

SWRS News



Aleknagik, Clarks Point, Ekwook, Koliganek, Manokotak, New Stuyahok, Togiak, Twin Hills

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CONGRATULATIONS SAM!!!

A big **congratulations** to Samuel Bourgeois, of Togiak School, for winning the Alaska Society for Technology for Education (ASTE) People's Choice award for his imovie "How the Crane Got Blue Eyes", a Claymation project.

Click on the link below to view Sam's imovie.

<http://www.aste.org/index.cfm/1,51,249,2,html/2008-iDidaMovie-Winners>

(scroll down to the University/Adult section of the winners page)

Read more about the ASTE conference on page 4 of the newsletter.

Alaska State Battle of the Books~ Update

By Shannon Clouse, Media Specialist



*Aleknagik 5/6
Grade
Battle of the Books*



Southwest Region School students gave great effort at the Alaska State Battle of the Books battles held via audio conference at each school. I had the pleasure of filling in for Jeanne Soles at Aleknagik School as proctor/coach for the 3/4 and 5/6 team battles.

Togiak High School battled on February 18th with Alaska Gateway, Kodiak, and MatSu. They ended their Battle season with 152 points and finished 19th out of 30 teams in the state.

The Togiak 7/8 battle team competed on February 19th with Bristol Bay, Kuspuk and Lower Kuskokwim. They finished their first round with 160 points and advanced to the second round of the battle. The 7/8 Togiak team finished 8th in the state out of 33 teams!!

The Aleknagik 5/6 team competed on February 20th against Dillingham, Lake & Penn and Yukon Flats. They ended the season with 128 points and in 31st place out of 35 teams.

The Togiak 3/4 team competed the following day on February 21st, it was their first showing at the state tournament. They battled against Annette Island, Delta/Greely and Kashunamiut. They ended their season with 109 points and in 37th place in the state out of 40 teams.

Outstanding Technology Integration Award~ February

Submitted by Jon Clouse, Technology Department



Caitlin is the 4/5 teacher at Manokotak School

Outstanding Technology Integration Award Recipient

If you want to know anything about document cameras, Caitlin Winebarger is the person to contact. Caitlin Winebarger is the district resident expert on document cameras especially regarding the integration of a document camera to increase the effectiveness of instruction and student learning. Caitlin's skills with a document camera are so impressive that she even shared her expertise at the statewide Alaska Society for Technology in Education conference. She uses a document camera and an LCD projector on a daily basis to help explain the concepts that are being taught and increase the understanding of lessons being worked on in class. She also uses the document camera for showing examples of problems and showing different student work to the rest of the class.

But Caitlin's integration of technology does not stop with the use of the document camera. The students in her class are users of Accelerated Reader and Learning Upgrade. The students in her class use the classroom computers for extending lessons, reteaching lessons, reviewing lessons, as well as teaching new lessons. She has incorporated the use of the digital camera to create a DVD of the Christmas program. Caitlin also has experience helping fellow colleagues troubleshoot technology problems. She is the person who is called upon to help out with technology matters when Larry Bartman is absent. Larry himself has even designated her his unofficial substitute when he is gone. She is willing to help out anyone who is experiencing any kind of tech problems.

Caitlin's dedication to using innovative products to increase student achievement, willingness to help others, and excitement to share the instructional techniques that are successful in her classroom are very commendable. Congratulations, Caitlin, on receiving the Outstanding Technology Integration Award for the month of February.



Literacy Night at Togiak School

By Marsha Poulsen, Lupe Gonzales and Herbert Poulsen ~ Fourth Grade Students

Submitted by Jamie LeCount ~ Fifth Grade Teacher

At literacy night, right when we walked into the school Pete Isaacson was reading a book. It was called "Loving a Family". After that we were given a small piece of paper to write down what family means to us. Then we put it in a balloon and blew it up. Right after that, we played with it, threw them in the air, and tried to grab somebody else's balloon. After 5 minutes we popped the other person's balloon and took out the paper. Then we wrote a poem about family on it. When we were done writing we brought it to Mrs. LeCount and she typed up everyone's sentences on her computer. Then she printed out some of the poems we did together on

paper and gave one to everybody. After that there was a gas raffle and Blanche Echuck won six gallons. Finally, we picked one free book each and went home. Literacy night was exciting and we liked popping the balloons. Next literacy night you should come!



