

REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



**“Qigcikliki-Ilu
ciulirneret
qanruytait**

**Respect your Elders’
wisdom and
knowledge.”**

--Bristol Bay Yup’ik Values

Board of Education

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Superintendent’s Office **David J. Piazza, Superintendent**

Staffing

With each new January, the District begins the planning and preparation for our next school year. This includes the recruitment of new staff for the coming year. The District has sent out Intent forms to all certificated staff and they should be returned by the date of the board meeting. While the intent forms are non-binding, they help to provide feedback for staff desires for transfer and potential recruiting needs. Several staff members have already indicated that they are leaving at the end of the current school year. Job Fairs in Anchorage, Tacoma, Seattle, and Minneapolis have been scheduled during March and April. We will most likely also attend others this Spring to meet the District’s recruiting needs. The Anchorage job fair will again lead off the main recruiting season on March 18th.

The District welcomes two new staff members for the second Semester. Shannon Jones arrived from Tennessee during the middle of the Christmas break to get an early start on the new year and acquainted with the community and school. Shannon will be teaching Kindergarten students at the Togiak School. Willis Ferenbaugh will work at the Koliganek School as the Mathematics and Science teacher. Willis taught in Little Diomedea for a six years and joins the District from his recent adventures based out of New Mexico.

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Impact Aid

This year's Impact Aid application appears to be on track for completion well before the due date in early February. Impact Aid continues to be a revenue source from the Federal Government paid directly to the District for children who live on federally impact lands meaning that local taxes cannot be imposed for those parcels. This includes lands that fall under ANCSA and other Restricted Indian lands. Some HUD homes also qualify for a reduced payment. As in previous years, the State of Alaska may use a significant portion of the funds to offset the State's Basic Need funding allocation to the District. This is considered to be the District's local contribution similar to what other municipal are required to pay.

The recent decision from the State Supreme Court concluding that the Required Local Contribution is not unconstitutional and may remain in effect for school funding. The use of Impact Aid funds in the State's school funding formula will most likely remain in effect.

The work spent last year reformatting the forms and double-checking the eligibility of each property kept the time spent this year to a minimum. A few properties had to be verified due new tenants or due to property subdivision this past year.





Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Associate Superintendent

PROGRAM SUPPORT & TRAVEL

December was a busy month with our mid-winter assessments, including MAP, Academic Vocabulary and semester common course finals. We will be looking at the data from those assessments this month and considering necessary adjustments to instruction based on the results. As we headed into Christmas break, the team here at the office also began the process of looking ahead to next school year and program planning. We continue to look at the possibility of expanding our programs to include high school program options at our smallest sites. As always, we continue to seek ways to provide common, quality educational opportunities to all SWRS students regardless of school size or grade level.

In January, we will be holding our spring district-wide inservice days and ensuring that we get a good start to second semester. We will also be looking at budgets and staffing for next school year. With the budget forecasts from Juneau, we will be working to ensure that our programs are flexible and responsive enough to continue to meet the needs of our students regardless of the outcome of the legislative process this spring. Finding ways to most effectively use the funds we are allocated will also be a focus as we move into planning for the coming year.

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TEAM



Les Parks
Technology Coordinator



Dianna Schollmeier
Elem. Ed. Specialist



Corey Evans
Technology Specialist



Charles Becker
Sec. Ed. Specialist

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

First Million Word Reader

Since September, the district has had an ongoing contest that challenges students to try and read one million words over the course of the year. Students demonstrate that they have read the words by taking a quiz on Accelerated Reader that covers the material in the book. If they pass the quiz, the student receives credit for the total number of words in that book. A typical novel contains approximately 40,000 words, therefore a student would have to read about 25 books to attain the million word mark.



The Togiak wood shop program is using the Fab-Lab they have on site to create wooden plaques for each of the sites where students names will be displayed permanently.

Our first student has reached this benchmark; Katrena Finkenbinder of Aleknagik. We hope to see others meeting this challenge soon!

Instructional Team Notes

Collaborative Planning

- High school teachers in math, science, social studies, and language arts worked collaboratively to successfully improve upon the previously developed course finals for their respective courses. With new staff have come new inspirations and perspectives for reaching students in ways that cater and align more toward their unique backgrounds and interests, and insuring that students continue to have opportunities to incorporate leading edge technology while gaining proficiency in their academics.

