

# REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



**"Tuvqakiaqluten-Ilu  
yuullgutevnek  
piyungnaaqavet**

**Share possessions  
and knowledge with  
honor."**

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

## **Board of Education**

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

During the two short weeks between the October Board Meeting and the time of this writing, the superintendent's office has been focused on a number of projects including mailings requested by the Board, as well as, beginning the initial planning and staffing efforts for the upcoming FY 2018 school year.

Letters were delivered to each of the Tribal Councils within the Southwest Region School District communities and follow-up communication was made to ensure that the communication was received and directed to the appropriate council members and/or staff.

The letter included the draft Tribal State Consultation Guide as prepared by the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) to help share the changes within the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requiring that states meaningfully consult with tribal leaders and districts meaningfully engage parents and community members. While these changes to ESSA were mainly put in place for areas of the country where Indian and Native parents and tribal organizations and were not the majority within their respective communities, additional efforts for collaboration



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between the schools and tribal councils and membership will strengthen the learning environment for students.

The end of the 20-day student count period for district-level funding has concluded. The district count is only down slightly from last year's count to 578.45, however, this is down significantly from the planned increase in student membership with the addition of the high school programs at the three previous K-8 schools. While the high school numbers did increase at two of the three schools as anticipated, an overall drop of student population across the district also occurred.

At this time each year, the District begins the planning processes for the next school year. This planning includes signing up for educator career fairs in the spring to meet staffing needs within the schools. While it is still a little early to know specific staffing vacancies, taking the time now to have space reserved for our recruiting efforts helps to provide a smooth transition for the new school year.





## Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Associate Superintendent

### Exploration Week Two – November 14–18, 2016

In the short weeks since our last report instructional staff have been busy preparing for our second Exploration Week. Students and staff are excited to participate in another round of special courses. Students participating in BBRCTE offerings began Emergency Trauma Technician training in Dillingham with a five hour evening session on Sunday night. Students in the ETT strand will have nearly half of their Emergency Medical Technician I training done at the end of the week. Other students, who went to Naknek and King Salmon for courses are participating in Private Pilot Ground School, Small Engines Repair, Business and other courses.

On site at home, students will be participating in a range of courses across the district including Community Service, Hunter Education, Qaspeq Making, Introduction to Painting, iMovie/Moviemaking, Trapping, Steam Building, Nethanging Bench Making, Soapstone Carving, Native Food Preparation, Culinary Arts: Holiday Meals, Journalism, Crochet, Beading, Skin Sewing, Uluag Making, Survival Skills, Harpoon Making, Firearms Safety, Storytelling, Parka Making, Yup'ik Dance, Furniture Making, Computer Science, Culinary Arts: Baking, Wood Burning, Computer Aided Design, Creative Writing, Subsistence Meat Processing, Introduction to Robotics, Introduction to Photography, and Driver's Education.

## INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TEAM



Les Parks  
Technology Coordinator



Dianna Schollmeier  
Elem. Ed. Specialist



Corey Evans  
Technology Specialist



Charles Becker  
Sec. Ed. Specialist

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## Reading Activities

Students are taking part in two Reading Contests this fall. The first is the “Love of Reading Challenge”. Classes were challenged to read a total of 100 books between the beginning of school and the end of November. So far, two classes have met this goal: Jasmin Montgomery’s 6th Grade class in Manokotak, and Colynn Isaacson’s 2nd Grade class in Togiak. Students received a paper star for each book they read and posted them on a bulletin board to track their progress.



The other contest is the “Million Word Club” which will continue through the end of April. So far 13 students have read at least 100,000 words each. Those students are:

**Aleknagik**

- Austin Finkenbinder
- Katrena Finkenbinder
- Tasha Gilla

**New Stuyahok**

- Barrett White

**Manokotak**

- Shelby Anaver

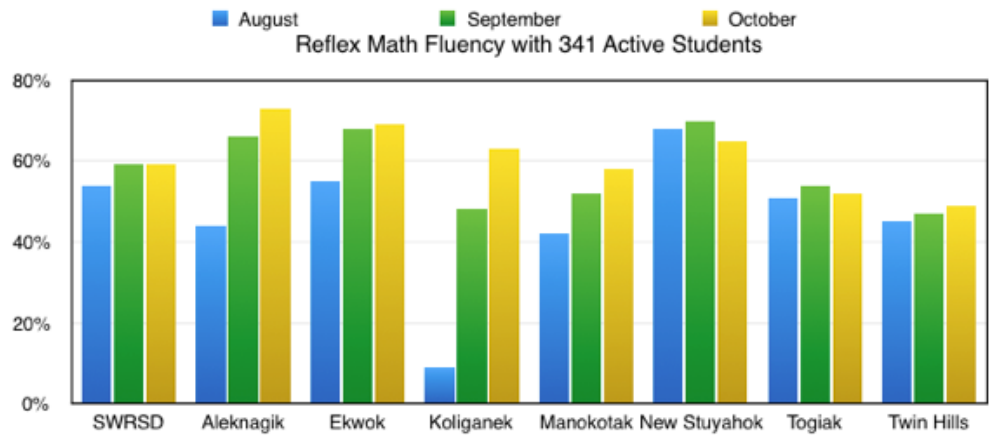
- Trinity Eager
- Julia Etuckmelra
- Arthur Jenkins
- Jazlyn Nicketa
- Vicky Paul
- Manita Tugatuk