Family Means

My cousin, my mom, my grandma, my grandpa, my uncles and my aunts.
It means helping with math, cooking for me, playing with me, and making me happy.

Families go fishing in the summer.

Families are kind to each other, they share with one another, and love each other.

Families are loud.

Families take walks together, spend time with each other so they are not alone.

They go to church together, listen to each other, and have lots of fun.

Families are together with love, they celebrate holidays and play games together

They say, "I LOVE YOU"

And

"You're a Star!"

Families laugh together.

Families share, talk, read books together, play games, and speak encouraging words.

They go to school and spend time with parents.

In a family nobody gets left behind.

LOVE, HUGS & KISSES!

In families you will find friendship, caring, sharing, laughing, sickness, fun, hugs, and so much more.

Moms do the dishes, dads work on the tractors, sisters watch TV, brothers play games, grams have no teeth, grandpas buy me candy and toys, aunts do chores, and uncles buy us presents.

Families show that happiness means being glad, kindness is being nice, love means to love one another, sharing means to share with one another, and loud means noisy.

FAMILIES LOVE EACH OTHER ALL YEAR LONG!

ASTE 2008 ~ Alaska Society for Technology in Education

ASTE is a yearly conference that takes place in Anchorage. This conference focuses on many aspects of technology in and out of the classroom. Many teachers in our district had the educational opportunity to attend the conference this year through district appropriated funds as well as by a technology grant.



Jon works in the SWRS Technology Department and is on the ASTE board

Jon Clouse- Technology Department, District Office

ASTE 2008

The Alaska Society for Technology in Education (ASTE) is a professional organization whose mission is to promote access to technology, connectivity to information resources and technology integration for all Alaskan learners. The 2008 conference was held at the Captain Cook Hotel in Anchorage from February 23rd through February 26th. This year's theme for ASTE was "Take the Leap: ASTE 2008", is intended to help attendees take the leap into today's learning technologies, and like the calendar "leap", fill the gaps in effective technology use in our schools.

The two days of pre-conference offered half-day and full-day sessions that covered a multitude of subjects that included integration in the 1-to-1 environment, integrating iMovie into reading and writing, podcasting, building a classroom website, using and understanding Web 2.0 (wikis, blogs, and more), effective distance learning, integrating GPS technology into science and math, several technical sessions, and many other sessions regarding technology and the different academic areas. The two days of regular conference offered dozens of one-hour sessions about technology integration into the classroom, effective networking, incorporating the ISTE standards into teaching, and a plethora of other topics. Keynote speakers included Angus King, former governor of Maine who initiated a statewide 1-to-1 initiative, Lynn Schrum, former ISTE president, Dr. Jason Ohler, President's Professor in Educational Technology and Distance Learning, and Shane Elliot and Martin Dougiamas (via video conference from Australia), the founders of the open-source Moodle project.

One of the yearly highlights of the conference is the iDidaActivity Night. The iDidaActivity Night showcased the talents of Alaska's students, teachers, and citizens in movie making, photography, and podcasting. There were several categories for each area. Winners of each category received an iPod Nano. There were three People's Choice Award winners one for the movie making strand, photography strand, and podcasting strand. The district's very own Samuel Bourgeois won the People's Choice Award for his claymation movie, "How the Crane Got Blue Eyes." Samuel received an iPod Nano and a \$250 gift certificate. His winning movie is on the ASTE website at:

<http://www.aste.org/index.cfm/1,51,249,2,html/2008-iDidaMovie-Winners>.

