

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION



BOARD OF EDUCATION

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DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

BUSINESS OFFICE

Budget updates and working on new IRS regulation changes.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

School Improvement Plans are due soon.

SPECIAL EDUCATION & PARENTS AS TEACHERS

Assessing program and creating a training plan for staff.

INSTRUCTION

Work progresses on several topics: materials, testing and student records.

TECHNOLOGY

Site visits to preform network and systems upgrades have been the focus this past month.



the first quarter draws to a successful close...

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Jack Foster, Superintendent



Manokotak teacher, Andrew Brubacher, works with elementary students.

Great Collaboration Meetings are in Progress Across the District

"It is amazing what can happen when colleagues are committed to a task and committed to one another. Working shoulder to shoulder with association builds loyalty, commitment and enthusiasm. In the 1980 Olympics, the U.S. hockey team was ranked 7th in a field of 8 teams. Working together, they won game after game, and gained enormous

confidence with each win. In the semifinal game, it was the U.S. team against Russia, the expected gold medal winner. That game became one of the greatest upsets in the history of sports when the U.S. team won 4-3. There were 20 young men on the U.S. team. As individuals, they were good; as a team, they were the best in the world, going on to defeat Finland 4-2 in the gold medal game." From, *Anatomy of a Leader* by Carl Mays.

Southwest School District has this type of thinking in action for our students. We are building this through our collaboration meetings held each day of the week.

AASB Quality Schools: Community Engagement

Susan Gaffney will be giving a report to the board on what will be happening in our district over the next year.

2007-2008 Adequate Yearly Progress

Does Not Meet AYP

Language Arts AMO: 77.18%

AYP Level 4

Mathematics AMO: 66.09%

School District Southwest Region Schools

"District as a Whole" and Safe Harbor Thresholds: Attendance Rate 85%, Graduation Rate 55.58%

Group	Participation Rate			"Full Academic Year"	Performance on the Language Arts Composite Score (LA=R+W)			Performance on the Mathematics Score			Other Indicator
If a subgroup (not "the Whole District") has 20 or fewer students enrolled (A), then fill in "NA" for the row, 25 or fewer in (D) then fill in "N/A" for cells D-J.	(A) Number Enrolled (On 1st day of week of testing in grades 3-10)	(B) Number Tested (grades 3-10) (with one or more valid scores in R, W, or M)	(C) Participation Rate (95% if # enrolled is > 40 or all but 2 if # enrolled is 40 or fewer)	(D) Number Tested (B) enrolled for "Full Academic Year" (FAY) (Gr. 3-10)	(E) Number of FAY Students Proficient on Language Arts Composite Score (R+W=LA)	(F) Percent Proficient in Language Arts (E / D) X 100 = F	(G) Meet AMO for Language Arts Comp. Score? (+ 99% Conf. int.) (Yes/No)	(H) Number of FAY Students Proficient on the Math Score	(I) Percent Proficient in Math (H / D) X 100 = I	(J) Meet AMO for Math Comp. Score? (+ 99% Conf. int.) (Yes/No)	(K) Meet the Required % for Other Indicator (Yes/No)
District as a Whole	421	418	Yes	403	165	41%	Yes - SH	162	40%	Yes - SH	Yes - AVG
African American	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Alaska Native and American Indian	416	413	Yes	398	160	40%	Yes - SH	157	39%	Yes - SH	
Asian	2	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Caucasian	3	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Hispanic	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Multi-Ethnic	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Economically Disadvantaged	329	327	Yes	318	116	36%	Yes - SH	119	37%	Yes - SH	
Students with Disabilities*	78	78	Yes	76	14	18%	Yes - SH	10	13%	No	
LEP Students*	384	382	Yes	373	146	39%	Yes - SH	147	39%	Yes - SH	

OTHER INDICATOR STATUS

Other Indicator - Graduation Rate: 55%
 Other Indicator - Attendance Rate: N/A

TITLE I STATUS

✓ Title I District

Confidence Interval Formula: $AMO - 2.33 \times \sqrt{\frac{pq}{N}}$

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* LEP and Students with Disabilities Subgroups include former LEP and former SWD students that are being monitored for up to two years.