**Ekwok**

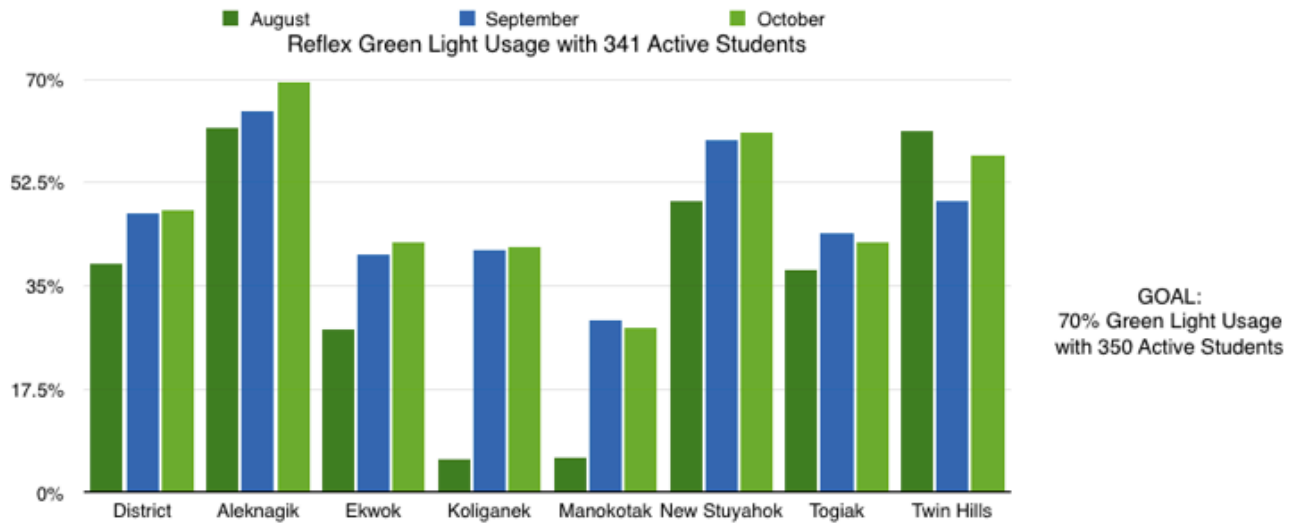
- Zoe Hawkins

## Reflex Math

As a district we are close to meeting our goal of 350 active students. Our district wide fluency is at 59% (goal being 90%), and our Green Light usage is at 47.7% (goal being 70%). It is important to notice that the sites that are close to reaching the Green Light goal (students using the program for approximately 20 minutes each time they login) are also the sites that are seeing the greatest increase in fluency. So now that we have almost 350 active students, students need to work on getting to the Green Light each time they log in to see the most dramatic change in their fluency.



GOAL:  
90% Fluency with  
350 Active Students



## Academic Vocabulary:

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

- 1st: Austin Finkenbinder 197 Words Mastered (\$10 Student Store Gift Card)
- 2nd: Frederick Byayuk 173 Words Mastered (\$10 Gas Card)
- 3rd: Trajan Dock 172 Words Mastered (\$5 Student Store Gift Card)
- 4th: Alfredo Jimenez 162 Words Mastered
- 5th: Andrew Andrews 149 Words Mastered
- 6th: Travis Neketa 130 Words Mastered
- 7th: Douglas Logusak 105 Words Mastered
- 8th: Jacob Smith 100 Words Mastered
- 9th: Ezra Andrews 100 Words Mastered

The growth in student participation from September to October was quite noticeable from the growth in the number of words mastered this time around. 1st place last month had 89 words mastered in one month, and in October, you had to have greater than 100 words mastered to even get in the top 10. This increase in our student's academic vocabulary should reflect directly on their academic performance.



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## Technology Team Notes

This month Corey has been working primarily in two areas. First, he has been working with the special education department to configure and deploy iPads to provide services to students identified by site special education teachers. This year there has been a marked increase in the use of iPads to support special education students in both elementary and upper grades. Corey has also been doing his best to navigate the maze of Apple departments to pin down the status of the district's Apple testing center credentials. Apple is completely changing the way it manages testing centers effective this December. With our exploration week coming up in March and a Macintosh OS course scheduled, he is try to verify the methods and certification test the district will be authorized to offer to students.