Southwest Region School District staff members have been involved with ASTE for a number of years. Larry Bartman, Dana Bartman, Brian Baker, Molly Baker, Jeff Ambrosier, Jon Sharp, Caitlin Winebarger, Nate Preston and Corey Evans were able to attend this year's conference. Les Parks presented on imaging and deployment solutions, Steve Noonkesser is the ASTE Past President, David Piazza is the ASTE conference chair, and Jon Clouse is the ASTE Western Representative.



Caitlin teaches the 4/5 elementary class at Manokotak School

Caitlin Winebarger- Manokotak School

Web 2.0: Just Another THING?!

Sometimes I feel like technology in the classroom is this messy, crushing burden on my shoulders. Sometimes I feel like it is the one thing that may save a failing, flailing student population that is constantly plugged-in to an iPod, but can't diagram a sentence. Is sentence diagramming even appropriate or important?

Short answer: Yes! Digital literacy and fluency must be rooted in common grammatical knowledge. The bigger issue here is fitting digital literacy into day-to-day classroom activities, especially when those who are to do the teaching are new to the technology themselves.

I heard a quote at the ASTE conference that really drove this point home; "Thomas Jefferson was the last person alive who could know everything." Think about it! We are confronted with the task of teaching students basic communication skills, but more importantly we need to teach them to teach themselves; to be flexible with their knowledge, and to discern between reliable electronic information and the heaps and heaps of "internet jibber-jabber."

For thoughts on web2.0 and the rest of the article, check my blog at:

<http://caitlinmw.blogspot.com>

For ideas, resources, a place to put your own ideas and an attempt at getting teachers to work together, check out my tech ideas wiki at <http://sw-aste-wiki.wikispot.org>



Nate is the High School Social Studies Specialist

Nate Preston- SWRS District Office

Claymation

I attended the ASTE conference this year. I think it is a great conference to attend. You learn about various technologies that interest you. It lets you be cutting edge in you classroom especially in High School were we have 1 to 1 program. Teachers can learn how to use the technology we currently have. In addition, it is a great place to make contacts and get new ideas on teaching. I wish I could go every year.

This year I went to E-live courses where I learned how to use the E-live software that all University of Alaska schools will be using to do distance delivery next year. It will help me to explain it us to students and gave me ideas for my Moodle class.

I would like to encourage the high school staff to take advantage of the I-Stopmotion on all the High School computers and the clay I have order for all sites. Sam Bourgeois Claymation imovie took one of the video prizes at ASTE.



Brian teaches high school science and math at Koliganek School

Brian Baker~ Koliganek School

I attended three days of the Alaska Society for Technology in Education Conference in Anchorage this past February. It was an excellent conference, a bit overwhelming at times, with a ton of great information and tips for the classroom. Some of these things I banked in my memory for future use, and others I am very excited to implement in my classroom as soon as possible. From the many topics I learned about: building websites, using smart boards, MapTEACH, Discovery Education, Team Treks, digital portfolios, etc. I want to spread the word on just a couple of the topics I found most useful.

Probably because I am a science teacher, my favorite session had to do with the Discovery Education website, www.discoveryeducation.com. From the homepage, if you click on the “Products” link at the top of the page there are several amazing resources for all grade levels in science or health. Discovery Education Science has great resources from virtual labs and explorations to reading passages all to help engage students when lab materials may be hard to come by. Discovery Education Streaming is a compilation of videos and pictures for teachers to download and play for their class. You can also build assignments, build quizzes, create writing prompts, customize the videos, and more. The only problem is that it is quite expensive to purchase these products, but there is a 30-day free trial membership. I would like to encourage everyone to try out this resource and talk to the district if it is something that may be worth spending some budget on.

