



# REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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*fall is beginning to fade and school is in full swing...*

## SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

### Jack Foster, Superintendent



## DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

### INSTRUCTION

H1N1 Awareness Activities and a host of other projects get rolling.

### FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Working on NCLB requirements

### SPECIAL EDUCATION & PARENTS AS TEACHERS

A focus on training for staff and procedures for the new year.

### TECHNOLOGY

Site visits have begun and projects are underway.

### MAINTENANCE

Housing issues and getting schools open has been the focus.

### STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Cross Country Season is in progress.

## School Starts

It is hard to believe that school has already been in session almost a month. Schools started on August 17, 2009. Last year school started on August 20, 2009. We had projected to have 633 students but, right now, we are around 650 students.

## Enrollment Count

The new official count period will start September 28, 2009 and end on October 23, 2009. We have several new students coming back to New Stuyahok and several new ones at Manokotak. Our funding

comes from the student count so this is a very important number. It may change during the following month but it looks like we will make, and very possibly, exceed our projected count of 633 students.

## AASB Quality Schools: Community Engagement Education Program

Susan Gaffney has already made contact with several principals at our Quality School Sites. You should be seeing some activities in the community engagement education program.



*Manokotak listen to a presentation by an Air Force Recruiter. Recruiters visited several high schools over the past few weeks to talk to students about career opportunities.*

**Site Reports to the Board**

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

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

**Collaboration Meetings are in Progress Across the District.**

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

Collaborative leadership team meetings at the district office are being held Monday, Wednesday and Fridays each week. On Tuesdays, the leadership team meeting includes the principals and lead teachers of our K-8 sites and Thursdays, the principals of our K-12 sites. The

meetings with the principals and lead teachers are being held by distance delivery. These meetings begin at 8:00 A.M. and end at 8:20. The meetings are important as a means of enhancing communication, but we are doing them in a way that works best for all involved.

Through staff input we are continuing the great teamwork begun last year to help us provide the best possible education to our young people. We have learned a lot since the first meetings began last year.

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

As a district, we are working on our curriculum this year. You will be hearing more about this throughout the year in department reports.



*Morning Collaborative Leadership Team meeting with principals via distance delivery.*



*Air Force Sargeant Litteral with Superintendent Foster during his visit to SWRS.*



# CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

**David Piazza, Director of Instructional Programs**

## **H1N1 Pandemic Influenza Workshop:**

The district participated in the workshop held September 9th in Dillingham. Presenters Rena Pace with the Alaska Division of Public Health and Mike Bradley with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium presented during this follow up meeting with many of the various agencies who serve the Dillingham and Southwest Region communities. Representatives from the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation, the Public Health Service Office, the Dillingham City Office, the Dillingham City School District, the Dillingham Police Department, the Dillingham Emergency Medical Services, and others, discussed the variety of information that has been published and publicized regarding the H1N1 "Swine" Flu. A large part of the discussion was in regard to the amount and anticipated timing for the delivery of an H1N1 vaccine to the Country and in particular our region. These groups will continue to develop the "game-plan" for distribution of the vaccine as it becomes available in October. Since one of the top priority groups who are recommended to receive the vaccine are children from 6 months to 25 years of age, the schools will most likely play a major role in helping to educate the public and provide a venue for quick and efficient vaccination "clinics". More information may be found at <http://www.pandemicflu.alaska.gov> or <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/ga.htm>

## **eRate**

The District just received a second and final Funding Commitment Decision Letter for E-Rate eligible parts of the Distance Learning Equipment. This year we applied for the CODEC portion of the

cameras as a Priority 2 Service, due to the Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) ruling that it was not a Priority 1 service last year for the first time in 7 years. Typically we are still waiting for our application to be reviewed at this time of year. But, with this letter, we know that our Internet, Distance Delivery bandwidth, Phone services, and DLS equipment have been approved at the maximum allowed amounts.

