

# REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



**“Agayumaciq-Ilu  
qigcikluku.**

**Respect spirituality.”**

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

## **Board of Education**

Kay Andrews, President  
Marie Paul, Vice-President  
Ferdinand Sharp, Sec./Treas.  
Wassillie Wonhola, Member  
Wassillie Gust, Member  
Helen Gregorio, Member  
Dan Nanalook, Jr., Member



## **Superintendent's Office**

**David J. Piazza, Superintendent**

### **Superintendent Travel**

#### **AASB Fall Boardsmanship Academy**

Superintendent Piazza together with School Board President Kay Andrews participated in the Association of Alaska School Board's Fall Boardsmanship Academy held in Fairbanks last month. The two day event included information on the Future Educators of Alaska (FEA) program as presented by Jeanne Campbell, Co-Director; Barbara Adams with FEA; Sarah Sledge, with the Coalition for Education Equity (Formerly known as CEAAC); and former State Commissioner Jerry Covey who assists with the grant. FEA is looking to expand, including assisting paraprofessionals to obtain Para Educator Certification, and the establishment of a Career & Technical Student Organization.

Herb Schroeder, Director of Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP) and Michael Ulroan, Director shared ANSEP's program with attendees. The program sustained cuts to its budget, but is still working to maintain funding and its ability to bring students to its academies.

Sue Hull, AASB Board of Directors Member, provided a refresher to the group on the topic of Parliamentary Procedure. Anji Gallanos, from the Department of Education and Early Development shared information regarding the Early Childhood programs offered throughout the state. Information from the State's Kindergarten Developmental Profile, was provided, which was used by the District in the formation of the SWRS

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

School Board Resolution requesting funding and support for early childhood programs passed at the September school board meeting. Anji also discussed the establishment of community partnerships that work to support early childhood needs. The idea is to help “bring the school to the home and the home to the school.”

Staff from the Doyon Foundation described the work that they have been assisting with in the area of Indigenous Languages & Academic Achievement. Allan Hayton, Language Revitalization Program Director, Doyon Foundation’s Language Revitalization Committee, and Susan Paskvan, Native Language Coordinator for the Yukon-Koyukuk School District work together to provide community-based revitalization efforts for the 10 languages in their region.

Tim Leach with the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation provided information from the Energy Efficiency Technical Assistance Center. Students and staff of the Alaska Association of School Governments discussed the “Importance of Students Voice.” Timi Tullis with AASB provided techniques to manage conflict within the board including working with members that exhibit difficult behaviors to work towards ensuring that all decisions are in the best interest of the students being served.

## **ASA Fall Meeting**

Superintendent Piazza participated with Associate Superintendent Steve Noonkesser at the Alaska Superintendents Association’s (ASA) Fall Meeting in the Wasilla/Palmer area last month.

The first day’s pre-conference activities began with a tour of several of the schools within the Mat-Su Borough School District. The Career and Technical High School provides students with opportunities to explore coursework in 11 career pathways. Students within the Culinary pathway prepared and served a 3-course meal before participants moved on to the next school. The tour of the Fronteras Spanish Immersion Charter School showcased the new facility that was built with non-school district funds and the language immersion educational program provided at the school. The Iditarod Elementary School’s new building was just opened at the beginning of this school year. The building utilized a previous design for the main structure, but included colored window components to provide unique lighting to the main entry way and media center areas. Students can curl up with a good book overlooking the area in individual light boxes along the balcony. The tour concluded with a visit to the Wasilla Middle School Coding Academy. Here students have opportunities to learn a variety of computer programming skills that may spark interest in that career path. The Mat-Su school district strives to provide each school with a unique identity in order to attract and retain students and staff so that each school’s enrollment is at capacity while providing educational opportunities relevant to each particular student.

The meeting’s theme “Motivation, Innovation, Personalization”, was lead by Kenai Borough School District Superintendent and ASA President Sean Dusek. The meeting was held at the Mat-Su School District board room. This year’s program included welcomes provided by Gene Stone, Mat-Su Superintendent; Vern Halter, Mat-Su Borough Mayor; and Susan Pougher, Mat-Su District Board of Education President. Pre-

recorded video presentations by Senator Lisa Murkowski, Senator Dan Sullivan, and Congressman Don Young were presented.

Dr. Jim Johnsen, President of the University of Alaska presented on “UA and Alaska’s Future.” He described the challenges that the university is facing with the cuts in their budget, while remaining optimistic on working with K-12 education to ensure that students are ready for post secondary education and that the university is able to produce additional teachers to enter the profession.

National speakers included Dr. Dan Domenech, Executive Director of the American Association of School Administrators; Jimmy Casas, Administrator and Co-author of “What Connected Administrators Do Differently;” Dr. JoAnn Sternke, award winning Superintendent of Pewaukee School District in Wisconsin; and Dr. Roger Cook, Superintendent of Taylor County School District in Kentucky.

Presentations were also made by John Sedor working on behalf of the Alaska Council of School Administrators; Dr. Karen Gaborik, Superintendent of the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District; and Dan Domke, Fairbank’s Director of Career and Technical Education.

Additional Reports were presented by: Superintendent Dr. Deena Paramo from the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) National Governing Board; Superintendent Ty Mase from the Mt. Edgecumbe Advisory Board; Billy Strickland, Executive Director of the Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA) and Superintendent Jack Walsh representing the Special Education Service Agency (SESA). Superintendent Piazza also presented to the group on the annual status of the Professional Teaching Practices Commission (PTPC).

