

SWRS News



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

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SWRS 2008 Teacher of the Year



Congratulations to Patricia Wick for being selected for Southwest Region Schools 2008 *Teacher of the Year*.

Patricia teaches Junior High math at Togiak School, and has just started her fourth year in Southwest Region Schools.

Patricia was nominated by parents at Togiak School for her dedication to the students at her school. Besides her work in the classroom Patricia coaches basketball and coordinates the Battle of the Books effort in Togiak.

Making a Difference Award



Congratulations to Staci Gulsvig and Kyle Casper for being selected as the first recipients of the "Making a Difference" award in the Southwest Region School District.

Staci was nominated by her principal for her commitment inside and outside the classroom and to extra-curricular activities at Chief Ivan Blunka in New Stuyahok. Staci teaches at the elementary level.

Kyle was nominated by his principal because of his commitment to Science and the students at Chief Ivan Blunka School in New Stuyahok. Kyle is the high school Science teacher at CIBS.

Outstanding Technology Integration Award

Corey Evans, Computer Assisted Instruction Specialist



The Southwest Region School District Technology Department is in its second year of the Outstanding Technology Integration Award. The program was initiated to recognize the efforts of staff to effectively integrate technology into teaching and student learning. In addition, staff from around the district have the opportunity to see what other teachers are doing to integrate technology. The award recipient will receive a certificate, a letter of award, and a small token of appreciation for the dedication to innovation in the classroom. Any Southwest Region School District employee or student can nominate a staff member for this award.

The nominator should include a description of the activities that the staff member is implementing in the classroom or having students use to promote learning in the classroom. The nominations are reviewed by a committee consisting of certified personnel. The award recipient is determined based upon the description of activities provided by the nominating party. Also, if your nominee did not receive the award during the month, which they were nominated don't give up, nominate them again at a different time or revise your descriptive paragraph.

Some items to consider when nominating for this award are:

- Effective integration of technology into instruction and learning
- Project-based activities using technology
- Using technology effectively for presentation of materials (teacher or by their students)
- Promoting effective use of technology by students
- Meeting and incorporating the technology standards into instruction
- Innovative uses of technology in the classroom by teacher or their students

Nomination Deadlines:

1. Award for August/September - Deadline is September 30
2. Award for October - Deadline is October 31st
3. Award for November - Deadline is November 30th
4. Award for December - Deadline is December 19th
5. Award for January - Deadline is January 31st
6. Award for February - Deadline is February 28th
7. Award for March - Deadline March 31st
8. Award for April - Deadline is April 30th

An example of a good descriptive paragraph is included below...

I'm nominating (name) for the Outstanding Technology Integration Award. Person X demonstrates effective use of technology in the classroom through the engagement of students in learning. Person X has created a talk show in order to develop oral language, interview, and writing skills. The show is video-taped and broadcast at the monthly school-wide assembly. Students develop the interview questions, operate all of the equipment, and produce the talk show using iMovie, iTunes, and iPhoto. Eventually, a podcast is which allows student work to be shared across the school district.

Counselor's Corner

By Steve Ito, Education Specialist



Instead of offering you a traditional Type A/B personality test to take and self score, I respectfully submit the following list of traits each personality possesses.

I readily self admit I am a type "B" person. I cross over to the dark side and adopt type "A" traits when the potential of injury or risk of death comes into play, but generally, my habits exhibit very strong type "B" characteristics.

Each of us faces an important question every day of our lives. The question is this: should we clean up when we finish or leave it till later? How people answer this question divides the nation into two groups, Type A and Type B.

Type A: We hang our pajamas in the closet and make the bed as soon as we get out of it.

Type B: We hook our pajamas on the doorknob (if wearing any) and leave the bed unmade until we come home at night – if the bed is lucky. The other thing we do with beds is, we never make them.

Type A: After a shower, we neatly fold and hang up the towel to dry.

