



# REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

### INSTRUCTION

HINI Awareness Activities and a number of curriculum projects get rolling.

### FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Work focuses on NCLB and Stimulus fund budgeting

### SPECIAL EDUCATION

A focus on coordination of outside specialists and services

### TECHNOLOGY

Work begins on a refresh of the T4 Project and other projects including ACFA and AIMSWeb testing.

### MAINTENANCE

Finalizing housing projects and helping teachers get moved into new units.

### STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Wrestling and Volleyball continue and Basketball is around the corner.



*schools are running smoothly as winter approaches...*

## SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

**Jack Foster, Superintendent**

## Program Implementation

As you visit and walk through the buildings of Southwest Region Schools, you will see progress in the making. Students are taking the Alaska Computerized Formative Assessment (ACFA). This online student formative assessment system has questions with the same format being used in our Standards Based Assessments (the end of the year test) and

the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE).

You may see an aide with three or four students working with Accelerated Reader or Accelerated Math. It is exciting to see what is happening at each of the sites

Students may also be using the AIMS web online progress-monitoring test. This is used more for K-8 students.



*New Stuyahok students taking Accelerated Reader quizzes on their new computer lab in the library.*

This progress monitoring really gives the student and the teacher the ability to see that students are learning the material being presented in the classroom. With the practice test that ACFA and AIMS provides, the students should do much better on the tests given in the spring on which the state bases its measure of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). The state bases Adequate Yearly Progress on Standards Based Assessment scores.

### Professional Development

Manokotak Principal, Herman Gerving, is teaching the Responsible Thinking Process class for staff this year. We have 98% of new hires enrolled in the class. There are twenty-one students in the class which is being delivered through our distance delivery system and Moodle (a web based eLearning program) every Thursday from 4:00pm to 5:30pm. Staff is able to earn three graduate hours for only \$90.00 or less.

### Student Count

The student count has been turned into the state for Southwest Region School District. Our official count for 2009-2010 school year is 644.05. This has not been certified yet, but this number will be very close to our final certified count. We had 633.5 for the 2008-2009 school year, so our enrollment is up about eleven students from last year.



*New Stuyahok students between classes.*



*Manokotak elder, Henry Alakayak, Sr. teachers net mending as students and principal, Herman Gerving look on.*



# CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

**David Piazza, Director of Instructional Programs**

## H1N1 Pandemic Influenza Workshop:

The District continues to work with the regional task force regarding the H1N1 Swine Flu. More information at <http://www.pandemicflu.alaska.gov/> and <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/qa.htm>.

According to the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation, "all village clinics that receive vaccine from Kakanak have had both seasonal and H1N1 vaccine shipped to them. The amounts are small, but there will continue to be more coming. Health aides are aware of the priority groups and are vaccinating those groups."



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

## eRate

The District has submitted to the State for certification the Budget Inventory Analysis (BIA) form that acts as an annual Tech Plan Update. This begins the process for applying for E-Rate funding for next year. While, the application won't be finalized until late January, we don't anticipate too many changes this year as we still have one more year on our major contracts for internet and distance delivery services with GCI. We do expect the addition of Cell Phone service which is anticipated to be available in our communities by the start of next year. The District's current Free and Reduced lunch count that was completed at the end of October, indicates that we should remain at a 90% subsidy level for E-Rate eligible services for the next 5 years.



## Student Records/ PowerSchool Support (Nate Preston)

The sites have completed the first round of report cards, and Parent/Teacher conferences.

A weekly eligibility report has been developed within PowerSchool to assist sites in managing the eligibility requirements for students participating in extra curricular activities. Sites that are utilizing and keeping the PowerSchool grade book current have immediate access to this eligibility information.

A PowerSchool report template has been developed to assist school secretaries in obtaining student's Demographic (i.e. address, phone numbers, emergency contact information) updates in an effort to continue to clean up the Student Information System.

The Federal Impact Aid Source Check form will be headed to site village offices soon for certification. This provides the documentation necessary to receive funding for students who live on Federal land.



## Curriculum (Deb Endicott)

The Alaska 4-H Cooperative Extension hosted a Teacher in-service in Fairbanks for science teachers using the Salmon Egg unit in their classrooms. Andrew Smith, middle school science teacher in Togiak, attended the training. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will be sending Andrew and the students of Togiak 500 salmon eggs in the very near future. It has always been a very popular project within our schools. To receive the salmon eggs, teachers must attend the



workshop. Andrew has agreed to share his learning at the August Teacher In-service.