Reading Mastery/Corrective Reading

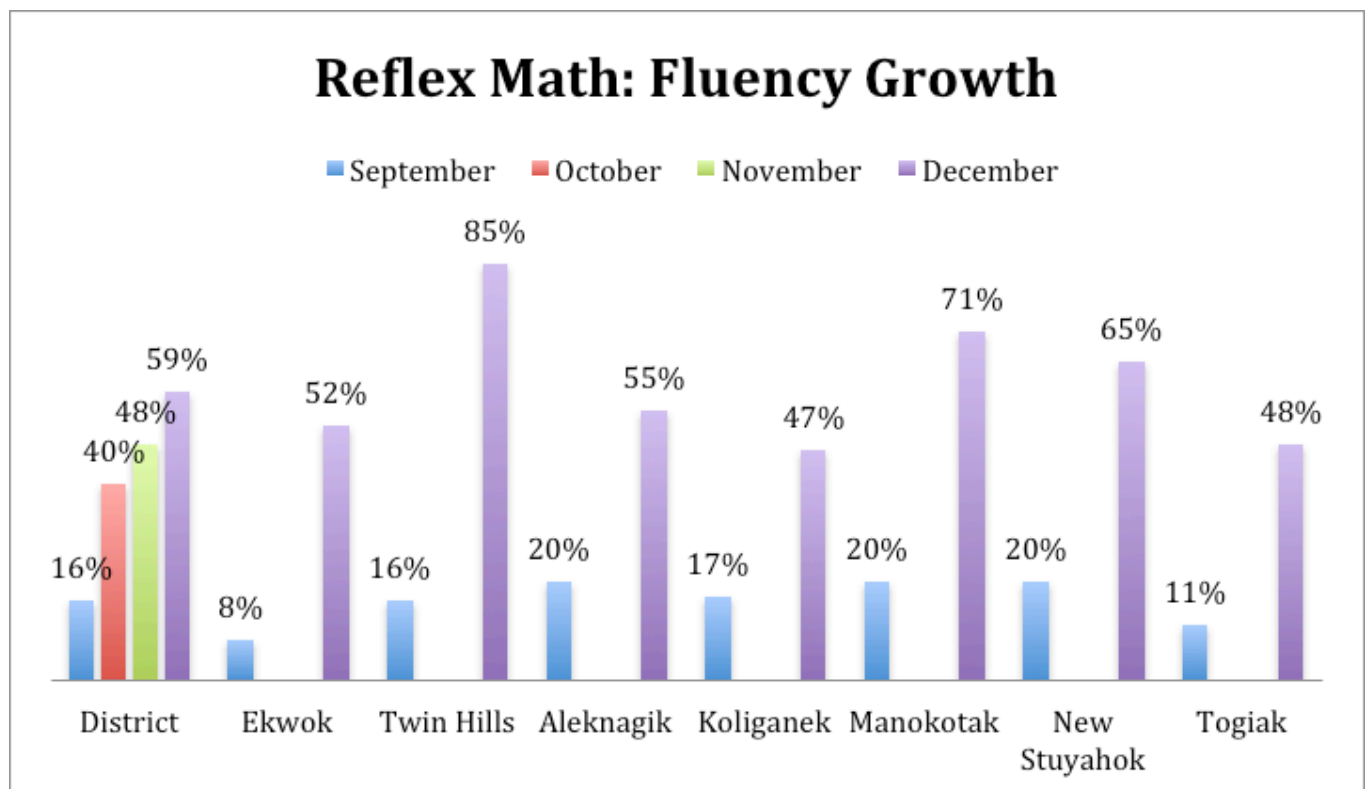
- At the end of November the Corrective Reading trainer returned to the district and held an inservice for 14 teachers from across the district. Attendees were comprised of both certified and paraprofessional staff, and the training was well received by all. As of today, four sites (Koliganek, Aleknagik, Manokotak, and Togiak) have made adjustments to their schedules and implemented at least one aspect of the program.
- The first week of December the trainer spent December 2nd, 3rd, and 4th in Togiak working on Reading Mastery, specifically helping teachers to adjust group sizes and ensure that students are appropriately placed. The trainer also assisted instructors, both certified as well as paraprofessionals, in keeping accurate records of student achievement and using the outcomes from the program assessments to respond with the proper interventions for students who are not making regular progress.

Academic Vocabulary

- Across the district, the second testing window for academic vocabulary has come to a close. Teachers continue to focus on specifically teaching academic vocabulary within their classroom; building our students ability to read and understand tier two and three words, thus, increasing their ability to successfully read academic text. In grades 5-12, vocabulary.com is being used as a resource to help teachers identify tier two words within their units of study and allow students to practice the SWRSD district wide vocabulary word lists.

Reflex Math

- Our student's math fact fluency continues to grow across our district. We currently have 355 active students in the program, and 50% of those students are using it for at least 20 minutes each time they log in. Many of our students, have reached 100% fluency and have restarted in a different unit. There are three units within the program: adding and subtracting facts 0-10, multiplying and dividing facts 0-10, and multiplying and dividing facts 0-12. These fact fluency families should be met by 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade respectively. As the program and student fluency continues to grow, our district should continue to move closer to meeting these grade level expectations.



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Technology Team Notes

The technology team has been busy engaged in many activities including:

Ongoing Support

- The technology department has provided support to district users in a wide variety of areas this month with video conferencing, staff email, and student email being some of the most frequent support requests.

iPad Project

- Since coming back from break the biggest project has been working in the JSS server. This is the server that mages our iPads. Due to an issue we had in October all district iPads needed to be re-enrolled in the JSS, which involves completely erasing them and reinstalling applications. This unfortunately clears the district-applied profiles in the server as well which have to be added back manually once the re-enroll is complete.