Similar to the work completed by AASB at their annual conference, ASA participants also reviewed and adopted a set of Joint Position Statements that will be forwarded to the Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals, the Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals, and the Alaska Association of School Business Officials. These statements provide direction the the ASA board and members as the legislative session approaches.

Dr. Michael Johnson, Alaska Commissioner of Education provided the state’s “Vision for Student Learning. James Fields, President of the State Board of Education; and Sue Hull Vice President for the State Board discussed the work that has been done to update the State’s Educational Strategic Plan.

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Associate Superintendent

This has been a month of fine tuning programs and working with staff to continue to improve new initiatives. Travel to the ASA Fall Meeting brought new information about the direction the state is taking with assessment and several other critical topics. Reading Mastery training and a focus on fine tuning our new Exploration Week program has been the focus of our team's energy.

### Reading Mastery Training

Cindy Paxton has again made what is becoming her annual visit to SWRS. This has been and continues to be a valuable training which meets teachers at their level of need and helps them individually develop new skills to better help students.

In Togiak, which has a significant number of new teachers, she familiarized teachers with the basic concepts of the program. In collaboration with Curriculum Specialist, Charles Becker, from the district office she also worked on assuring the proper placement of students and implementing a rotation to ensure that students are grouped together by ability level and instruction time is optimally utilized. She was also able to offer a day of training specifically for classified staff and members of the substitute pool.

While visiting Manokotak where more teachers were experienced and familiar with the program Cindy focused on helping teachers to refine their skills and integrate the more specifically targeted pieces of the program. Teachers at Manokotak were also able to provide her with feedback as to staff and student progress since her visit last year; preparing her with a better understanding of which parts of the program are most easily adopted and which, due to the unique culture and environment of our region, take more time or may need to be approached in a different way.

## INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TEAM



Les Parks  
Technology Coordinator



Dianna Schollmeier  
Elem. Ed. Specialist



Corey Evans  
Technology Specialist



Charles Becker  
Sec. Ed. Specialist



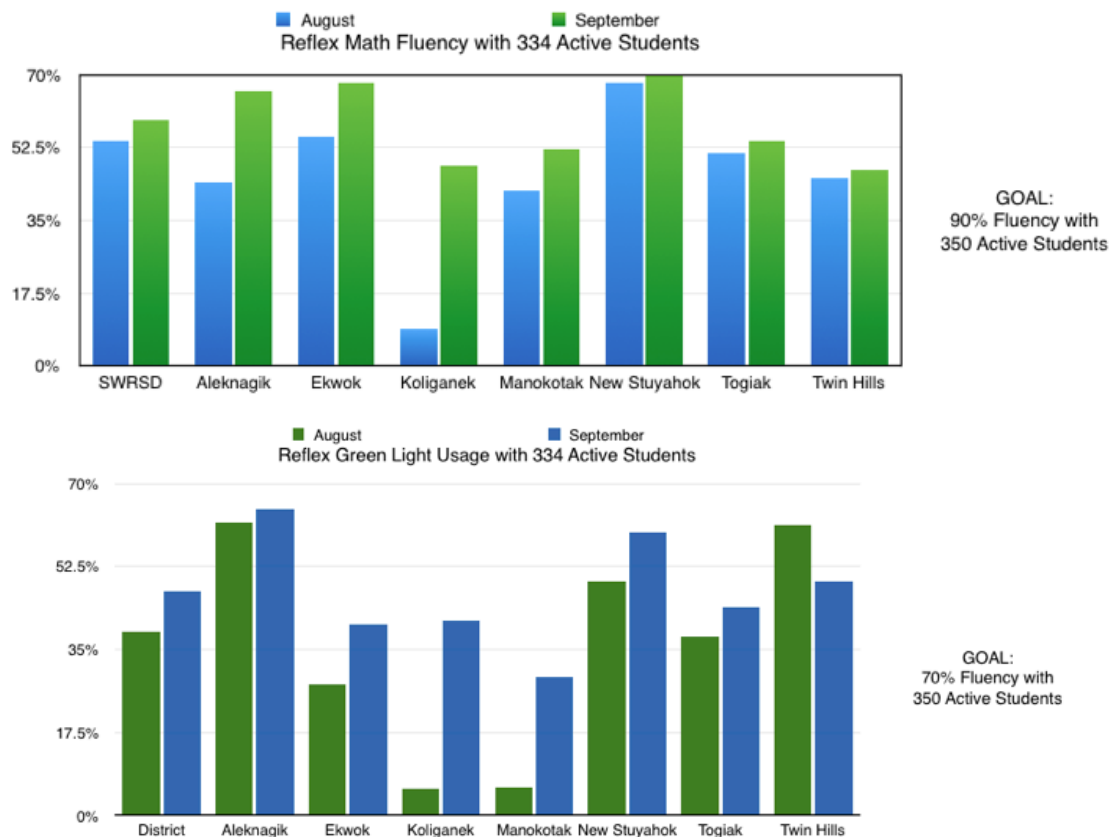
Cindy also visited Twin Hills and Ekwok. In Twin Hills she familiarized new teacher Mickey Pender with the nuances and subtleties of how Reading Mastery contrasts with curriculum Ms. Pender has taught previously. In Ekwok, where new teacher Alyssa Hawkins addresses all language arts content in a large morning block, she helped her balance instructing multiple levels within the same group.