## **Student Records/PowerSchool Support**

We have continued to clean up the student schedules in order to track students' attendance and grades properly. The student count variances are beginning to slow down and stabilize now that the school year is under way and some of the state-wide events have concluded.

Support continues to be provided to staff to utilize the web based PowerSchool Teacher Gradebook. This "on-line" tool should allow for more communication with administrators, teachers, counselors, and parents regarding student performance in their courses.



## **Curriculum (Deb Endicott)**

The curriculum office has been busy with getting teachers additional textbooks for the start of the new school year. There are always extra students in classes, students switching classes, teachers needing resources not ordered and new teachers at sites with requests. It's always a challenge to locate resources at the eight schools in order to use our resources effectively.

The district conducted a survey of the staff who participated in the District-Wide Inservice at the beginning of the school year. Forty-five (45) staff re-



sponded to the on-line form. Overall, everyone was very pleased with the trainings that were held. The conference style, with pullout format, was again received with a 100% positive rating from the staff.

The University of Fairbanks is offering six one-day (Saturday) trainings on the Math in Cultural Context (MCC/Yupik Math) for Southwest Region School District and Dillingham School District teachers. UAF will provide the trainer right here in Dillingham for professional development using the modules developed by the program. This is a supplement to our existing math program and is utilized at most sites. In September, three teachers from New Stuyahok and two from Clarks Point will be learning about the Picking Berries module. Later in September, teachers from Togiak and Clarks Point will be attending a weekend development seminar in Anchorage. These teachers will be working with the 6th grade modules.



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

High School Graduation Qualifying Examination (HSGQE) re-take materials have been received and disbursed to the four secondary schools.

The HSGQE Retest is a proficiency-based criterion-referenced test developed specifically for Alaska.

Test administration will occur October 6 through October 8, 2009. Annual District Test Coordinator training sponsored by Alaska Department of Education and Early Development was attended. Updates to statewide assessment protocol and procedure were reviewed. Pertinent application district-wide will be implemented through out the school year.



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

The beginning of the school year is always a busy time for the Media Center, and this year is no exception. Books, videos, DVD's and curriculum have been continuously checked out and sent out to

sites during the first month of school. Books to support the Reader's Journey were purchased to be housed at the Media Center and be available for teachers at our schools.

### **Battle of the Books**

I assisted Patricia Wick in a pull out session at the District Inservice this year and I think it was very successful in answering questions and drawing more interest to the program. We have an amazing amount of participants in Battle of the Books this year, and all of the books for the various grade levels are distributed and ready for students to read and prepare for their upcoming battles. The following is a synopsis of the level that each site is participating. Aleknagik, Clarks Point and Ekwok will have teams in the 3/4, 5/6 and 7/8 divisions Koliganek, Manokotak and Togiak will have teams in the 3/4 to High School levels. New Stuyahok will participate in the 3/4, 5/6 and 7/8 divisions and Twin Hills will participate in the 5/6 and 7/8 divisions.

### **Reading Is Fundamental**

Southwest Region Schools will again be participating in the Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) program. Our contract year ends in December and all sites will have completed a motivational, literacy based activity and book distribution for the students at their school. The following teachers have volunteered to take on the responsibility of running a RIF program at their individual schools. Jeff Ambrosier, Rochelle Bushey, Melissa Mogen, Pam Johnson, Brian Tesch, Staci Gulsvig, Dale Richesin, and Esther Ilutsik. One of our schools has already conducted their first distribution. Chief Ivan Blunka School had a book distribution in conjunction with one of their Open House activities at the school. Children and their parents got to look at the books together and then take one home.



# FEDERAL & STATE PROGRAMS

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

## No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Update

The district is working with the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development on finalizing the allocations for the No Child Left Behind application which includes the Title I-A and Title II-D ARRA (stimulus) funds. The district is working on the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) application, which supports a number of activities to increase student achievement and meet the goals/priorities of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA). Quarterly reporting on the expenditure and use of ARRA funds is required by the state in order to meet federal requirements. Allocations for regular and the ARRA title funds have been released and current budgets are being revised to meet those allocations.