Les has been busy upgrading and keeping 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 received a PIA review question word for word exactly as one answered back in August. Reviewers must be highly confused...
- **eRate / School BAG Funding Year 2017**
  - Preparing to file Form 470 for telephone services procurement
- **Network Upgrades**
  - Layer-3 network upgrades completed in KNW and TOG
  - Preparing for Layer-3 network upgrade in KMO
- **New Secretary Computers**
  - New secretarial staff computers deployed at KNW, DLG, WKK, KMO, and TOG.



## State & Federal Programs

**Jon Clouse, Director**

### **Title IA AK STEPP – Schoolwide Planning**

Our schools are well on their way on updating and revising their AK STEPP plans. Every school has completed a needs assessment based on various data sets. Every school has identified areas of need unique to their students and has developed SMART goals select areas of need. These SMART goals are the emphasis of the AK STEPP plan and but the AK STEPP plan covers a wide range of indicators that have been linked by research to improving student learning. For November, each school will be working on the first three indicators in the step plan, as well as, determining strategies that can be implemented to meet the SMART goals. These three indicators include:

- 1.01 – Implementation of district-adopted curriculum
- 2.03 – The implementation and use of universal screeners
- 3.02 – Development of a plan for all students to receive core instruction and low-performing students to receive additional support.

Included in the packet is the needs assessment for schools that have completed them and a rubric for the indicators addressed by each school in AK STEPP.

### **Title VI: Indian, Native Hawaiian, & Alaska Native Education**

The Title VI application is a multi-year project to support the implementation of the Yup'ik Studies program throughout the district. Title VI is a formula grant based on the number of students for

which we have eligibility forms on file. Part of the grant requires annual performance reports (APR) based on the activities outlined in the grant versus implementation of those activities. The ARP for school year 2015-2016 is included in the board packet. It is important to note that the second page of the application indicates that there is not a target population. The reason for this is because the district coordinates with other programs and general budget to support the Yup'ik Studies program.

### **Career & Technical Education – Chief Ivan Blunka School**

Chief Ivan Blunka School will be offering a Digital Design and Fabrication course during the upcoming Eweek from Nov. 14th through 18th. This has been a collaborative effort involving the Bristol Bay Campus, Digital Design & Fabrication, LLC, and Chief Ivan Blunka teachers and administration. Kent Winship, Bristol Bay Campus, and John Niebergall, Digital Design & Fabrication, LLC (Oregon) will be co-teaching the course with staff from Chief Ivan Blunka School including Josh Gates, CTE/Math teacher, and Ben Gartlets, Science/Math teacher. Students will be learning how to design and fabricate items using vinyl cutters, laser etchers, and 3D printers. Students that successfully complete the course will receive dual credit from the campus and NCCER Core module certification.

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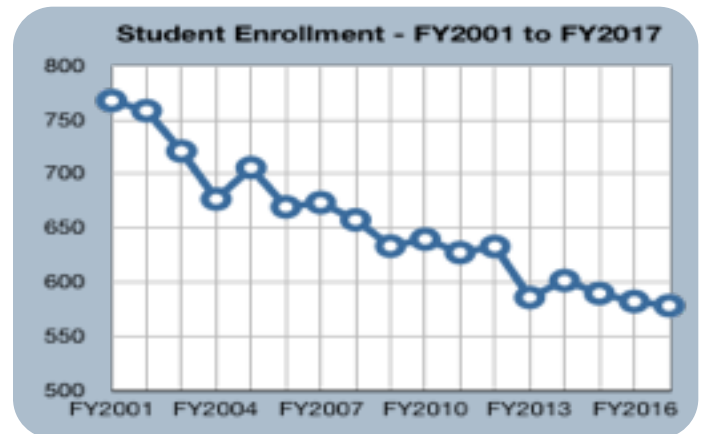
**Student Information & Support Specialist: Kyle Schneider**

## Impact Aid

Kyle is currently working on the Impact Aid report in conjunction with the school secretaries. He has finished preparing data in PowerSchool to create the reports that school secretaries will use to determine eligibility for Impact Aid funding. On October 31st, secretaries received the information to begin work on their village's Impact Aid report and the maps needed to fill out the forms.

## Fall OASIS Report (Count Period)

Count period ended on the 28th of October and we have submitted our numbers to the EED. The numbers submitted to EED are based on the number of students enrolled from October 3rd through October 28th and are as follows:



	Elementary (PK-6)	Secondary (7-12)	Total (PK-12)	Intensive	% Change from Prior Year
Aleknagik School (450020)	12.3	13	<b>27</b>	0	6.72%
Chief Ivan Blunka School (450080)	72.55	53	<b>135.25</b>	3	-7.17%
Koliganek School (450050)	32	17.55	<b>49.55</b>	0	-2.84%
Manokotak School (450070)	68.45	53.80	<b>124.17</b>	3	-1.55%
Togiak School (450110)	141.65	72.85	<b>205.82</b>	5	4.22%
Twin Hills School (450120)	16.3	8.75	<b>25.05</b>	1	19.29%
William "Sonny" Nelson School (450040)	16.25	0	<b>16.25</b>	1	-10.47%
Total	359.50	218.95	<b>578.45</b>	13	-1.92%



### Migrant Ed Recruiting

Migrant Education recruiting has wound down and we have submitted our paperwork to the Alaska Department of Early Education & Development (EED) Migrant Education Office. As of November 7th, EED has approved the paperwork we submitted for 253 children in our villages. We expect to receive paperwork for an additional 9 children.

