

# REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



**Caurailngarpeknaci  
pingnatugurluci.**

**Always trying, never  
without.)**

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

## **Board of Education**

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

### **Staffing**

At this time, most of the scheduled recruiting trips have been completed. While the results of the two Minneapolis job fairs are not available at the time of this writing, the District has made slow, but steady progress in its recruiting efforts. Karen Kapatak, who has spent this past year student teaching within the Koliganek School, has been selected to remain as the Kindergarten/First Grade Teacher. Anne Evans from Milwaukie, OR will be teaching Language Arts and Social Studies at Koliganek. Lewis Beaver from Kongiganak, AK will join the District as the Principal for the Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School. Noel Bowe from Palmer, AK will teach First Grade, Katie McNeil will teach Secondary Language Arts, and Angela McKay will teach Secondary Social Studies at Manokotak. Delorie Lee will teach Second Grade at the Togiak School.

The District continues to recruit for 11 teaching positions of the original 18 vacancies, however, the District is following up on potential candidates for at least two of the positions. Hopefully, the recruiting efforts in Minneapolis will be successful as well. New candidates will also be screened and contacted as quickly as possible from the list on the Alaska Teacher Placement website.

### **Legislature**

April 17th was the scheduled last day of this year's legislative session, however with the state's fiscal issues, the session is anticipated to extend well into May and possibly beyond that. The Governor's Budget and the

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House plans appear to be in sync at this time. The House is recommending utilizing Permanent Fund monies as well as a state-wide income tax to establish a comprehensive fiscal plan for the state. The Senate continues to indicate that severe cuts are necessary including the use of Permanent Fund monies, however, their plan will continue to leave the state revenues short and additional cuts would continue into future years.



## Superintendent Travel

Superintendent Piazza participated in the Alaska Council of School Administrator's (ACSA) Legislative Fly-In April 8th-11th. This included a welcome reception within the Governor's Mansion for members of the Superintendent's, Elementary Principal's, Secondary Principal's, and Business Official's organizations.

Topics during the meeting phase of the Fly-In included information regarding the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) by Commissioner Dr. Michael Johnson from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. Dr. Jim Johnsen, President of the University of Alaska together with the University of Alaska Southeast Chancellor Dr. Richard Caulfield discussed the university's Alaska Strategic Pathway and in particular efforts to help grow more local teachers within the state. Commissioner Randy Hoffbeck from the Department of Revenue provided a Fiscal Update. Dr. Lisa Skiles-Parady the Executive Director for ACSA also provided an update to the legislation before both bodies.

Due to the timing of the Fly-In towards the end of the session, individual appointments were hard to schedule as house and senate members were busy. The Bristol Bay area school districts were able to reschedule with Speaker Bryce Edgmon and were provided with an explanation of the House plans to create a sustainable fiscal plan and how the differences within the Senate's plan will continue to create instability into the future due to its lack of revenues to close the fiscal gap.



## Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Associate Superintendent

This past month our focus has been on budgets and preparations for next school year. As we begin to wind down the school year, state assessments are underway and students look forward to spring and our last Exploration Week of the year. This has been an amazing year, full of change and new opportunities for our students. Many of our older students have been able to take part in CTE and other elective coursework. In our elementary classrooms, students have had the chance to create beautiful works of art, participate in music and other elective activities. It has been years since we have had many of these things in our schools and it is heartwarming to see the student and staff response to this new initiative.

### Legislative

In March, Steve traveled with school board members to Juneau to speak with our legislators about issues of importance to our communities and schools. We met with Speaker Edgmon, House Education Chair Drummond, Senator Hoffman and several other key legislators. It was encouraging to hear the support from House leadership and the Governor for education and adequately funding our work with students. We await final versions of the state budget bills to see where we stand as we finish out this year. We are hopeful that the



## 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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budget will include funding levels adequate to keeping our programs intact.