Type B: We drop our wet towel on the floor.

Type A: We have breakfast with skim milk and fruit.

Type B: We grab a cup of black coffee (or soda) and a candy bar.

Type A: When we finish, we wash the dishes and put them back in the cupboard where they belong.

Type B: We pile the dishes in the sink.

Type A: After breakfast, we press what we're going to wear, and when we finish, we coil up the cord and put the iron back in the box it came in.

Type B: We wear it wrinkled. We don't keep the box anything comes in. If it breaks, we can't find the guarantee.

Type A: We get in our vehicle that has a full tank of gas and drive to work.

Type B: We think we probably have enough gas, even though the gauge is 'on empty.

Type A: When we get to work, we know where everything is because we put everything where it belongs before we left last night.

Type B: We left everything where it was when we quit last night and go right to work, although quite often we can't find what we were working on.

Type A: We get our papers out of the file.

Type B: We don't file things, we pile things.

There's never been a study done on whether Type A or Type B accomplishes the most in life, but a strange relationship exists between them.

Type B people have mild contempt for Type A people, but they wish their lives weren't so messy. Type A people, on the other hand, are annoyed by Type B people. But they suspect we have way, way, more fun.

K-2 News

Berry Picking in New Stuyahok and Aleknagik and "Alphabodies" in Twin Hills



Fall Activity- Picking Berries

By Rachel Panamarioff, Second Grade Teacher, New Stuyahok



Kaley, Anecia, and Andrew sorting the black and blue berries. We were also cleaning the berries during this time.



Philip Andrew Jr., Julianna German, Wassillie Gust III, Miranda Fletcher proudly separating and cleaning their berries.



Sydney Panamarioff, Cameron Andrew, Alyssa Gust, and Justin Petla proudly separating and cleaning their berries.



Paraprofessional Tatiana Andrew demonstrated to students the ingredients we put into our *agutag*. We shared this delicious dessert with our class.

We hypothesized and predicted which berries are heavier and which ones will sink. The students found out that blueberries are more heavier than blackberries because they are much bigger. Most of the berries were floating except for a few that sank to the bottom. We also categorized the 5 different types of berries that we have in our region and contrasted the difference with how the berries look, feels, smells, and tastes. The students had a great time gathering the berries, and when we made our *agutag* "Eskimo Ice Cream."



