

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION



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DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

BUSINESS OFFICE

Preparing for the spring budget process.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

The focus this month has been on NCLB issues and challenges.

SPECIAL EDUCATION & PARENTS AS TEACHERS

A focus on training for staff.

INSTRUCTION

Writing Assessment, Math in a Cultural Context, eRate and Assessments have been our focus.

TECHNOLOGY

Site network and systems upgrades have been the focus this past month. Major upgrades to New Stuyahok and Togiak are scheduled for this coming month.



the end of a very successful semester draws near...

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE Jack Foster, Superintendent

Great Collaboration Meetings with Site Administrators

“Each individual in an organization must make a choice as to what role he or she will play. The choice is either to actively participate or simply go through the motions from the sidelines. Being a reliable member of an organization means contributing.” *(from Anatomy of a Leader)*

I am very proud of our principals, lead teachers, district office staff, teachers and staff on the reorganization they have done since our first meeting this year, in August. It is important for each person to believe that what he or she provides to the group is valuable. The district office is having as much growth as the principals and staff. Realizing that success increases when everyone works toward a common goal is a powerful incentive for cooperation. Thank

you staff, board of education, families and student for such cooperation.

Visit to Ekwok

The visit was cut short due to weather, but was a wonderful one, nonetheless. I delivered an important message to the students at Ekwok. Santa will be able to make it to their homes on time. I related that Santa had called the other day and told me that, “just because the weather is colder than previous years, he will still be able to make it on time.” Some of the older students looked at me kind of funny and smiled when I delivered the message, but I



Lead teacher, Stan Dancer, working with Ekwok students.

Koliganek student at work.

know they still believe in Santa and have a positive outlook for the future. It was great seeing Stan, Susan, Melissa, staff and the students. I was able to catch a free ride with the maintenance crew. This helps in the budget.

QS2

Sites are completing their QS2 Community Engagement proposals for this year. Togiak's proposal is ready and other sites are finalizing theirs. Togiak School's plan includes involving more students, parents, and community members in school wide activities after school and on weekends, club activities, spelling bee, Battle of the Books, Carnival, Parent Nights, Literacy Nights, Tutoring Services, and other activities.

Education Summit

The summit was excellent and it looks like there may be a strong chance for preschool education, vocational, technology education funding in the coming years. Our new commissioner of education is strongly behind these efforts.



BUSINESS OFFICE

Lee Ann Andrew, Director of Administrative Services

Staffing

We are working cooperatively with BBEDC with hiring a temporary employee to help with accounts payable and miscellaneous jobs. Danielle Maples began work on December 1 and will continue through January 30. Genny has come back part time and will re-evaluate her work schedule at the end of January. We are hoping to be fully staffed in February it has been very hard on the staff doing more than their job.

Budget Process

The budget process will begin in January by gathering each departments needs and get a preliminary look at what we will be able to fund for FY10. We don't have revenue numbers yet

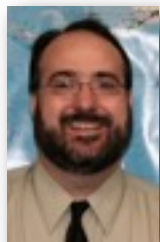
but we can get preliminary expense numbers that can be adjusted when more is know.

Foundation Funding

We received final notice of our foundation for FY09 and it is \$68062 less than what is reflected in the budget. It is very important that all departments stay within their designated budget and if possible be under.

Spending

We have been very impressed with all staff doing their part to keep their expenses down. They may not like it but they are doing it. Thanks to everyone for their conscientious efforts.



CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

David Piazza, Director of Instructional Programs

Curriculum (Deb Endicott)

We were able to conduct a district wide writing assessment where a team of 9 teachers came into Dillingham and scored student written samples using the 6-Trait Writing System. The same system that is used to score the SBT and exit exams. Dave Piazza created a database that took four years of data and integrated it into a report showing each student's scores for the past four years. We then took this year's scoring results and added them to the report. Each student received their sample back with their current scores as well. Each teacher will be able to take those 4-year trend reports and design the instruction to the needs of the students.

Math in a Cultural Context (MCC/Yupik Math) art supplies and resource for teachers have been purchased and packaged into kits for easy distribution, organization, and use. These kits have been sent to those teachers who are using the supplemental math curriculum to support their teaching. The district utilized resources from the UF grant to purchase the materials needed for the Primary level modules.