## Exploration Weeks

The curriculum and instruction department continues to receive only positive feedback from students who participated in the first Exploration Week and is anxiously preparing for the second Exploration Week coming in November. Elementary students will also be involved in a modified, half-day version of Exploration Week during the November session.

## Reflex Math

Our use of reflex math across the district has grown from 244 active students to 334 active students. Our district fluency has seen a 5% growth in the last month, and 8.5% growth in Green Light usage. Green Light is how we measure a successful session and impacts fact fluency gains and long-term retention. If you can afford 20 minutes on Reflex in a single session students should be able to reach the Green Light. The magic ticket for 100% fact fluency is aiming to use Reflex three days a week and going for the “Green Light”.



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Academic Vocabulary

Elementary vocabulary has almost 1000 word lists built in to the website Spelling City. These word lists align to our curriculum in Reading, Writing, Math, Science, and Social Studies. A committee will be working on using Marzano's 5-step process to reviewing and building our tier 2 and tier 3 vocabulary lists this coming month.

September results for most words mastered across the district grades 6-12:

- 1st: Austin Finkenbinder 89 Words Mastered
- 2nd: Frederick Byayuk 87 Words Mastered
- 3rd: Jerahmy Peterson 69 Words Mastered
- 4th: Kalena Sutton 66 Words Mastered
- 5th: Alfredo Jimenez 63 Words Mastered
- 6th: Douglas Logusak 60 Words Mastered
- 7th: Malachi Blue 55 Words Mastered
- 8th: Andrew Andrews 52 Words Mastered
- 9th: Emily Wassillie 51 Words Mastered
- 10th: Sharla Williams 50 Words Mastered

## Technology Team Notes

Much of the work this month for Corey has been in supporting the district iPads. He has been, with the help of our site tech liaisons getting all of our district iPads updated the newest iOS (operating system). Apple as well as our MDM server (Mobile Device Management) have some new features available to us such as being able to automatically update apps as well as some new management features but the iPads must be updated before we can take advantage of them. Corey has also been working with the Special Education department to deploy several new apps being used address some of our special needs students.

Les has been busy keep our networks up and running and has been engaged in several other activities including:

- **eRate / School BAG Funding Year 2016**
  - eRate Category 1 Form 471 status remains "In Review"
  - SchoolBAG grant award in the amount of 163,545.60 awarded and accepted
- **Network Upgrades**
  - Have begun IP scheme planning for KNW, TOG, and KMO and remotely reconfiguring existing equipment at KNW, TOG, and KMO in preparation for upgrades with minimal impact on site school day
  - Have begun scheduling upgrades with GCI technicians
- **New Secretary Computers**
  - New secretarial staff computers ordered, received, and configuration in progress



## Student Government, Student Voice

Ashleanne Ishnook, Student District School Board Representative

### Notes From Around the District

- The Koliganek Student Council had elections and the representatives are Ashleanne Ishnook as president, Rachael Norbert as Vice-President, and Alfred Brown as Secretary/Treasurer. The Student Council advisor is Richard Coppin.
- The Chief Ivan Blunka School, elected the following individuals: Margie Walcott as President, Kiara Kapotak as Vice President, Letisha Walcott as Treasurer, Tamra Christopher as Secretary, Blunka Blunka as 11th grade rep, Sassa Kusma as 10th grade rep, and Jacob Andrew as the 9th grade rep. Chief Ivan, has worked with their administrator to help plan Red Ribbon Week activities. The theme for Red Ribbon Week is “YOLO, Be Drug Free.” Their student council is also sponsoring a Kids Halloween Carnival and Parade on the 31st of October.
- This fall, every middle school and high school school has had Exploration Week, the dates were September 12th through the 16th. The Exploration week was a success. Although the activities differed from each school, every school provided great opportunities for the students to explore different classes and career opportunities. Teachers and students are looking forward to expanding this to the lower grades in our next exploration week.
- Plato, is an online class and online curriculum. It helps students to learn on their own, so they can be more independent workers, and hopefully they can get great study habits for high school and in college. It really is a new experience for everyone in the district, and we are slowly getting used to it. It is challenging, but it will help prepare us for the future.
- Cross country was a huge success. The district had excellent runners this year, and it was exciting watching them compete. New Stuyahok, had four runners that made it to state, those individuals were, Kiara Kapotak, Kara Andrew, Casey Konukpeok and Blunka Blunka. Wrestling and Volleyball started recently, and we’re all excited to play, and to watch. Koliganek is hosting a wrestling tournament next Friday, and the school is excited! We look forward to the other schools visiting and competing here.
- All schools have started working to get the student council actively engaged in their schools. We look forward to the inclusion of additional schools in future reports.

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

### Title IA AK STEPP – Schoolwide Planning

Each school completes a needs assessment specific to their school, community, and students needs. School improvement teams review a wide range of data to identify areas of improvement at the school level and if appropriate, specific grade levels. Data sets that a school improvement team would review could include curricular data, attendance & graduation rate data, state assessment data, district assessment data, behavioral data, universal screening data, surveys, and other sources of data. Schools may determine several areas in which there is a need but are asked to focus efforts on two or three specific areas for the school year. SMART goals are developed in order to determine if the strategies implemented around these focus areas are successful.

