

# REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



**"Pissuryaraq  
ayanillerkaq-llu  
yuilqumi  
elitnaurutkaqluku.**

**Teach and learn  
outdoor survival and  
hunting skills."**

**--Bristol Bay Yup'ik Values**

## **Board of Education**

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## **Superintendent's Office** David J. Piazza, Superintendent

### **Staffing**

(Board Goals 1, 4 & 5 • Instruction Goal 3)

At the time this report was prepared there are 16 vacant positions in the District. This includes vacancies due to the need for additional secondary level staff in Aleknagik and Twin Hills. To date, several in-house transfer placements have occurred and one New Hire has been welcomed to the District. While the District remains active in the recruitment and selection of qualified candidates, it may be wise to not fully fill all positions until the Funding Formula discussions by the legislature have concluded and we have a clearer picture of the Basic Need funding support that will be provided by the state.

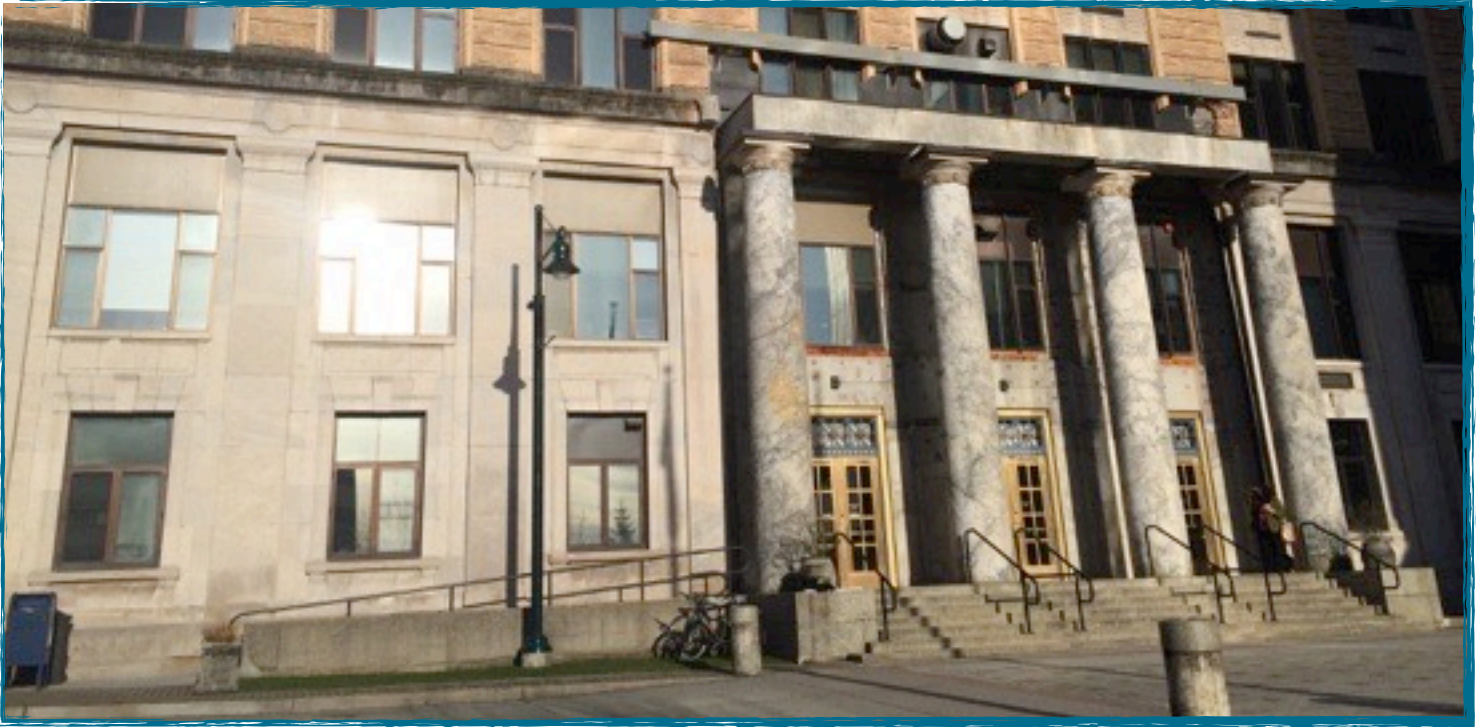
The first official Job Fair of the season will be in Anchorage on March 18th. This is 9 days earlier than last year. This will be followed by job fairs in Tacoma, Seattle, Portland, and Minneapolis. The District is on a waiting list for Greeley, Colorado and may venture out to other fairs as needed.

### **Legislative Report**

(Board Goal 2)

April 17th is the scheduled last day of this year's legislative session. As previously mentioned, the legislature has tried to focus on the budget and most of the bills and committee meetings have worked towards an earlier passage of the budget this year. Time will tell if this will be accomplished.