Letters have been sent to parents to notify them of their child's eligibility and the services offered under the program once the recruiting window ends on November 15th. After the enrollment period closes, village-based Migrant Education Coordinators will begin working to provide services.

School Year	Number of Migrant Eligible Children
2016-2017	253-262
2015-2016	243
2014-2015	264
2013-2014	260
2012-2013	214
2011-2012	227



**Counseling & Assessment Specialist: Steve Ito**

The Alaska Developmental Profiles for Kindergarten students were completed district-wide before the EED deadline of November 1st. The purpose of the Alaska Developmental Profile is to identify, record and summarize the skills and behaviors students demonstrate at the beginning of their kindergarten year, based on teacher observations.

New Stuyahok, Manakotak, Togiak and Twin Hill have been chosen to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) also known as "the Nation's Report Card". It is the only nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas. Since 1969, assessments have been conducted periodically in reading, mathematics, science, writing, U.S. history, civics, geography, and the arts.

NAEP 2017 will be given from January 30-March 10, 2017. A representative sample of grade 4 and grade 8 students will take the NAEP in Alaska. No student or school results are given for the NAEP, only state-level results. Since NAEP assessments are administered uniformly using the same sets of test booklets across the nation, NAEP results serve as a common metric for all states and selected urban districts.

The assessment stays essentially the same from year to year, with only carefully documented changes. This permits NAEP to provide a clear picture of student academic progress over time.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is evolving to address the changing educational landscape through its transition to digitally based assessments (DBAs) for the NAEP 2017 administration.

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

## 7th Annual Indigenous Language Institute Symposium

Pi'piq (Anastasia Ishnook McDowell) 4th – 6th grade teacher from Koliganek and I traveled down to Santa Fe, Mexico to participate in this symposium. The symposium begin with a welcome from Kaihuhatati (Gerald L. Hill) is a Bear Clan from Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin. He is currently the Chief Judge Court of Appeals of the Oneida Judiciary and also serves as the ILI (Indigenous Language Institutes) President. His message centered on the state of our languages, “We must face the truth about our state of our languages.” The purpose of the symposium is to hear about the general acquisition concepts and discussion about how we acquire language in the first place. The symposium was organized each day with three presentations and then the afternoon with breakout sessions featuring the speakers. The keynote address was given, Extermination to Revitalization: A Witness's Journey of a Language Effort that has Come Full Circle, by Dennis Banks (Ojibwa), Co-founder of American Indian Movement. He touched on how our indigenous names were changed by the missionaries to fit their needs. He gave an example, “Oh, you look like a Sam, your name will be Sam.” He stressed that we must retake our indigenous names back as they strengthen our identity. He also touched on boarding schools and recommended that we need to address this era and provide a healing ceremony to those who experienced that time in history. He stated, “The room is full of warriors, you are the teachers who can address and teach from the Native American perspective.” In closing, he stressed that language and culture will change the atmosphere of the school and communities in which we live. The current system is not working for our people. Our language and culture must be the foundation of education he stressed. I would also like to highlight a couple of more presentations (although all presentations and sessions were excellent). Chris Harvey's talk focused on “Coming back from the Edge: Bucking the Trend to Endangerment”. He said to create



a domain where the language is spoken, map out how the language is used in the community. Focus on where the language is spoken- is it spoken when the students are our engaged in the environment (subsistence activities)? Where is your community in terms of language use? And Dorothy Lazore spoke on, “Our Languages are in Emergency State” She stressed that we need an Adult Immersion Program so that our students can communicate with someone at home as they learn the language in school. We need that re-education – “Love who we are as people.” “Take pride in speaking our languages.” “If we lose our language, we lose who we are.” “Our native language is our identity.” In our indigenous languages we have words that are used just by men or just by women. The students need to be taught those special differences. In closing I would like to leave you all with that we are moving forward with bringing our Yup’ik language back and the encouragement and ideas that we obtain from conferences of this nature give us the strength to move forward. As Richard Littlebear, Cheyenne and President and Dean of Cultural Affairs at Chief Dull Knife College said, “Gaining fluency is a life -long endeavor. I am fluent as I am!”

### **Report from Pi’piq (Anastasia Ishnook McDowell of Koliganek)**

At this symposium, I got a lot of insight to the struggles of the indigenous people. We are all facing the same thing of losing a piece of our culture, our language. Why is this? The things that I found were: languages are not important to the community, parents have a mindset that their children will struggle in school if they have English as a second language, and our ancestors were abused for speaking their language.