MAP Assessment

- In December the winter window for MAP was completed successfully. Data from the fall and winter windows will be analyzed in the coming weeks as part of our yearly evaluation of program.

eRate

- eRate Funding Year 2016
 - Form 470 for Category 1 filed and certified; 1 vendor contacts, 1 proposal expected...
 - Form 470 for Category 2 filed and certified; 10 vendor contacts, 3 proposals expected...
 - Form 498 filed and certifie

DRC Insight

- Test Management Server setup and tested
- DRC INSIGHT client application installer prepared and posted for each site

CIPA Lessons

- Quarter 2 lesson delivery completed all sites
- Quarter 3 lesson planning documents sent to all sites

AMP/KITE

- New LCS server software installed and tested for each site
- KITE Client application installer and configuration scripts prepared for each site



State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

Title I-A AK STEPP

Schoolwide/School Improvement Plans

Every month, there is a focus on several of the 18 indicators that in the AK STEPP plans. These indicators are research based and linked to improvement of academic performance. For the month of December the indicators of focus were 3.03 and 3.04. For the month of January the focus elements are 4.03 and 4.05. Additional information about these indicators is provided below:

Implementation of district-adopted curriculum

3.03 – Staff use of research-based instructional practices, programs, and materials.

3.04 – Staff regularly measure the effectiveness of instruction using data from formative assessments.

4.03 – Staff communicate school-wide behavior expectations that provide positive behavioral supports.

4.05 – Staff provide extended learning opportunities, and students in need regularly participate.

Site Visits

I spent time in Koliganek on November 12th and 13th to check out the new school and work with staff on highly qualified documents. During this time, I had the chance to work with students in classrooms, observe instruction, interact with staff, talk with parents about the migrant education program. I also traveled to King Salmon to observe

our students as they participated in the Bristol Bay Regional CTE program on November 20th. The highlight was talking with our students and students from LPSD and BBBSD about their experiences and how those experiences shape what they intend to pursue after high school.



**Student Information &
Support Specialist: Kyle
Schneider**

Alaska Military Youth Academy

Twice a year the district is required to submit a list of students who have dropped out and their contact information to the Alaska Military Youth Academy unless their parents have opted out. Late in December, Kyle submitted this information.

Evaluation System Work

This year the state is requiring districts to pilot the use of student growth data in evaluations. Over the summer, Kyle wrote a customization for PowerSchool that allows that data to be tracked for PowerSchool so that teachers and principals can quickly access the data and determine which students made growth. During the last week of December, Kyle loaded the winter Academic Vocabulary and MAP testing results into PowerSchool. This data is now available for teachers and principals to review and use in the teacher evaluation process.

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Title IC: Migrant Ed. Administration

The term “migratory child” for Alaska means a child under the age of 20 (22 with an active IEP) who has moved due to an economic necessity on their own, with, or to join a parent/guardian or spouse across school district boundaries (or more than 20 miles in a school district of more than 15,000 square miles) within the last 36 months to obtain or seek work that is seasonal or temporary in a fishing, logging or agricultural activity.

Eligibility Requirements – A child is eligible for the Alaska Migrant Education Program if all of the following conditions are met:

- (W) the qualifying work obtained or sought is in fishing, logging or agriculture, and is seasonal or temporary
- (E) the move was due to an economic necessity
- (C) the child has not graduated from high school* (school completion)
- (A) the child is not older than 20 years of age, or not older than 22 years of age with an active IEP on file
- (M) the child moved across school district boundaries** on own, with or to join a parent/guardian or spouse within the last 36 months
- (P) the purpose of the move was to seek or obtain qualifying work

*A child who has a Certificate of Achievement or GED, but not a high school diploma, is eligible for a free public education. A child who is eligible for special education (active IEP on file) is entitled to a free public education until the age of 22.

**In all school districts that have an area less than 15,000 square miles, the migrant child and the qualifying worker must cross school district boundaries for fishing and/or agricultural activities. In school districts that have an area more than 15,000 square miles, the migrant child and the qualifying worker must cross school district boundaries or the migrant child and the qualifying worker must have traveled 20 miles or more for fishing work only. This exception does not apply to logging or agriculture; logging or agriculture work always requires crossing of district boundaries.

SWRS is a district with an area larger than 15,000 so our children have to travel 20 miles or more, one way, or cross school district boundaries for fishing work.

Migrant Education

After the close of the Migrant Education recruiting window in November, letters were sent out to parents who had not yet been notified to inform them that their children had been approved by the state’s Migrant Education Office. These letters included details about the services that would be provided to their children. There are currently 237 students eligible for the Migrant Ed program.

Impact Aid

Kyle worked with secretaries and principals to gather Impact Aid data for the October 23, 2015 count date for this year’s Impact Aid submission. He is currently working with BBNA to complete the required documentation the business office needs to submit the district’s application.