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With the serious decline in revenue, and the realization that cuts alone cannot be taken to balance the budget, it appears that there will be additional discussion this year on revenue generating methods. While it is still too early to determine what the final outcome will be, the use of the Permanent Fund \$1.4 billion state payout in Dividends is being scrutinized.

The Department of Education and Early Development's budget has been dramatically reduced by both of House and Senate EED Finance sub-committees. The Department estimates that it has been cut by 45% in the past two years. They are anticipating not filling 7 vacant positions and eliminating another 9 positions. As the budget moves to the House and Senate Finance Committees, school districts across the state are working to maintain the \$50 Base Student Allocation support that was previously established, but that has been rumored to be removed.

There continues to be discussion that bills this year could change or reverse previous legislation in an effort to create efficiencies, or reduce the financial burden placed on Districts with previously unfunded mandates. This attempt was made last year, but may have caused more issues as an increase of mandatory professional development was instituted. Districts are hopeful that the mandates will be relaxed during this session.

Associate Superintendent Noonkesser has already provided testimony at the request of the House and Senate Finance Sub-Committees for the need to fully fund the Broadband Assistance Grants. The goal is to ensure that federal E-rate funds can be leveraged to continue to provide the additional capacity into each low-bandwidth school across the state that was established last year.

## Superintendent Travel

(Board Goals 2 & 3)

Superintendent Piazza, Associate Superintendent Noonkesser, and Director of Finance, Ayars participated in the Alaska Superintendents Association's (ASA) Legislative Fly-In in mid-February. The session "Superintendent Assessment Roundtable" provided an opportunity for the Department of Education to share the direction that they are moving to deal with the issues surrounding the implementation and reporting of the Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) assessment. While it appears that our students will complete the assessment again this April, the Department is hopeful that better reporting can occur this year to provide additional data to schools, teachers, parents, and students and to provide a growth comparison between the two years. Looking ahead, the State will issue a new request for proposals and look to select a different vendor who can bring an assessment to the State that will better assess and inform the educational practices in the classroom.

During the course of the Fly-in several groups of legislators were available to share their insights into the current fiscal crisis of the state and their ideas of what will be necessary to fix the problems. Senator Dunleavy, Chair of the Senate Education Committee and Senate Finance Subcommittee on DEED; Representative Keller, Chair of the House Education committee; and Representative Gattis, Chair of the House Finance Subcommittee on DEED comprised the first of such panels. Senator Gardner, Senate Minority Leader; Representative Tuck, House Minority Leader; and Representative Kito also presented. Finally, Senator Meyer, Senate President and Representative Chenault, Speaker of the House provided their perception of the issues.

A new activity this year was the exhibition of student artwork from each school district. Southwest Region School District was represented by William "Sonny" Nelson School's Eighth Grade student Orpha Hurley. Her piece entitled "Wolf and Tiger" was framed and displayed for members of the legislature and district-level administrators to view at the Juneau Arts & Culture Center (JACC).

Senate Finance Co-Chair Senator Kelly provided a informal discussion with the Superintendents and Senator MacKinnon, Co-Chair of Senate Finance presented on "Getting to Yes in Tough Times. Additional presentations were made by Judy Bradey from the Alaska's Future Coalition, Commissioner Randy Hoffbeck, from the Department of Revenue, Dr. Rob Larson, Dr. Terri Akey and Dr. Ashley Pierson with Education Northwest, Dr. Herb Schroeder with ANSEP.

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## Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Associate Superintendent

### Instructional Program

(Board Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 • Instruction Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6)

This past month has been an incredibly busy time meeting and preparing for the changes we have been discussing this past year. Staff from across the district have attended meetings to review options for distance learning technologies and curriculum, preparation of a common bell schedule, and creation of a proposed common calendar for next school year.

As we move ahead with plans to provide high school options at all of our schools, we have been working with our Maintenance department and Stantec to find ways to upgrade our facilities. Preparations in this area are moving ahead smoothly.

Spring orders are being processed for curriculum materials and consumables for next year. We are preparing for the financial downturn that most predict is coming by making our use of materials as cost effective and efficient as possible. As part of our review of PLATO, the distance education option chosen by the group, we looked at using online resources as textbook replacements in several upper grade areas.

With developments in Juneau threatening funding to several programs that are critical to our instructional programs, Steve testified before the House Finance DEED Subcommittee on the need to retain funding for the Broadband Assistance Grant (BAG). At this point it appears that after being cut early on, the funding has been largely restored to this year's funding level.

## INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TEAM



Les Parks  
Technology Coordinator



Dianna Schollmeier  
Elem. Ed. Specialist



Corey Evans  
Technology Specialist



Charles Becker  
Sec. Ed. Specialist



## Instructional Team Notes

### Distance Learning & FY17 Instructional Program Review

(Board Goals 4 & 5 • Instruction Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6)

- A large cohort of high school teachers met for two days to begin planning for the upcoming changes next school year.
- The first topic was an explanation of the quarterly enhancement weeks; when they will be held, how they will be organized, and how students will choose their courses.
- The second topic was time for teachers to explore the programs and modules that students will be using beginning in the fall. In particular, the Language Arts teachers weighed the benefits of adopting the online Language Arts resources of PLATO in lieu of refreshing the current Language Arts textbooks and unanimously agreed that PLATO was the best option for 9-12 with much support for slowly integrating PLATO into the middle school grades.
- Overall, high school teachers across all subjects are excited about the upcoming changes in distance delivery as well as additional options for solid weeks of elective activities not currently be offered in the district.

### ASTE Conference

(Board Goals 4 & 5 • Instruction Goals 1 & 3)

- Members of the Curriculum and Instruction department attended the annual Alaska Society for Technology in Education conference this past month. Topics included best practices for teaching online/distance delivery courses, and monitoring student progress and creating reports using the Powerschool platform. The teaching of online/distance delivery courses will be a major focus across the district at the Middle School and High School level this coming year. Greater familiarization with the Powerschool platform by members of the Curriculum and Instruction department will increase their depth and breadth of knowledge in ways that make them more adaptable and capable, empowering them with greater autonomy, and allow for greater flexibility in assignments as well as quicker responses to teacher demands.

### District-wide Spelling Bee

(Board Goals 4 & 5 • Instruction Goals 1 & 3)

- The district held its district-wide spelling bee using the Video Conferencing equipment on February 17. Each site submitted three students and the three finalists for the district were:
  - Daniel Pleasant (Twin Hills)
  - Erick Johnson (Koliganek)
  - Peter Small (Twin Hills)
- Daniel won the Spelling Bee and will be traveling to Anchorage on March 22nd to



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participate in the Alaska State Spelling Bee.

## Battle of the Books

(Board Goals 4 & 5 • Instruction Goals 1 & 3)

- A group of students also participated in the statewide “Battle of the Books” competition via teleconference. They were:
  - Katrena Finkenbinder (Aleknagik)
  - Austin Finkenbinder (Aleknagik)
  - Ayden Ilutsik (Aleknagik)

## Technology Team Notes

The technology team has been busy engaged in the usual support duties, but this month the focus has been on a major project that has been in the works for several months now.

## Business Office Conversion

(Board Goal 2)

- The technology department completed the conversion of the district business office to the Apple platform last month. With the project completed a backup solution has now also been implemented and for the first time every staff member in the business has an automatic backup running of their office machine.

## eRate – School BAG Grant FY16

(Board Goal 2)

- Internet services contract renewed with GCI for 07/01/2016 - 06/20/2021 (includes enhanced services at lower costs over prior contract)
- School network infrastructure upgrades contracted with GCI. Work to begin this spring and be completed next fall
- Form 471 for Category 1 & Category 2 services filed and certified
- Preparing documentation for upcoming School BAG application process - Costs vs Revenue Projections completed and forwarded to Superintendent and Business Manager

## CIPA Lessons

(Instruction Goal 3)

- Quarter 3 lesson planning completed at all sites, lesson delivery in progress

## ASTE Conference

(Instruction Goal 3)

- Corey attended the ASTE Conference in February. Much of the discussion at the conference revolved around the financial difficulties faced by the state and the role of educational technology in this budget climate. During the conference Corey also had the opportunity to have a face to face meeting with GCI our, internet service provider, and discuss the new service monitoring system. The system when fully up and running should really simplify trouble shooting and repair requests for our GCI services.

## AMP/KITE & DRC Insight

(Instruction Goal 3)

- New LCS server software installed and tested for each site
- KITE Client application installer and configuration scripts prepared for each site
- Test Management Server setup and tested
- DRC INSIGHT client application installer prepared and posted for each site
- Some sites have completed the testing, others in progress

## Special Project

(General Program Support)

- Provided temporary Internet services to Dillingham Firehall for SWRSD / DCSD Transition Camp
- Configuration and installation of Internet-based fuel system monitoring in progress



## Student Government, Student Voice

### Jada Nukwak, Student District School Board Representative

## Notes From Around the District

(Board Goal 1 • Instructional Goals 2, 3, 5 & 6)

- Many sites started March 2016 with a literary celebration for Dr. Seuss. Middle school basketball included participants from many sites and concluded with the exciting Super Cub tournament in Dillingham. Student-supported spring carnival events included a kids carnival and junior miss pageant at New Stuyahok, many days of fundraisers and activities at Koliganek, and numerous events at Ekwok. BBAHC hosted a mini-health fair at Nunaniq School, particularly addressing tobacco effects.
- Students from various sites attended Bristol Bay Campus' Youth Leadership Symposium and the SWRS Transition Conference. Most district staff and students recently completed the School Climate and Connectedness Survey. Sessions three and four of the Bristol Bay Region Career and Technical Education Academy (BBRC TE) are upcoming in March and April. The variety of training opportunities available at BBRC TE have been well-received by students, with many already looking forward to next year. K-8 sites are excited to serve students beyond the 8th grade level next year, and have been hard at work in preparation.
- As the third quarter of this academic year comes quickly to its close, our schools will be hosting the final session of parent-teacher conferences and completing AMP testing for the state. High school basketball has moved in to post-season competition, and Native Youth Olympics is about to begin. We look forward to the remainder of the school year and the culminating promotion and commencement ceremonies.