How can we get language back in our community? I feel this need to come from the whole community and the school. I would like to do a survey to see how important it is to preserving our language in our village. I would also like to see who speaks it in their homes, this may get the parents thinking about starting this. If language is important to the people in our community, then we should have a full-time Yupik teacher in our school, just like some of the communities in our district. They have strong Yupik programs, because they have a full-time position for it.

I would also like to ask our CSC board how important it is to have our language taught in the school. This would just get the process started. We could start having Yup’ik dancing Fridays, or other sort of craft. Then we could have Yupik taught to the students for every task that they do. Like sitting, greetings, cleaning, and chores at home. I learned that when students learn a new language they learn one word, then two words, and then move onto sentences.

I would love to see our school have strong Yupik program implemented. This would do great for our students and our community. I would also like to preserve our native dancing songs, before they are lost. I can do this by recording the elders singing. I believe this can all be achieved with community and school involvement.

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Special Education

**Sherry Becker, Director**

This past month has been very busy with reviewing/monitoring new special education referrals, coordinating evaluations for speech/language, physical therapy, occupational therapy, transportation services, and counseling services, etc. Special education teachers throughout the district have been working closely with our SERRC related services specialists, our E-Therapy speech/language pathologist, and with our Special Education Service Agency (SESA) specialists to get all the necessary evaluations completed and services provided.

The special education director has spent a lot of time training/supporting special education teachers as well as working with principals and general education teachers using the TIENET program to document interventions being used for Response to Intervention (RTI). The RTI process is part of the pre-referral process for special education as well as the process that is required prior to a child being considered for retention at the end of the school year. Students that were retained last year were immediately put on an intervention plan and/or referred for a special education evaluation. We currently have 47 general education students going through the RTI process district-wide.

District-wide, we have 76 students receiving special education services. We have an additional 10 students going through the initial special education referral/eligibility process. 9 students remain eligible this school year for Intensive Needs funding with an additional 4 students being submitted to the state for Intensive Needs funding eligibility review/approval.

The akCAM program has gotten off to a really good start. Multiple students in New Stuyahok, Manokotak, and in Togiak are now (or will be soon) using the Read2Go app installed on iPads so that they can more easily access the general education curriculum. The official count for special education students participating in this assistive technology program is 16. Ben Griese has been working diligently to find ways for our special education students to receive necessary accommodations/modifications for Plato courses. He and Dianna Schollmeier have recently discovered that special education teachers can be added as co-instructors in Plato to obtain access to student courses and make accommodations/modifications as necessary for students on their IEP caseload. This has especially been helpful for our students with lower cognitive abilities.

Ben Griese recently attended the 34th Annual Closing the Gap Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This conference focuses on assistive technology in special education, rehabilitation and every day living. Ben's experience has allowed him to learn about many tools/techniques to help many of our struggling



students and as usual, he has already started passing on a lot of this information to other teachers in our district.

“I had the pleasure of attending the annual Closing the Gap conference in Minneapolis. Closing the Gap is a conference designed to help inform and train people on different assistive technology and their implementation. Many of the students in our district struggle with a print disability. There are many free tools available that any teacher can use to help struggling readers but here are just a few. Lit2Go is a free website that has taken popular, classic novels and turned them into an mp3 format for students to listen to even on their iPods. For the younger students, Story Line Online is a free website that has children’s books read by celebrities. The website is even switch accessible so students with severe physical limitations can access the content. In a single classroom, ability levels can range three to four grade levels. NewsELA is a free news program that creates current news articles and levels the content from 2nd grade to high school level with the simple click of a button. For students struggling with comprehension, being provided compacted or summarized material can be beneficial. Two fantastic websites that can help teachers differentiate reading material are [textcompactor.com](http://textcompactor.com) and [rewordify.com](http://rewordify.com). Closing the Gap covers more than just assistive technology to help print disabilities. For more information, please feel free to contact me, Ben Griese, or check out [www.ClosingtheGap.com](http://www.ClosingtheGap.com).”





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## Facilities & Maintenance

**Rick Dallmann, Director**

### ALEKNAGIK

- New Vehicle and green Expedition from DLG delivered to site
- Still working on boating issues (winter operation is hard on equipment and expensive to operate).

### KOLIGANEK

- Warranty issues and added AV work continues on new school
- Some of the electrical issues have been addressed and others are being worked on, mechanical issues (see photos) are being worked on and the new fueling pumps and related piping is being worked on, Gym floor issues will be addressed in the spring when school is out of session.

### TOGIAK

- Continue to work on glass replacement and needed projects for the school
- Working with AVEC on a new co-located bulk fuel farm grants are being applied for and issues being worked on.
- State Troopers are requesting to rent housing from the District, details are being worked on.

### DISTRICT-WIDE

- State CIP list is out:
  - KMO Sewer and Water Upgrades # 52
  - TWA School Renovations # 61
  - KEK School Renovations # 77
  - WKK School Renovations # 79
- The State did modify our renovation project budgets I am working on those projects to see if a reconsideration hearing is warranted.