Powerschool

Kyle attended three days of PowerSchool training in Anchorage in mid-November. He was joined by representatives from Kodiak Island Borough School District, Northwest Arctic Borough School District, Valdez City School District, and Lower Kuskokwim School district. While there, he worked with a trainer and other PowerSchool administrators to learn more about customizing PowerSchool to meet our needs.

With the end of the first semester, Kyle worked with teachers and principals to ensure that grades were complete prior to storing them. Once grades were stored, principals were able to print their report cards. Kyle also generated honor rolls and perfect attendance lists for those sites which requested them.

School Climate & Connectedness Survey

The district has been registered for the Spring 2016 School Climate and Connectedness Survey. School Coordinators have been identified and a sample survey has been sent to secretaries at each site for parents to review. Parents were notified of the survey with a letter mailed from the District Office. The window for the survey will be February 15th - February 26th.



Counseling & Assessment Specialist: Steve Ito

Completed annual training in the World-class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) Protocol for limited English proficient students. The World-class Instructional Design and

Assessment materials assesses students abilities in all four language domains (Listening, Speaking, Writing, and Reading), and evaluates Social and Instructional English as well as academic language corresponding to the subject areas of Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. The assessment tool for the WIDA training is the ACCESS test administered annually to limited English proficient students during a testing window from February 1 through March 31.

Identified and trained certified staff SPED member to be the Alternate Assessment Qualified Test Proctor for 2016 testing of significant cognitively disabled students. The Alternate Assessment The Alternate Assessment exists for students with significant cognitive disabilities to have access to, participate in, and make progress in general education curricula. The Alternate Assessment is based on Alaska standards but measured against alternate achievement standards.

Have ordered the Paper/Pencil WorkKeys tests for grade 11 and 12 students. The WorkKeys assessment targets the workplace "foundational" skills that are needed for virtually all occupations and at any level of education. The three major skill areas in Alaska Career Ready are: Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information and Locating Completion of the WorkKeys test provides students with a National Career Ready Certificate and may allow qualifying students to apply for the Alaska Performance Scholarship.

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Yup'ik Studies Esther Ilutsik, Director

Site Visits

Traveled out to Tuyuryaq (Togiak) School and had the opportunity to visit some of the classrooms where Yup'ik was being taught. It was delightful to hear the students and was impressed with their pronunciation skills in Yup'ik. It was so natural and they were all so engaged. Was delighted to find that some of the classrooms had a special place where the Yup'ik Studies students works were displayed. Qu yana. And lastly met with the K-2nd Yup'ik Studies Instructional Aide staff where we were able to review their progress and concerns in regards to the curriculum developed and being implemented. Qu yana.

Traveled out to Cetuyaraq (Chief Ivan Blunka) School and had the opportunity to observe the high school Yup'ik Studies class where students were engaged in the process of caring for the skin of a kanaqlak (muskrat) with instructor Anguk'aq (Justin Gumlickpuk). They reviewed Yup'ik vocabulary associated with this process and the kanaqlak. In addition, I had the opportunity to help with the Yugiyama Ullagamken dance that the students were scheduled to perform during the "Quyana Night". It was wonderful to observe and work with Arnayagaq (our new Yup'ik Studies Instructor) as she worked with her students. Even had time to teach the younger students the "Ala-i" dance. Great job! Qu yana

Lastly, we must use fluent speakers. They are the most valuable resource. We need to coach them on how to share their language. We need to work with them and to stress this important contribution to their community.

Louise reflected on her own classroom practices and will be using Yup'ik throughout her lessons. She will begin by bringing in actual materials that are used in the home so that the children can bring those familiar items into the home conversation using Yup'ik. And she is excited to use and incorporate the "flow" of the language into her classes.



The information gained will be developed into language classes for our Yup'ik Studies Instructors (Adult Learners) who will in turn strengthen their current teaching methods and practices. In addition, this information will help us as we continue to work on our Yup'ik Studies Curriculum Development especially for the 6th, 7th and 8th Grade students. Qu yana cakneq for all the support.

Exploring Traditional Thinking Using Traditional Oral Stories

Angutekayak (Louise Gloko of Manokotak), Tan'iq (Larry Bartman of Manokotak), Anguk'aq (Justin Gumlickpuk of New Stuyahok) and Kiarpiar (Fanny Parker of Togiak) are in the process of integrating the book titled, "Pal'aq" into their upper division Yup'ik classes. This process encompasses much reading, thinking, comprehending and discussion on the thought process and way of presenting the Yup'ik language utilizing the high level of Yup'ik vocabulary that is spoken by our elders. One of my favorite quotes is, "To learn the language of our ancestors is to understand their identity." This is exactly what is occurring within these sessions with expectations that many of this high Yup'ik vocabulary will again be introduced and used again as common communication. Qu yana for blazing the trail!



Traveled to Anchorage December 10-11, 2015 and was pleased to be a part of a panel presentation for the Bristol Bay Native Corporation's 2015 Bristol Bay Leadership Forum panel discussion on Cultural Heritage funding sources. Presented the process that we experienced in publishing the book titled, Pal'aq.