Counseling/Assessments (Steve Ito)

The annual EED mandated Idea Proficiency Testing (IPT) coordinator training updates for spring Limited English Proficiency testing cycle were completed. The scores for the Fall HSGQE tests taken in October should be available on December 12th for review. We are in the process of identifying and training additional certified SPED staff to be Alternate Assessment Protégés for 2009 spring testing of severely cognitively disabled students. The Spring HSGQE & SBA

district-wide testing enrollments have been submitted to EED. The scheduling of travel and registrations for 6 staff members chosen by site administrators to attend the 36th annual Bilingual Multicultural Education and Equity Conference in Anchorage January 28th – 30th is in being completed.

Student Records/PowerSchool Support (Nate Preston)

It appears that the OASIS and Foundation Count reports that the District submitted in November were processed by the State with no major changes. At last report, the funding levels for the district are based on the 633.5 students reported. While 4 students were also reported by other school district's, the students in question who were in our district during count period and have remained on our lists for funding.

eRate

Since the last written board report, we were contacted by the Program Assurance Integrity (PIA) team for additional information regarding the district's selection process used this past year. This is a normal request from PIA as they follow their checklist for approving our current year application. While this is very late in the year for approval of our application, we believe the process is still on track for funding.

We have received most of the reimbursements for last year's telephone bills that were paid in full. While we pay reduced bills for Internet and Distance Learning services, this is a normal process to receive our reimbursements.

Togiak High students doing a soap experiment with science teacher, Tara Balice.



Fannie Parker and Summer Burke, members of the Writing Assessment scoring team at work - the team did a fantastic job of accurately and fairly assessing writing submissions.

for local and long distance phone services the following year.

The process for next years application is already underway as well. The application window has opened and closes in mid-February. We don't anticipate the processes will include any major changes this year.

Media Center (Shannon Clouse)

The Media Center has had a busy month. There have been requests from teachers for books, videos and DVD's about Atoms, Transportation, Genetics, Substance Abuse (drugs and alcohol), Electricity, Energy (kinetic), Simple Machines, Magnets, the Human Body, for the Yu'pik Dance kit, the Sug'aq (cloth doll) kit, books to teach Power Point, Excel, Word and the Internet and also for Solids, Liquids and Gasses. There have also been professional development books and teacher directed videos checked out to help facilitate Literatures Circles in the Junior High classroom.

Our English teacher in Koliganek contacted the Media Center about a Shakespeare unit that will be taught in the classroom after Christmas break. Oedipus the King, the Merchant of Venice, and Richard III were ordered and will be added to our Shakespeare collection. Other titles such as Cyrano De Bergerac, Edward Albee's The Zoo were also ordered to be added to

our collection.

The Media Specialist also had a lengthy discussion with one of the Alaska State Mentors about the services and materials that the Media Center provides, and now the other teacher mentors are going to encourage the teachers they work with in SWRS to utilize the Media Center when they are in need of materials for their students and classrooms.

RIF

All sites except one have completed their third RIF distribution. Our program proposal is due on the 17th of December, and will be completed as soon as our last site has their distribution. Our site coordinators will begin to order new books for the next contract year in January 2009.

Battle of the Books

Our first Battle of the Book "Practice" battle will be held on December 9th. There will be teams from Togiak, Clarks Point, Manokotak and New Stuyahok participating in the 3/4, 5/6, 7/8 and High School levels. The practice battles that we hold via our Distance Delivery equipment get our teams excited about reading the books chosen for Battle of the Books, get them familiar with the video conferencing equipment and also get our teams ready for the district battles that are held in February.



FEDERAL & STATE PROGRAMS

Jon Clouse, Federal/State Programs Director

Several of our schools have been chosen to participate in the National Indian Education Study. The National Assessment of Education Progress and a follow-up survey is administered to 4th and 8th grade students in the selected schools in February of 2009. The district is working closely with principals to get 100% of the required parent permission forms for the survey returned. For more information see the Spotlight section below.

No Child Left Behind

Schools receiving Title I funds are required to either create or review and update a parent involvement policy. The staff, parents, and site principals are in the process of reviewing the current parent involvement policies of their particular

school. Changes are made to the parent involvement policy based upon the feedback from the stakeholders at each school. The parent involvement policy is a guide to increase positive interaction and involvement between the school and parents.

The 2008-2009 consolidated No Child Left Behind (NCLB) application has been revised based upon the suggestions from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. Changes to the NCLB application consist of clarifications and adding information about the activities funded by the title grants. The application has been approved by the state and approved budgets for the title grants will sent from the state soon.

