dave Morris, Principal

We are rolling along through the winter months and as the days are getting longer, we are beginning to think of Spring.

We are all working very hard to prepare for the state testing which is just 8 weeks away. We have been closely monitoring student progress; using that data to guide instruction and interventions to help our students achieve success. In addition, over 50 students in Togiak are taking part in after-school tutoring and Upward Bound study sessions. We are anxious to see if our efforts lead to better performance on the SBAs and HSGQE.

The basketball season is winding down. Both our high school and middle school teams have just a few games left in their season. We are hosting the 2A Region I Basketball Tournament this year. Twenty teams from the Yukon Kuskokwim Conference will be in Togiak March 4, 5, and 6 to determine who will represent our region at the State Tournament. It is an exciting opportunity to host the tournament and we are looking forward to all the energy it will bring to our school.

We continue to work to embrace our local culture and expand the dreams and opportunities of our students. Students scheduled to graduate in May are working to procure scholarships and admission to post-secondary training programs. In the past month we have had representatives from the Bristol Bay Campus working with our students on both academic planning and providing a three-week ivory carving workshop. A representative from CH2M Hill shared information on training available for our students to access employment on the North Slope. Guests from both the University of Alaska and the University of Washington have presented information about astronomy in the northern sky and climate change as it relates to the Bering Sea and Bristol Bay Ecology.

Just like Spring, the future holds great promise for our students. Our mission is to help the young people of Togiak discover all the possibilities and achieve their dreams.