## Business Office

**Ryan Ayars, Business Manager**

Credit Card holders have received their new credentials to log into BMO Spend Dynamics. Spend Dynamics is BMO's new online card program management and reporting tool. With this new site users will be able to easily review, approve, and code their transactions. The site offers the business office real time viability and control over the districts spending. We hope to take advantage of the comprehensive reporting abilities to improve business decisions, optimize spending policies and reduce risk.

We have begun our on-site reviews for counting and claiming procedures. Every school year, each school food authority with more than one school shall perform no less than one on-site review of the lunch counting and claiming system employed by each school site under its jurisdiction. We must complete this prior to February 1st of each school year. If the review discloses problems with a school meal counting or claiming procedures, we must implement a corrective action; and, within 45 days of the review, conducts a follow-up on-site review to determine that the corrective action resolved the problems. The On-Site Review Summary form is due to the State by February 15th.

Premiera Wellness Program's activity challenge starts soon. The challenge encourages our employees who currently take advantage of our health insurance to adopt a more active lifestyle and be rewarded for it. The EveryMove Activity Challenge starts 12/1/16 and ends 12/31/16. Eligible employees will have the chance to earn a \$100 gift card from Premiera. Southwest Region is rewarded with a discounted renewal rate based on our participation rates.

PenAir confirming six new tickets for our 2016-2017 fundraising efforts. Each year PenAir has continued support of the district through a discounted corporate fare, coupons, and the tickets sites get to use for fundraising. The value of the tickets is \$800 each. The tickets are good for any of their Alaska markets and are our their most flexible tickets (the tickets are changeable, positive space and do not require a specific amount of advanced notice, if there are seats available on a given flight).

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## Aleknagik School

**Audra Finkenbinder, Principal/Teacher**

The month of October included quite a few events for Aleknagik students, staff, parents, and community members: volleyball season began, Quarter One came to a close, Parent/Teacher Conferences were held, and a Monster Mash concluded the month.

### Volleyball

Laker volleyball season began with practices being held at the end of October and continuing through November. This year we have the exciting opportunity to have both a middle school co-ed team and an all-girls high school team with a total of 15 students playing volleyball. In addition to hosting a middle school tournament in Aleknagik, we had the pleasure of hosting Manokotak for the first high school volleyball games in Aleknagik in decades! The middle school has been able to do some traveling as they competed in the Bunny Boot in Dillingham and then ended the season with a trip to Manokotak. The high school season continues with a tournament being held in Aleknagik followed by the Spikefest in Dillingham. It has been great to watch the teams compete in addition to seeing their determination to improve upon their skills. The girls, coaches, and spectators all have had a wonderful time and the Lakers look forward to future athletic events!

### Million Word Challenge

There are currently six Lakers participating in the District sponsored Million-Word Challenge. As of November 4th, the total number of words read surpassed 700,000. It is wonderful to see these students striving to reach this reading goal!

### Parent/Teacher Conferences & Monster Mash

Aleknagik School ended the month of October with Parent Teacher conferences for the first quarter and a Monster Mash that included parents vs. students volleyball games, a cake walk, and candy toss. All who attended had a great time!

### Vocabulary

Another District sponsored program is via online Vocabulary.com which offers students a monthly competition based on most words mastered in the program. For the month of October, Austin Finkenbinder won first place by mastering 197 words. Way to go!

### Students of the Month

K-5: Alysonne Andrews

6-12: Jaren Tinker

Keep up the great work!

It is hard to believe that we are already in the month of November and that the middle of the second quarter is upon us! Aleknagik School will be sending home progress reports right after the Thanksgiving break and before we know it, the second quarter will conclude.

Aleknagik School will be celebrating Thanksgiving on Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> with a community potluck. I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and safe travels for those who will be visiting relatives out of town.





# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## William 'Sonny' Nelson School

Heath Hawkins, Principal/Teacher

Things have continued to move smoothly at William "Sonny" Nelson School during the month of October. The students are still diligently working on their Warrior Time projects and we hope to have them completed by Christmas break. We are in the process of planning our next Warrior Time projects but have not made the final decision on what that will be. My first Halloween carnival was a huge success and the students enjoyed the activities. We had games, costume contests, and even a cake walk.

Our students of the month for October are Jimmy Hurley for K-2 and Zoe Hawkins for 3-6. Both of these students have exhibited great attitudes and displayed traits we consider consistent with student citizenship.







## Koliganek School

Michael Lee, Principal

The new wrestling mats were put to use as Koliganek hosted the first wrestling event of the season on Friday Oct 14. It was a great success. We had wrestlers from Togiak School and Chief Ivan Blunka School. Everyone had a great time and the community really enjoyed being able to host a wrestling event in our gym. The wrestlers have continued through the season competing in Dillingham and New Stuyahok with planned competitions in Manokotak and Togiak. The wrestling coach this year is Gusty Wassily and he has made academic and sportsmanship a high priority with our team. Great job Koliganek Husky Wrestlers!!