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## State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

### Title I-A AK STEPP

(Board Goals 1 & 5 • Instructional Goal 3)

The AK STEPP plans developed by the schools and the district addresses improvement planning and schoolwide planning, which are both requirements of Title IA. Each month, there is a focus on several of the 16 indicators that in the AK STEPP plans. These indicators are research based and linked to improvement of academic performance. For the month of February the indicators of focus were 4.06, 4.07, and 4.08. For the month of March the focus elements are 5.01, and 4.03. Additional information about these indicators is provided below:

Implementation of district-adopted curriculum

5.01 – School staff use multiple sources of student performance data as a primary factor in determining professional development priorities.

5.03 – School staff embed professional development into daily routines and practices.

### Carl Perkins & CTE

(Board Goal 1 • Instructional Goal 3 & 5)

The Director of State/Federal Programs is participating in a CTE Rural Focus Group led by the CTE Program Administrator at the Alaska Department of Education. The purpose of the group is to address federal findings at the state level for the quality of CTE programs. There has been a focus on smaller school districts to combine Carl Perkins funds to provide a greater “return on investment” for students rather than overcoming barriers individually. The partnership that has

developed between SWRS, Lake & Peninsula School District, and Bristol Bay Borough School District to offer CTE opportunities using the intensive model continues to be highlighted during these conversations as a “working system” of collaboration. Work on developing a comprehensive district-wide Personal Learning and Career Planning process through AKCIS continues, as well as, work on creating more dual credit opportunities for students.



## Student Information & Support Specialist: Kyle Schneider

### School Climate & Connectedness Survey

(Instructional Goal 2)

Students and staff completed the School Climate and Connectedness Survey between February 15th and March 4th. 86.7% of students and 84% of staff completed the survey. Preliminary results should be available before the April board meeting, with finalized results available early in the Fall.







### Counseling & Assessment Specialist: Steve Ito

#### (Board Goal 1 & 5)

WIDA ACCESS Testing concludes March 31st. All sites administered tests to identified LEP students. This is the first year EED has offered this assessment with an online option. All sites successfully navigated the computer-based version with little difficulty thanks to great technical support and the competent site based testing coordinators. The ACCESS Test is an assessment of English language acquisition required by EED for identified Limited English Proficient students that focuses on listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Alternate Assessment testing will begin for students with significant cognitive disabilities. The Alternate Assessment satisfies the requirement for all students in grades 3-10 to participate in statewide assessments. The Alternate Assessment is a non-diploma track test, based on Alaska standards but measured against alternate achievement goals.

Completed the EED mandated WorkKeys testing for grade 11 and 12 students at all K-12 sites. 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 Information. 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.



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## Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director

### 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Yup'ik Studies Curriculum Committee Meeting

(Instructional Goal 4)

The 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Yup'ik Studies Curriculum Committee met February 8 and 8, 2016. Anguk'aq, Angutekayak, Kiarpia and Maalu met in Dillingham with the majority of them traveling in on the morning of the 8th of February with the exception of Maalu who used the distant leaning system to join in our discussions. We begin with a discussion about the "Yup'ik Only Rule". This method was presented at the Yup'ik Studies in-service with Angutekayak who is integrating this idea and concept with her middle school students in Manuquutaq. It was recommended that Arnaq, Angutekayak and her elders continue to develop the materials as we implement the process. Then we had a discussion about where the Yup'ik language is being spoken in the communities. They all agreed that we know that it is used in the church (West Side) within the hymnals and the (West Side) within Russian Orthodox chants and songs. So we are going to introduce our students to reading the Yup'ik language using the model that our parents, grandparents had learned to read the language. By having the printed word with someone reading it orally or in this case singing or chanting it orally with everyone following along. Cungass'aq will be provided cd music and hymnals to translate to the modern Yup'ik Orthography. And Anguk'aq will gather materials used within the Russian Orthodox Church and look for someone to make those translations. We also identified other reading materials that we will utilize as part of the second phase. Anguk'aq and Kiarpia will develop curriculum using BIG BOOKS – "Yaarin" and "Palak'aaq". And we will look for other materials that would be recommended to supplement these reading skills using texts. The last cycle would look at students practicing conversational Yup'ik using Yup'ik Phrase and Conversation Lessons Written and Recorded by Anna W. Jacobsen. We will discuss this further and address the correct dialect and phrases that we would most benefit our students. We may look for another model that would benefit our students the most. Our next scheduled meeting will be in April or May. Quiana Anguk'aq, Angutekayak, Kiarpia, and Maalu!