^Results cannot be published without releasing personally identifiable information.

** District is considered to have missed for consecutive years only when missing overall AND in all three grade spans for one or more of: participation; language arts; mathematics; other indicator.

District Wide AYP

We covered this in the September board meeting, but I thought we would go over the material again for all the members. As you can see that I am very proud of what we have accomplished in the last three years.

Our district meets (AYP) Adequate Yearly Progress requirements in all but one area. That area was in special education math. As a district we did not move up to level 5. If a district did not meet AYP, but did meet a calculation of AYP for any of the grade spans of grades 3-5, 6-8, or 9-12, then the district does not move to the next level of consequences. The district still must meet AYP for two consecutive years, in all grades combined, to be removed from the list of districts facing consequences. As you can see from the table, we can fail in 31 different areas. We only failed in one.

New School – New Teacher Housing

It looks like New Stuyahok will be having a wonderful Christmas for the new school should be done around the Christmas break. The new teacher housing is done and we are waiting on the water and sewer issues to be resolved before the teachers can move into their new housing.



Southwest Region School District Monthly Enrollment Report October 2008

Site	PK3	PK4	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TOTAL
Aleknagik School (10/31/08)	0	0	3	4	3	4	4	7	1	2	5	0	1	0	0	34
Clarks Point School (10/31/08)	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	11
William "Sonny" Nelson School (10/31/08)	0	0	2	3	1	1	0	1	4	7	3	0	0	1	0	23
Koliganek School (10/31/08)	0	0	6	5	2	3	2	2	5	7	4	5	2	3	6	52
Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School (10/31/08)	0	0	8	8	9	9	5	7	13	10	13	19	10	5	6	122
"Chief" Ivan Blunka School (10/31/08)	0	0	12	8	14	14	9	8	17	7	10	12	16	8	12	147
Togiak School (10/31/08)	0	4	19	18	14	20	18	15	19	20	12	30	17	20	9	235
Twin Hills School (10/31/08)	0	1	0	2	4	0	3	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	14
TOTAL	0	5	51	49	48	52	43	43	63	54	47	66	46	37	34	638

Student Count for 2008-2009

This is not the final count but it will give you an idea on where we are at on Oct. 15th. We still have another week for count period. We projected 641. We are behind around 8 students.

Education Summit with Commissioner, Larry LeDoux - Nov. 13-14, 2008

"Building Alaska's Future One Student at a Time," is sponsored by the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development in partnership with the University of Alaska System. The purpose will be to draft a revision, mission, goals to outcomes for education in Alaska.

We need to have a board member attend this with my administrative team.



New Stuyahok parent, Margaret Neketa, during a Parents As Teachers, book-making activity.

Visualization

Visualization is forming vivid pictures in your mind. It is also seeing things happen before they actually do. Through, visualization, your imagination can show you what you want to accomplish. Once these creative thoughts are established, you can then transform them into reality.



**Aleknagik School
makes AYP - 2008-2009**



**Clarks Point School
makes AYP - 2008-2009**



**William 'Sonny' Nelson School
makes AYP - 2008-2009**



**Koliganek School
makes AYP - 2008-2009**



**Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School
makes AYP - 2008-2009**



**'Chief' Ivan Blunka School
makes AYP - 2008-2009**



**Togiak School
makes AYP - 2008-2009**



**Twin Hills School
makes AYP - 2008-2009**



BUSINESS OFFICE

Lee Ann Andrew, Director of Administrative Services

Budget

It is very important that the district does everything in its power to come in below the original budget this year. From a business office perspective, it is very impressive how district staff through out the district is working to minimize the cost of doing business. As the year goes on there will be more need to be creative and think outside the box. I know the staff can do it.

Financial Software

The ALIO software program is being delayed again due to unsatisfactory training. The Alaska representative has finally gone to the software provider to provide us with a knowledgeable trainer in December. The business office sees the benefits of the new program but wants to be well trained before we make the transfer. We have been sharing the costs with Dillingham City Schools, which has enabled us to stay within the original budget even with the delays.