## Monday Staff Development

February's staff development time was focused on Exploration Week planning and preparation. Sites used the time to develop new and exciting explorations, adapt already created exploration, complete all necessary orders, and put their final touches on the courses. The third exploration is planned for the week of March 20th-24th.

March's staff development time was focused on the preparation, delivery, and closure/grading of the third exploration week. Elementary groups were given time work in grade level groups to discuss content specific topics, and secondary is finalizing second semester finals.

## RTI Math Camp

The planning of this year's curriculum camp has started. Southwest Region is planning a three-day Math RTI Camp and 2-day Leadership Camp. During Math camp, attendees will be trained on an RTI strategy to build and strengthen students computational and foundational number sense skills in a whole group classroom settings. The attendees will return to sites next year and provide leadership and support to other math teachers. The district office will provide leadership and support to the small sites; Ewok and Twin Hills. Leadership meetings will focus on a reflection of this year's programs and our programs for FY18.

## Exporation Week #3 Complete!

The third set of Exploration Week courses has been completed and at this point all sites have integrated E-Week activities all the way down into the elementary grades.

E-Week courses are beginning to develop a following of faithful favorites like art, cooking, and construction; as well as continuing to develop new ventures into computer systems and programming, robotics, dance, and astronomy.

The cooperation between SWRS and other agencies continues to strengthen. SWRS now has a strong course developed in alignment with the Alaska Depart of Fish and Game in which their instructor, Ward Jones, visits our sites to teach the Hunter Safety program as well as survival classes and SWRS students again took the Emergency Trauma Technician course offered through UAF-Bristol Bay.

Local experts continue to add their expertise and valuable time with Apayo Moore teaching a painting course in Aleknagik and Twilly Gosuk traveling from Togiak to Manokotak to teach Uluaq Making.



## Online Learning Platform

A review of this years pilot Plato program has started. We are reviewing many components, and again looking at all products to make sure the online program we use here at Southwest is the “best fit” for our students, sites, and communities. There are many components that will be looked at in this process: cost effectiveness, bandwidth usage, internet accessibility in the communities, technical support, course rigor and quality, reading levels, content support, PowerSchool integration capabilities, MAP integration capabilities, English Language content, Social Studies content, elective courses, CTE courses, semester 1 teacher review/reflections, and much more.

March was spent re-examing other products on the market. A team was brought into Dillingham to further this discussion. In April, we will begin the comparison of Plato to the product Edgenuity. The Edgenuity pilot will run through April and May with teachers and students around the district. We will compare all components that Edgenuity has to offer with what we already know about Plato. The focus point for both products will be the quality of student content, the “best fit” for our students, and the sustainability of bandwidth requirements for each of the products.

## Academic Vocabulary

Students across the district continue to work to increase their academic vocabulary skills. February results for most words mastered across the district grades 6-12:

- 1st: Alfredo Jimenez (KMO) 80 Words Mastered (\$10 Student Store Gift Card)
- 2nd: Austin Finkenbinder (WKK) 62 Words Mastered (\$10 Gas Card)
- 3rd: Douglas Logusak (TOG) 61 Words Mastered (\$5 Student Store Gift Card)
- 4th: Frederick Byayuk (TOG) 54 Words Mastered
- 5th: Hailie Nanalook (TOG) 53 Words Mastered
- 6th: Aaliyah Upton (TOG) 52 Words Mastered
- 7th: Chad Maud (KMO) 47 Words Mastered
- 8th: Bobby Gust (TOG) 45 Words Mastered
- 9th: Sharla Williams (TOG) 41 Words Mastered
- 10th: Tirone Alakayak (TOG) 41 Words Mastered

## Technology

Corey and Les have been busy this past month with State PEAKS assessment preparation and delivery of a new Macintosh Operating System certification BBRCTE course delivery.

Corey prepared for and taught an Apple Support Essentials class. As a district, this is the first time we have had this kind of training using district personnel as the instructor. While Corey is still pursuing the Apple certifications to become an official Apple trainer the course went well providing training for 3 students from Southwest as well as one student from Naknek. Mickia Walcott, our

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technology liaison from New Stuyahok, also attended. The students participated well and applied themselves during long days, working through a 900-page text by the end of the week. The Mac OS course will be offered again in May during our fourth and last E-Week of the year.