### Cetuyaraq Visit

(Instructional Goal 4)

It is always a pleasure to watch Anguk'aq as he works with his students. The students are embracing the Yup'ik language with enthusiasm and respect. For example, when he was taking roll and a student was missing one of the young boys said, "Pissurtuq." (He went hunting.) And everyone thought it was just great and he beamed with pride. He is incorporating a lot more oral language into his lessons.

It was fun watching the students under Tat'iq's direction as they played Concentration using pictures in reviewing Yup'ik objects that they had learned during their oral time. The students were totally engaged with some of the groups being monitored by the elders who were sitting in the class. This followed with the students working on their projects. Projects included hand sewing skills and making yarn glove or mitten straps.

The high school students were working in the wood shop creating bone rings that they had been taught by Alfred Gosuk of Togiak (who had come here last spring). These skills are being refined and practiced by students. They are so much more confident in their abilities.

It was a delight to see wolf pelts drying in the shop and to know that the students played an important role in observing and helping as the wolfs were skinned and stretched onto the drying pelt boards. Observation and practice are so crucial in learning.

Tat'iq has taken the initiative to providing guidance to Arnayagaq as she prepared for her K-2nd TPRS Yup'ik lessons. We followed up with a one-on-one TPRS lesson as to how to use the materials as developed and provided. She is beginning the "Kiuryaq" lessons with focusing on the evening dusk and will be followed with an emphasis on a "nasaurluq". They have also started to make "Kiuryaq" with streamers of colored crepe paper and tin foil so that when it is swished it would make sounds very similar to the "Kiuryaq". A dance presentation will follow.

Arnayagaq is also compiling the Yup'ik Russian Orthodox songs and chants that are used in the local church. Again, we are looking at integrating these songs and chants into the 6th, 7th and 8th grade Yup'ik Studies curriculum.

Quyana Cetuyaraq for a wonderful visit.



## Manuquutaq Visit

(Instructional Goal 4)

Made a day trip out to Manuquutaq. Cungass'aq is working on translating hymns into the "new" Yup'ik orthography. These materials will be a part of our 6th, 7th and 8th grade Yup'ik language curriculum. And she has just completed the Can'giiq unit. Louise continues to work on the "Yup'ik Only Rule" curriculum with the elders as we are entering month three. The students are engaged and learning basic Yup'ik.



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## Special Education

Sherry Becker, Director

### Transition Camp

(Board Goals 1 & 4 – Instructional Goal 2, 3, 5 & 6)

The special education department in collaboration with Dillingham City Schools, SERRC and the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) held a Transition Camp for students with disabilities, ages 14 and above. The Transition Camp was held in Dillingham on March 7-9, 2016.

13 students and 3 chaperones attended the Transition Camp from Togiak, Manokotak, and New Stuyahok. Presentations included:

- Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC)
- Alaska Career Information Systems (AKCIS)
- Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC)
- Job Center/Department of Labor
- Alaska Career College
- Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNC)

Students participated in the Career Fair at Dillingham High School and also took part in various Career/Job Shadowing Tours including:

- Fire Department
- Bristol Bay Area Health Center (BBAHC)
- BBNA Head Start
- Grant Aviation
- N & N
- Wells Fargo
- Alaska Process Industry Careers Consortium (APICC)

Some students also visited the Department of Motor Vehicles to obtain an official ID card and/or to take their written test for their driver's license.



## Child Find

(Board Goals 1, 3, 4, & 5 – Instructional Goal 1)

Annual Child Find Activities are currently being planned for each village. Special Education teachers will work with their individual site administrators and Head Start staff (Togiak, Manokotak, and New Stuyahok) to complete developmental screenings for children ages 3-5 years of age. This is a required annual event for the school district and includes posters being placed throughout the village to announce the screening opportunity, phone calls being made to parents of eligible children to schedule appointments as well as the actual hearing, vision, and developmental screening of children.

Child Find is a component of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that requires states to locate, identify, and evaluate all children with disabilities, age 3 through 21, who are in need of early intervention or special education services.



## Facilities & Maintenance

**Rick Dallmann, Director**

### EED Maintenance Program Certification

On Feb. 3-4 Department of Education Facilities Division was on site to re-certify our Maintenance Program. This occurs every five years and keeps us eligible for grant funding and other state funded programs.

Please see included Department of Education Facilities Division on the visit.



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## Business Office

**Ryan Ayars, Business Manager**

We are currently working on gathering Semi-Annual Fire/Safety Self-Inspections Checklist from each site. This is a key component of the Loss Control Program we participate in and can potentially lead to a discount of roughly \$15,000 off out insurance premiums.

As our new TankScan equipment is being installed on most of our large tanks across the district tank levels are being checked for our annual fuel delivery. With the mild winter and decreases in fuel cost we anticipate a big savings to the district for this year and the next. Currently we are awaiting our fuel purchase quote from Vitus Marine, but they recommended budgeting for a fuel cost per gallon decrease of 70 cents.