This year the 4-H Cooperative Extension was joined by the CoSEE Alaska: People, Oceans and Climate Change Foundation, the U.S. Fish and Game Wildlife Service and the UAF Science and Fisheries Department to bring together all of the educational services available for schools. It was a tremendous opportunity to become acquainted with each of these entities and the services they can provide to our students and staff.

### **Math in a Cultural Context**

Math in Cultural Context is continuing to provide our teachers and paraprofessionals with workshops to earn credit toward the Highly Qualified requirements. These workshops are one-day, held at Dillingham Elementary School and the UAF Grant pays for the flight, housing, meals and the teacher or aide's stipend for completing the unit. The first workshop was held and we had three teachers participate. The second workshop was canceled due to no registration and the third one to be held on November 14th has two teachers and one aide signed up.

### **District-wide Writing Assessment**

The District Wide Writing Assessment has begun. The team of district scorers has been selected and we have 10 teachers coming to district office November 30-December 2nd to score all 650 student writing samples. Each teacher will be given a two-week period to work with their students to submit the best writing sample. The papers will be scored and then the score will be entered into a database that will provide each student with a history of their scores from year to year. With this data, the teachers can now respond to this data and develop their writing programs appropriately.

### **Curriculum Audit**

The Curriculum Audit is continuing with two teams meeting the first week of November. The language arts team and the mathematics teams will

meet to start their process to review the programs in place and to make recommendation for improving the instruction across the district. The team for Science will begin a full review in the spring semester. This will be the first group to meet in our re-instituted and state mandated six-year curriculum renewal cycle.

### **Yup'ik Studies Curriculum Committee**

The Yup'ik Studies Curriculum Steering Committee met for the first of a series of meetings to create a plan for revitalizing Yup'ik studies in the SWRS curriculum. The group is comprised of recognized experts in the area and district office personnel. The group will be joined by School Board member, Marie Paul at our next meeting on November 19, 2009. This group will help set the direction for future Yup'ik Studies curriculum development in the district.



### **Counseling/State-wide Assessments (Steve Ito)**

#### **Alternate Assessment Training**

Mr. Ito completed EED training requirements for renewal of Alternate Assessment Qualified Mentor

Trainer status. and attended the annual Alternate Assessment Qualified Mentor Trainer conference in Anchorage. The Alternate Assessment exists for students with significant cognitive disabilities to have access to, participate in, and make progress in general education curricula. The Alternate Assessment is based on Alaska standards but measured against alternate achievement standards.

### **ASVAB Testing**

Armed Service personnel have contacted the four K-12 sites to set up site based Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) testing. This testing will be administered through a program called Single Site Testing (SST). SST will train site-based teachers as certified ASVAB proctors. The ASVAB is a government based, military vocational aptitude battery that determines eligibility for prospective

military and vocational placement by grouping out-comes in "career cluster" areas.

### **Terra Nova Pre-code Filing**

Mr. Ito completed student enrollment and pre-code filing for the spring 2010 Terra Nova Assessment. The Terra Nova is a national normative referenced assessment for grades 5 and 7. The Terra Nova is administered in February and is a mandated EED assessment needed to keep in compliance with federal guidelines for administering a national normative referenced assessment in Alaska public schools.



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

The Media Center has been working to support teacher using the new Reader's Journey reading curriculum. Currently we have 34 "Anchor Book" titles to support this curriculum. New and notable to the collection are: Behind the Blue and the Gray by Delia Ray, Tangerine by Edward Bloor, Code Talker by Joseph Bruchac, Jim Thorpe by Joseph Bruchac and Racing the Past by Sis Deans. Also added to the collection were educational DVD's to

support Science, Geography as well as health and nutrition.

### **Best Beginnings Imagination Library Grant**

Recently a grant was submitted to Best Beginnings Alaska to bring Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to Koliganek 0-4 year old students. If this grant proposal is awarded children in Koliganek from birth until they turn five years old will receive a high quality hard backed book once a month, allowing them to build a collection of 60 books before they reach Kindergarten. This is such a fabulous opportunity because research has shown that 60% of kindergartners in neighborhoods where children did poorly in school did not own a single book.

### **Reading Is Fundamental**

RIF is on track to end the contract year in December. Most schools have completed two distributions and will complete their third by the first week in December.

### **Battle of the Books**

All schools are in full swing with Battle of the Books. We will start planning our first "practice" battles for December after more books have been read for the individual levels.