## Migrant Education

The migrant education recruiters and migrant education analyst are in the full swing of migrant

education recruiting. The migrant education program provides services to approximately 115 students.

## Boarding Home

There are currently six boarding home students. The district has boarding home students at Koliganek School, Chief Ivan Blunka School, and Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School.

## Other

The district improvement plan for this school year is currently being developed. The district report card and school report cards are nearly completed and we are just waiting for some data from the state. Limited English Proficient identification notifications and exit letters were sent to parents. Other projects include determining the highly qualified status of both the certified staff and instructional aides, then creating plans to assist staff reach the required highly qualified status.



*Koliganek Cross Country Meet*



# SPECIAL EDUCATION

**Lee Webster, Director of Special Education**

## New Year Begins

There has been a lot of movement within special education this year. Five students have left the district, three have returned and two have transferred in from other districts. Our new staff is handling the rapid adjustments like seasoned pros.

I will be traveling to the statewide Special Education Director's conference September 22-25. This year, thanks to the anticipation of the supplemental ARRA funds, I will be able to take one of our teachers to learn about the changes in the regulations and statewide programs presented at the conference. Michell Stromer, special education teacher at Togiak, has expressed a strong interest in early intervention and there will be a number of presentations on this very topic at the conference.

Kirsten Schmidt, special education teacher at Manokotak, Martha Fox, early childhood instructional aide, and I participated with the Head Start staff in Positive Behavioral Support training sponsored by the Special Education Services Agency (SESA). They showed everyone how to use picture schedules and protocols to help teach young children how to behave at school. They emphasized 3 rules: Be Kind, Be Responsible, and Be a Learner. With these rules in mind, we made picture sequences of all the different activities in Head Start to help children see and understand what is expected. This is a process long used in special education and is well established as an effective behavior strategy for special needs children as well as for very young children. We were thankful for being invited to join the Head Start team as it's given our

teachers another tool for working with young children. Michelle Stromer-Schneider, special education teacher at Togiak, shared her experiences with progress monitoring during the district in-service. Michelle has seen how valuable monitoring students' response to the instruction is to her. She's found that they really look forward to seeing their graphs that show how far they've progressed.

Mark Snell, special education teacher at Togiak, shared his experience developing transition plans for his high school students. Mark will be helping other teachers in the district create effective career portfolio for students that will help them have smooth transitions after high school.



*Koliganek Cross Country Meet*



# EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

**Steve Noonkesser, Technology Coordinator**

## Systems Up and Running

School is in progress and our networks are up and running. New email and proxy servers have been installed at two of our sites and users have been migrated to the new systems. The new servers should provide even greater stability for Clarks Point and Ekwok.

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

## Student Email System

We are looking a possible solution for high school student email. The service we are piloting is both eRate compliant and fully manageable at both the district and site level. We plan to test this new system at a couple of our larger sites before making a final decision on implementation.

## Site Network Audits/Visits

As the year begins, we are starting the process of doing our yearly audit of our networks and equipment to insure that everything is fully functional for students and staff.

On August 19th, a visit was made to Twin Hills to audit the network and work with Esther and her staff to insure everything was up and running.

On August 27th, a visit was made to Clarks Point to do a network audit and all computers were re-imaged with the newest software images and configured for use.

On September 3rd a visit was made to Ekwok to re-image computers, audit the network

and help familiarize new staff with our systems. The team also worked with Ekwok staff on the use of Accelerated Reader.



## Computer Aided Instruction Specialist (Corey Evans)

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



## Technology Specialist (Les Parks)

In addition to making site visits and daily support activities, Les has also been working on a number of projects. Les, and Manokotak site technology liaison, Larry Bartman got the district's first Weatherbug site up and running. Weather data and images will now be available from Manokotak school on the web. To see the new information go to: <http://www.weatherbug.com> and enter 99628 as the zip code.