Spotlight: National Indian Education Study (NIES)

The National Indian Education Study (NIES) is a national research project designed to help policymakers and educators make decisions regarding the educational experiences of American Indian and Alaska Native students. The first part the study is the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP), which assesses the reading and mathematics skills of students. The second part of the study is a survey that asks about the use of native languages and cultural views in the curriculum as well as the interactions between the school and native communities. The NIES is given to 4th and 8th grade students from selected schools around the nation. Several of our schools have been selected including:

- Chief Ivan Blunka School - 4th & 8th grade
- Clarks Point School - 4th grade
- Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School - 4th & 8th grade
- Togiak School - 4th grade
- Twin Hills School - 4th grade
- William Sonny Nelson School - 8th grade

The results from the NIES have been used to develop a professional development series for educators called Digital Teacher Workshops. The training takes instructional leaders and teachers through a series of workshops in the areas of general math, geometry, literature, and language in an effort to become highly effective teachers of American Indian and Alaska Native students. To view the workshops use the following URL:

<http://www.t2tweb.us/NativeAmerican/Home.asp>

For more information about the National Indian Education Study access the following web sites:

- NIES Information website: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nies>
- NAEP question tool: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrls>

Steve Ito and Nate Preston reviewed the limited English proficient (LEP) assessment scores from the 2007-2008 school year earlier this year. As a result of the review, it was determined that there were 40 students that achieved the required "overall proficient" level to be exited from LEP status. Exit letters were sent to the parent/guardians of those students that have been exited.

21st Century Grant Proposal

The application for the 21st Century Community Learning Center was submitted on December 5th. The early childhood education program is the focus of the grant. The intention is to acquire the funding necessary to run the early childhood education program effectively so that parents and children receive the maximum benefit.



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Lee Webster, Director of Special Education

Service Providers Visit

November flew by, although some of the planes didn't! We had four of our related service providers in Dillingham ready to fly to sites this month. Our PT was weathered out for 3 days! Our speech pathologist, Alissa Thurman, lost 3 days of on-site services because of weather. To deal with this problem we will be building a VTC (video teleconference) schedule starting in January as a back up for these situations. This

constrains our therapists from doing hands-on therapy, but it is better than their losing the contact time with students. At sites where the video equipment is in classrooms, this will present a problem, but we will continue to work out the details.

Response To Instruction

Reading and testing materials have been arriving in the district office to update the teaching materials have available for instruction. As the

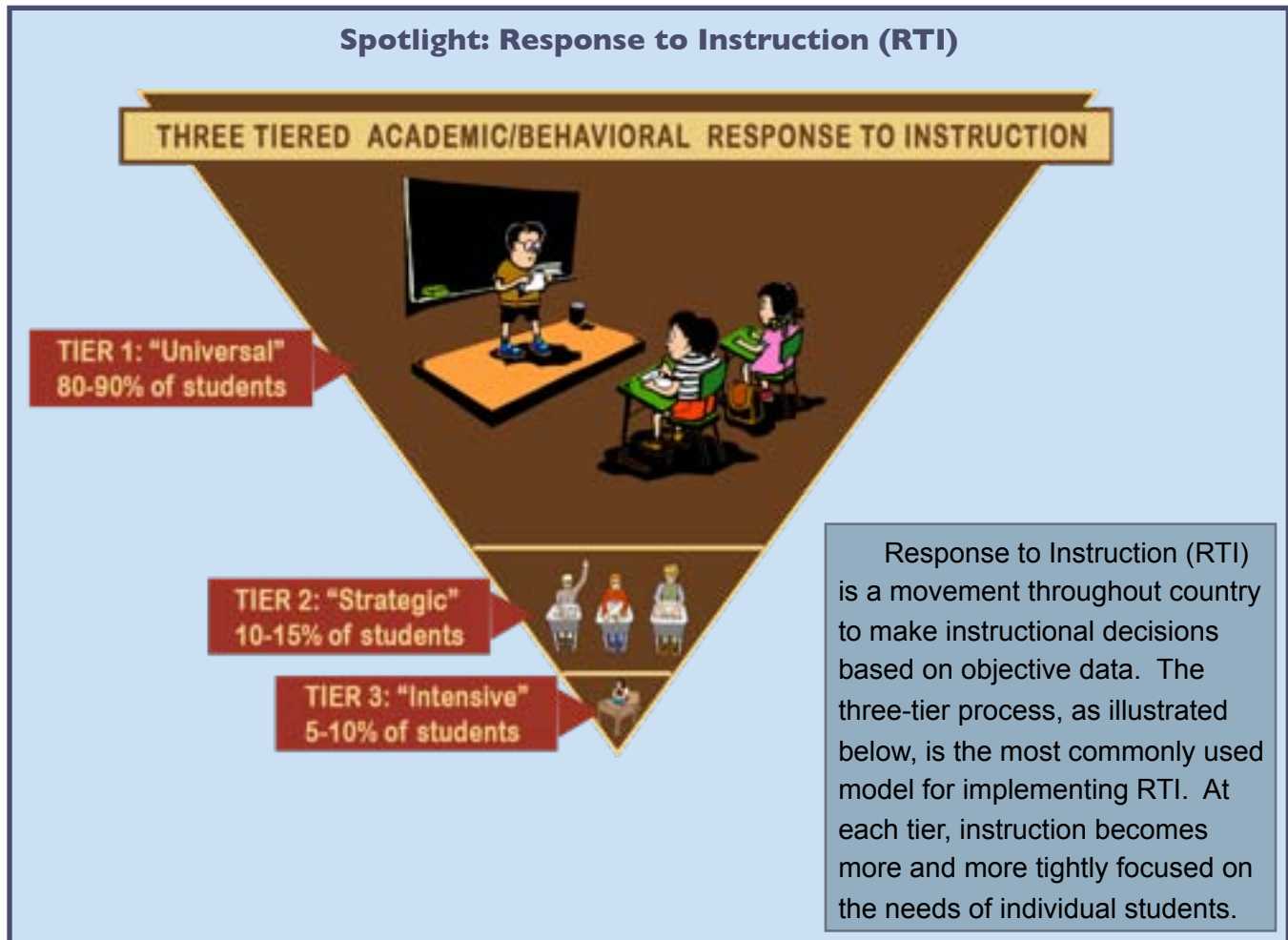
Spotlight: Child Find (ages 3-5)