Corey assisted Superintendent Piazza, as part of the districts recruiting efforts at the Tacoma Job Fair on the 29th. This was a unique opportunity for him as this was the same job fair he was hired from fifteen years ago.

The final MAP testing window is coming up beginning March 17th and running through Friday the 28th.

## **eRate & School BAG Funding Year 2016**

- Funding Commitment Decision Letter received for Category 1 services in amount of \$2,924,104.68.
- Form 486 filed and certified for Category 1 services.
- School BAG Annual Report completed and submitted to EED.

## **eRate & School BAG Funding Year 2017**

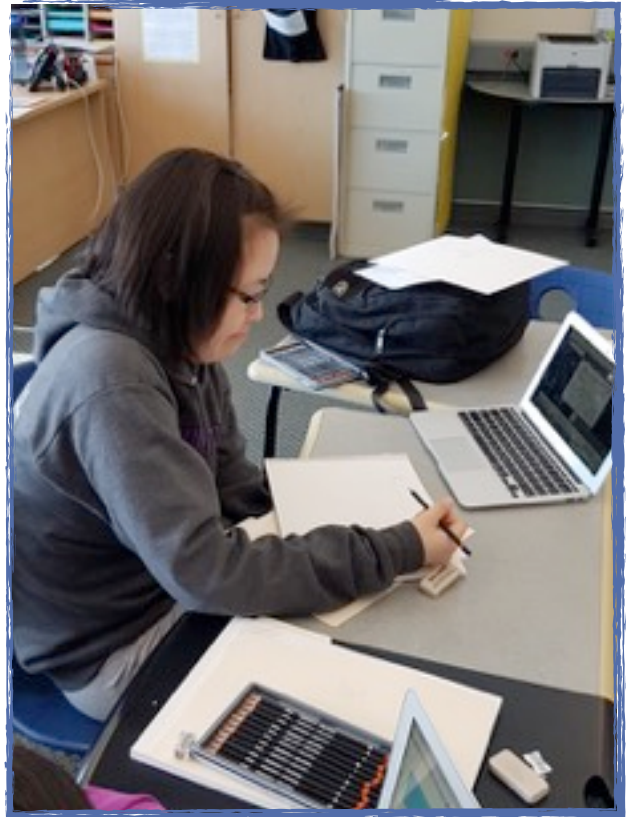
- Form 471 for Category 1 services in amount of \$2,903,040.00 prepared; submission pending decisions on Clark's Point School and FY2018 School BAG grant.
- School BAG grant status/offering not yet determined by State of Alaska.

## **Alaska PEAKS**

- Testing infrastructure appears to be working properly and for the most part reliably. Testing completed or in progress at all schools.

## **Special Projects**

- Configuration of telephone and network access for Alaska State Troopers' office in Togiak School in progress





## State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

### Title IA AK STEPP – Schoolwide Planning

The AK STEPP plans developed by the schools and the district addresses improvement planning and schoolwide planning, which are both requirements of Title IA. Each month, there is a focus on several of the 16 indicators that in the AK STEPP plans. These indicators are research based and linked to improvement of academic performance. For the month of February, the indicators of focus were 4.06, 4.07, & 4.08. For the remainder of the year the focus elements are 5.01 and 5.3. Additional information about these indicators is provided below:

- 5.01 – School staff use multiple sources of student performance data as a primary factor in determining professional development priorities.
- 5.03 – School staff embed professional development into daily routines and practices.

### Career & Technical Education

Session III of the BBRCTE program wrapped up in late March. There were a number of sessions available to students including:

Boiler/Fuel Burner Maintenance was a one session course focusing on general repair of various furnaces/heating supply appliances such as Toyo stoves and water heaters. Students received two college credits.