Winter Storm Damages Chief Ivan Blunka School



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Special Education

Sherry Becker, Director

Ben Griese, Secondary Special Education Teacher in New Stuyahok, attended the Closing the Gap conference in Minneapolis on October 14-16, 2015. This conference provided a comprehensive examination of the most current uses of technology by persons with disabilities and the professionals who work with them. Topics covered a broad spectrum of technology as it is being applied to all disabilities and age groups in education, rehabilitation, vocation, and independent living. Ben learned first-hand about various products and best assistive technology (AT) practices and strategies by and for teachers, therapists, clinicians, parents and end users alike. Ben is doing some pretty amazing things with assistive technology in New Stuyahok: increasing students' independence, improving student participation in the general education classroom, and improving students' learning opportunities.

Tobe Gurley, secondary Special Education Teacher in Togiak and Ben Griese attended the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) Training of Trainers in Anchorage on November 10-13, 2015. CPI has been identified by the state as one of the evidence-based nationally recognized crisis intervention training programs that meets the requirements of the state mandated Crisis Intervention Training. Ben and Tobe are now certified to teach all other district staff CPI de-escalation and prevention strategies as well as decision-making and physical intervention skills needed when involved in a crisis situation. Ryan O'Sullivan, Manokotak teacher, is also a certified CPI instructor for our district. Ryan provided the Aleknagik staff as well as the special education director and superintendent with CPI training on Nov. 2, 2015. CPI training took place for all Togiak school staff on Jan. 8, 2016. Tobe and Ben led this training. CPI training took place for all Manokotak staff on Jan. 8, 2016 and this training was led by Ryan O'Sullivan.

Eliza Owens, Elementary Special Education Teacher in New Stuyahok, attended the Teacher Educators for Children with Behavior Disorders (TECBD) conference in Tempe, Arizona on Oct. 29-31, 2015. This is an educational research conference for teacher educators working with children and youth with severe behavioral disorders. The following topics were covered at the conference: academic and behavioral interventions, aggression and violence in schools, assessment issues, autism research and interventions, characteristics of students with EBD, culturally responsiveness in EBD, delinquency prevention, depression and social withdrawal, evidence based research (EBP), positive behavior interventions and supports (PBIS), research to practice, response to intervention (RTI).

All special education teachers participated in a special education teacher training via distance on Dec. 12, 2015. This training was required as part of the recent EED compliance monitoring. Topics covered at this training included: the Alaska State Handbook for Special Education, compliance standards, federal/state and district policy/process for referrals, eligibility, evaluations, timelines, secondary transition, written notices, exits, etc. Ben Griese and Eliza Owens both presented during this training and shared valuable tools that they learned about at the conferences they attended. Ben taught all of the special education teachers how to use the Pictello app to create social stories from images and videos of students in order to work on social skills, language skills, behavior, etc. Eliza shared some helpful behavioral resources with the group on how to develop procedures and expectations in the classroom, a lesson plan for teaching expectations to students, a motivational inventory, and a problem solving process to go through when working with students demonstrating difficult behaviors.



Facilities & Maintenance

Rick Dallmann, Director

District-Wide

- Fire Alarms, Sprinkler Systems and Kitchen Hood Systems have been inspected

Togiak

- Parking lot lighting project completed
- Water system pump upgrades completed

Manokotak

- Sprinkler replacement project completed, Fire Marshall has signed off.

New Stuyahok

- We had some wind damage over the break, siding and roofing shingles were blown off. Material has been ordered and repairs are being made.
- Waste heat project should be completed by the end of Jan. and the system turned on. Working on grant close out

Koliganek

- Housing project is complete , working on Grant close out
- New School is still having some technical issues and we continue to work through them.

Twin Hills

- Flooring projects completed
- Planning to re-carpet and paint both classrooms

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Business Office

Ryan Ayars, Business Manager

Most of the business office attended the Alaska Association of School Business Officials conference in December. Each attendee focused on breakout sessions specifically tailored to their job functions. While in attendance we all had the opportunity to be introduced to a new accounting and human resource management software, Tyler Technologies. The new software would allow better transparency through department while providing a user-friendlier environment. It would allow current process to be utilized more efficiently increasing workflow. It is the only software available that directly communicates with our current time keeping software, TimeClock Plus. Representatives from Tyler Technologies will be here on January 28th so we may take a more detailed look at the capabilities and feasibility.

Denise and Aileen have been getting ready to run W-2's and 1099's for calendar year 2015. This involves going through vendor records to be sure all appropriate vendors will receive a 1099 form and payroll files reconciling all balances. All employees have been asked to verify their addresses prior to mailing the W-2's. We are currently on track to meet the January 31st deadline.

We have received the official renewal from Premera Insurance and communicated the new health/dental insurance rates to the employees. We requested and were granted an extension to the open-enrollment period to continue through January due to timing of the renewal. Open-enrollment gives the eligible employees the opportunity to add, remove, and edit health/dental insurance plans. Health/dental insurance rates increased 32%, which was lower than the anticipated rate increase from Premera for the State of Alaska. Insurance rates continue to climb at an alarming rate on a national level and even more so on a state level. We will continue to keep a close eye on insurance rates, as this will have a big impact on our current and future budgets.