Each year, Special education is responsible for identifying pre-schoolers who may be experiencing developmental delays. This year, as in previous years, the PAT teachers have been conducting these screenings for students not already in the Head Start program, using the Brigance Developmental Screening. The areas assessed are:

- Language – relevant for learning to read
- Number concepts – relevant for learning arithmetic
- Social/Emotional – relevant to school success
- Fine Motor – related to learning to writing
- Gross Motor – related to overall coordination

Children identified as developmentally delayed are referred to specialists for additional testing to determine if the child has a disability that is interfering with their age-appropriate development. Often, these children haven't been exposed to enriching language or concepts but simply need to have the opportunity to learn them. In years past, the PAT program has given the parents of these children insight into home activities they can do to help their child.

Spotlight: Response to Instruction (RTI)



district moves forward toward an Rtl approach to instruction, it's clear that our special education teachers will be doing more of the Tier-III interventions. In assessing the district resources, it appeared that the diagnostic piece of the Tier-III intervention was missing. In the New Year, special education teachers will be training on these new assessments.

SESA

SESA (Special Education Services Agency) reinstated services for our students with multiple disabilities this month. Rob LeFevre has worked throughout Alaska helping districts to develop programs for students who have very unique needs in rural areas. SESA is located in Anchorage and has video capability. Rob will be scheduling VTC at the sites where he has students.

Distance Delivery Training

We have been using the distance delivery capability of this district to reach teachers new to teaching and special education in October. It has been a valuable resource during a time when budget constraints inhibit travel. By logging into the website for our special education documents, I am able to demonstrate in real-time some of the more subtle legal requirements of the IEP. We've also used the distance delivery to allow me to actually conduct an IEP meeting for inexperienced teachers assigned to special education case loads. During such meetings, an informal confidentiality agreement is signed to assure that others are not in the room or within earshot of the meeting.



EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Steve Noonkesser, Technology Coordinator

Outstanding Technology Integration: (Patricia Wick)

from the nomination letter "Patricia Wick of Togiak School has continually striven for the highest levels of student engagement. Over the years she has done her best to stay on top of



classroom technology and teaching methods for its integration. This year, she successfully integrated a wall mounted, projector & SmartBoard combination system in her classroom. This system allows for smooth transitions from teacher directed to student led lessons such as interactive learning games. In addition to the SmartBoard system, she has also acquired an Airliner wireless writing tablet, which allows for total freedom about the classroom while writing electronically on the SmartBoard. To further encourage student interaction, Patricia has obtained a class set of Senteo clickers, which allows for spontaneous formative assessments. In combination with her growing skills at lesson creation via Smart products (and accessories), she is quickly become an educational technology whiz.