### Title IC: Migrant Education

The migrant recruiting process continues! The recruiters are the critical piece to ensuring that we identify as many eligible students as possible. Recruiting has been completed for the following communities, Ekwok, New Stuyahok, Koliganek, and Manokotak. We are making a number of follow-up calls to Togiak and Twin Hills because families are still planning on catching red fish. We are also following up with families in Aleknagik and should be done with the recruiting process at the end of the month.

Jon Clouse traveled to Togiak to help with migrant recruiting from September 19 -21. He also traveled to Manokotak on September 26 to assist with recruiting. It is always great to work with our recruiters. Martha Fox (Togiak) and Virginia Bartman (Manokotak) really work hard and make the process positive for everyone involved.

### Title IA – Qualifications

(Program was previously called “Highly Qualified”) This is just a reminder that under ESSA, the highly qualified requirements for certificated staff have been removed. The Department of Education and Early Development will use this year to develop the system to determine “in-field” and “out-of-field” teachers under the regulations specified in ESSA. The qualifications for paraprofessional instructional aides remains the same but the term “highly qualified” has been removed.

### Career & Technical Education – Bristol Bay Regional CTE program (BBRCTE)

The second session of the BBRCTE program will be occurring during week of November 14 through 18. There will be sessions in Small Engines, Emergency Trauma Technician, Ground School (continued from the first session for the same students) and Business, focusing on personal finance, job readiness, and excel. The applications have been sent out and students will have been selected by the time of the October School Board Meeting.



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

### **Fall OASIS Report**

The fall count period began on October 3rd and runs through October 28th. Kyle has been working this month to check the accuracy of student data and to update the Fall OASIS report that must be submitted to the state by November 11th. This report will contain data about every student enrolled in the district. The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development then uses the enrollment data contained in the report to determine funding levels.

### **Impact Aid**

The Impact Aid count day is October 28th this year. The following week, Kyle will send out information to secretaries so that they can confirm students' information. Once students' information is confirmed, the district can compile it and begin the work to get our submission certified as correct by our local agencies.

### **Migrant Ed Recruiting**

As of October 10th, 190 students have been approved by the state as eligible for the Migrant Education program. We have submitted paperwork to the state for 18 more students. These numbers do not include potential migrant students who recruiters have yet to contact or students whose paperwork is in progress. At this point last year, we had 122 students approved and 33 students whose paperwork had been submitted but not yet approved. The deadline for having students approved as eligible for the Migrant Education program is November 15th.

Now that the first group of approvals has been received from EED, letters will be sent to parents to notify them of their child's eligibility and the services offered under the program.



## **Counseling & Assessment Specialist: Steve Ito**

Applications have been approved by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) to re-enroll SWRSD sites with the Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS). The Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS) is an annually updated, comprehensive career and educational research and exploration system for teens and adults. AKCIS is a dynamic web-based program that can easily navigate between occupational information, the related programs of study and training, and the schools that offer the training

Completed administration 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 student 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 2.0 for ELLs, which is given annually to limited English proficient students during a testing window from February 1 through March 31.

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



**Yup'ik Studies**  
Esther Ilutsik, Director

## 2016 Alaskans for Language Acquisition

Yungsiq Agnes Gamechuk of Ingricuar (Twin Hills) and I traveled into Anchorage September 23, 2016 to participate in the 2016 Alaska for Language Acquisition. The evening session begin with a keynote address by Linda Egnatz who was named the 2014 ACTFL National Language Teacher of the Year. Her talk titled, Peak Performance Proficiency Begins with Design and Innovation. She stressed that proficiency takes time and has to have well planned and well designed lessons. We need to connect the students to the community of the language. Where do we connect our languages with our teachers? We need to ask ourselves: WHAT IS WORTH SAVING? You need to design for proficiency – need to know the students and design lessons that will benefit them. She used the building of racecars to illustrate the process that they use in building a car that will win. The following morning (September 24, 2016) the session begin with Linda Egnatz again with, Coaching for Peak Performance: Moving Students from Novice to Intermediate and this time she used COACHES of SPORTS as an analogy. What do they do? - They are RESULT oriented, That it takes PRACTICE and that they are the CHEERLEADERS. Most importantly – What do you value? The students will know what you value. You need to know your students: Their past performance, their learning styles and have personal conversations with them. What are they interested in? And most importantly have the students evaluate themselves about what they know about the language. This followed with individual workshops and participated in Pique Your Proficiency with Andrea Dewees. She asks that teachers of the language as themselves these questions?

- “What is something that you do to support your language?”
- “What do you hear/fear and cheer about your own proficiency?” and
- “What do you want to be able to do in the language?”

So we ask our Yup'ik Studies instructors: “ How do you maintain your Yup'ik language proficiency?” “How do you support others?” She recommended this book to read: Understanding Second Language Acquisition by Lourdes Ortega. This followed with a presentation by me titled, Revitalizing Our Yup'ik Language and Culture Using TPRS. Shared the process that we used in building our Yup'ik language for the K-2nd program. Use the base of traditional Yup'ik oral legends as introducing the language and building a cultural understanding and foundation. It was followed with discussions, questions and interest.

FINISHED UP THE YUP'IK LANGUAGE DISTRICT WIDE SURVEY. QUYANA CAKNEQ FOR THOSE YUP'IK STUDIES INSTRUCTIONAL AIDES WHO HELPED! ANGUTEKAYK, CUNGASS'AQ, TAN'IQ, CUUNGAQ, TAT-IQ, ANGUKE'AQ, ITEGMIALRIA, NATU, AND CIKIAR .