The FY17 budgeting season has begun. We hope to see all of the departmental budgets no later than the 14th of February in order to have a rough draft available for discussion during the February board meeting. We will be paying close attention to this year's legislative session as I feel we will start seeing some big changes that could effect our budgeting decisions. On one positive note, our indirect rate of 7.06% has been submitted to the State for approval. This percentage applies to state and federal grants to cover administrative costs in the business office.



Aleknagik School

Audra Finkenbinder, Principal/Teacher

Happy New Year!

Before Aleknagik School staff and students began their Christmas break on December 22, 2015, the volleyball season concluded, basketball practice began, the school held a Christmas Program, the staff and students celebrated with a Secret Santa gift exchange, and the students completed the end-of-semester assessments: MAP, Vocabulary, AIMSweb fluency, and STAR Reading.

All students take the MAP Assessments three times per year. Since the initial assessment in August, Aleknagik students showed the following progress: 83% of students improved in Math, 75% of students improved in Reading, 54% of students improved in Language Usage, and 74% of students improved in Science. We look forward to continued success and improvement on the spring assessment results.



On January 11, 2016, Aleknagik North Shore School began the third semester. Within the first few weeks of the New Year, students will be preparing for the Battle of the Books and Spelling Bee competitions, will receive CIPA training, as well as kick off the basketball season.

MILLION WORD CHALLENGE

There are currently nine Lakers participating in the District sponsored Million-Word Challenge. Aleknagik School is proud to announce that one of the participants, who has been reading voraciously, has met the goal. Katrena Finkenbinder completed the Million Word Challenge on December 31, 2015!

Students of the Month

K-4: Thomas Noden

5-8: Jaren Tinker

*Congratulations!
Keep up the good work!*

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William Sonny Nelson School

Nate Preston, Principal

William “Sonny” Nelson School has reached the half waypoint of the school year and everything is going well. We have completed our Christmas Program and the second round of testing. Upcoming in the next few months are two migrant nights, Carnival and Pinewood Derby. We will also go over where we stand on our goals from the beginning of the year.

For the Christmas Program, students sang songs in both English and Yupik followed by a cakewalk and present giveaway. Everyone had a good time. We have started the process of reviewing the MAP and Vocabulary scores in December. At first glance, we are very happy with the scores. Regarding the Vocabulary test for example, only one student in the whole school did not make expected growth. The MAP scores also look good everyone showed growth and the scores from reading and math appear to be around the national average. The next few staff meeting will focus on Language Arts where expected growth was met but we want to raise those scores some more.

Reflex Math is also going extremely well. Eight out of nine 3rd-8th students should be 100% complete by the end of January. Five 3rd-8th students are already done. Two are in the 90’s and one is at 86%. On the other hand, the first graders are not done yet but they range from 74% completed to 39% completed. The two highest are begging to start times on Reflex but they have to get addition done first. Just before Winter break we got seats for our three kindergarten students. Two of them are already at 10% complete on addition.

We have two big goals this year; get attendance to be 96% and to get all students at an 85% on the vocabulary test by May 5. Currently, our attendance rate is 91.4% at the halfway point. The only way we are making 96% now is if we average 100% for the rest of the year. That is not happening so we are revising our goal to 94% attendance. The goal for the Vocabulary test of 85% by May 5 is still achievable and we are working with all students to help them achieve that goal.

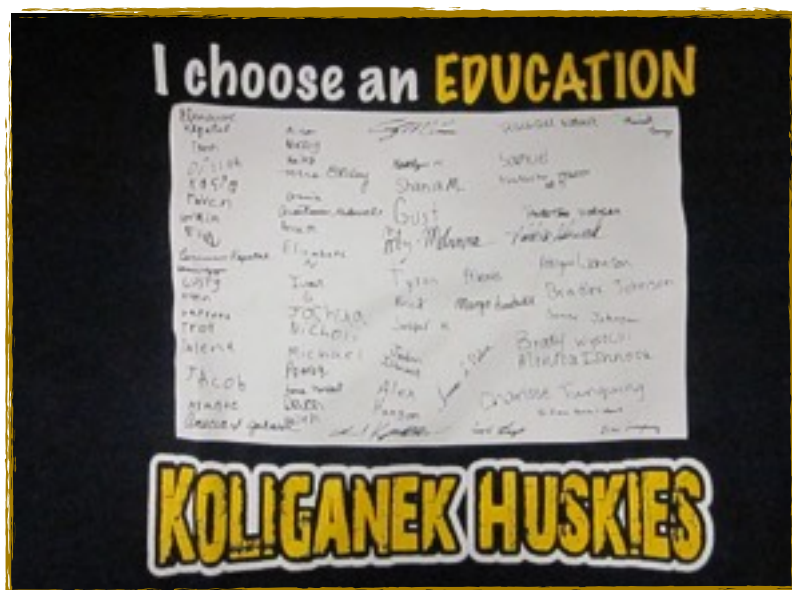


Koliganek School

Cody McCanna, Principal

Happy Holidays

Christmas break has come and gone already. But before we celebrated the Holidays the residents of Koliganek enjoyed the Christmas Program that the school conducted on December 21. Students enjoyed their break as much as possible, even when mother nature decided to make it spring again. Koliganek School also has a variety of Spirit Gear for sale to help everyone get into the Husky Spirit. One special t-shirt was created where the entire staff and students signed the shirt that stated they “Choose an Education” at Koliganek School.



