

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION



BOARD OF EDUCATION

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moving ahead toward spring..

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE
Jack Foster, Superintendent



DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

K-12 INSTRUCTION & ACTIVITIES

Southwest Region Schools students participated in the Battle of the Books and Spelling Bee. Work continues on curriculum issues as well.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

We have finished our telecommunications eRate process and are working on the District Technology Plan.

MAINTENANCE DEPT.

Site work proceeds smoothly and the New Stuyahok school project continues!

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Work progresses on Indian Education program grant application.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Site visits and coordination of visits by our specialists were the focus of this past month.

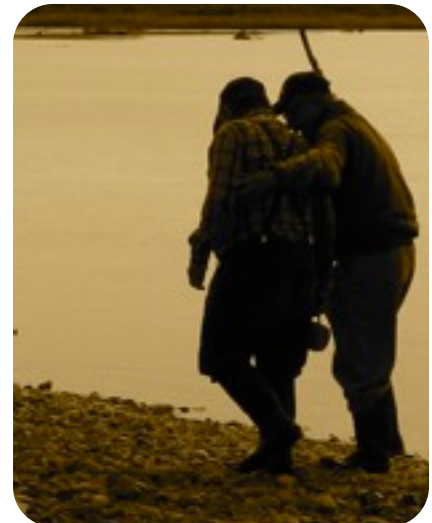


Mary Acovak teaches basketweaving skills to students at New Stuyahok. --Kari Clusman

ABOUT US! CONTEST

As part of our efforts to present our district and programs in a positive light, we held our second About Us! Photo & Video Contest. Staff and students from our schools submitted over a hundred beautiful pictures of our area, schools and students. Pictures from the contest featured throughout this report.

Elders on a field trip at New Stuyahok. (right) --Minty Ruthford





Foggy morning at Table Mountain. (above) --Jeff Ambrosier



Seabirds along the coast near Togiak (above) --Sharon Stanton-Bourgeois

STUDENT COUNT

The final state certified student count for the 2007-2008 school year was 657.7. As of February 4, 2008 our student count stands at 642.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

There are currently two key issues in front of legislators:

- Education Task Force Recommendations
- Transportation Costs

During the Fly-In at the School Board Association, we gave a certificate of appreciation for the new schools and the new teacher housing in our district to those that helped us along the way. The legislators appropriated the funds to build these projects. The capital improvement projects provided the funds for the new schools and the Denali Commission for the new teacher housing.

A letter requesting funding for the bridge at Aleknagik was also given to the legislators to help obtain funding to increase the safety of our students traveling across the lake at Aleknagik.

RECRUITING

Contracts went out to the certified employees during the week of February 4, 2008. They will have thirty days to sign and return them.





INSTRUCTION & ACTIVITIES

Mike Patrick, K-12 Instruction Director

ACTIVITIES

In the District Battle of the Books, the following teams were victorious: 3/4th grades Aleknagik School, 5/6th grades Aleknagik School, 7/8th grades Togiak School, and Togiak High School repeated as District Champions and will receive the Region I ASAA District Plaque. For coaches and individual team member see the District Office Newsletter published by Shannon Clouse. And, Victor Jordan stung everyone for the second year in a row! He is the District Spelling Bee Champ from Manokotak.

Also in the News, the Togiak girls' basketball team captured the Championship in the Sockeye Tournament held in Bristol Bay this year. They also had a victorious road trip, playing future 2A rivals on the Kenai Peninsula. The New Stuyahok boys' and the Koliganek boys' basketball teams should also be contenders in the Regions this year.

CURRICULUM

The Language Arts committees are ongoing. The High School committee met on Feb. 4 via distance delivery and the 7th/8th grade committee will meet on Feb. 6th.

The supplemental, Math in the Cultural Context is progressing. Southwest sent several teachers to the UAF workshops this past fall both in Anchorage and Fairbanks. Two more teachers attended the workshop on "Building a Smokehouse" in January. The response from those who attended the trainings was very positive. Two more workshops are being planned for this spring and will be held here in Dillingham. The first is February 18th and the second is to be arranged. The plan for the second workshop is to mesh the modules to our new math books.