## 2016 YCC 101 – Introduction to Yup'iaq

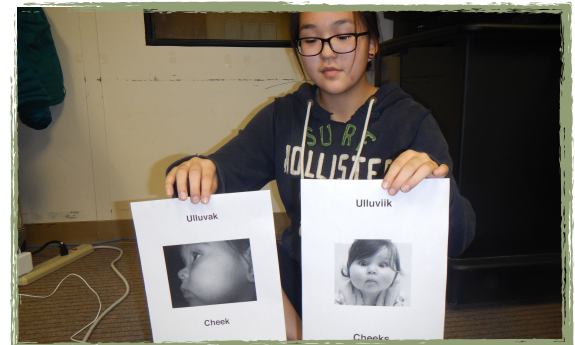
Tan'iq Larry Bartman of Manokotak is teaching YCC 101 through “polycom” to the students in Aleknagik who are assisted by Nuk'aq Jeneva Andrews. It was interesting to watch the interaction and engagement by both the instructors and students. Photos speak more than words...see photos.



## NIEA 2016 Convention & Trade Show

The first general assembly began with a keynote address from Dr. Malia Villegas. She earned her master's degree and doctorate in Culture, Communities, and Education at Harvard University and completed her undergraduate studies at Stanford University. She is currently the Director of the National Congress of American Indian Policy Research Center. She is an enrolled member of the Native Village of Afognak. She began with a question, “How do we use data to tell our stories of strength?” She stressed that we need to honor the voices of our youth. And most importantly how language and culture matter in their day-to-day lives. She asked, “What does it mean to be successful?” and quoted the late Dr. Oscar Kawagley, “The measure of success is how they feel about themselves. One who is at peace with oneself.” That is how we measure success.

I participated in many workshops that I will utilize as we continue to improve our Yup'ik Studies curriculum for our students.



The NIEA Conference ended with Yatibaey Evans from Fairbanks, Alaska, Athabascan and enrolled with the Ahtna Region, was sworn in as President of NIEA. Congratulations to Yatibaey for being the first Alaska Native to be President of NIEA! And congratulations are extended to Caitlin Auktweene Tozier of Nome who is currently a student (Junior) at UAF was elected as student representative for the NIEA board.



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Special Education

Sherry Becker, Director

### AK DEED Grant: Alaska Center for Accessible Media (akCAM)

The special education department applied for and has been awarded a two-year grant by the Department of Education and Early Development. This grant is a technical assistance grant that will address the assistive technology needs of students with disabilities in our district. This technical assistance is being provided by the Alaska Center for Accessible Media (akCAM).

An introductory meeting took place with district office staff on September 27, 2016. In attendance at this meeting were: district office administrators, technology department staff and a member of the curriculum/instructional support team. Ben Griese (New Stuyahok) and Deb Forkner (Manokotak) also joined this meeting by distance. Mystie Rail, akCAM Project Director led this meeting and then traveled to New Stuyahok to work more intensely with Ben Griese and seven qualified students. The akCAM Project Director will be working with Deb Forkner in the near future to provide some training and on-site support for accessible media for students in Manokotak. Additional on-site and distance trainings will be provided over the next two years, which will eventually include all special education teachers and site administrators. The grant provides direct technical support to special education teachers and IEP teams via distance or on-site at no cost to our district.

Why are we receiving this assistance?

1. Required to continue to receive state and federal funding: “The district will maintain documentation that it takes all reasonable steps to provide print instructional materials in accessible formats to students with disabilities (who need those materials) at the same time as other students receive print instructional materials.” 4 AAC 52.148, 34 CFR 300.172
2. Required to continue to receive state and federal funding: “When purchasing core instructional print materials the district will make every attempt to ensure that the publisher send (at no additional cost) electronic files containing the contents of the print instructional materials using the NIMAS standard.
3. Federal regulations state that IEP teams are required to consider whether or not a child needs assistive technology devices and services. Without appropriate training, special education teachers cannot advise IEP teams in this area.
4. Alaska requires that assistive technology be “made available to a child with a disability who needs devices or services for supplementary aids and services in regular classes or in the child’s home or other setting to receive a FAPE (4 AAC 52.148).” Assistive Technology (AT) includes low-tech items, as well as

those more advanced. Some examples, but by no means an exhaustive list, of AT devices are as follow: alternate keyboards, anti-slide mats, highlighted bar magnifier, correction tape, reading text guides, graphic organizers, grid paper, handheld audio reader, highlighter tape, interactive white boards, jumbo rulers, magnetic sheets, on screen keyboards, pencil grips, raised one paper, rubber stamps, magnification, screen reader software, speech recognition software, switches, (access voice output, etc), tactile rulers, etc.

5. SWRS currently has a total of 46 students (with varying disabilities) that receive special education services in the area of reading. akCAM can assist us not only in meeting state and federal guidelines but also to assist our teachers in better understanding how/when to use various accessibility features in technology already used, setting students up with Bookshare, providing additional information regarding digital books/textbooks, audiobooks, Braille books, and large print books, etc.

How has akCAM benefitted our students so far?