*Manokotak teacher, Kirsten Schmidt, works one-on-one with a student.*



# FEDERAL & STATE PROGRAMS

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

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

Specific curriculum resources to support effective teaching and promote student learning have been distributed to our schools that have identified student needs. The curriculum audit process is now past the beginning stage and moving into the action stage, including the meeting of sub-committees to begin the revision and updating process. Critical professional development in the Open Court curriculum resource has been provided to the appropriate K-6 grade level staff.

## **District & School Improvement: No Child Left Behind (NCLB)**

The Department of Education and Early Development (EED) have approved the district improvement plan for this school year. School and district report cards have been mailed to parents and posted on the website for quick access. School improvement plans for Koliganek, New Stuyahok, Twin Hills, and Togiak have been submitted to EED and are awaiting approval.

## **Migrant Education:**

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

The migrant education recruiting effort is nearly at a close. All migrant education information must be entered into the state database by November 15th, 2009. All five recruiters have been working diligently on contacting families in our eight communities to identify students that are migrant under the federal definition.

## **District & School Improvement:**

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

The district is working with certified and classified staff to meet the highly qualified requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act. There are a number of certified staff that took Praxis II exams in specific content areas to become highly qualified on November 14th in Dillingham. Also, the district has contacted the

company that administers the Praxis exams and that company has agreed to create testing centers at our four high schools. This means that most of our staff will not be required to travel to Dillingham to take a Praxis exam but instead can take a Praxis exam at their school. Currently, 77% of our classes are taught by highly qualified staff.

About half of our instructional paraprofessionals meet the requirements to be highly qualified. One method to become highly qualified is by obtaining an Associate of Arts degree or 48 semester hours. The other method is to take an assessment. The previous assessment (HELP exam) is not longer available and the State Board of Education will adopt a replacement exam in December. Once a replacement exam is adopted, the district will be working with the UAF – Bristol Bay Campus to create a class to prepare instructional paraprofessionals to take the replacement exam.

## **Boarding Home: Alaska Dept. of Education & Early Development**

There are currently four boarding home students down two students from the beginning of the year. The district has boarding home students at Koliganek School, Chief Ivan Blunka School, and Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School. Information regarding the state boarding home program has been posted on the district website so parents and school staff from around the district can access the information more easily. Information posted includes the district application and general information about the program.

## **Indian Education: U.S. Dept. of Education**

The Yupik Studies steering committee has met to begin development of a K-12 comprehensive Yupik Studies curriculum that can be used by all eight schools. The steering committee is working to define the components of the curriculum and the materials to be used.



## Business Office

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

### A busy month...

A lot is going on in the business office however there is not much that is news worthy. Listed are some of the things that have taken the time of business office staff.

- There has been a lot of travel this fall due the curriculum work that is being done.
- Migrant Education applications have been coming in and Genny has been reviewing and getting clarification.
- We are in the process of getting two more gaming permits per the state's request that we don't have multiple sights on one permit. They require an on site manager who has taken the gaming test.
- The business office has been scrutinizing utility bills to assure that we are not paying for phones or electricity that we are not utilizing.
- We are working with BBNA getting the current JOM money available to our sites where the Traditional Councils have given the district permission to monitor that money.
- As part of the business managers of Alaska's professional organization (ALASBO) I will be hosting a monthly "power lunch" teleconference on W-2's and 1099's on Nov, 17.
- December 6th through the 10th is ALASBO's annual conference. I will be the only one in attendance this year with Denise (payroll) coming in for a payroll workshop on the 10th.
- Multiple construction projects are coming to a close. The Togiak School project closed in late September.
- The Manokotak and Togiak housing projects and the New Stuyahok School projects are done with just the final closing paperwork to be done.
- The fiscal year 2009 audit is finalized.
- The secretary's handbook is even closer to being ready to send to sites.
- We have expressed interest in going with AVEC again but will do our own competition in addition.
- We are still working through glitches with the new financial software, but are to the point where we can operate more efficiently.





# SPECIAL EDUCATION

**Lee Webster, Director of Special Education**

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## Coordinating Special Services

Coordinating the services available in the region has been the major work since October. Bristol Bay Native Corporation's Mental Health, Kanakanak's Hearing Clinic, BBNA Head Start Programs and the Special Education Service Agency have all been contacted for services for our students. Additionally, coordinating transition services for our 16 year olds has been an important effort this month. In October, our itinerate service providers visited Togiak, Manokotak, Aleknagik and Clark's Point.