Server backup routines have also been a focus. Insuring that our data is secure and protected from hardware failure is very important to us. Having good solid backup routines is critical to maintaining accurate records.

Getting classified aide laptops replaced and updated has also been a focus this past month, but that process is nearly finalized.





# Facilities & Maintenance

**Rick Dallmann, Maintenance Director**

## Housing Projects

Both Togiak and Manokotak new teacher housing is nearing completion

Finish work has started, cabinets and counter tops are going in Electrical and Plumbing Trim out is in progress, Final Civil work and Utilities hook ups are being completed. The last phase will be flooring and punch list items before I perform the Final Inspection and acceptance (tentative schedule Oct.15th)

## Manokotak Old Teacher Housing

I have been working with the Districts attorneys to verify Deeds and ownership of housing units, we have identified two of the properties that can be sold. I am also working with them on the Togiak Transfer of the old school site and the Transfer of the old school site at New Stuyahok. I will have updated information at the Board meeting.

## Twin Hills

We had some major issues with the Septic System they have been resolved at this point, but a major renovation will have to be planned for Spring.

## New Stuyahok

We are working through some system issues and finishing up some in house projects. We have had a Design issue with the Boiler Stacks this has been resolved and a new type of stacking has been installed.

The bell and intercom systems have not been working properly. We are working with the contractors to trouble shoot the problems to get them corrected.

## Other Issues

We have been scrambling from site to site to try and accommodate everyone's needs and keep the schools open. We were off to a rocky start and have a few issues still to deal with ( Our goal is no lost school days to maintenance issues), but things are smoothing out.

The Maintenance Department really appreciates the patience and willingness to help that all of our Site Administrators have shown this year.



*First day of school for Manokotak pre-schoolers.*





## Student Activities

**Doug Bushey, Student Activities Coordinator**

*2009 'Chief' Ivan Blunka Cross Country Team*



*2009 Koliganek Cross Country Team*



### Cross Country Running Schedule

- August 28th - Togiak meet was cancelled.
- September 11 – Koliganek Invitational 2 PM
- September 18 – New Stuyahok Invitational 3 PM
- September 25 – Region in Dillingham
- October 3 – State Meet at Palmer High School

### First Semester Sports Schedules

On September 2nd, the Large Site AD's and coaches for wrestling and volleyball met via distance delivery to discuss the upcoming season and scheduling. The schedule created is tentative and is an ongoing working document.



## Aleknagik School

**Jeff Ambrosier, Lead Teacher**

### We are off to a great start!

School is off to a great start and the students and staff are settled into a nice routine. Everyone is busy and working hard at the early goals we have set. As a school, we are applying the Responsible Thinking Process to help with classroom management. There are a series of questions asked to the student to get them to think about decisions that

they have made and for them to edit their own behavior. Each student is unique and just like everyone else they can have good days and bad days so these questions give a student a chance to think about their actions and come up with good solutions.

In our classes, the star reading and math have been given and students have been put in progress monitoring which is in line with the RTI proc-



ess (response to intervention). This is done in small groups and for most of the students involves math and or reading. Students can be in progress monitoring several times a week and overtime can work themselves out of progress monitoring.

In Mr. Ambrosier's classroom, students are working with densities and performing a lab relating to finding the density of different minerals as well as everyday household items. In math, there is an incentive party for all students who know their times tables up through the 9's by Halloween.

In Mrs. Burke's class the students are reading their Accelerated Reading books and working on identifying nouns. Mrs. Schiaffo had the class use pattern blocks to show equal amounts and determine the value of each block to another. For example the green triangle equals \$1, so the red trapezoid must equal \$3 as the size is 3 times that



of the triangle. The students explored hexagons, trapezoids, triangles, and parallelograms and determined the value for each. Then, they determined the value for large designs on which the pattern blocks had to be used in combinations. With this activity the students were able to discover concepts about equality, relationships, money, and combinations while having a pretty good time!