Berry Picking in Aleknagik

By Louann Bates, K-3 Teacher, Aleknagik

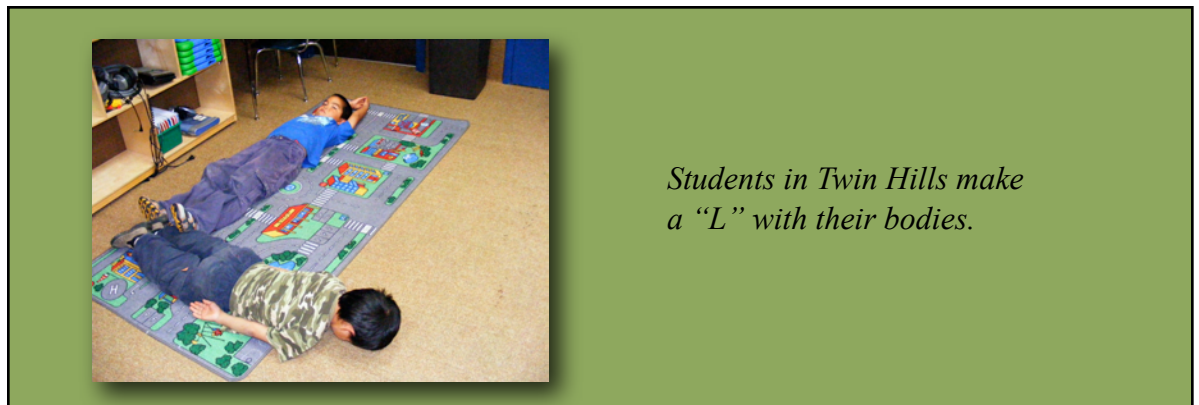


On Friday, August 29, first through eighth grade students went on a berry picking field trip to an area called Tripod. Tasha Gilila is in the top picture outfitted with all the necessary tools for the job. In the other picture are Lloyd Active, Memphis Gosuk, and Tasha Gilila. Memphis said that he was picking berries for his Grandma. After about an hour of berry picking and, in some cases, berry eating, we all happily returned to school with purple fingers and/or mouths. Fun was had by all!



“Alphabodies”

By Barbara Lindberg, K-3 Paraprofessional, Twin Hills



Students in Twin Hills make a “L” with their bodies.

We at Twin Hills are busy with Open Court. We are working on letters, writing and sight words. Several kids can read right now and the others are close. We decided to make our own alphabet, which turned into "Alphabodies". The kids became very enthused, coming up with ideas of how to form the letters. I took digital photos and when we are completed, we'll print color copies of all the letters and hang them in our classroom. I know this isn't a new idea but the kids LOVED doing it. It's great to see them so engaged in a project that they don't want to quit. Below is a picture of two first graders forming the letter L for our "Alphabodies".

Togiak Public Library

By Larry Dale Richesin, Togiak Alternative Program



The Togiak Public Library and Cultural Center received a \$15,000 grant from the Rasmuson Foundation of Anchorage to computerize the library and add Internet services. The goals of the grant were three-fold.

1. The Togiak Library purchased three Apple Computers to offer computer services to the public. We also purchased a printer and an airport.
2. The Togiak Library purchased Internet services to offer public Internet access, with restrictions according to CIPA (The Child Internet Protection Act). The airport is compatible with the computers provided to Togiak high school students and staff. This will enable all students to do research and homework in the evening at the Togiak Library. Since the computer system is compatible with the Togiak School, library volunteers who work or attend Togiak School are easily able to utilize their computer skills when volunteering at the Togiak Library. Since resources in our village are limited, the enables us to maximize our volunteers, as well as our technical expertise.
3. The Togiak Library purchased the Alexandria software and is in the process of computerizing the library book collection. When complete this will enable the library to track book loans, popularity of titles, as well as determine future book needs. Library patrons who wish to borrow books through the Inter Library Loan, are now able to do this via the computer. When our collection is completely computerized, other libraries will be able to solicit loans of books from the Togiak Library.

In addition to the Rasmuson Foundation, the Togiak Public Library has recently received grants from the Fisheries Foundation of Bristol Bay, the Alaska Public Library, and The Institute of Museum and Library Services.

This past summer, in cooperation with Togiak School, Togiak Public Library hosted a Summer School program from June 30 to July 30. Sam Bourgeois taught high school students and Jon Sharp and Mark Snell taught middle school students.

During the summer, the 3-9 hours a day, seven days than twenty patrons visited also had several students system to take Admission Alaska, Anchorage.



30 to July 30. Sam school students and Jon taught middle school

Togiak Library was open a week. Many times, more the library each day. We use the Library computer Exams for the University of

The Togiak Public Library was founded in 2003 by Linda Britton, a Togiak Teacher. In 2004, Dale Richesin, Theo Weber, and other volunteers organized the Togiak Library as a 501© 3, an independent not-for-profit, and develop a formal board. In 2005 the library moved from an 85 square foot building to a 850 square foot building managed by the City of Togiak. Currently, the City of Togiak is working with the Denali Commission to renovate the old Togiak School. The Togiak Library hopes to move again into an even larger space.

Book Nook

“Hoot” By Carl Hiaasen



Making Owls

By Sharon Bourgeois, Middle School LA , Togiak



Students in Togiak decided to bring part of their book, Hoot by Carl Hiaasen, alive this quarter. The book's plot centers on saving a group of burrowing owls from being bulldozed over for a new pancake restaurant. To get an idea of what the owls really look like the students in Mrs. Bourgeois' reading class researched burrowing owls and then used their research to create paper mache' models of the owls.