Another session that I found very exciting was MapTEACH. This is a curriculum where students learn to create their own maps from scratch and take it a step further. For example, students were asked to talk to elders about stories they may have. The students could then create a map depicting the area and labeling different parts of the story at their respected locations on the map. This is a neat project and I am actually waiting to hear more about this through e-mail so if anybody thinks the may be interested in implementing something like this in their school, let me know or visit www.mapteach.org.

It is difficult to convey how exciting and great some of these resources are until you actually start playing around on the web. All I can say is that I hope everyone takes the time to see if either of these resources could be useful and if at all possible, attend the ASTE Conference next February because there is a lot to be learned in all grade levels and subject areas. The world is moving toward technology and ASTE Conference is one way to stay ahead of the learning curve.



Larry is the Tech Liaison at Manokotak School

Larry Bartman~ Manokotak School

Attending the ASTE conference has always given me new concepts to learn and to use in our school. You always end up picking up new ideas and “tools” that you can use in the classroom from the presentations and as well as visiting and communicating with other attendees. One of the more interesting presentations I attended was on using digital tools students love. Use of photographs, cameras, camcorders and the applications on the computer that work with these instruments to enhance learning as the student progresses. It gave me new ideas I could try in our school as we are producing a digital yearbook and an in house school web site that a student is developing. It was quite a learning experience for me.



Molly is the high school language arts teacher in Koliganek

Molly Baker ~ Koliganek School

At the end of February, I attended the ASTE conference in Anchorage, and for about three days straight, my brain was on information overload! I was given so many fabulous lesson ideas, software information, free websites, and other tools to use in my classroom! There were some wonderfully inspiring people, and the food wasn't bad either!

I compiled a list of really great websites from several sessions that I attended:

www.kerpoof.com - This site is a really cool way to have your students create a fictional story. They can choose the setting, the characters, and other objects to add to their story.

www.topmarks.co.uk - This website has so many great lesson ideas for almost any subject and different levels. It's really fun!

voicethread.com - I have to spend a little more time with this one, but from what I know this is a free site where you can record your voice, post it online, and then other people can record their comments about your work.

www.voki.com - This is a really cool site where you can create your own character and then give it a voice (either a computer voice or your own voice). You can put these characters on blogs, wikis, websites, and I think that you can even email them!

www.bebo.com - This is an internet networking site similar to myspace that, if used correctly and carefully, can be a great tool to use in your classroom.

www.blogger.com - At this site you can quickly and easily sign up and create your very own blog! This is another great tool to use in your classroom!

www.wikispaces.com - These are simple web pages that anyone can add to or edit. These can be useful in working in groups, getting class feedback, and collaborating with people far away.

These were some of the best sites that I collected. The only problem that I found when I got back to school is that several of them are blocked. I guess I won't be using some of them in my classroom after all. They might come in handy in the future if any get unblocked.

Over all, I had a great time at the ASTE conference! I think that this last quarter is going to be all "teched" out! I'm really excited to get going on some fun technology-infused projects!



Dana is a Junior High teacher in Manokotak

Dana Bartman ~ Manokotak School

The ASTE conference provides attendees with numerous opportunities to learn new skills and explore new areas. Though being surrounded by so much technology and so many technologically adept people can be intimidating, I found the conference very teacher-friendly. There were many sectionals directly addressing the way technology is, should be, or can be used in the classroom by those of us 'in the trenches!' digital portfolios and storytelling, simulations, communications, teleconferencing, projects, production, simply to name a few. It was quite a privilege and a challenge to select from so many relevant choices!

I would encourage any teacher who has not yet had the privilege of attending the ASTE conference to seriously consider the opportunity. Our students have access to technology, with the world at their fingertips, and this conference could well be the catalyst to inspire you to achieve a new level of comfort and understanding of the technology with which we find ourselves surrounded.

A big thank you to Southwest Region Education Association for the financial support to attend. An additional set of thanks to SWRSD's Travel and Technology Departments for their additional assistance that made attendance possible.