The Non-Destructive Testing course is a two session course where students learn techniques of testing that does not destroy the object. NDT is vital for

construction and maintaining all type of components and structures. NDT is used in forensic, mechanical, petroleum, electrical, civil, aeronautical, and systems engineering, as well as, medicine and art. The course is taught by an employee of a BBNC subsidiary.

In Emergency Trauma Technician participants will learn and apply first responder techniques and strategies for a variety of trauma related incidents. Students can earn a first aid & CPR certification and state recognized ETT credential, as well as three college credits.

In the OS Support course students work towards a certification in troubleshooting and supporting issues for Macintosh computers running operating system X. This course is designed to give you the skills to determine what is wrong with software related issues and apply problem-solving skills. Students received 2 college credits and the opportunity to take the certification exam.

In the Basic Marine Safety course students gain skills in basic marine safety with instructors from AVTEC including personal survival, first aid & CPR, and personal safety & social responsibility (putting on survival suits, water immersion, life raft operation, etc.). The one-week course was followed by a two-day training in AVTEC for fire fighting. Students will receive four US Coast Guard certifications.

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## Title I School Improvement – Togiak School

Implementation of the school improvement plan continue to move forward with a focus on the Positive Behavior Intervention Support. There are a number of folks that are involved in the implementation of the improvement plan and a plan has taken shape for next school year's activities. The focus will be to strengthen the foundation of the Tier I PBIS supports with a school-wide focus. Marilyn Rosene will continue to work with Togiak to provide an outside lens regarding implementation, provide support with data analysis and provide coaching for instructional aides. Karl Schleich, Safe & Civil School trainer, will be providing training to all staff in the use of CHAMPS next fall and with follow up training in October or November. Evelyn Wilburn, EED State System of Support, will be working with the leadership team to focus on implementation of specific strategies to improve academic instruction.



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

### Exploration Week

Kyle has been working with principals to finalize teacher and student schedules for the third and fourth Exploration Weeks.

### Graduation

Kyle has been preparing diplomas and promotion certificates for school ceremonies at the end of the year. He has also responded to requests from the Governor's office and the Legislature for information about our graduates so they can send congratulatory letters.

The Federal Civil Rights Data Collection report for our 2015-2016 school year data has been completed and submitted to the Federal Department of Education.

### PowerSchool

Since Exploration Week courses are designed to introduce students to new topics and learn new skills, it isn't appropriate that they retake a course. Instead, students should be taking a course that develops more skills in an area or introduces them to something new. In preparation for the third Exploration Week, Kyle has written a report for PowerSchool to check whether students have previously passed an E-Week course that they are scheduled into. This removes the burden of checking students' E-Week course selections from principals.

Kyle also met with PowerSchool's State Reporting team and Special Education teams to review how PowerSchool Special Education integrates with the core PowerSchool product. Late in 2016, PowerSchool Special Education released the ability to update the core PowerSchool product when changes were made to



student's Special Education status. This functionality hasn't been enabled for Southwest as we hadn't been able to get information about the potential impacts to State Reporting. Along with Northwest Arctic Borough School District, and Kodiak Island Borough School District, Kyle provided guidance to the State Reporting and Special Education teams about how we expected the functionality to work in order to fulfill our state reporting and educational needs.

Other projects during the past two months have been calculating GPA for the year-to-date for the ASAA Academic Excellence medal, generating a list of school-age students who are not currently attending school, preparing reports for the Togiak School to use in answering questions about attendance, and working with principals to get schedules for next year loaded.

## Alaska Society for Technology in Education

In mid-February Kyle attended the Alaska Society for Technology in Education's annual conference. While there, he presented and co-presented 4 presentations to teachers and administrators from around the state. He also met with his peers in other school districts to identify areas where collaboration was possible.