Child Find activities have been conducted during October. Special Education is to assure that 3-5 years olds in the village are screened for potential delays. Our special education teachers coordinate with Head Start in their villages to complete this fall screening. With parent consent, our itinerate service providers do more in-depth educational diagnosis to identify students who may have special education needs.

The number of students getting special education services is 71 throughout the district. The majority of students receive services for learning disabilities. Thanks to the efforts of our teachers, students are receiving most of their academic instruction within the regular education classroom. The special education teachers are going into the class-

rooms to assist students with the content by helping them make the accommodations to understand and learn the same skills as their peers. Nine of the 71 students receive intensive instruction throughout the day by special education teachers and 1:1 aides. These students generally have services from more than one of the related services and require daily living adaptations during school time.

All special education instructional aides are required to complete 6 hours of training each year, either with the special education teacher or through internet e-learning programs. This year we also offered a day-long workshop right after teacher in-service in August. These programs emphasize the need for confidentiality and explain how to work with different students. There are 10 full-time aides, 12 half-time, and 7 who work less than half-time in special education. As of this date, all of the full-time employees have completed the 6-hour requirement, and 5 of the ½ time employees are done for the year. On-going training happens throughout the year as our outside specialists and itinerate service providers talk directly about individual students with the staff working with them.





# EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

**Steve Noonkesser, Technology Coordinator**

## T4 Renewal

With the influx of stimulus funds, we are now able to plan for a full renewal of the district's T4 laptop project. Technology staff is busy planning for ordering, imaging and deployment of new units this coming spring. The project, while a large one, will be manageable using procedures created during our first rollouts and in the years since.



## Internet Safety & Acceptable Use Agreement Update

Our Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Agreement was written in the fall of 2001. A lot has changed since then. We now have students who carry laptops home each night after school to do homework, access the internet from home and those same students will soon be carrying cell phones in their pockets. Many districts across the

state are working through the challenges presented by these new technologies and the ones that are doing so due to a clear policy and plan for their use. It is our intention to review our current procedures and update them as necessary in the coming months.

## Curriculum

We are working with the Curriculum Specialist and others assisting with ongoing curriculum projects including the curriculum audit and Yup'ik Studies curriculum revitalization. It is exciting to be working on these important projects again for the first time in a number of years.



## Computer Aided Instruction Specialist (Corey Evans)

The Technology department has recently worked on updating the CAL program on student and teacher machines in order to allow the use of the Alaska Computerized Formative Assessment (ACFA) assessment program. The update was required due to the State upgrading the ACFA program on their servers. The ACFA assessment program allows teachers to conduct formative assessment that aligned to the Alaska grade level expectations (GLE's)



## Technology Specialist (Les Parks)

Laptop computers from Chief Ivan Blunka School have been refurbished and are being sent out to middle school students across the district. The laptops were surplus at Chief Ivan Blunka School due to the fact that the new building construction allowed for the purchase of new computers for the students.



# Facilities & Maintenance

**Rick Dallmann, Maintenance Director**

## Housing Projects

We are moved into the new teacher housing units at both Togiak and Manokotak.

We are getting the old units shut down and winterized we will be tracking fuel and energy usage and will provide updates in the spring on savings. Our Developers are working on the long term financing and final grant close out.

In New Stuyahok BBHA is in the final stages of completing the sewer and water issues that have prevented us from receiving our permit to discharge directly to the City Lagoon system. This will allow the Traditional council to finalize the long term loans and make final payments to contractors and close out the grant.

When this is completed we will no longer have to divert our waste stream to the BBHA Advantex system from the school as well as housing this will save us roughly \$ 650 per month on sewer charges.



*New Housing Unit in Manokotak*

In Manokotak the District has completed an old lease agreement with the City of Manokotak, this resulted in the district leaving the two old duplex buildings on city owned property, the City agreed to accept the units as is. The district removed all usable furniture and appliances for use in the new housing units.

If budget allows we intend to make a large furniture order in the spring to barge in needed furnishings at all sites.

We are currently working on the sale of two surplus units and property in Manokotak to help offset our costs of the new housing projects.

## Ekwok Bulk Fuel Project

The Ekwok Bulk Fuel up grade project has been completely funded and is currently putting items out to bid and are planning to start moving materials to site on the first spring barge headed upriver.

## Twin Hills Bulk Fuel Project

The Twin Hills Bulk Fuel up grade project is moving forward we are at the 95 % stage and depending on the final funding determination work could start this spring.