The students spent one day putting newspaper dipped in a flour and water mix on balloons. After the balloons dried the students used paints to bring the owls to life. Each owl was unique in its own way, but the students kept true to the basic colors of burrowing owls. Everyone had a good time making their owls, and they're looking forward to the projects they will have in the future.



Tuyur'yaq Alternative Program (T.A.P.)

By Larry Dale Richesin, Togiak Alternative Program



In March, 2008 I was approached by Principal, H. David Wick, to develop an alternative high school program at Togiak School to reach out to dropouts in our community, and to those who had fallen behind in school because of many failing grades. Attendance would be a flexible variable, and the students would be in a single classroom, with all subjects being taught by one teacher.

Students would be asked to stay in school at least four hours a day and to attend as often as possible. Further, the students were told to only come to school if they were ready to work. We would use the school's RTP discipline program, but the students would also be given the option to go home if they weren't ready to work. After four weeks, only one student received an RTC referral. Students would be given packets of material to work on in each class, and they were encouraged to work at their own pace, at whichever of the classes they wished each day. When one packet was finished, they would be given another packet. They would also be tested to mark their competence level at the end of a quarter and a semester.

I have noticed that there are four different types of students in the Alternative Program. There are strong-willed older students who have been slowly adding their credits toward graduation. There are high-flying students who may have gotten off-course. Other students are high-energy students who move quickly from one thing to another. We also have fierce and independent students who sometimes have difficulty working with others.

Teachers in the regular classes are reporting far fewer disruptions, since the students who had previously disrupted their classes are now in the Alternative Program. After just four weeks, several students made significant progress. One extremely hard working student has just received a semester credit for work completed. After four weeks, the program has had good attendance. One student who attended school last year an average of once a day for the first eight weeks has attended 16 of the first 17 days. I am highly encouraged about the impact the TAP is having on many of our students.



Geologic Institute

By Jon Sharp, Togiak School



Kyle Casper and I attended the Science Teacher Education Program (STEP) at UAF's Geologic Institute this summer. The two-week STEP program was packed with loads of useful and exciting science content thanks to the UAF faculty and best practices teaching instruction provided by the Alaska Science Consortium. Half of the program consisted of science content instruction in the areas of permafrost, archeology, volcanology and geology, and the other half integrated the ASC's learning cycle model and Alaska GLEs in developing lesson plans. Field work consisted of a trip to the Army Corps of Engineers permafrost tunnel and Denali National Park to count and examine fossilized dinosaur footprints.

The STEP summer course was awesome and fully funded by a grant through EED; that's right totally FREE! We made some program that are sure to aid in our Georgia, Gary, and Jeremy! It earned 6 credits by submitting rigorous schedule and completing including the weekend.

If you're thinking, "WOW, that it was!. All we did was apply. There there to advance skills, just go for it. Les Parks hooked me up with STEP and ASC info, thanks a bunch!

The STEP website is a great resource for K-12 science lessons aligned with Alaska GLEs, or for more info, contact me.

<http://scienceteachereducationprogram.com>

Kyle and Les are both active ASC members. Contact them for more information regard ASC or visit their website. www.aksience.org

Although not officially affiliated, check out the Alaska Science Teachers Association, an affiliate of the NSTA. www.aksta.org



great contacts through the professional development, thanks wasn't all fun and games; we daily assignments, following a homework virtually every night,

sounds totally cool!" You're right, are numerous opportunities out



Media & Curriculum Focus

By Shannon Clouse, Media Specialist

Alaska Spirit of Reading 2008-2009

The Alaska Spirit of Reading is a statewide book discussion program featuring three books by author Ben Mikaelson.