### Academic Programs / Tutoring

We have expanded our afterschool tutoring program with support of the community to include an additional tutoring opportunity for middle school and high school students. We have had parents volunteer assisting in an effort to increase the performance of our secondary students. These events started with a request from the CSC to hold an assembly for parents and students. As a result of the hard work from the students, parents, and staff, we have reduced the number of failing students dramatically. We reviewed the new eligibility policy with all students and are using this as a way to encourage them to work hard in class today so they can work hard on the court later. We have tutoring funded through Title I funds from 345 – 445 Tuesday through Friday and a volunteer funded tutoring for MS/HS students from 6-7 pm.

The students of the month for September were Titan Goodell (K-1), Kevin Lau (2-3), Justin Lau (3-4), Elizabeth Norbert (6-8), and Ashleanne Ishnook (9-12). We also recognize students for positive behavior. Students receive positive behavior reward tickets when students exceed expectations. This could be for helping others, picking up trash even if not asked, or doing very well on an assignment. These tickets are placed on the bulletin board in the cafeteria. We take these down once a month and select 2 winners from each grade. They get recognized for positive behavior and receive a voucher for a free slushy and popcorn at a game or attendance incentive night. September's positive behavior awards went to Monica Ishnook, Abigail Johnson, Eric Johnson, Elizabeth Norbert, Bradley Johnson, Deven Johnson, Tristen Tunguing, Jalene Larson, Troy Tunguing, Tyra Goodell, Rebecca Nelson, and Whitney Andrew.

### Professional Development

Michael Lee was able to attend the principal's conference in Anchorage. It was a very beneficial conference and focused on "Light and Lead." One of the Keynote speakers was Jimmy Casas. He described how through technology you need to let the students and community tell the narrative of your school. This empowers the students and community to take ownership of their education and instills

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pride. This is an area that we will be focusing on this year and have started by empowering our student government to take a much more active role in the school. Anastasia McDowell was able to attend the Indigenous Language Conference with Esther Ilutsik. We look forward to working with them and finding way to expand our Yupik education program.

## Halloween Carnival

We had our Halloween carnival the afternoon of Oct 31st. It was a success. We had partnered with the Diabetes Program at Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation to have an apple for every person in the village. The health class created posters that described the benefits of eating apples over candy. The apples received from the program were used in an apple bobbing booth that was free for everyone to play. Every student and adult that attended the carnival received an apple even if a few did not want to “bob” for the apples. The carnival was fun for everyone and was a successful fundraiser.

It has been an extremely busy month and the year is flying by so fast. We look forward to the next exploration week and Thanksgiving is quickly approaching. We at Koliganek School would like to thank the board for all of your support. Please continue working to make our schools and district the best that we can possibly be.





## Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

### Deb Forkner, Principal

The first quarter of the school year has ended and things are going really well at Manokotak Nunaniq School. Our data shows that ROC referrals are down 50% from what they were at this time last year.

We've only had one in-school suspension and no out-of-school suspensions so far this year. The positive learning environment at KMO school is evident and reflected in the decrease of discipline incidents.

The second Exploration Week is rapidly approaching. Students have been working hard to have all passing grades so they can participate in a full day of E-week classes. Elementary students are excited to be participating this session and are ready to make beautiful music. Everyone's looking forward to the Exploration Extravaganza on November 23 to showcase all their E-week projects.

There was a good turnout for Parent/Teacher Conferences the end of October. Teachers and administrators continue meeting with parents of struggling students to develop RTI plans and be sure supports are in place for all students who need them. We have been able to schedule reading and math intervention classes for all K-6th grade students who are two or more years behind, or are struggling on a daily basis. Tutoring is offered two days per week 7th-12th grade students.

Principal Forkner was able to attend the Alaska Principal's Conference in Anchorage this past month. The focus was on being a "connected" principal. Sessions included how to be more connected through social media and how to build connections with students, parents, staff and communities. There was also time with the Alaska Commissioner of



Education to voice concerns and ask questions. The biggest question was what will the new state test look like? The answer should be announced soon! Vice Principal Bartman will attend The After School Conference to learn information and ideas for after school programming. She has also worked with the Food Bank of Alaska to have snacks provided for students participating in after school activities.

Volleyball and wrestling seasons are going well. All teams are excited to have home events this month.



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## **‘Chief’ Ivan Blunka School** **Robin Jones, Principal**

**Students of the Month**  
Michael Neketa – Kindergarten  
Scott Aiken – 6th Grade  
Tamra Christopher – 11th Grade

**Employees of the Month**  
Ben Garlets & Sergai Andrew

The year is flying by at Chief Ivan Blunka School! We just finished an amazing Red Ribbon Week (RRW) with the theme of “Y.O.L.O. Be Drug Free.” We were fortunate to have our very own School Board member, Wassillie Gust, kick off our assembly by giving a powerful testimony. Students participated in door decorating, essay, poster, and spirit day contests all week. Students received guidance lessons from our school counselor and representatives from the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation (BBAHC). BBAHC also hosted an informative health fair and a fun color run for the community. Overall, it was a great experience for such an extraordinary cause!