Mr. Christner's class created bus puzzle art! They are also are working toward pizza and bubble gum for knowing all our addition facts. Every Thursday they do Reading Buddies, which is when older students come and read to the students in our class.

Cross country is being coached by Mrs. Burke. Students are doing well and they are looking forward to the meet in Dillingham followed by participating in the Tony's run.





# Clarks Point School

**Doug Bushey, Principal**

## Off to the start of another great year!

The students are becoming familiar with the new school routine. Mr. and Mrs. Bushey are team teaching this year. This seems to be working well. The process is being tweaked on a daily, and weekly basis during this period of adjustment. One indicator of the success of this change is that we have had only three RTC referrals to date. Clarks Point students completed twenty plus RTC referrals during this same time frame last year. The use of technology is being integrated into our core course curriculum. Mr. and Mrs. Bushey are attending the Math in Cultural Context training in Dillingham five times this school year beginning September 19th. Mrs. Bushey is attending further training in Anchorage for 6th grade Math in a Cultural Context September 25–28.

The students just finished a weeklong unit on berries and Alaskan Folklore. We incorporated the berry theme into math, language arts, science, social studies, and art. For example, the students took low bush cranberries, black berries, and blue berries to determine which one would make the best natural ink. The students used rubber stamps to determine their outcomes and compared them with their predictions. At the end of the week the students made berry pie, berry muffins, and berry jelly.

The students have a great time cooking every Friday. This last Friday they made several apple pies and used them for their first Cake/Pie & Money Walk for fundraising. This coming Friday they will be cooking homemade bread, and pies. This food will be used Saturday for the BBNC luncheon being held at the school on the 12th.

We officially reached the student count of ten on September 8th and expect our eleventh student by the 25th of September. We would like to thank the technology department for visiting Clarks Point and re-imaging the student computers, which will permit our students to obtain additional technological skills. We would also like to thank Jon Clause for his assistance, and for coming along to visit our wonderful school.







## William 'Sonny' Nelson' School

**Audra Finkenbinder, Lead Teacher**

### We hit the ground running!

The staff and students at William "Sonny" Nelson School hit the ground running on August 17th and have not stopped! The first month of school has flown by at an unbelievable pace.



Also flying are the Accelerated Reader books - right off the library shelves. The students are actively participating in the Accelerated Reader (AR) program by reading a minimum of 30 minutes a day. Upon completion of an AR book, the students take a test and then choose another book to read. I have been very impressed at the rate the stu-

dents have been reading and testing and encourage them to continue.

We have had some beautiful weather in Ekwok (minus a few days of rain) that prompted us to take the students out berry picking one afternoon. The blueberries were wonderful and even though some students ate all they picked while in the field, we managed to save enough to make some great tasting Eskimo ice cream.

The month of September not only brings the first day of fall, it also marks the first round of AIMSweb testing. Being a "great bunch" of students, I know they will put forth their best effort.



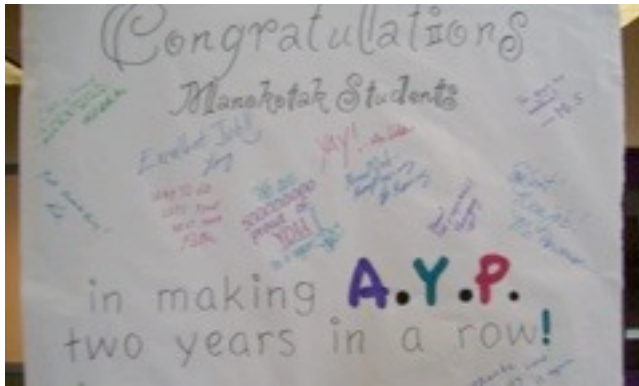
## Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

**Herman Gerving, Principal**

### Post-secondary Opportunities

United States Air Force recruiter MSgt. Jackson presented information about military service to students 6-12. We Appreciate Jack Foster's efforts to provide this opportunity for students, John Bouker and Bristol Bay Air for providing

transportation, and the MSgt Jackson for sharing information with the students and answering their many questions. We anticipate another recruiter visit during the month of October, this time perhaps from the Navy.