Ben Greise, New Stuyahok Secondary Special Education Teacher states, “Students with visual and learning disabilities are being afforded the opportunity to utilize assistive technology to overcome hurdles in the classroom due to their disability. Using the programs BookShare and Read2Go, students with visual and learning disabilities are able to download textbooks, chapter books, cookbooks and more. The students who have qualified for this program have flourished and become more independent in the classroom. One student even utilized the program to bake and decorate a cake! Along with Bookstore and Read2Go, these students are learning to utilize accessibility tools built into their Macs. This is just the beginning of something amazing!”

## Special Education Director Travel

The special education director traveled to Portland to attend the 33rd Annual Pacific Northwest Institute on Special Education and the Law on October 3-6th. Art Cernosia, Attorney at Law/Education Consultant, provided a thorough Year in Review of significant special education/Section 504 court cases. The following sessions were attended: NCLB v. ESSA: What’s Changed for Special Education; Section 504: The Lore v. the Law; Finding and Keeping the 5s (Strategies for Recruiting High Quality Applicants, Growing and Supporting Quality Staff, Evaluating Personnel to Ensure Students have the Most Effective School Staff Providing their Education, etc.); What Does it mean to Need Special Education?; Special Education Student Discipline: The Basics and Beyond; Specially Designed Instruction for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities; Digital Citizenship: Stupid Decisions Made in a Snap! Additional information/resources were provided during the conference on the following topics: FAPE: IDEA Procedural Requirements for Parental Participation; The Ten Rs’ of Behavior Management Practice; Differentiating Emotionally Driven vs. Purposeful Behavior; Update of Ninth Circuit Court Cases; Discipline and Behavior: Balancing Procedural Expectations with Positive Education Practice; Compensatory Education; School Health Services: A Complex Related Service; and more.... Overall, this conference was very informative and will improve the special education director’s ability to support special education and Section 504 legal requirements as well as provide more meaningful support to district administrators and teachers.

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## Business Office

**Ryan Ayars, Business Manager**

TimeClock Plus Web 3.0 has official been replaced with TimeClock Plus V7. The old version was 'sunsetted' on 6/30/2016 and support was discontinued. The new version is capable of collecting time and leave request while integrating with our accounting software. As we work out the kinks we look forward to replaces the current manual data entry system.

We received a second Impact Aid voucher for our FY15 application in the amount of \$323,459.61. This increase in Impact aid payments for use in the current year should translate into a \$291,113 decrease to our foundation payment as the two are connected, leaving us with a net increase to our anticipated revenues of \$32,347. Impact Aid payments received through February of 2017 can be used for he current Fiscal Year.

The Draft Audit is nearing completion. The official deadline to have audits delivered to the State November 15th. Due to the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement 68, which was introduced last year and requires us to disclose the States accounting and financial reporting for pension plans, we are still waiting for a Draft Audit. Until the State of Alaska Division of Retirement and Benefits releases the final numbers under review by KPMG auditors no one can complete their audits.

This year the Alaska Association of School Business Officials (ALASBO) Annual Conference is December 6-9. Some of the Business Office will be attending to take advantage of the face-to-face engagement with other school business officials to learn and connect sharing challenges, successes, best practices, and more. With the many changing requirements affecting the business office it will be a welcomed opportunity.





## Aleknagik School

Audra Finkenbinder, Principal/Teacher

Time seems to just be flying by at Aleknagik North Shore School - here we are already at the end of the first quarter of the 2016-2017 school year with Parent/Teacher Conferences planned for October 27th – 28th.

Within the last few weeks, we have had Student Council elections, volleyball practice has begun, the million-word challenge is in full swing, quarterly CIPA Training has been completed and students are currently completing the STAR assessments and AIMSweb fluency checks for the first quarter.

### Student Council

The Student Council for the 2016-2017 school year consists of:

- President-Tasha Gilila
- Vice President- Lodi Active
- Secretary-Marki Tinker
- Treasurer-Travis Bavilla
- Representative-Glenn Andrews

### Volleyball

Volleyball practice has begun and this year we have the possibility to field two teams. We are excited about the opportunity to have both a middle school and high school team (one of which will be co-ed) and are looking forward to a great season!



### Million Word Challenge

There are currently six Lakers participating in the District sponsored Million-Word Challenge. It is wonderful to see these students reading (some quite voraciously) on their own time and looking for new books to read once they have completed and passed each AR test.

Altogether, the students have read over 400,000 words since the beginning of the challenge.

### CIPA

In accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act and Southwest Region School's Acceptable Use Policy, all students have received instruction in Basic Internet Safety and will continue to receive training on a quarterly basis throughout the school year.

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

## STAR & AIMSweb

Students are currently completing the STAR Reading Assessment as well as the AIMSweb fluency assessment. Teachers will use the data collected from these assessments to adjust instruction to better meet student needs.

## Reflex Math

Students continue to utilize Reflex Math, an online fluency program. Aleknagik School is proud to announce that Katrena Finkenbinder has reached 100% fluency in her math facts! With each practice session, other students are also well on their way to being 100% fluent.

## Vocabulary

Another online supplemental program is Vocabulary.com which offers students a monthly competition based on most words mastered in the program. For the month of September, Austin Finkenbinder won first place by mastering 89 words.

## Students of the Month

K-5: Abigail Ilutsik

6-12: Virginia Andrews

Congratulations! Keep up the good work!