**Counseling & Assessment Specialist: Steve Ito**

Southwest Region School District testing for grade 3 – 10 with the new Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools (PEAKS) has been completed. The PEAKS assessment window is from March 28th to April 28th. Alaska has chosen Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) to provide an assessment that measures student performance. The computer based PEAKS Test replaces the Alaska Measure of Progress (AMP) which was removed from service last school year. The new PEAKS test has three components – English Language Arts, Mathematics, and (Science for grade 4, 8, and 10).

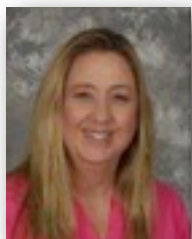
All SWRSD sites need to be applauded for their outstanding effort in making the monumental shift from the AMP test to the PEAKS test. Without the ongoing dedication at all levels within our village schools to ensure well prepared students, and a solid, technologically equipped testing environment, the first administration of the PEAKS assessment would have not been successful.

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

The World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment WIDA ACCESS test has been completed district-wide and submitted for scoring. The ACCESS Test is an assessment of English language acquisition required by EED for identified Limited English Proficient students that focuses on listening, speaking, reading and writing.

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## Special Education

**Sherry Becker, Director**

### Annual Child Find:

Schools throughout the district have completed the annual Child Find public notice that is required by state and federal regulations and special education teachers have completed the necessary early childhood child find screenings. Manokotak and New Stuyahok completed formal screenings on March 6th and Togiak completed screenings on March 13th. HeadStart staff assisted SWRS staff in completing these screenings. Smaller sites post notices in their schools/villages and schedule individual screenings as requested by parents. The special education director visited Clarks Point to complete the annual Child Find screenings on March 8, 2017. Total number of children screened this year: Togiak = 17; New Stuyahok = 17; Manokotak = 5; and Clarks Point = 8.

### CASE Winter Hybrid Conference:

The special education director participated in the 2017 Council for Administrators of Special Education (CASE) Winter Hybrid Conference on Feb. 23-24, 2017. The focus of this online conference was “Actualizing the Practice: Mental Health and Legal Issues”. Presenters included Dr. Dipesh Navsaria, Dr. Richard VanAcker, and Julie Weatherly, Esq..

Dr. Navsaria presented on the science of early brain and child development, epigenetics, and the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) study. He also addressed the need to develop solutions for building capacity, building capabilities, implementation of prevention methods that are evidenced-guided, that address root causes and have long-term effects. An important quote from his presentation:

“Toxic stress in early childhood is associated with persistent effects on the nervous system and stress hormone systems that can damage developing brain architecture and lead to lifelong problems in learning, behavior and both physical and mental health.”

Dr. Richard VanAcker presented “Addressing the Mental Health Needs of our Students: Exploring School-Based Programing.” This presentation focused on how a child’s mental health needs impact educational performance, various types of mental health conditions, diagnosis and treatment of these conditions, predominant models/perspectives of school-based mental health programs and effective instructional practices to address these needs in the classroom.



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Julie Weatherly, Esq. presented “Students with Mental Health Issues: What are the Legal Issues and What Schools Are required to Do”. This presentation covered relevant federal laws, school child find duties under IDEA and Section 504, specific concerns for schools, and a review of recent court cases involving students with mental health concerns and school district responsibilities. Ms. Weatherly also presented “Discipline of Students with Disabilities: A Review of the Rules and Practical Implications.”

## Educational Impact of Trauma (committee):

The special education director has been working closely with Tobe Gurley, Togiak Dean of Students, J.T. Bolin, BBAHC Behavioral Health Therapist, and Liz Clark, DLGSD Director of Student Support Services to determine how our schools can best provide services for students that are affected by trauma/adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Our first meeting was held on April 3, 2017 and was attended by a group of 17 individuals from 11 local agencies. The purpose of the meeting was to begin a local multi-agency, multi-disciplinary discussion regarding the educational impact of trauma/adverse childhood experiences on the children in our region. At this meeting, we discussed potential priorities for the committee as well as the committee’s next steps. A survey will be distributed to all committee members for the purpose of obtaining input regarding a formal name for the committee, prioritizing the committee’s goals, determining what each agency would be able to contribute to the committee’s goals, discussing what the potential barriers are to the success of the committee, and identifying village specific contacts for involvement in the committee. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2017.







## Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director

### 3rd–5th Grade Yup'ik Studies Curriculum

Quyana to the following Yup'ik Studies Instructors/Aides for your valuable Yup'ik information as we revise our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade Yup'ik Studies curriculum: Manuquutaq (Manokotak) – Cungass'a , Cetuyaraq (New Stuyahok) – Tat'iq, Tuyuryaq (Togiak)- Itegmialria and Naatuu, and Alaqnaqiq – Nuk'aq. The contribution that you have made is invaluable to our students and communities as we continue “teach” our children and students about their heritage.

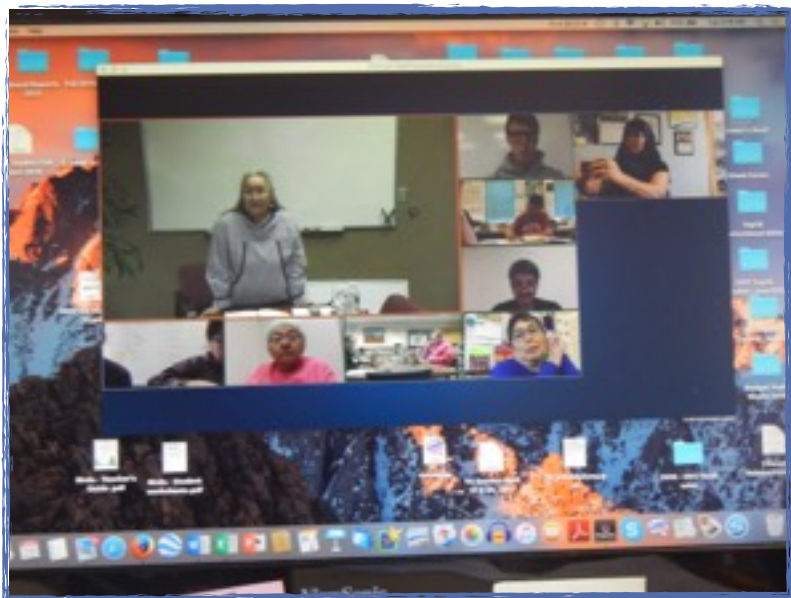
### Yup'ik Language Class with Marie Meade

Marie Meade's Yup'ik language class was followed up with a polycom session March the 28th and will end with a session April 18, 2017

Marie Meade, Yup'ik Language Instructor worked with 11 participants who were focusing on improving their own Yup'ik language skills in reading and writing. The participants learned that we have 27 different sounds within the Yup'ik language. The sessions were intertwined with historical Yup'ik information. The importance of colors that we find in our traditional tools, clothing and eating utensils. These colors were traditional used and honored with their appropriate names – utieraq 'red ocher', urasqaq "white clay", avisgaq 'black' and qesuuraq 'blue' these rocks and mineral deposits were found at Qilengpak (traditional Yup'ik place on Nelson Island). It is believed that all our Yup'ik ancestors originated from this important island.

Quyana to the following participants for all your work in learning:

Manuquutaq (Manokotak) – Angutekayak, Cetuyaraq (New Stuyahok) – Tat'iq, Arnayagaq, and Anguk'aq Tuyuryaq (Togiak)- Itegmialria, Naatuu, Nayangcuk , Alaqnaqiq – Nuk'aq and Cuunga, Ingricuar (Twin Hills) Yungsiq and Qalirneq (Koliganek)- Ckiar



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## 5th Annual Alaska Native Studies Conference

I attended the, Sustaining Indigenous Livelihoods was the theme of the 5th Annual Alaska Native Studies Conference April 8 & 9, 2017 in Fairbanks. The highlight of the conference was the keynote address by Sheila Watt-Cloutier of Iqaluit, Nunavut. She authored a book *The Right to Be Cold*. During her keynote address she stressed that our youth don't understand the past experiences of our people and that we need to tell those stories of being a part of boarding schools and how it impacted our self-being. She stressed that our youth have a "nature deficit". Our people have lost their connection with the land –we need to hear the powerful voices of our hunters. We also need to live our values...we need to make sure that our youth understand those values and use them. Our role as educators is "change agent" and need to pass that message onto our students, youth and parents.