### Open House

Manokotak Nunaniq School hosted an Open House for the community on September 1, 2009. Parents had the opportunity to meet our three new staff members: Jennifer Gilbertson, Nick Gilbertson, and Kathy Parsons. Additionally, Larry Bartman and several of his Technology students hosted the 1 to 1 meeting, and many



parents viewed ASAA's Tobacco, Alcohol, and drug video in preparation for this year's activities. Refreshments were served, courtesy of Kathy Parson's Foods and Nutrition class, with the support from Nellie Gamechuk and Dollia Pauk in the Kitchen.

### Head Start Returns to Manokotak

We are excited that Head Start has returned to Manokotak! Manokotak Nunaniq School and is working Bristol Bay Native Association, Manokotak Tribal Council, and Manokotak Natives Limited to ensure this important opportunity is available for three and four year old students and their families. Anecia Lomack, Sally Andrew, and Panta Paul worked incredibly hard to welcome



fourteen students for the first day on Wednesday, September 9.

### Student Council

We held our student council elections on August 25, and have had several meetings addressing this year's business. Students have ordered inventory for the student store, approved activities (including hosting a village meeting and a fundraising tournament), applied for travel scholarships to attend the statewide AASG conference, and performed community service (including posting hand washing posters to address health concerns and several school-wide activities as part of 9.11 National Day of Service and Remembrance) We are also working with AASG and First Alaskans Institute on expanding our fall inservice presentation in hopes of become a sectional presentation for attendees at their respective conferences.



Back row: Kenisha Geerhart(7), Jason Mike(9), Tiarna Fischler(10) Tyler Nanalook(Pass) Theron Paul (9), Dana Bartman, Advisor. Front row: Francine Tikiun(9), Lola Paul(9), Randa Moore(11), Vanrie Andrew(11), Venessa John(12) Not pictured: Jonathan Franklin(10)



# Koliganek School

**Cody McCanna, Lead Teacher**

## **Off to a positive start!**

The 2009-10 school year started off on a positive note at Koliganek School. Our focus this year is two fold. Koliganek School staff is committed to improve students SBA test scores while teaching positive and productive behavior along the way. The first day of school was a busy one with an open house and a community potluck. Staff members have been very busy making their classrooms and our school a place where all students thrive in a positive and productive atmosphere.

An Open House was held in the afternoon of the first day of school. I had the privilege of meeting with parents to go over our school policies and procedures. This gave the parents the opportunity to discuss any concerns they had with their children. Parents were then given time to walk around the building and meet the staff members in their classrooms. The day finished with a community potluck in the gym. The afternoon was a positive activity and a success.

Improving students' SBA scores was the focus of our first in-service day on the 21st of August. Our professional learning community analyzed students' SBA scores from last year and looked for trends. Furthermore, we spent time learning how to cross reference the SBA scores with the GLE's the state provides at their website. I shared the idea of GLE Portfolios for students to use to track their progress on the GLE's. The portfolios are starting to get implemented now and it will be exciting to see how students and teachers use them to improve instructional focus. Pam Johnson, for example, is using Power Lessons with her 3rd-6th grade class to highlight specific math GLE's that students have done struggled with in the past.

This school year we are implementing a behavior program to teach and focus on positive behaviors. The staff chose three specific behaviors to use as our September Behaviors to focus on: Respect- Respect the rights of others; Self-Discipline- Pay attention to the speaker; Responsibility- Accept the consequences. These three positive and productive behaviors were introduced to the students last Friday at our monthly Behavior Assembly. The staff created skits to show students the behaviors and discuss their importance. At the same assembly I recognized all the students who received Behavior Reward tickets during the month of August and gave them prizes. During September our entire staff will be giving Behavior Reward tickets to those students who display the behaviors of the month. We will choose new behaviors to focus on for each month.