## William 'Sonny' Nelson School

### Heath Hawkins, Principal/Teacher

September proved to be a very busy month. We have been diligently working with community members to help bring our elders into the school and increase interaction with the students. Our "Warrior Time" is officially in full force and our students seem to enjoy the extracurricular activities involved. "Warrior Time" occurs during the last 30 minutes of the school day on Fridays. A local elder has generously volunteered his time and is teaching some of the students how to make traditional wooden snow glasses. He has also given a history of the snow glasses and discussed how necessity mothered invention. The remainder of our students are learning to crochet with Mrs. Hawkins and Mrs. Alice. Our first Bingo night was very busy but also a success! I thoroughly enjoyed meeting members of the community I had not yet seen. Our Halloween Carnival is scheduled for October 31st and the students are ready for community fun. Ekwok was gracious enough to have a potluck dinner welcoming my family to the district. We tried many new dishes including some we had never seen before. One thing we are quickly learning is that Alaskans can cook! Our Elder lunch program has kicked off and we are currently delivering meals to their homes. We are in the process of inviting elders that are willing and able to come eat lunch with the students. This would be a wonderful asset to our school and an opportunity for students to glean valuable information and interaction from the wisdom and patience of our older community.



We have selected our students of the month for October. The two students we chose this month for the awards were chosen based upon a list of character traits and leadership criteria. This month our K-2 student is Kendra Jensen and our 3-6 student is Malakai Romie. Both of these students have exhibited great attitudes and displayed the traits we consider consistent with student citizenship.

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Koliganek School

Michael Lee, Principal

It has been a great month in Koliganek. It is starting to cool off and fall is all around us. There is excitement in the air for the activities coming up in the school and in the community. Time is flying by and everyone is very busy.

### Facilities:

Our new bleachers and gym floor covers allow much better use of the facilities. We can now have an assembly or meeting with the community and actually have enough seats for everyone. We can also cover and protect the gym floor much easier. This greatly increases the ability to use the school facilities without any negative impact on the school or building. We already have several request for use for weddings and other community events. The more we can get the community into the school, the better we can work together as partners in improving the education of the students.

### Student Activities

Although Cross Country just finished, wrestling is currently in full swing. Gusti Wassillie is the wrestling coach and we have about 10 middle school students that are participating in wrestling this year. They are very excited about having their first wrestling meet in Koliganek and the community is excited also. We look forward to being able to see our students compete against other students in the district.

We have also had other activities each weekend. One identified goal for the school is to increase our attendance rate. We are doing weekly rewards for those that are present each day with no behavior disruptions. We have had movie nights were admission is free but you must have been present all week. We have also been opening the student store. Different student groups work the student store to raise money for each group. So far the High School Girls have been working to raise money for new uniforms. The Middle School Co-ed team is starting to work to earn new uniforms for the middle school. We are building excitement back into out sports activities and this will help to ensure that the students maintain their attendance and grades.

### Classrooms and Curriculum:

We completed our first E-week since the last written board report. It was a huge success. There were many different activities going on and students found the classes educational and fun. The cooking class

provided a look at international cuisine using local foods. Our community service class was able to help out elders who water was out for 3 days. They hauled water and assisted with wood and minor housework for the elders. They were all very thankful and shared stories and knowledge with the students. The computer fundamentals class introduced the basics of coding and logic sequence for instructions in robotic and video games. Several of the students are now looking into an afterschool robotics club and possible entry into the states robotic challenge. It is wonderful to see the material in a class cause a student to seek additional and more challenging information on the subject. A spark can start a wildfire of learning.

The elementary also participated in the exploration week activities. They collected local plants in the afternoons and tied these to their science and social studies lessons in the classroom. They are excited and busily planning to expand the activities in the next session. The elementary has been actively using the afterschool tutoring time to complete homework and practice additional spelling, math, and reading games. We have been doing after school tutoring from 3:45 – 4:45 on Tuesday through Friday. The additional effort from the students and staff will definitely result in an increase in ability and higher performance on the state assessments.

Although not many middle school and high school students have been attending the tutoring immediately after school, parents have volunteered to come up and help with a second study hall from 6-7 before the MS/HS have open gym. The community has responded with great positivity to the school requesting help with finding ways to reach the middle school and high school students. We have had a significant number of middle school and high school students that were not being successful in their classes. With the assistance of the parents and community, we have been able to reduce this number. This is not a short term problem, and it will take the continued support of the parents and community. The school is very thankful for all of the assistance and support that the community and parents have been offering.

## Looking Ahead

As we drawn close to the end of the first quarter, it is hard to believe just how fast the year is moving. The pace from here will only increase and it will be Christmas before we realize. The School Improvement team has reviewed our data and created goals for this year. The goals were reviewed by the CSC and then by the community and parents at an assembly. We will continue trying to move forward with making progress with our goals. Thank you for the support from all of the district staff and school board.



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Deb Forkner, Principal

Manokotak Nunaniq Staff have been busy analyzing testing data to be sure students are placed in the appropriate educational groups. Meetings with parents of struggling students are occurring and RTI plans put into place to support these students.

The STEPP needs assessment has been completed and school wide goals for this year set.

By the end of the 2016-17 school year, 80% of all students will meet their expected growth rate for MAP reading.

By the end of the 2016-17 school year, 80% of all students will meet their expected growth rate for MAP math.

By the end of the 2016-17 school year, the chronic tardiness rate per quarter for grades seven through twelve will be less than 30%.