Many of the sessions presented on-going research taking place at the different campus. The conference ended with three youth keynote addresses by Samuel Johns, Piyyuuk Olivia Shields and Marjorie Kunaq Tahbone. All were excellent sharing how they came to the realization of their identity, especially powerful was the presentation of Samuel John. He asks people to check out a Facebook he created, "Forget-Me-Not" to help reconnect the homeless community to their families that are living in rural Alaska.





## Business Office

**Ryan Ayars, Business Manager**

It's that time of year to review our loss control activities and turn in the APEI Premium Credit Application. To receive credit for the program we must submit our application and documentation by April 30th. The Premium Credit Program is a way for SWRS to reduce premiums at renewal by showing that we have active safety committees, complete self-inspections and audits, or have trained employees on safety related topics. This is a great opportunity to help lower insurance premiums as the budgets get tighter.

APEI has made a slight change in the premium credit program this year and are asking us to provide training documentation for each employee instead of for the organization as a whole. The purpose of the change is to make sure all employees are receiving training that helps reduce losses and makes the workplace safer. To receive full credit for the training portion of the premium credit program, each employee must participate in twelve hours of safety, human resources, or similar training during the year.

On the 10th of May we are having a Safety Committee meeting and discussing dressing properly for the weather and boating safety. We will also talk about BloodBorne Pathogens, and the Hepatitis B vaccination. We are looking into possibly offering the vaccination to everyone during the fall In-Service to help ensure a safe and compliant workplace. We plan on meeting every quarter; our next meeting is planned to be during the principals in-service so we have some site participation.

The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development has been delegated the authority, by the U.S. Department of Education, to approve Restricted Federal Indirect Cost Rate Proposals pursuant to delegation agreement number 2014-180, effective until June 30, 2017. The FY2017 approved Restricted Federal Indirect Cost Rate for Southwest Region School District is 8.25% which is 1.19% above our current rate. The restricted Federal rate is effective from 7/1/2017 to 6/30/2018. The funds associated with this rate are projected to offset the District's Business Office liability by roughly \$75,000 in the FY17 school year.

Third quarter grant reimbursement requests have been completed and submitted to the Department of Education & Early Development. Once reviewed and approved by the DEED program manager reimbursements will be direct deposited.



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## Aleknagik School

**Audra Finkenbinder, Principal/Teacher**

As the end of the school year nears, the faster time seems to fly! Since the last report, quite a few activities have taken place: Parent/Teacher Conferences, Migrant Education Night, Exploration Week, and PEAKS Assessments. Future activities include the end of year assessments: MAP Assessments, AIMSweb Fluency Assessment, STAR Reading Assessment, and final exams for the older students. In addition to the end of year assessments, other upcoming activities include: Coast Guard “Kids Don’t Float” Presentation, Jerry DeCaire presentation, 6th-8th Grade trip, Exploration Week, eighth grade promotion and awards ceremony, and an end-of-year picnic.

### Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences were held on March 30th-31st during which time report cards and Data Folders were presented. This is a great time to discuss academic progress and overall achievement. We encourage students to attend the conferences so that they may hear what is discussed as well as provide them an opportunity to offer extra insight to their academic performance.

### Migrant Education Night

The second Migrant Education Night was held on March 29th. Those in attendance were welcomed



with ‘make your own burritos’ with all the fixings in order to quench any hunger so that the focus of the night would be on nothing except literacy and fun! Mimicking the reality show “Chopped”, the students were challenged to make a dessert from scratch using only the ingredients provided. They were not permitted to use any resources to look up recipes and they had to compose a step-by-step direction sheet of their original recipes for the judges. While their creations baked, the students competed in friendly games of Boggle, which assisted in reinforcing the importance of literacy! Sponsored by Randy Finkenbinder and assisted by Cialely Pintande and Audra Finkenbinder, the students had a wonderfully enjoyable time with the Laker Bake-Off Challenge and Boggle.