## New Stuyahok AVEC Power Update

The New Stuyahok AVEC power plant project has received partial funding and will be starting work in the spring, there funding is for the purchase of tanks and civil work at this time. We will be working with them to relocate our current tank farm at the new school into the co-located tank farm location, they are also looking at moving their existing power plant to this location until they can secure funding for the larger upgraded plant this would allow us to tie into the supplemental heating loop and hopefully start seeing reduced fuel usage.

## Koliganek New School Grant

Koliganek New School Grant, the Initial Agency list is completed. We moved up one place from last year we are currently @ # 9 on the funding list.



# Student Activities

**Doug Bushey, Student Activities Coordinator**



## Wrestling Schedule

December 3-5  
December 10-12

Regions at CIBS  
State in Anchorage

## Volleyball Schedule

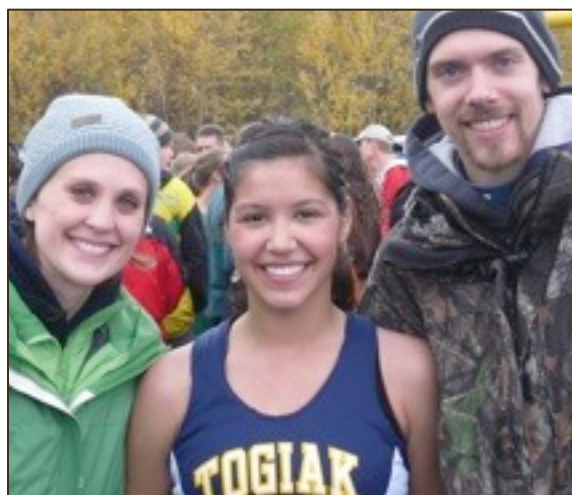
December 3-5  
December 10-12

Regions at Bristol Bay  
State in Anchorage

## Basketball Schedule

November 30  
January 28-30  
February 4-6  
February 11-13  
March 4-6  
  
March 18-20

First Day of Practice Begins  
Sockeye Tournament in Bristol Bay  
Nushagak Classic Tournament in New Stuyahok  
Elks Tournament in Bristol Bay  
Girls 1A Region Tournament in Newhalen  
Boys & Girls 2A Region Tournament in Togiak  
1A & 2A State Tournament in Anchorage



## State Cross-Country Meet

Whitney Carlos, Togiak Senior  
with coach Justin Olsen and  
teacher/chaperone Andrea Olsen.





# Aleknagik School

**Jeff Ambrosier, Lead Teacher**

## Halloween Carnival

Aleknagik School wants to thank ATC and ANL for their generous donation to the school's Halloween carnival. Children and Adults had a great time playing games, getting their faces decorated and cake walking. A big thank you to Shelly and Melody for putting extra time in to coordinating the big event.

## Tobacco Talk

Last week brought Bob Madeson out from BBAHC. He provided the students with a short concert with his euphonium and then met with each class and talked about overall wellness with an emphasis on saying no to tobacco.

## Pen Pals, Ghost Stories & Data

In the classrooms Mr. Christner's group has contacted Pen Pals down in Oregon and will be corresponding with them through the holidays. Mrs. Burke's class has reviewed the 6 traits of writing and used those skills keeping with the Halloween spirit by writing ghost stories. In Mrs. Schiaffo's class, the third-graders will be conducting a school-wide survey next week about favorite lunches. They will use the information to create tally charts and graphs to illustrate concepts of collecting, using, and interpreting data.



Mr. Ambrosier's science class used different colors of wax, as well as pressure and heat to simulate the formation of sedimentary and metamorphic rock.

## School Vision

In the upcoming CSC meeting, parents and community members are invited to attend. We will be looking at the mission and vision of our school and district. We want to make sure we are staying true to this vision. By involving people of the community we can make sure the voice of Aleknagik is heard.



# Clarks Point School

**Doug Bushey, Principal**

## Off to the start of another great year!

The students are enjoying the custom made student/computer stations made by Aaron from the District Maintenance Office. A big "Thanks" goes out to Kim Endicott and Rick Dallmann for their support with the newly built desks. Each student is using their computer station to integrate technology in language arts, science, math, social studies, keyboarding, Study Island, and to many more to mention. The stations have created more space in the classroom for other activities.