PRINCIPALS' MEETING

The meeting is set for Feb. 6th and will cover a wide variety of topics. The Superintendent will be discussing the recent instructional audit and its

potential to assist us in our mission of school improvement, when we get the results back. Linda Patrick and Suzan Wiley we be demonstrating a new electronic teaching and evaluation instrument called "Write to Learn." The purpose is to give the principals insight into new tools available online, that may improve instruction and allow teachers to make efficient use of their time.

David Piazza and Technology Department will be collaborating with the site administrators to complete the District Technology Plan for the upcoming school year. The Denise Gregoire and Cindy Nielsen of Business Department will be discussing payroll and purchasing procedures. Rick Dallmann, of the Maintenance Department, will be reviewing procedures for upcoming site orders.

Dennis Simmons, will be discussing NCLB certifications and the Imaginarium Program scheduling. Steve Ito will be reinforcing the spring test schedules and procedures. He will also discuss morale building for staff and students during this challenging time of the year. Mike Patrick will discuss celebrating our successes and focusing on the positives.



Sled Ride! (below) --Steve Ito



INFORMATION SYSTEMS & TECHNOLOGY

David Piazza, Information Systems Director

E-Rate

We received the Funding Commitment Decision Letter for this school year, so we are funded at the 90% subsidy level for the Internet, Distance Learning and Telephone services that we requested.

We have also submitted the E-Rate Form 471 Application for next year. As mentioned previously, we sent out Income Level Survey to the parents in Ekwok, Koliganek, and Togiak to determine if we will be able to maintain our 90% subsidy level. We are happy to report that the return rates from the communities were well over the minimum (Ekwok had 100% after a last minute extra effort by site staff). While we always have to wait for the E-Rate program to accept our application, at this time, we anticipate a continued 90% subsidy level for all sites based on the data returned from these sites, as well as the original Free and Reduced Lunch Counts from the other sites.

As part of this year's application process, we had to enter into a new contract for Internet and Distance Learning Services. After reviewing the proposals from GCI, DRS, and ATT, the District selected to enter into another 3-year contract with GCI. While we have decided to continue with Distance Learning services, we have dropped our service level back to once conference/class/activity at a time at the large sites. We have increased the Internet access levels at Togiak, Manokotak, New Stuyahok and District Office with this new agreement. We anticipate a \$13,615 reduction in District actual costs from this year. Additional reductions should be seen in years 2 and 3 of the contract as we won't have to pay the one-time installation charges after next year. Although we are staying with GCI, we will be upgrading Distance Learning and Internet equipment at the sites this Fall which produces the need for the one-time installation cost this first year of the contact. This has been a normal occur-

rence in each of the contract that we have accepted over the past years.

Site Support

The Outstanding Technology Integration Award recipient for December was Samuel Bourgeois. The Outstanding Technology Integration Award recipient for January was Kari Clusman.

The District applied for the E2T2 Wave 5 grant from the State. We received an initial letter of award for \$43,394.93 to provide training to staff. We expect the actual award letter to arrive soon. The grant had specific requirements that had to be followed, including the selection of teachers who could participate in the project. This grant allows the district to participate in a State Designed Program instead of the District designing a unique grant as we have been required to do in the past. The structure was similar to the one-to-one grant where we picked from a list of approved items. The grant provides funds for three

teachers to attend training at the ASTE conference. Additional funds will support the purchase of equipment that will be placed in specific classrooms. The selected teachers will participate in a State-wide meetings this Spring as well as end of the year Technology Integration workshops.



Concentration! (above) --Tim LeCount

Student Records/

PowerSchool Support

We are in a quite period between State reports, report cards, and testing. Whew!

Testing was conducted on the SEAS system used by special education staff. Results point to a system that is difficult to use over a satellite internet connection. All computers tested proved to load pages slowly. Several options are being considered to improve the systems usability.

T4 Project (1-1 Laptops)

John Monahan from Apple was able to provide two-day inservices in technology integration

at Togiak and Manokotak during the inservice days after the break. During the time at Togiak, Les Parks was able to re-image the student computers. At Manokotak, Jon Clouse was able provide additional support during the training as well as, assist with site technology needs.