Counselor's Corner~ Standards Based Assessments

By Brenda Woolley, Togiak School



Brenda is the counselor at Togiak School

We are getting close to the Standards Based Assessments (SBA's), which are right around the corner. These are incredibly important tests, and we are all looking for ways to help students become proficient in all subjects. Here are some test taking tips that may help with the stress of test day. I dedicate this Counselor's Corner to testing. (Even though testing has been going on for a while).

There are objective or subjective tests. Objective tests include true-false, multiple choice, and fill-in-the-blank. Subjective tests include short answer, essay, or oral exams. From the looks of the practice SBA tests, they are both objective and subjective.

Before the BIG day!

- Prepare students for the test by reminding them that the test is coming up.
- Tell students to get a good night sleep the night before. No 4-wheeling/snowgoing 'til all hours of the morning.
- Tell them to eat breakfast the morning of the test. Having food in their stomach will give them energy and help them focus. If possible have breakfast or snacks for students at school.
- Have students go to the bathroom before the test begins. It would be a shame to worry about bathroom breaks instead of the test.
- Remind students that it is very important to be on time on test days. Here in Togiak we have an incentive ice cream social for those who are on time for all tests.

During the Test!

- Have extra materials needed for the test, pencils, erasers, rulers etc.
- Have students be comfortable with plenty of space to work.
- Remind students to keep a positive attitude throughout the whole test and try to stay relaxed. If students feel nervous, taking a few slow deep breaths can help them relax.
- Students need to keep their eyes on their own paper. They need to do their best, not copy someone else's answers.
- Students need to budget their time. While the SBA's are not timed, they still need to be making reasonable progress. So they do not need to rush, but don't spend too much time on one problem. Try to eliminate choices that are definitely not right. Then make the best guess of the ones that are left.
- Write legibly. If someone cannot read it, it cannot be scored.
- Always read the whole question carefully, don't assume what the question might be.
- Don't worry if others finish before you. Have students focus on their own test.
- When they are finished students should take time to look over the test. Make sure they have answered all the questions (if no penalty for guessing), erased all changed answers completely, proof read short-answer responses, and marked only one answer for each multiple choice question.

After the Test!

- Celebrate! And start preparing for next year.
- Isn't testing fun!!

Alaska State Spelling Bee~ Update

By Shannon Clouse, Media Specialist and Caitlin Winebarger, Spelling Bee Coordinator in Manokotak



Victor Jordan competed in the Alaska State Spelling Bee amongst 151 spellers on Friday, February 29th at the Discovery Theatre of the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts.

Victor made it through the first round and then went out in the second. His word was “hepatology” which is the branch of medicine that incorporates the study of the liver, gallbladder, biliary tree and pancreas.

Victor thought this year was better than last year because he was less nervous. He enjoyed seeing old friends at the competition. His advice as an eighth grader and two time Southwest Region School Spelling Bee champion to others in our district wishing to do well at the local and state Spelling Bee is to read a lot of books, and to go over the word

lists. If he could have done something differently it would have been to study more.

Seth Keller, from Wasilla, won in the 21st round. He spelled the word “loculus” correctly to win the Spelling Bee. He moves on to the National Spelling Bee as the Alaska representative in Washington, D.C. in May.



Togiak Special Olympics

By Mark Snell, Togiak



Mark is the Secondary Special Education teacher in Togiak

The Special Olympic team from Togiak received 8 medals out of 9 events that they competed for. From left to right the winners are: Bill Bavilla who won 1 gold medal in the 50 meter snow-shoeing and 2 silvers in the 25 meter and 100 meter in his age category.

Richard Togiak won 3 gold medals in the 25, 50, and 100 meter snow-shoeing race in his age category. Also, Richard set the fastest times for the 25, 50, and 100 meter snow-shoeing for all ages.

Keith Fox won bronze in the 25 meter, gold in 50 meter, and 4th place in the 100 meter snow-shoeing race in his age category.



Bill Bavilla, Richard Togiak and Keith Fox