The students were recently introduced to Math in a Cultural Context "Drying Salmon" unit developed by UAF emphasizing Proportional and Pre-Algebraic Thinking. Mrs. Bushey attended professional development regarding this math unit and will continue to attend other math related training in Dillingham through UAF. We would like to thank Deb Endicott for coordinating these opportunities to help Clarks Point Faculty learn and pass that learning on to the students.

The students attended the Youth and Elders Conference and then attended AFN along with several field trips. Each student picked an animal the first quarter for his or her conservation power point. Most of the students were able to see their animal on field trips while in Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley. The students were able to travel to the Matanuska Glacier and walk on one for the very first time. We would like to thank Clarks Point Village Council and BBEDC for making this educational experience possible.

We ended the quarter with a "Celebration of Excellence" assembly. There are six categories students can earn award pins in Attendance, Citizenship, Math Mastery, Reading, and Conservation. These awards will be presented at the end of each quarter to recognize student achievement. The assembly was followed with an Open House, and Parent Conferences. Our total school enrollment is currently 13. The students are reading and studying to prepare for the Battle of the Books district competition coming up shortly. We have three teams this year for grades 3/4 – 5/6 – 7/8. Watch out Togiak here we come.





## William 'Sonny Nelson' School

**Audra Finkenbinder, Lead Teacher**

### **We hit the ground running!**

This school year is certainly flying by – it is hard to believe we are already in the second quarter of school and in the month of November!



Looking back over last month, October brought many events: Open House, RIF Book Handout, a Surprise Potluck, Pre-School, AACCP Conference, Principal Conference and a Halloween Carnival.

We held an Open House and RIF book handout at the beginning of October and had a wonderful turnout. The children were excited to receive some new books to take home and enjoy reading time and time again. The RIF book handout was followed by a dessert potluck; great books and great desserts - that is a difficult combination to beat!

I received a fantastic gift during October when I was given a surprise potluck to welcome me to Ekwok! What an incredible feeling that was to have such a friendly, warm, and thoughtful greeting.

William "Sonny" Nelson School is now holding Pre-School classes on Friday afternoons. Melissa Moede is doing an excellent job of motivating the

children and getting them excited about school. The pre-school students are learning colors, shapes, numbers, letters, and how to sort. After the learning activities, they have story time and playtime. They are truly enjoying their experiences at school and I foresee some well-prepared and eager Kindergartners!

October also included two superb conferences; the Alaska Administrator Coaching Project (AACCP) and the Principal Conference. There were excellent presenters, brilliant ideas, and an all around excitement at both conferences and I feel fortunate that I was able to attend.



The Halloween Carnival was quite the event presenting a variety of fun booths, a well-stocked snack bar, a costume contest, and a cakewalk. We had a great turnout and everyone had a wonderful time.

October was undoubtedly enjoyable and eventful and we are looking forward to having some more fun and excitement at William "Sonny" Nelson School as the holiday season is upon us. Happy Thanksgiving!





# Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

**Herman Gerving, Principal**

Staff and students at Manokotak Nunaniq continue their hard work as we move into the second quarter of the school year!

## HSGQE Window

Numerous students participated in the retest of the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam during the October testing window.

## Student Council

Student Council continues their regular weekly meetings, approving many activities. We sent three delegates to the Alaska Association of Student Governments and First Alaskans Youth and Elders Conference. These delegates fulfilled travel scholarship requirements, and participated in two important additional trainings on Suicide Prevention and Raising Student Voice and Participation! Be watching for their student presentation on the experience coming soon!



## Fund Raising

The junior class hosted a fundraising tournament for local basketball teams.

## Post-secondary Opportunities

More recruiters, this time from the U.S. Marines, visited Manokotak, sharing information regarding their programs and opportunities with our students. Once again, we express appreciation to Bristol Bay Air and Jack Foster for their efforts

in making this event happen. We look forward to the upcoming U.S. Army visit soon.

## Wrestling

Our fledgling wrestling team continues to participate in scheduled events.



## Bridge for Understanding

Lida Storch attended the Bridge for Understanding: Math and Science Conference in Juneau, Alaska, learning exciting new science strategies to use right away in her classroom.

## Smoking Cessation Program

Bob Madeson of the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation's Smoking Cessation Program presented an evening musical concert to the community and gave music and informational presentations to all students.

## Halloween Carnival

The Halloween Carnival provided a lot of community fun! Many people spent their Friday afternoon at the school enjoying the treats, games, and activities. We appreciate the work of students and staff to provide safe and warm entertainment as the weather changes.