Media Center

The Battle of the Books has been running smoothly. The 2007-2008 Battle of the Books District Winners are listed below. State Battles will take place February 18th-21st.

Battle of the Books Winners:

3rd & 4th: Aleknagik School
coached by Jeanne Soles

- Kona Creasey
- Samuel Ilutsik

Participating Schools:

- Manokotak
- Togiak
- New Stuyahok
- Aleknagik

5th & 6th: Aleknagik School
coached by Jeanne Soles

- Jake Murphy
- Jasmine Creasey
- Moses Kritz

Participating Schools:

- New Stuyahok
- Togiak
- Koliganek
- Aleknagik

7th & 8th: Togiak School
coached by Patricia Wick

- Jamie Forbes
- Nekayla Martin
- Heidi Kritz
- Nathan Gosuk

Participating Schools:

- Manokotak
- Togiak
- Aleknagik

High School: Togiak School
coached by Samuel Bourgeois

- Mike Wick
- Aesiha Upton
- Ellen Gosuk
- Kristy Gonzales

Participating Schools:

- Manokotak
- Togiak



Field Trip in New Stuyahok (above) --Minty Ruthford



FEDERAL & STATE PROGRAMS

Dennis Simmons, Federal/State Programs Director

RTP COURSE

Fourteen teachers have enrolled in the RTP II Class through the Bristol Bay Campus of UAF; the district pays the tuition and the instructor's stipend through the Title II-A Teacher/Principal Training portion of NCLB.

ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION GRANT

Working on grant documents to submit to the Alaska Native Education Program; submission deadline is March 10, 2008.

CARL PERKINS CTE WORK SESSIONS

Attended the state sponsored CTE (Career & Technical Education) Coordinators Work Sessions in Anchorage, Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 2008, to establish guidelines and rubrics for completing a 5-year plan for Perkins IV.

FUNDS COMPARABILITY FOR TITLE I

Completed and sent to the state prior to due date, which was Feb. 15, 2008.



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Ruth Umlauf, Special Education Coordinator

Current Activities

- Updated Alternate Assessment lists.
- Coordinated with Jeanne Soles to set up time and dates for Alternate Assessments.
- Attended State's Special Education Conference in Anchorage on Feb. 17 – 20 along with 5 special education teachers.
- Coordinating with Speech Pathologist and Occupational Therapist for site visits.
- Site visits to Togiak, New Stuyahok, Koliganik, Manokotak.



Camp... (above) --Natalia Bond



Students at play in Togiak (above) --Tim LeCount

Upcoming Projects & Activities

- Developing Special Education Reference Guide for special education teachers.
- Giving Alternate Assessments to special education students.
- Training of special education staff in giving the Alternate Assessment.
- Coordinating with Pam Johnson regarding PAT grant.
- Working with Head Start to plan spring Child Find.



FACILITIES & MAINTENANCE

Rick Dallmann, Maintenance Director



The new school project is moving ahead!

NEW STUYAHOK

Work on new school is progressing on schedule. Sub-contractors are scheduling their crews, metal stud walls are going up sheetrock is being applied, sprinkler systems are being installed, Electrical work is moving ahead of schedule. The local crew is working on vapor barriers for the exterior walls prepping for siding and installing windows. USKH has made a site visit to review structural panels, mechanical and electrical systems they are very satisfied with workmanship and the way the project is progressing. We continue to work on building enhancements and change orders to upgrade and improve our school.

TRAINING:

Hazwoper training was conducted in Dillingham the week of Feb. 4th.

Those taking the 40 hour class:

- Curtis Abalama from Clarks Point
- Moses John from Manokotak
- Gusty Johnson from Koliganek
- Jason Sanook from Aleknagik
- Monty Murphy
- Aaron Basler
- Those taking the 8 hour refresher course:
- Doug Bartholomew from New Stuyahok
- Andrew Endicott
- Kim Endicott
- Rick Dallmann

Working with the Bristol Bay Native Association Workforce Development Center to provide training opportunities in the villages for upcoming construction projects.

TOGIAK:

Ventilation project materials are scheduled to arrive mid February.

We will be starting the installation as soon as materials are on site.



Students at play at the old Chief Ivan Blunka School.