Computer Assisted Instruction (Corey Evans)

Most of the students completed the Alaska Computerized Formative Assessment (ACFA) system in October to provide further data as to the student's performance on specific Grade Level Expectations (GLE). We provided training and discussion during our last administrative meeting. We held three distance delivered training sessions to assist teachers in administering the assessments and utilize the data afterwards to refine instruction.

Site Technology Support

Many hours of troubleshooting and support have been provided to the sites via remote access and a site visit was made to Twin Hills to completely upgrade and re-wire their network.





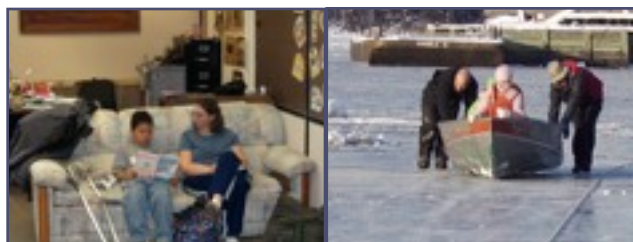
Aleknagik School

Jeff Ambrosier, Lead Teacher

A Commitment to Excellence

Christmas is right around the corner, but students and staff are still committed to excellence at the Aleknagik North Shore Elementary School. In the 6-8 grade class, the students are working on the writing strand - Writing Using a Variety of Forms. The students are going to integrate a writing piece along with technology to produce an I-movie for the Christmas program. Topics include; What Christmas means to me, What I Enjoy Over Christmas break, and it wouldn't be complete without a (short) wish list for Christmas. In Mrs. Simms' class, the 5th grade reading is using informational texts and stories to practice finding the main ideas and details that support those main ideas. In Social Studies, Ms. Bates has her students working with the different states and placing them together like a puzzle, with each student having one of their own. Ms. Bates' (a lifelong Texan) also assures me that her students know that Alaska is larger than Texas, California and Wyoming combined. In Mrs. Burke's

class, they are working on making simple inferences through reading a story and filling in information the author doesn't give. In math, they are using models to help understand area.



Our last RIF distribution for 2008 will take place on Friday December 5th. The theme is going to be "Sports and being Active" Students and staff are encouraged to dress up in either an old sports uniform (from past glory days) or a favorite team uniform. The lake played hardball with getting our kids to school for 4 school days. Freezing backwards was term used to describe how the lake is freezing this year. However, with the latest cold snap we should be good to go until break up.



William 'Sonny' Nelson School

Stan Dancer, Lead Teacher

School is Progressing Well!

We had our community Thanksgiving feast on November 23. There were over 50 people in attendance. Everyone had a good time.

Our students of the month for October were: Elementary- William Hurley; Middle School- Earlene Nelson; Principal's Choice- David Williams; All School Choice- David Walcott. Congratulations to all these fine students. The all school choice is drawn from all those students caught being good during the month. Anyone who sees a student doing something good can nominate them by writing their name on a ballot and dropping it in the box.



The students have been working diligently researching various countries and how they celebrate Christmas. The culmination of their research will be our Christmas program on December 18. The plan is to have a slideshow depicting five countries and how they celebrate Christmas. The students will be scheduled to recite a poem or sing a song from that country. The program will be followed by a potluck and perhaps a visit from a jolly old elf.

Currently, we have two openings for staff members here at the school. One is a classroom aide and the other is for the school food service worker. Both positions should be filled by the time you read this.

Our fundraising is going quite nicely. The funds raised will supplement the student activity funds provided by the district for basketball and the annual 8th grade trip. Our 8th graders are still trying to decide where to go for their trip. They are considering Hawaii and California as possible options.

Ekvok students with teacher, Melissa Moede.



Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Herman Gerving, Principal

Staff and Students at Manokotak Nunaniq School have been incredibly active this second quarter of this academic year. We have information to share with the Regional School Board regarding what's been happening at our school the last couple of months.

Student Council

Our Student Council participated in a national mock election to coincide with this year's presidential election. Over one hundred students participated in our school election. Additionally, five high school students served as Youth Vote Ambassadors, helping set up and actually working at the polling place on election day.

We were fortunate for the opportunity to send Kelli Wallona, Nunaniq Student Council Vice-President, to represent SWRSD at the Alaska Association of School Board's Student Leadership Conference.

We hosted a potluck and program in honor of Veteran's Day, which was once again well-attended by community members. Student Council members helped host, serve, and clean up for that special event.