First Semester Awards

Perfect attendance: Jalene Larson, Paaraq Nelson, Garrett McCanna, Elizabeth Norbert, Alex Hanson.

Good attendance (Missed 5 days or less): Natasha Nelson, Nicholi Ishnook, Kaisa Barnes, Kaden Herrmann, Natasha Hobson, Gusty Tunguing IV, Jacob Merlino, Cody McCanna, Shania McCanna, Sonny Johnson, Kristin Tunguing, Erick Johnson, Joshua Newyaka, Deven Johnson, Alison Johnson, Kaison Ishnook, Rachael Norbert, Gust Johnson, Tyson Olsen, Elia Newyaka, Kailey Ishnook, Abigail Johnson.

Honor Roll: 4.0 Cody McCanna, Shania McCanna 3.5 Deven Johnson, Anne Moses, Tristan Tunguing, Jalene Larson, Kaison Herrmann, Elizabeth Norbert, Ivan Gumlickpuk, Parraq Nelson, Joshua Newyaka, 3.0 Rachael Norbert, Kristin Tunguing, Asante Barnes, Nastasha Nelson, Alison Johnson, Nicholi Ishnook.

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Staffing

Koliganek School has had some unfortunate staffing changes coming back for the second semester. Hannah Lampe had to leave us for medical issues and we are still looking for a permanent replacement for her English position. However, we are really lucky to have Pam Johnson step in as a temporary substitute in the meantime. We are also fortunate to have Willis Farenbaugh join us this semester as our new science and math teacher. Willis has taught in rural Alaska for numerous years and has helped with Upward Bound in Fairbanks as well.



Professional Development

Teachers are continuing their work on Marzano's Model of Effective Teaching. The entire staff is focusing on learning goals and tracking student progress. Teachers are also utilizing their access to iObservation where they can utilize the resource library and post Discussions with each other about specific elements and strategies to improve instruction.



Students of the Month

K-1: Titan Goodell
2-3: Jalene Larson
4-5: Anne Moses
6-8: Cody J. McCanna
9-12: Rachael Norbert

Behavior Reward Ticket Winners

K-1: Kaison Herrmann
2-3: Asante Barnes
4-5: Joshua Newyaka
6-8: Brody Wysocki
9-12: Alfred Brown



Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Deb Forkner, Principal

The first semester at Manokotak Nunaniq School ended with lots of activities and a graduation. Congratulations to Manokotak's first graduate of the class of 2016, Daisy Kuku. Daisy completed her credits and was able to graduate in December. She did her graduation walk during the Christmas program on December 18.

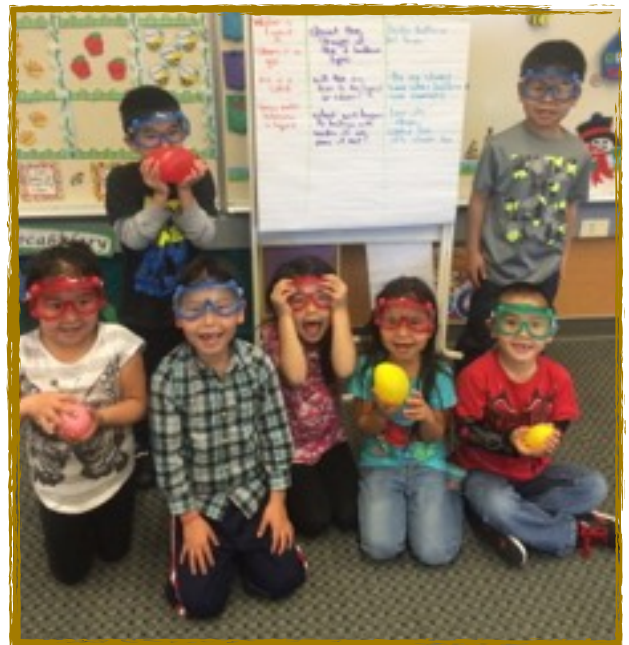


Activities in December included: several basketball tournament fundraisers, Holiday Bazaar, Migrant Ed. Night, Christmas Program with a visit from Santa, Secret Santa gift exchange and holiday door decorating contest.

The Community School Committee has been working on revising the Student Eligibility policy, as well as talking about finding funding for a shuttle to transport housing students to and from school in bad weather.