Last, but not least, we are starting a pre-school program at Koliganek School. The pre-K students will be meeting from 9:00 to 11:30 on Monday through Thursday and the 3-year olds will meet from 12:30 to 2:00 on those same days. Our focus is going to be on getting our youngsters ready for kindergarten.

Koliganek School is off to a great year and we are all working very hard to ensure students have a positive and productive learning environment.





# 'Chief' Ivan Blunka School

**Bob Thompson, Principal**

We are off to a great start to the school year. Our students are really terrific! They are responding to the staff's requests to work hard and improve their academic skills. Last week we had a School Hallway Meeting where the principal, Bob Thompson, was able to address all of the secondary students and tell them how proud he was of their efforts so far. In addition, Mr. T talked with students about goals they had set for themselves.

The goal-setting process involved not only students. Certified and classified staff set goals as well. Everyone looked at family, personal, and academic or career goals. These goals will be revisited and refined throughout the year as we are reminded about our personal priorities amidst the challenges in life that we face every day.

## Elders at CIBS

Elders are a big part of our Yupik program at "Chief" Ivan Blunka School. Many elders spend every morning at our school in the shop, in the Yupik room, in the RTC room, and the home ec room. Jon Sharp, shop teacher, and Margie Hastings, Yupik teacher, are coordinating activities such as carving, net mending, and fish canning. Students are working on making a traditional fish net by hand carving the floats and using bones for weights.



## Cross Country

We have 16 students out for cross country this year. Their first meet is in Koliganek. Three skiffs will take the runners, coach, and chaperones up river to compete against other students in the district. There are some fast runners on our team, and we expect them to do well. Our juniors and seniors are providing great leadership and role modeling for the younger students in this individual event. We are very proud of the effort we are seeing from the students. A fundraiser was held at the Bingo hall to raise money for cross country. There was great support from the community for our athletes.

## Town Hall Meeting

On Wednesday, September 16th, a Town Hall style meeting will be held at "Chief" Ivan Blunka School. The purpose of the meeting is to provide community members an opportunity to give input into the operation and policies of our school. A process will be used to promote interaction between community members so that specific items can be discussed and recommendations made. All of the information will then be compiled and distributed to the community. This information will be used in school planning and will help the school staff in meeting the needs of the students.





## Togiak School

**David Morris, Principal**

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the end of the first month of school. We subscribe to a model of continuous improvement and much of this first month has been spent looking at where we have come from and where we are heading. As educators, we are in the business of helping students build and achieve their dreams. Our wish is that every one of our students will graduate with the skills to be successful in any dream that they choose. We strive to make sure that children from our community can be successful in Togiak, Anchorage, Seattle, or anywhere their life may take them. One of our essential tasks is to insure that all of our students have the academic skills required to earn a high school diploma from the State of Alaska. To that end we are refocusing our efforts on state benchmarks for reading, writing, and mathematics. We have spent a great deal of time examining state test scores, disaggregating the data, identifying the skills our students possess and developing plans to help students improve areas of weakness.

Our Cross Country season is in full swing, nine runners will be representing Togiak as the racing begins. We are proud of their commitment and dedication. They are great representatives of our school and community.

We had our back-to-school Open House on August 27th. It was extremely well attended. We had nearly 100 parents spend the evening meeting teachers and talking about educational plans for their students. As a staff we were overwhelmed and quite frankly moved, by the support our parents showed for their students and their school. The overwhelming attendance sends a powerful message that education is important to our parents. It was a reminder of the profound responsibility we have to our community. We have scheduled our first literacy night for September 22nd and are looking forward to spending another wonderful evening with parents and their students.

Finally, on behalf of all of our teachers, but particularly the new teachers and myself, I would like to thank the community of Togiak for such a warm welcome. Having grown up in Alaska and having worked as a teacher and principal all over the state, I have never received a more warm welcome in a community than I have in Togiak. For that, the staff and I are very thankful and appreciative. Quyanana.