Cultural Program

Our cultural arts program has been very busy and productive. Students are actively selling their hand-crafted projects, and donated items for the silent auction at the Principal's Conference. Anecia Lomack and Henry Alakayak presented at the AFN Youth and Elders Conference, and Anecia was elected as the BBNC's Elder Representative for next year's Conference. Additionally, Anecia will represent Alaska's Elder Mentor Program at a national conference in San Francisco in June.

Responsible Thinking Program

The Responsible Thinking Program is well into its third year of implementation. We have a Core Team Committee on standby to address issues as they arise. Building and classroom decorum continues to be notably positive, and trends are becoming apparent in reviewing the monthly data. This information is assisting with identifying and addressing contributing factors of our at-risk students.

Addressing Our Challenges

To address the numerous academic challenges that we face, we have responded in a variety of positive ways: We offer study hall and tutoring services to students four days each week, with an activity bus run for transportation afterward. We have established a committee to consider alternatives for students who are not succeeding with the traditional program. Additionally, we have a committee carefully reviewing promotion, advancement, and retention of students who are not performing at grade level. We are formulating a plan to intensify Language Arts instruction to the upper elementary students in the months leading into state testing.

Our student council was called into action by the principal at a special meeting to address arising issues of student motivation and falling grades. We will implement the Raising Student Voices and Participation process that several council members have been trained in to supplement the efforts of the staff, and to increase the likelihood of the effectiveness of our efforts.

We continue to work very diligently on our school-wide goals of approving achievement. Thank you for this opportunity to recognize the efforts of our staff and students toward achieving those goals.



Twin Hills School

Rod Lindberg, Lead Teacher

November was a busy as usual month. We did our District Writing Assessments for all students and the ACFA testing for 3rd – 8th graders.

We started Open Gym Night for kids mid month with a donation from the Village Council and hired Thomas Demoski to supervise it twice a week. The Diabetes Association has picked up the funding for this beginning in December.

The K-3 class is making good progress in Saxon Math and writing with Open Court. The kids get very excited as they sound out new words and make connections that they couldn't do a month ago. Several Thanksgiving craft projects were a big hit with kids and parents. The older kids are bringing their math scores up significantly. They have completed building 3 six-foot hot air balloons for science. They'll be launching them in December.

The older students completed their paper maché globes and they turned out great. They hung them from their classroom ceiling and are a nice addition to the room.

We had Helen Gregorio visit from Togiak and she met with both classrooms to help them understand the downside of smoking. She also gave some dental information. She was very effective and the students responded well to her message.

The Alaska Learning Lab is meeting 4 days a week after school. We can see marked improvement since they began meeting on October 6th. The students really enjoy this time and we think it will make a huge difference in the SBA test scores.

Plans for our Christmas program, scheduled for December 17th, are underway and cookie baking and decorating are in the plan.





Koliganek School

Joel Lovesee, Principal

Winter activities are in full swing.

Thanksgiving once again has come and gone and we realize how fast the year is moving and how much we have to be thankful for. We had an inter-school volleyball scrimmage between our junior high and high school girls. Much of the community came out to support them at the pep assembly and the match. In boys' athletics, five high school wrestlers have qualified for regional wrestling in Dillingham on December 5th.

Our school has wrapped up another successful book fair that was held from November 17th to the 26th.

The "Nitaput" Child Advocacy Center coordinated a children's fair that was held November 21st. A majority of the children in our village attended, it was a great success. Some of the activities were face painting, a paper doll project, a tree building project, play mat with cars, book area, baby area and snacks.



In the spirit of Thanksgiving, our first graders got to enjoy a thanksgiving stew dressed as Pilgrims and Native Americans.



Clarks Point School

Doug Bushey, Principal

A successful semester draws to a close.

This last month the teachers reviewed the Alaska State Standards in conjunction with the Alaska Grade Level Expectations. Classroom curriculum was reviewed compared with the GLE's and methods of instruction for teacher adjustments.

The student body and staff worked hard on a Saturday in a -10° F weather to sponsor the annual "Turkey Shoot." Students and staff helped to provide a wonderful breakfast, lunch and ending with Bingo. The following Wednesday the school hosted a Thanksgiving lunch/dinner. The students decorated the tables with individually named place-mats and other decorations. The forty-plus people who attended provided dessert.

This month the student body will sponsor a cakewalk, Bingo Prize night, Christmas program and will end the semester hosting a community breakfast cooked by Mr. Bushey.