The needs assessment revealed our strengths to be: Consistent school-wide discipline expectations and consistency in staff resulting in decreased discipline referrals over the past two years. The school mission state, "Manokotak Nunaniq School Staff will strive to create a safe, positive, culturally-rich environment focused on success and life-long learning", is strongly supported by all staff members. The focus on integrating the Yupik culture into classroom lessons and activities is strong.

Students are looking forward to the November Exploration week. Manokotak will be offering the following course choices: Advance crocheting, holiday crafts, beading, net hanging bench building, Qaspeq making, Soapstone carving, cooking holiday foods, native food preparation, video journalism, trapping



and Maqivik building. We will have 3 students returning to Naknek to complete ground school, and hopefully a few more to attend the other BBRCTE classes. Our elementary students will be participating in Exploration week by doing a mini exploration (1:00-3:00 each day) based on music. Students will get to experience 5 different musical instruments, then choose one to learn. We will have a concert at our Exploration Extravaganza on November 21. The extravaganza will feature the elementary concert and displays of projects created by middle and high school students during Exploration weeks.

Volleyball and wrestling practices have started. Teams are anxiously looking forward to the beginning of games the end of October.



## 'Chief' Ivan Blunka School

Robin Jones, Principal

Everything is continuing to go well at Chief Ivan Blunka School! Exploration Week was a huge success in September, and we are already planning and looking forward to the November session. We will be offering the following secondary courses in November: Welding, Basketball Statistics, Computer Aided Design (CAD), Cooking, Wood Burning, Wilderness Survival, Trapping, and Qaspeq Making. We are also hoping that several students get accepted into the BBRCTE sessions. In the elementary, we are piloting afternoon exploration week sessions, where we will be offering: Basketball Fundamentals, Lego Engineering, Iqsak Making, Weaving, Baking, and Art. The students and staff are very excited about these highly engaging course offerings!

In our Professional Learning Communities, we will begin to devote time toward developing behavioral interventions and strategies to better maintain a safe school environment that is conducive for learning. We hope to be able to partner the Elder Mentor program to help design these intervention plans. The staff is also in the process of collaborating with the Student Council to plan a dynamic Red Ribbon Week for the last week in October with the national theme of: "Y.O.L.O. Be Drug Free." The Student Council will also be sponsoring a quarter one awards assembly, fall carnival, and costume parade to cap off October.

We were so very proud to have 4 student athletes qualify for and compete at the state cross-country championships. We have had a great turnout for both our volleyball and wrestling programs so far and look forward to watching them compete in the near future!



**Students of the Month**  
 Summer Anelon – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
 Selena Geffe – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
 Damian Gust – 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Employee of the Month**  
 Makayla Walcott





# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Togiak School

Sam Gosuk, Principal

It has been a about a month and a half since our year began. Teachers now have gotten to know their students and some of their parents. Teachers also have gotten to know some of the culture of the community. A lot has happened this month that are exciting both to me as an educator and as a community member.

One thing that happened was a Fablab class which some students and staff members went to gain experience on what the next generation can be doing. Pat Kraft and John Niebergall were instructors. Students made logos that could be sold as school logos. Using this Rhino related software, John demonstrated what could be done with Togiak Fablab equipment. He demonstrated that we could sell T-shirts with Togiak School logos and other schools in our districts' logos as stickers or on a T-shirt.



Another event was teaching of survival by Ron Bowers. Mr. Bowers presented water safety to our high school students and demonstrated how to use the immersion suits and survival equipment at sea. He taught our students safety and survival related to water and also demonstrated on water near the village how the equipment can be used.

Our new fifth grade class teacher invited me to demonstrate how the harpoon and gift was used for seal to the students. The students were shown equipment related to safety such as vhf, tarp, gps, and compass. The students were very interested about their culture. After the demonstration, on another day they were shown pictures of seal hunting and the students got to taste the seal jerky. Students were very thankful and asked to be shown culture related stories again.

One more exciting thing I would like to share with you all is that a student who graduated last year, came to visit and let me know what is going on with his life. He had just gotten his PFD and was going to a vocational training related to construction. He was very excited to share with me and he wanted to visit a student and share what he was going to do to show what can be done after graduation. This kind of news, by a student(s) is very encouraging to me as an administrator. We, as a team, are teaching our young folk to survive in our modern world, as our ancestors did before us.





## Twin Hills School

**Nate Preston, Principal/Teacher**

Twin Hills School is working on Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Conference, Halloween, e-week, and Thanksgiving. Our middle school students will be on the trip to Fairbanks for the AFN Youth and Elders Conference: they are very excited to go to Fairbanks for the first time. We are also preparing for our annual Halloween party, and the CSC is looking forward to the annual jello slurping contest which is a big thing every October 31st at our site.

We are in the process of setting up for e-week in November. This will be the first e-week held at Twin Hills School. We have volunteers to teach outdoor and survival skills with the high school students and the middle school class will be baking different desserts. Since the e-week is one week before Thanksgiving our students will be baking Thanksgiving theme foods like pumpkin pie. The elementary students will be participating in e-week as well. Various activities are going to be scheduled for each afternoon of e-week.

The school year is progressing nicely. Our current enrollment is 25 students and the high school program is working well. We have started the after school program. In addition, we are having movie nights every Friday after school; attendance is based on attendance and behavior. The staff and community are continuing to get to know each other and we look forward to spending time together during Halloween and Thanksgiving.