403b

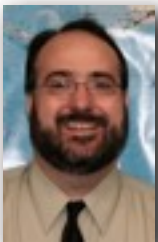
The business office is working closely with Lincoln National to ensure that we are in compliance with the new IRS regulations for our 403(b) retirement contributions.

Business Officials Academy

This year the Association of Business Officials is offering an “academy” for new business officials in December. With the many changing requirements affecting the business office it will be a welcomed opportunity.

Staffing

Genevieve Dyasuk had a baby girl on October 7th and is hoping to return to work in early November but until then it has left the business office short staffed. The rest of the business staff has really stepped up to the plate and have taken on the extra duties. They should be commended, they are really a wonderful staff to work with.



CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

David Piazza, Director of Instructional Programs

Curriculum (Deb Endicott)

The District Writing Assessment process has been restructured to more closely match the procedures that were in place a few years ago. We have cut back the number of assessments this year to once in the Fall so that teachers can see where their student’s writing abilities fall short, and will have enough time to work with the students before the April Standards Based Assessments (SBA) in April. This also provides an

“authentic assessment” as students must complete the task without the aid of a computer, just as they are expected to complete the SBA.

The District participated in a Reader’s Journey Webinar for Jr. High Reading on Monday, October 3th. The provided additional training to teachers for the new Language Arts resources.

The Curriculum Review cycle has been looked at this past month as well. The District needs to return to a more formalized process in

this area. We will be working on making sure that the recently reviewed areas of Language Arts, Mathematics, and Social Studies were designed as complete K-12 programs. We are also in the process of beginning a full review of the district's K-12 Science Curriculum. We have been in contact with Alaska Mineral and Energy, Alaska Pacific University (APU), University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAA) and the Anchorage School District to find resources and tools to strengthen our curricular development and implementation.

On October 18th, several district staff members, have participated at the State Science Consortium meetings. This provides discussion regarding the new Science SBA, in addition to developing curricular and teaching strategies for science in our classrooms.

The Math in a Cultural Context (MCC) workshops were held this past week in Anchorage. The workshops included: Ways to Strengthen the program; Looking at the Obstacles; Finding Ways to Overcome the Obstacles, and Looking Towards a Plan for the Future.

Counseling/Assessments (Steve Ito)

Armed Service personnel successfully trained 5 certified staff in the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery). Tests are securely kept at district office.

The 3rd (final) part of Alternate Assessment Mentor training will take place at the end of this month.

The completion of the Kindergarden Developmental Profile (Brigance Testing) is scheduled for the end of this month.

The High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE) retakes took place October 14, 15, and 16. The results will be back in December.

SWRSD was selected by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (EED) to be included in a test leveling study. Selected

schools will be using both versions of the Idea Proficiency Testing (IPT)

Student Records/PowerSchool Support (Nate Preston)

The end of quarter report card process appears to be going smoothly.

The 20-day count period for Foundation Formula computation will conclude on October 24th. The student OASIS data will be submitted to the State after this date. This data will be used to compute the District's funding amount for the year.

The AIMSwab Benchmark Assessments took place as scheduled. Staff at the sites are able to use the data to help pinpoint students in need of intervention at this early point in the year.

Students will be using the Alaska Computerized Formative Assessment (ACFA) system beginning in October to provide further data as to the student's performance on specific Grade Level Expectations (GLE). This should also help teachers determine the student's progress towards mastery of the GLEs that will be assessed during the SBA testing in April

eRate

Since the last board meeting we have not received any further communication with the Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) team. Our application remains at the "Initial Review" status. This is normal for our application to not be approved until well after the start of the school year.

We have already started the process for next year's E-Rate application as well.

Media Center (Shannon Clouse)

Shannon has been busy cataloging new books for different collections in the Media Center. This month she has cataloged books for studies on volcanoes and drug and alcohol units. Various teachers have requested materials on bats, Alaska regions, heat and energy, high in-

terest/ low reading level books, solids and liquids, drugs and alcohol (specifically tobacco, meth, marijuana, ecstasy, inhalants).