The Infinite Visions accounting software from Tyler Technologies is currently moving forward as scheduled. We are currently working on building a schedule for training. Once the server is up and running we will pull the software down from the web and the implementation team from Tyler will start populating our data into the new software.

The sun setting of the old TimeClock Plus software and migration to the new TimeClock Plus software is under way. TimeClock Plus implementation team has been introduced to the Infinite vision team in order to ensure a smooth transition with the simultaneous transition between software's along with their capabilities to interact with each other.

We received a third Impact Aid payment that we will use in FY17. The payment was the third and final payment from the Districts 2014 Impact Aid application in the amount \$668,743.69. This added to the first payment of \$3,447,985.13 and the second payment of \$869,316.28 amounts to \$4,986,045.10 earmarked for the FY 17 school year.

Our pre-audit has been scheduled for the week of May 30th through June 3rd with Altman, Rogers & Company. The pre-audit focuses on documents which correct or change posted entries. It will include inspection of our Personal Activity Report's, time and efforts, cash disbursement checks, payroll checks, cash receipts, federal award expenditures and state financial assistance. The School Districts final audit is scheduled for the week of August 29th through September 2nd.



## Aleknagik School

**Audra Finkenbinder,  
Principal/Teacher**

### Students of the Month

K-4: Thomas Noden

5-8: Jaren Tinker

*Congratulations! Keep up the good work!*

Time is really flying by! Here we are already in the month of March enjoying the longer days and spring-like sunshine. Right around the corner are the computerized State Assessments, Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) as well as the fourth quarter of school.

During the month of February, Terry Fuller from the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge visited the school to present the Migratory Bird Calendar information as well as to encourage the students to submit either a drawing or composition for the Migratory Bird Calendar contest. A large number of students submitted an entry and we are hopeful that we will have some contest winners!

Another event during February was a Migrant Education Night. Randy Finkenbinder planned an exciting activity for the event, which included a careful detailed blend of science, math, and reading in order to test the “air-resistance” of different parachute material. The parachute with the highest hang time would not only give the little green army soldier the “softest” landing, but would also be the best material to choose in a much grander scheme as well. In addition to this exciting activity, all participants were able to customize their own hamburger as well as enjoy a drumstick ice cream treat for dessert.

The Migrant Education Night was not the only group of students and parents having fun. The Laker basketball teams traveled to Manokotak for a tournament on February 12th-13th. The Laker girls’ team met one of their season’s goals and placed first in this tournament. Aleknagik also hosted a tournament during February inviting both Manokotak and Dillingham teams. The season concluded with both Laker teams competing in the Super Cub in Dillingham on March 4th-5th. The girls’ team ended their season with a 15-wins/1-loss record and placed second in the Super Cub. The boys’ team ended the season with a 6-wins/10-loss record. We are extremely proud of the level of participation, as we were able to have both a boys ‘and girls’ team for the second year in a row! Both teams showed some speed, agility, and aggressive ball handling skills all the while having a blast on and off the court. The girls’ team really showed some teamwork and was a ‘real force to be reckoned with’ on the court! All players on both teams grew and improved their skills during the basketball



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season and we look forward to next year.

February also brought the State Battle of the Books competition with one team representing Aleknagik School: the fifth/sixth grade team consisting of Ayden Ilutsik, Katrena Finkenbinder and Austin Finkenbinder. The team placed fourth in their group and although they did not progress to the final round, they had fun and did a great job representing Aleknagik School and Southwest Region School District!

Aleknagik School also had some wonderful representation in the District Spelling Bee: Jolynn Bavilla, Virginia Andrews, and Ayden Ilutsik. Aleknagik School is very proud of the Battle of the Books and Spelling Bee participants and we look forward to the academic competitions next year!

Aleknagik School will conclude the third quarter with Parent/Teacher Conferences during which time parents will be presented with the Student Data Folders containing AIMSweb, MAP, and STAR results as well as the current report card.



**William Sonny Nelson School**  
**Nate Preston, Principal**

We have just finished a very busy first week of March. We celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday and our second Migrant Night. In addition, we have completed the Ekwok Carnival put on by Ekwok's CSC. In March, we will continue to focus on Geometry for Math before April's Test and we will also continue our yearly focus on Reflex Math and district vocabulary.

For Dr. Seuss's birthday we had many activities and celebrations. The staff dressed up as Dr. Seuss characters. Students took turns dressing as characters. We had a buddy read along with Dr. Seuss books. Also, a birthday party with cake in which parents and smaller children were invited. We also talked about Dr. Seuss. The carnival was very successful with lots of activities including dog mushing. We had people come in from all around the area and we gathered significant money for the student activity fund. Students and parents enjoyed many activities during the carnival. Crystal Clark planned and managed the whole carnival with help from the other CSC members, all the school staff and parents helped support the students in Ekwok. Though it was a very large undertaking we received support from many local and regional businesses.