Returning to work in January, teachers had a workday on January 6 to complete grades and prepare for second semester. January 7 was a district in-service day. Teachers worked in collaborative teams to plan and share ideas. All KMO staff attended CPI training on January 18.

Upcoming events include: Second quarter awards on January 15. Principal Forkner and three teachers will attend the annual RTI Conference in Anchorage January 22-24, 2016. We are looking forward to the start of basketball season. Numerous students are taking online courses this semester for either credit recovery or college prep. Two students will complete the construction strand for CTE in Naknek and hopefully more students will have the opportunity to participate in other classes.



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



'Chief' Ivan Blunka School

Robin Jones, Principal

We just finished up semester one and have a lot to celebrate at Chief Ivan Blunka School! We are happy to report that 42 of our secondary students finished semester one on either the Honor Roll or the Highest Honor Roll. We are also happy to report that 12 students school-wide had perfect attendance for semester one. We had seven students with 100% fluency on their math facts. Students were also recognized for achievements in reading, math, citizenship, kindness, helpfulness, and being industrious. We are so proud of our students' accomplishments!

In our Professional Learning Communities, we are still in the process of developing plans for differentiating instruction and organizing students to practice and deepen knowledge based on student performance data. We are also continuing to collaborate with Meghan Redmond (TWA) to develop individual learning plans in the area of vocabulary for all secondary students. Both the intentional grouping plans and individual learning plans have been updated based on the most recent data collected. We are starting to develop and incorporate more student incentive programs to help improve student behavior and to aid in maintaining a safe school environment that is conducive for learning. We will also continue to devote time toward our peer observation program this semester.

We had five wrestlers from Chief Ivan Blunka School qualify for and compete at the state championships and came home with one state champion! Our basketball teams have started practice and will have their first competition at the Sockeye Classic followed by boys and girls games against Manokotak. They are excited to represent our school and spread that mighty eagle pride across Bristol Bay!

Students of the Month

Kelsey Gust – 5th Grade

Travis Neketa – 8th Grade

Kivaso Neketa – 10th Grade

Employees of the Month

Alexandra Gumlickpuk & Sergai Andrew





Togiak School

Sam Gosuk, Principal

Kanruyutet atuuguut yungnaqetlrianun.

Instruction is useful for people who want to survive.

Several events have happened in Togiak and Togiak in our weather in the winter has started to become a warm weather pattern in Alaska. We had some cold weather to freeze some of the ponds for 4 wheelers and some snow machines. We had snow first for our Christmas and then back to warm weather. Now it is back to cold weather hopefully colder.

There was a good turn out for the Christmas Program this year. The students used the community traditional resources to sing Christmas Carols.

The audience was asked to continue to support their students to have their students ready for school the night before and have a limit for digital or iphone use during the night.

Students all the way from Heads Start to high school students and staffs' Christmas program songs were well received. The whole group was invited to sing traditional songs that are usually sung in the village Christmas Carols.

Togiak had high wind warnings this year. Looking at the way the City of Togiak worked together toward a common goal of the safety of villagers, I believe the community of Togiak can work together to support the education of the students of Togiak School. This needs to be addressed to them again and again.

Working together as a community, I believe we can help our next generation to become prepared to be the care takers of our community.

Taking advantage of the warm weather, a young man from the village in the tradition the village was able donate a whole seal seal to Helen Gregorio. Helen Gregorio share the seal with our Yupik Class. Middle and high school students were able to process the meat from the skin all the way to the bone while staff and elementary watched.



Our new teacher and her middle school daughter were able see and be involved and got a first hand experience of our traditional subsistence life style.



Twin Hills School

Meghan Redmond, Lead Teacher

Welcome to 2016!

Second quarter report cards have been sent home, assessments have been completed, and we are starting a new year with refreshed gradebooks and spirits after a long winter break! Since the last report, we have held many family activities. These have included a Thanksgiving potluck, Christmas potluck and raffle, and Christmas program. The holiday season is possibly the best time to work at an Alaskan village school, because everyone is happy and in the spirit of the holiday! We are now busy at work preparing for the new state assessment, integrating our new iPads into the elementary classroom.

For our Christmas program this year, we tried something a little different. We held a 'digital' Christmas program, where each group of students in our school made a Christmas video to share at the program. We ended up with four music videos to share with the village. The highlight of the videos was the middle school video, in which the students wrote their own Alaskan version of "The 12 Days of Christmas" and then created a video to go along with the lyrics.

Focus Activities

January and February are always exciting months for students at small schools, because there are quite a few activities to participate in! We will be holding our school spelling bee on January 29 and participating in the district spelling bee in February. Additionally, middle school students are started to work on their Pinewood Derby cars, which will be held in Ekwok this year. Our student council representative is heading to Juneau at the beginning of February to participate in Alaska Close Up. Our after school program continues to run 4 day per week for students in first through sixth grade. I think the 8th graders are the most excited of all, because they have their 8th grade trip to Hawaii planned for the end of February! We also plan to hold migrant activity nights in the next few months. It will be a busy winter!