She continues to work on the flow and organization of the Media Center by moving and reorganizing the multitude of materials at the District Office. Deb Endicott has assisted in finding a new home for the old Scholastic reading program. The process of organizing and weeding the old curriculum from the District's electronic catalog program Alexandria has continued. Work on organizing the old Bilingual/Bicultural materials that are stored in the Media Center has

been accomplished as well. Old newspapers and pictures from years and years ago have been "found". Most of the materials are in Yupik and will be stored in the Media Center and circulated as needed.

Teachers are still requesting books for the new English curriculum. Titles such as "The Outsiders", "Speak", "The Crucible", "Monster", "Lord of the Flies", "Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry", and "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" have been requested.

Schools are registering for the K-8 District Spelling Bee that will be held in February 2009. The last day to register was October 15th.



Manokotak high school student in English class.



FEDERAL & STATE PROGRAMS

Jon Clouse, Federal/State Programs Director

State Programs

The boarding home report and budget was submitted to the state on October 15th. The boarding home program does not cost the district any funds because the state reimburses the district the costs of the program.

NCLB/Title Allocations

The district improvement plan is required by the state and describes our plan to improve student achievement. The final draft of the district improvement plan was submitted to the state on October 3rd. The district report card was completed, mailed out to parents, and posted on the website. The district report card disseminates the results of the standards based assessments (grades 3 through 10) in all of the required categories. We are working closely with principals on the school improvement plans that are due to the state on November 3rd. Highly qualified verification for staff is being reviewed and updated for the school year. Migrant education recruiting is coming to a close. Many of the certificates of eligibility are turned in and entered into the state

database. We are still expecting more certificates of eligibility from the sites. Supplemental education services provided by Alaska Learning Labs has begun in all of our eligible schools (Togiak, Manokotak, New Stuyahok, Ekwok, and Twin Hills).

Assessment

The Alaska Computerized Formative Assessment (ACFA) will be given to students in grades three through twelve in all of our schools. The assessment will help staff determine the grade level expectations in reading and math that need to be addressed with students. Principals and teachers collaborate in reviewing the data in order to tailor instruction to the needs of the students.

Grant Applications

The district has submitted an letter of intent to apply for the 21st Century Learning Community Center grant. Audio conferences will be attended to gather more information regarding this grant.



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Lee Webster, Director of Special Education

Program Overview

This month, there are 92 students receiving Special Education services in the areas of LD, MR, MD, TBI, OHI, SLI, and Early Childhood Developmental Delayed (ECDD). The services

are performed by certified teachers and instructional assistants who have received 9 hours of instruction in Special Education. Two of the teachers are not certified but are currently en-

rolled in Special Education courses working toward their certification.

Director's Conference

This past month, I had the opportunity to meet other Special Education directors in the state at the annual conference. It is always valuable to hear how other people are implementing their programs. Again this year, there was a lot of talk about RTI, Response to Instruction/Intervention. This process helps to give a structure to many of the intervention process already in place at SWRSD. I reviewed the process with the principals during their training on Oct. 1st and will be going through the process with Special Education staff on Oct. 20th via a videoconference. Unlike previous years when the entire staff was flown into Dillingham to go over regulations and training, I will be using this technology.

Child Find

Child Find was conducted with the 3-4 years olds. This year is the first time that the public health nurses have withdrawn their help with child find for the schools due to their budget constraints. Jeanie Timmerman from Headstart kindly instructed me in using the audiometer and I, in turn, will show the PAT instructors how to do this as well. It isn't difficult and will allow us to proceed without having to wait for others to do it for us.

Future Focus

Lastly, it's become apparent that there are areas of need in the Special Education program. I will be focusing on developing training for teachers in using diagnostic assessments and writing effective goals/targets for our disabled students.



EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Steve Noonkesser, Technology Coordinator

Web Site Improvements

The newly revised web site is now online and new features are available. The new system should make updating the website easier and updates more timely.

Koliganek Visit

Technology staff visited Koliganek to perform a complete upgrade of operating systems, key programs and server. Students also are now using some new equipment in the classrooms.

Manokotak Visit

Over a two day visit, computers were upgraded and old equipment was taken out of service. Servers were upgraded and all computers received updates to critical software. A special thanks to Larry Bartman, for all of his assistance and the long hours as we worked through the upgrade process.