In March, we will focus on Geometry during math classes to help students prepare for April's test. We picked Geometry because after analyzing the test, Geometry was an area most of the students were struggling in. In addition, we will continue working on Reflex Math and district vocabulary. We only have two students from grades 3rd to 8th that are not 100% proficient in Reflex Math. Our K-1 students are continuing working on their Reflex Math. For the month of February all students grades 3rd to 8th passed their weekly vocabulary test.





## Koliganek School

### Cody McCanna, Principal

### CPI Training

On March 11 the teaching staff and one paraprofessional got the opportunity to receive CPI (nonviolent crisis intervention) training. Manokotak teacher Ryan O'Sullivan conducted the training. Everyone got an opportunity to learn how safely manage disruptive students and be able to restrain them in a safe and orderly fashion. It was a great training with a lot of laughter and enthusiasm involved.

### Student Activities

The middle school basketball season ended with the Huskies playing at the Super Cub tournament in Dillingham. The teams had a lot of fun and were very thankful for a great season. Native Youth Olympic (NYO) practice will begin March 14 at Koliganek School for all students in grades 4-12, with 6-12th grade students able to travel and compete.

### Professional Development

Teachers finished creating a Writing Process and posters for each classroom. Everyone will be teaching students the Writing Process steps in each room so students can have some consistency with the process from one teacher to the next. Teachers also finished creating a Problem Solving Process in math. All teachers now have a poster in their classroom that they can use to teach the steps of the Problem Solving Process.



### Students of the Month

K-1: Elia Newyaka  
 2-3: Troy Tunguing  
 4-5: Deven Johnson  
 6-8: Brody Wysocki  
 9-12: Alex Hanson

### Behavior Reward Ticket Winners

K-1: Kaden Herrmann  
 2-3: Nastasha Nelson  
 4-5: Ivan Gumlickpuk  
 6-8: Alexis Moses  
 9-12: Samuel Moses

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



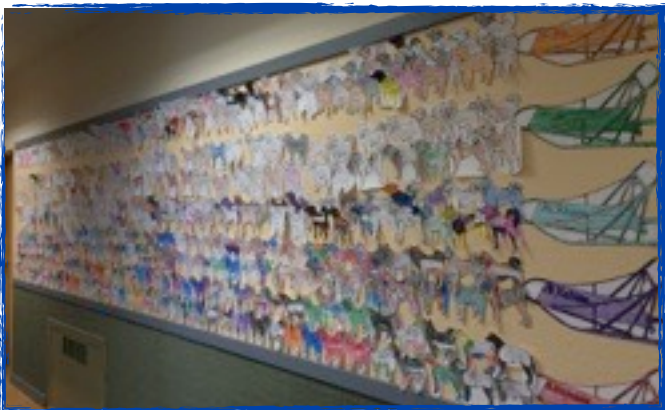
## Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Deb Forkner, Principal

The past few weeks have been extremely busy at Manokotak Nunaniq School. Juniors and seniors have taken the ACT and WorkKeys assessments. United Tribes of Bristol Bay spent half a day doing teambuilding/teamwork activities with all the high school students. Representatives from Bristol Bay Area Health Corp. presented anti-tobacco use information to all students and hosted a health fair at the school. Elementary students are busy busy reading and completing AR tests for this year's reading challenge. On March 2, elementary students celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday with a variety of activities and a visit from The Cat in the Hat. Dana Bartman and four students attended the Bristol Bay Campus Youth Leadership Symposium. Mary Lillie and three students the district Transition Conference in Dillingham. Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for March 24 and 25. Third quarter awards will be handed out at an assembly on March 25.

Basketball season has been a roller coaster of wins and losses this year. Manokotak has enjoyed hosting several home high school games including the boys' district championship. The highlight of the basketball season was the KMO Middle School tournament. 12 teams played a total of 20 games over 2 days. Congratulations to the Aleknagik Lady Lakers and the Togiak MS Huskie boys for taking home the championship trophies. We are looking forward to an exciting NYO season and the district championship in Manokotak on April 8-9.

Teachers and administration continue to meet with parents as part of the RTI process to try to meet the needs of our struggling students. K-6th grade students who are behind in reading are scheduled in a reading intervention class each day. After school tutoring continues two days per week. All teachers are using learning goals and scales to help students take more ownership of their learning.





## 'Chief' Ivan Blunka School

### Robin Jones, Principal

February was a fantastic month at Chief Ivan Blunka School! Our focus on incorporating more student incentive programs has already made a positive impact on our school climate. Students are eager to use the eagle bucks they earn for demonstrating exemplary behavior at our school store each week. The gym nights we have started for students who are detention-free have also helped promote good behavior. We ended the month of February with a widely successful and fun Kids Carnival and the 26th Annual Junior Miss Pageant (Board Goals 1 & 3 / District Goals 2, 4, & 6).