# Koliganek School

**Cody McCanna, Lead Teacher**

## Working Toward a Vision

Koliganek School's staff, parents, and CSC have been working since the beginning of the year to create a vision for our school. We held a community collaborative meeting on October 12th at 3:30 in the cafeteria to discuss what our school vision should be and what teachers, parents, and students could do to make our school what we envision. Groups comprised of students, parents, and staff members worked together to brainstorm ideas about our vision and expectations for all members that would create the learning community desired at Koliganek School.

## School Improvement Plan

Koliganek School finished writing our School Improvement Plan after a lot of effort and hard work from our staff and CSC. Jon Clouse gave us the guidance and support we needed to make sure our plan met state guidelines. Creating the plan for the state gave us an opportunity to view our current practices and bring in some new programs and ideas to improve the quality of instruction and learning at Koliganek School. Study Island is one of those programs that is having a positive influence on student achievement. This program aligns well with our GLE (Grade Level Expectations) Portfolios that we are creating and using this year for students to track their academic progress..

## Halloween Carnival

Our staff and students put on a successful Halloween Carnival for the community on Friday October 30th. Our high school and junior high students stepped up to the plate and delivered again. Parents and community members enjoyed games and prizes. It was another successful event at Koliganek School.



## Student Led Conferences

Since our vision entails students being actively engaged in their education, student-led parent-teacher conferences seemed like a perfect fit. Koliganek staff developed a protocol for students to follow during our student-led conferences. After numerous practices our students did an outstanding job of sharing their learning and goals with their parents. Parents, students, and staff all walked away from the conferences with a positive experience. Students shared their work and their GLE Portfolios with their parents. Parents and students created goals to help the student improve their learning at the school. Then the student would bring their parents/guardians to meet with all of their teachers and they would go over the student's past learning and goals for the future. I am proud to report that we had 100% participation from students and parents! Furthermore, post conference interviews with parents, staff, and students gave us some ideas to make some improvements in the future.



# 'Chief' Ivan Blunka School

**Bob Thompson, Principal**

We have completed the 1st quarter of school and our students, staff, and community are proud of the efforts being made to make this a great school year at Chief Ivan Blunka School. At the beginning of the year students and staff all wrote personal goals for the school year. Many students said that they wanted to make good grades, keep up with their schoolwork, and be involved in school activities. A lot of students have met these goals so far.

Out of 89 students in grades 6–12, we had forty-two students make the 1st quarter honor roll! We have twenty-six high school and ten middle school wrestlers, and we have fourteen high school and fifteen middle school volleyball players. Our student council is getting more actively involved in the school and community. A yearbook club is getting started, and our journalism students are publishing a weekly newsletter. Battle of the Books has begun as well.

New Stuyahok also has a very involved community. We had nearly 100% attendance at elementary parent/teacher conferences this year, and well over 50% of secondary parents attended conferences. Fundraising is in full swing as parents and students join together to raise money to support school activities. We have had dances, movies, cakewalks, game nights, and sporting contests. Parent involvement at Chief Ivan Blunka School is a given.



*Gusty Blunka shows his Student of the Week award given at the weekly awards assembly at Chief Ivan Blunka School.*

## Wrestling & Volleyball

We currently have sixty-five students involved in sports. Practices are two hours a night as the wrestling and volleyball teams trade off early and late practices. We had the new school's first ever athletic event on October 23rd and 24th when Koliganek, Togiak, Manokotak, and Dillingham visited for a wrestling tournament. There were over 100 matches in the two days. Then, the next weekend the girls' volleyball team broke in the new gym with a 3-2 win over Koliganek. These visiting schools were terrific guests. Good sportsmanship and camaraderie were evident, even between rivals.

## Student Council

Our student council worked hard to raise funds to go to the Student Government Conference in Anchorage this year. These student leaders returned with ideas and confidence in their ability to make a difference. Student Council wants to start the RSVP, or Raising Student Voice and Participation, program at New Stuyahok. Council members are leading discussion groups of students to get input about making improvements to Chief Ivan Blunka School. The RSVP program has student involvement in community affairs as well. One focus of the student council is to reach out to at risk students and help these students feel more involved and a part of the school. We are fortunate to have such a terrific group of young leaders in our school.





## Twin Hills School

**Esther Ilutsik, Principal/Teacher**

Twin Hills school began the school year with much excitement and anticipation, but before the end of the first day of school we had to close due to plumbing issues. Despite the issues, we were able to continue school on Wednesday with the help of the Twin Hills Traditional Council who allowed the students to utilize their toilet facilities until the school's system was back up and running.