Aleknagik School

Jeff Ambrosier, Lead Teacher

RIF Distribution

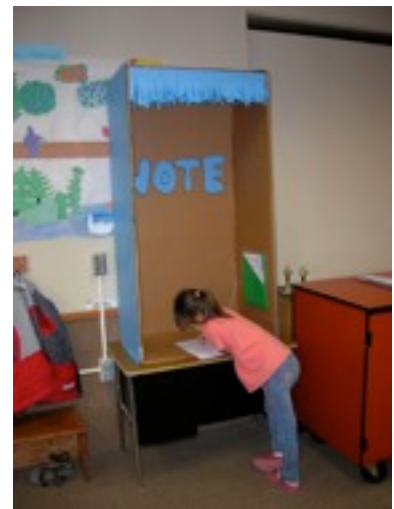
This past week we had our first RIF distribution of the year. Since this year is a big voting year the theme was voting. There were 5 Yupik stories chosen and all 5 were read to each of the 3 classes. Each class talked about voting and what voting is used for. Then the kids voted on their favorite book using a voting booth that Mrs. Bates created. The story about The Fox and the Bull-head was voted on by the students as their favorite story. Students and adults were grouped and they read back and forth to each other in different parts of the school.

In the classrooms...

Understanding operations is currently being taught in Mrs. Bates class. The students draw the number of objects in a problem and then add up the symbols to correspond to the number of items in a problem.

In Mr. Ambrosier's class they are Writing using a Variety of forms. Students are creating their own fables and describing the moral being taught. After the fable is written then students are creating a poster to go along with the fable.

In Mrs Burkes class they are working on a reading strand that is word identification skills. They are doing this by reading a list of words and recognizing prefixes and suffixes and base words to determine the meaning.



William 'Sonny' Nelson School

Stan Dancer, Lead Teacher

As the first quarter draws to a close...

As the first quarter of the school year draws to a close, I can see many gains the students have already made this year. Our first newsletter was published on October 3, 2008. Each family in the village as well as each student will receive a hard copy and the other schools and district office will receive their copies online. The upper grade students have been spending a lot of time learning how to write articles for various venues.

The Friday afternoon clubs were quite successful. The clubs for next quarter have not been finalized as yet, but will include a sports club and a cooking club.

Elementary tutoring is going very well. Those students needing additional assistance with their homework can find it each afternoon in the library. I will be attending training in Anchorage for the Alaska Learning Labs after the Principal's Conference, so that program will be in place as well for those students needing additional help.

With the AIMSweb, AFCA, Alaska Learning Labs, and other resources available to our students, they should show great growth during testing next spring.



Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Herman Gerving, Principal

New Computers!

The district office technology staff came over to Manokotak Nunaniq School on October 7, 2008 to upgrade our whole network. The personnel that came over to upgrade were Steve Noonkesser, Les Parks, and Corey Evans.

We acquired thirty-six new iMacs, of which the majority is for the elementary, and twenty new macbooks to replace older models. We had an image of a computer with all the necessary software to clone onto the computers. With that image, we re-imaged all of the new computers and the existing high school computers. We upgraded the operating systems on all of the student computers from Tiger to Leopard, including the server.



The new Macbooks look and operate in the same manner as the older high school Macbooks. The new iMacs have a 20 inch screen and have a sleek aluminum finish on them. The students seem very happy with the new computers.

Students try to make real difference at conference!

500 Attend: One measure seeks to set up student activities endowment fund.

By RINDI WHITE, rwhite@adn.com 10/14/08

PALMER -- Forget lipstick, hockey moms and the economy. Last week in Palmer, hundreds of high school students from across the state held a different kind of campaign. In the dimly lit Palmer High gymnasium, 15-year-old Maria Dosal, a student at Mount Edgecumbe High School in Sitka, stood at a solitary microphone making a heartfelt plea to be chosen the mouthpiece of a statewide student government group. "I have a great passion for student council," Dosal told the crowd of teenagers.



Pictured above are the students from Manokotak Nunaniq School. Kelli Wallona, Ariel Gloka and Krsytal Alakayak.