- Touching Spirit Bear
- Ghost of Spirit Bear
- Tree Girl

How Does It Work?

Each book set includes 10-12 copies of the title, a journal for students to share thoughts, and a Ben Mikaelson workshop DVD. Touching Spirit Bear sets also include an audiobook on CD.

You can reserve up to three book sets. The only cost associated with participating in the program is return postage for the book sets.

Several exciting activities, including an author visit, are being planned for participating students. Rural students will be able to participate in statewide radio call-in and teleconference programs with the author.

Contact Information

Email: mail@akspiritofreading.com Phone: 907-966-1939

The Alaska Spirit of Reading program is made possible through the support of the Alaska Association of School Librarians and an Interlibrary Cooperation Grant from the Alaska State Library.

Read for the Record www.readfortherecord.org

The number of books in a home is the single strongest indicator of a child's future reading ability setting him or her on a track for success in school and in life (from the readfortherecord website).

How does it work?

Jumpstart's Read for the Record is a campaign designed to bring attention to the importance of early education. By encouraging hundreds of thousands of children and adults to read the same book on the same day, Jumpstart aims to break a world record and to make early education a national priority.

Togiak School will be participating in this event on October 2nd., thank you Vicky Dawson for the information.

Free children's books still available

Register at <http://www.firstbook.org/register/> to access free new children's books through the 2008 Back to School Book Donation.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Department of Education teamed with First Book and Random House to launch the 2008 Summer Reading Initiative, which gave away 550,000 books to libraries and organizations serving low-income youths. About 300,000 more books are still available.

To be eligible, an entity must serve children where at least 50 percent are from low-income households, be a Title I or Title I-eligible school, or be a military family support program.

See: <http://www.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/bookcampaign/>.

Teaching About Election 2008

Learning how we choose our Presidents is a key component of citizenship education. In this Special Report on Election 2008, you will find a series of lesson plans designed to complement presidential election coverage for Scholastic News and Junior Scholastic magazines and Scholastic News Online.

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/search?query=election+2008>

Kids Can Vote for President, Too!

Students can cast their vote for President of the United States in the famous Scholastic Presidential Election Poll. Since 1940, the outcome of the Scholastic Election Poll has mirrored the outcome of the general election, with just two exceptions. In 1948, students chose Thomas E. Dewey over Harry S. Truman and in 1960 more students voted for Richard M. Nixon than John F. Kennedy. In 2004, more than half a million students in first through eighth grades participated in the election poll both online and with paper ballots that were issued in the fall editions of their Scholastic classroom magazines.

Encourage your students to cast their vote and determine who will be the next president of the United States. Kids have predicted the winner in 14 out of the last 16 presidential elections. They may get it right again!

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/scholasticnews/indepth/vote2008.htm>

Additional Election Resources

Let the games begin...the election season is upon us and nobody knows that more than Alaskans. This site was promoted on LM_Net this past week, and looks like a treasure trove of sites on the election process. As a bonus the sites are arranged by grade level. http://explore.ecb.org/surf/surf_report?subject=59

Free Classroom Poster of Lincoln

Celebrate the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth this February 2009 with the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission's free classroom poster.

The front side is a portrait of Lincoln. The reverse side contains resources for educators, offering suggestions for incorporating Lincoln's legacy into the classroom.

To request the poster, call 202-707-6998 or visit www.lincolnbicentennial.gov/ and select "Learning About Lincoln." At this site, you can also review key resources, search lesson plans, and find event ideas.

U.S. Mint Offers Education Resources

Now that the U.S. Mint has unveiled Alaska's quarter, teachers might want to look at the mint's H.I.P. Pocket Change web site. It provides activities that use coins as a vehicle to teach social studies, language arts, math, science, and financial literacy.

See: www.usmint.gov/kids.

Alaska's quarter information pages and lesson plans are live at

<http://www.usmint.gov/kids/coinNews/50sq/2008/ak.cfm>.