Our focal point this year is reading and placed-based education utilizing the local environment. This will be integrated into the science, computer and Yup'ik studies. Students will become familiar with Western and the Yup'ik regional information. We have several activities that center around the promotion of reading, especially, with parents reading to their children within the home environment.

The day after school opened the students embarked on an after school field trip where grandparents, parents and/or guardians, and staff ventured out on 4-wheelers to the clam grounds of Anchor Point. We spent an evening gathering cockle clams, crabs, snails, starfish, seaweed, a sea worm and volcanic rock. The next day students, using the Twin Hills Traditional Council building, were able to dissect a cockle clam and even coax out a hermit crab that had taken refuge in a shell. Students did more research and further reading about the animals gathered. The older students were able to select topics based on collection to research and were required to write a short paper. The younger students wrote about cockle clams and how these are cooked and eaten. They are tasty when boiled quickly and eaten with seal oil. Many like to eat them sushi style! Twin Hills School also ventured out on a field trip near the airport, where we gathered lo-



cal berries (which were used in math class to create a "western" dish for the October 1, 2009 open house) and various plants representing the local habitat. The students even found a couple of duck eggs. The students speculated that they must have been stolen by an owl or raven, eaten and left on the tundra. The younger students wrote about the alder tree and found it is used for smoking salmon, the willow tree and read about how the Inupiaq of the Nome region use the new emerging leaves as a food source. We found many mushrooms and discovered that our people gathered them in the past and used them in *akutaq* and soups. But since so many are poisonous and we are not trained to

gather the edible ones, it was best just to leave them alone. The older students discovered that the lichen was not only a found source for reindeer and caribou, it was once gathered and used by our own people. The late Frank Andrews in the book, *Yuunaqpiialiput*, shared that as a young child he remembered *akutaq* made of lichen. It was first gathered then boiled, mashed and mixed with seal oil, left to jell and just before serving berries were added. The older students found that Labrador Tea, *ayuq*, a medicinal plant was used by our Yup'ik people as a tea and burned to purify and cleanse. Lastly, the older students did research on fireweed and found that it is said that when the fireweed burst forth their white fluffy seeds creating magical snowy-like image as they fly through the air indicates that six weeks from that time that winter will begin.

On October 1, 2009 the Twin Hills School had an Open House/Akutaq Celebration/Potluck. The Open House began with the Ingircuaq Dancers (The Twin Hills students) who performed the Akutaq dance. This followed with the announcement of the akutaq contest winners. The akutaq contest had eleven *akutaq*'s being entered. The enteries included a traditional Yup'ik *akutaq* made with caribou submitted by Anna Tудay. The 1st prize winner was Laura Sharp (Salmonberry) who won a RT ticket with Alaska Island Air to Togiak, 2nd prize to John Mark (Salmonberry *Atsuraq*) who won a 6lb can of Crisco donated by AC of Togiak, 3rd prize was awarded to, our own 7th grade student, Chelsey Abraham (black and salmon berry) who won a 5lb bag of sugar also donated by AC of Togiak; The 4th prize went to Gladys Small (Blackberry) who won a traveling hot mug/cup donated by one of the Twin Hills staff members and the 5th prize to Amanda Foster (Cranberry) who won a traveling clock also donated by Twin Hills staff member.

This followed with a tour of the school, with students presenting their poster boards on topic that they had researched. We ended with a potluck dinner. What a wonderful way to begin the school year with such positive community participation. Quyanana.

**Note:** We created a modern twist on a traditional Yup'ik celebration. This celebration stemmed from a traditional Yup'ik Fall Celebration remembered as *Ingulaq*. This celebration occurred at the end of the berry-picking season. In traditional times according to memories of the late Frank Andrew (*Yuungnapiallerput: The Way We Genuinely Live, Masterworks of Yup'ik Science and Survival* by Ann Fienup-Riordan University of Washington Press, 2007) one of the first celebrations was *Ingulaq*, a harvest celebration that occurred at the end of berry season. In those days the requests of the men were not denied and so if the men requested *akutaq* made with salmon berries, the women would oblige. The *akutaq* would be brought and the woman would dance ancient dances. They would pick up the hems of their garment and sway back and forth.





# ELDERS IN THE SCHOOLS

Educating our future, guided by wisdom from our past...