‘Chief’ Ivan Blunka School

Gene V. Anderson, Principal

Learning Upgrades

Chief Ivan Blunka School is busy with many new projects and programs to help enhance student learning and making them successful.

We have begun using LearningUpgrades in math and reading. This program tracks the students along and progresses them as they obtain mastery at the various levels of achievement in the two subject areas. This program has been found to be very beneficial toward helping the students progress in their learning and help the students obtain a proficient level in their Standard Based Assessment tests in the spring. We are working very hard to reach our Annual Yearly Progress goals. We also continue to hold tutor-

ing sessions after school in the areas of math, general elementary studies and utilize the SERRC Alaska Learning Labs program to enhance the student's education.

Upward Bound

An additional program we have for high school students is Upward Bound. This is a pre-college program for high school students who are college bound and helps them with grades, career choice, citizenship, life skills, etc. Students meet two hours each week after school hours. This program culminates with a six week program in Fairbanks during the summer months.



Twin Hills School

Rod Lindberg, Lead Teacher

October has been a very busy month so far. We've completed the AIMSWeb testing and are getting ready for the ACFA testing next week. We have 3 separate classes going for Open Court and Saxon Math. The students seem to be in the correct level for successful learning to take place. We began Alaska Learning Lab on October 6th. We are meeting for 90 minutes, four days a week and we have 9 out of our 13 students enrolled. The students seem to really like the program. A local artist from Togiak is coming for 3 days to teach carving. He did this last year and it was a huge success. We are working on grades and have parent teacher con-

ferences set up for October 23rd and 24th. We are planning a Halloween Party for Friday October 31st. We are also planning a RIF distribution for the first part of November. Rod attended the Principal's meeting in Dillingham on October 1st and is going to Anchorage to the Principal's Conference October 18-22. We've put together our 2008-2009 School Improvement Plan. We are also applying for a grant from Hidden Valley Salad Dressing through BBNA to build a greenhouse to grow fresh vegetables. Could be a great project if we receive the grant. The students are enthusiastic and we are excited to have so much going on for them.



Koliganek School

Joel Lovesee, Principal



The school year is progressing very well. Students and teachers are settling into a great journey of academic excellence. In the elementary classrooms, teachers are embracing the new Aims Web testing; they find the benchmarking and progress monitoring components really supplement the established Saxon Math series and the Open Court Reading. The web based tool Learning Upgrade is also being implemented

to assist students who are struggling in reading, comprehension, and math.

Yup'ik class is once again a great success. It is offered to our K-8th grade for thirty minutes a day. Our entire school also completed its third Reading Is Fundamental activity by having a school wide Silent Sustained Reading with their new RIF books.

In the junior high and high school, the after school language arts tutoring is going very well. It along with a weeknight open gym has greatly increased the amount of homework that is now turned in.

The first 9-weeks of school has gone very smooth. We do have our struggles and many obstacles to overcome throughout the year but I have no doubts we will be successful thanks to our exceptional faculty and staff.



Clarks Point School

Doug Bushey, Principal

The end of the quarter is approaching quickly and much has been accomplished. The students are becoming familiar with the day-to-day schedule. Our school recently received the information needed to install "LEARNING UP-GRADE" as an added computer based instruction with Math, Reading, and Comprehension. This program will be utilized along with our before school and after school program known as "Literacy Acceleration."

During this last month all students participated in the AIMS Web assessments to assist with the intervention process. The school will be having the students participate in the State's computer based assessments known as "AFCA" the last week of October. Parent/Teacher conferences were held this last month with one hundred percent participation from all parents.

The student body and staff are preparing to attend the AFN Conference. Several field trips have been planned along with the conference.

Students will visit Seward and attend the Sea Life Center along with visiting the glacier. Other afternoon trips will include the Anchorage Museum, possibly the Planetarium, and a visit to "Happy Trails Kennel" in Big Lake to meet Martin Buser.

The Student Council's orders through Span Alaska came in and are selling items after school to the community.

The student council has had several fund raising activities such as money walks, cake-walks, and Eskimo bingo. The student council began a new activity this month with TGIF Movie Night. The student council has already begun decorating the gym for the Halloween Carnival.



Manokotak 'Nunaniq' elementary students hard at work...