In our Professional Learning Communities, we continue to review student performance data to inform our instruction. We are focusing on the importance of relationship building, and all teachers have created Response to Intervention (RTI) plans for individual students and whole classes that incorporate both behavioral and academic interventions. The elementary school has put a bucket filler initiative in place where students are participating in complimenting and encouraging one another on a daily basis. The secondary school is focusing on how respect is foundational to any relationship. The staff also continues to devote time towards our peer observation program (Board Goals 1, 4, & 5 / District Goals 1, 3, 4, & 6).

Our common academic eligibility process has created an amazing group of highly motivated student leaders and student athletes. Representatives from our student council were fortunate to attend the annual Youth Leadership Symposium in Dillingham. We are eager to have them apply the skills they learned to strengthen the youth leadership on our campus. Our middle school basketball teams finished their great season by participating at the Super Cub Tournament. Our high school basketball teams competed at Districts against Manokotak and will compete at Regionals during the week of March 9-12. We really hope to end the seasons with trips to the State Championships (Board Goals 1, 3, 4, & 5 / District Goals 2, 4, & 6)!

### Students of the Month

Caleb Gust – 2nd Grade

Wassillie Neketa, Jr. – 7th Grade

Simeon Askoak – 11th Grade

### Employees of the Month

Vera Blunka & Danielle Dooley





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## Togiak School

Sam Gosuk, Principal

*Kanruyutet atuuguut yungnaqetlrianun.*

*Instruction is useful for people who want to survive.*

As I walk down the hallway this week I see what is going on in classrooms. This month is Iditarod month and the students in elementary are taking advantage of the race to do a race of their own. In the middle school section, I saw the start of the “I love to read” race relating to the Iditarod race. I am very pleased to see that the 1st graders and 2nd graders placing neck to neck on the amount of dogs related to reading of books read. As the class reaches a 100 books read for the class, the class gets to have a pizza party!

Further down the hall, the board shows that several elementary grades are having a math race using Reflex math. Students are excited to be part of this. They work hard on math fluency using the program because they know that the first class that reaches 100% fluency get a pizza party. Teachers can look up a student for their progress on this.

Going down the hallway further, I saw work of students displayed which show work of students in 2nd grade writing. The work show that students are being taught to use their cultural traditional background to tell a story in sequence of what happened in their family trip involving subsistence. Most of the students write about what is happening in the village and this one teacher is using the culture as a base to teach writing!

Some parents came to see their child do a play on “Clubs” this month related to reading. Students themselves asked the teacher if they could do the 20 – 30 minute play. Our first grade teacher allowed the level 5 students of Reading Mastery to do the play. Students read and acted out their play while other classes and parents watched.

One of the Yupik Classified instructor Martha Fox showed me the art of young students. While teaching the students Yupik words, what they experience in the community subsistence culture is allowed to be expressed in art. For example, one student showed people fishing and further down the drawn creek shows exposed water which is not frozen. Our young students can see what is going on around them and if they are taught new concepts by using their culture as a base, they may learn to apply what they learn to what they know.





Speaking of art, our high school art teacher Greg Cejka shared a KDLG report of Fish and game 2017 Bird calendar contest. While the entries have yet to be chosen at Anchorage to be displayed in the 2017 calendar they won the regional one! They are K – 2 – Peyton Active of Togiak School, 3 – 5 Elsie Goodwin of Togiak, and Ailiyah Upon and Kara Wassillie for the high school entries



## Twin Hills School

Meghan Redmond, Lead Teacher

February has been looked forward to for the ENTIRE school year by the 8th graders, because it was finally the month of our 8th grade trip to Hawaii. The 8th graders really worked hard all school year to fundraise enough money to pay for the entire trip, and they made their goal! ther than a cancelled flight to Dillingham and a few bad GPS directions in Honolulu, the trip went off without a hitch. The students and chaperones spend 5 days soaking up the sun and sand of Oahu. While on Oahu, the first stop was Pearl Harbor. The group toured the USS Arizona Memorial, the USS Missouri, and the USS Bowfin submarine. After a quick stop for the students to change into shorts (Mrs. Redmond told them not to wear pants but they didn't listen), the rest of the day was spent enjoying the waves and sand on the North Shore. The next day, we headed to the Sea Life Park, where we saw sea turtles, sharks, a dolphin and sea lion show, and were attacked by love birds! Then the rest of the day again was spent on boogie boards in the ocean and getting very, very sunburned. The next day, we did some souvenir shopping, enjoying the ocean again, and went to a luau for dinner. Our final day, we did some shopping, toured the Dole Pineapple plantation, and then somehow made everything fit into our suitcases, into the car, and onto the airplane to head back to Alaska, where we have been shivering ever since.

In February, we hosted a migrant education night, were we read Arctic Alphabet and then created our own Twin Hills alphabet book. The book has been laminated and put up for display at the school. We have also held our first informational meeting about opening a high school in Twin Hills. The parents so far have been very positive and excited about this new opportunity for their children in their home village. Everyone in Twin Hills is looking forward to spring sticking around soon and all of the year end activities we have planned!