We are very excited to be offering the following classes during the November exploration week: Computer Aided Design (CAD):Fabrication & Blueprints, Culinary Arts:Simple Meals, Wood Burning, Wilderness Survival, and Qaspeq Making. We also have several students who were accepted into the BBRCTE classes for Emergency Trauma Technician, Small Engines and Business. In the elementary, we are having afternoon exploration week sessions and will be offering: Basketball Fundamentals, Lego Engineering, Iqsak Making, Weaving, Baking, and Art.

In our Professional Learning Communities, we continue to devote time toward developing behavioral interventions and strategies to better maintain a safe school environment that is conducive for learning. We will also start focusing on Domain 4 of the Marzano Teaching Model: Collegiality and Professionalism with particular focus on promoting positive interactions with colleagues.

We have been so fortunate to have our volleyball and wrestling student athletes compete in Aleknagik, Koliganek, Dillingham, Manokotak, Naknek, Togiak, and Anchorage already this year. Our middle school volleyball team even came home with the prestigious Bunny Boot! Our student council has signed up to send 4 officers to the Close Up conference in Juneau in the spring. We will also have our student body president represent our school and District at the upcoming Alaska Association of School Board (AASB) conference. We really looking forward to celebrating our students’ continued success!





## Togiak School

### Sam Gosuk, Principal

Greetings to all from Togiak School. A lot has happened here at Togiak School that shows support to our students for their education and achievement.

First of all, our students who have been chosen as student of the month as follows: K - 2: Caidron Nanalook; 3rd to 5th - Alexandra Paul; and 7th - 12 was Kalena Sutton. These students have good support of their parent and relatives and are noticed by their teachers as role models.

We had a good Halloween Carnival experience where teachers meet parents and their children at the same time fund raising for their classes.

Teachers got to meet many parents and had fun with them. From their fund raising, the teachers can get some supplies to celebrate their students' success.

We as a school had Red Ribbon Week. Classes were challenged to decorate their door and the winners were to get a prize. The administration looked at the doors and determined that the 1st and 4th grade classes were tied to be the winners to decorate their door with the goal of being drug free. The two classes are to celebrate by having a pizza party.

In the high school section, students have been challenged to learn new words through [vocabulary.com](http://vocabulary.com). We have been encouraging our high schoolers as we learned that a couple of them have gotten 2nd and 3rd place of schools that are involved in mastering words from [vocabulary.com](http://vocabulary.com).

One exciting experience that happened was that a teacher was proposed by his groom to be with the help of the fifth graders. This really excited the fifth grade class because that teacher 'needed' to be talked to by the vice-principal, while the principal snuck the groom to be in. The teacher was surprised and accepted the proposal by the groom to be. Hopefully this teacher will remain in Togiak for years to come. We have known several lifers who teach in the villages and we as adults know who those are. They are those who committed to help us gain education and improve our quality of life and at the same time help us keep our culture by accepting us as the people we are.







## Twin Hills School

**Nate Preston, Principal/Teacher**

Twin Hills is looking forward to a good November, after a very busy October. During October, our middle school students traveled to AFN, we implemented the after school program and held a Halloween Carnival. November promises to be just as busy, as we will have our first e-week at home and are planning our Thanksgiving Potluck. The middle school students enjoyed their time in Fairbanks. They found the Elders and Youth Conference to be very interesting. Based on all the activities they shared, this conference is a very beneficial experience for our students. We also started the after school program; students who have signed up, attend on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoon for one hour. Students have the opportunity to get help with homework and/or any area in which they need help. We are specifically focusing on reading. We had a successful Halloween Carnival. All the students and many parents and grandparents attended and participated in various fun activities. In November, we will have our first e-week at home. We enjoyed our first e-week in Togiak, and now look forward to working within our own community and building relationships between students, school and community. Thus far we have people from Twin Hills who will teach wilderness survival as well as doing community service. The CSC will select the community service options; we will have a class for students to learn crocheting and baking. The baking class will have a dual purpose: we will bake pies and cookies for the Thanksgiving potluck which will be held the following week. We have Fish and Game and BBNA scheduled to come out for the March and/or the May e-weeks to cover Personal Finance and Hunter's Safety. This e-week we will also include the Elementary grades. We have plans for making tie-dye backpacks, painting Christmas ornaments, and designing Christmas cards using potato stamps. Everyone is going to have a fun and educational experiences during e-week. In addition, the baking class will cover the desserts for the potluck and the school will cover the turkey and stuffing. Everyone is invited to come to our school's Thanksgiving Day potluck. We have been told it is a big event and we are looking forward to seeing everybody in Twin Hills at the potluck. Twin Hills currently has 25 students which is a substantial increase from last year. We hope to keep 25 or more students enrolled throughout the school year. The staff is working ell together and we have multiple volunteers for teaching upcoming e-weeks.