## Exploration Week

Exploration Week was held during the week of March 20th-24th and included the following activities:

- ATV and Snow machine maintenance
- Arctic Survival
- Intermediate Painting w/Melody and Apayo
- Making a Mosaic
- Emergency Trauma Technician (ETT) class in DLG

-The elementary students also participated in E-week activities during the afternoon – this session focused on the solar system as well as practicing the scientific method.



## PEAKS Assessment

All students in grades 3-10 completed the new online state assessment; Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools (PEAKS). Students were able to complete all sections of the ELA, Math, and Science assessments with minimal to no glitches. We look forward to receiving the PEAKS results at the beginning of August 2017.



## Million Word Challenge

There are currently twelve Lakers participating in the District sponsored Million-Word Challenge. We have had one student meet the goal so far with two more students closing in the on the million words! Altogether, the students have read close to three million words. As of April 10, 2017, the students have collectively read 2,901,077 words.



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## Koliganek School

Michael Lee, Principal

Koliganek hosted a NYO meet on April 7th and 8th and it was a great success. It was attended by Manokotak, Togiak, and New Stuyahok. The students all competed well and are ready to qualify for state NYO in Dillingham on April 12 and 13. The community enjoyed being able to watch these events and appreciate the support for NYO. We are anxiously waiting to see who will make it to state this year.

Koliganek completed the state PEAKS testing the week of April 3rd. We are glad to report that there were no issues with technology or administration of the testing. The school would like to thank Les Parks and the technology department for preparing the systems for testing and Steve Ito for providing the guidance for the test. The students seem to handle the new testing platform with no problems and the credit for this goes to the teachers in Koliganek for completing the practice exams with the students. During testing we wanted to ensure the students could perform their best on the test so we had parents and volunteers assist with cooking and serving breakfast. We had pancakes with sausage and French toast with sausage. The students enjoyed the extra treat. Thanks to Jon Clouse for assisting with getting the material for the hot breakfasts. Hopefully everyone's hard work will be demonstrated in the results of the test.

We continue to work on our school goals for this year with attendance being a main focus. We have been worried that our attendance rate would drop after basketball season and have been trying to prevent this with positive attendance incentives. Our attendance rate is over 93% and holding. While this is still below our target of 95%, it is higher than last years and shows improvement. We will continue to work on our school goals to provide the best education possible.

Our last Exploration week was a huge success. We had students sewing qaspeq, making boat oars, cooking international dishes, and ice fishing. The village was surprised at catching pike, grayling, and others within walking distance of the village council building. The elementary had a science fair during the exploration week. They performed their experiments and created display boards. On Friday



we conducted a science fair and judges the individual experiments. It was very fun and educational. We look forward to our next e-week and new opportunities.

Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation visited the school and gave classroom presentations about the impact of tobacco on the body. They also conducted a health fair in the cafeteria for the community to view after school. The culminating event was a color fun run. Every person received a free t-shirt and ran the designated route. As they ran across the finish line colored powders were sprayed all over their new white shirts. The students loved the activity and will benefit from the increased awareness to the dangers of tobacco. The snow at the finish line remained rainbow tinted for several days, but the color non-toxic, bio-degradable, and washable.

Graduation will be here before we realize. We have had our two graduates working hard to complete assignments and register for school beyond high school. The students look forward to their senior trip and the memories that it will bring, but also seem to realize that this journey is now almost over. What will the future bring? Our mission as a school has been to prepare them for whatever future they choose and we thank the school board for the support that you have given us and them.





# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Deb Forkner, Principal

The third Exploration Week was a huge success. Thirteen students received their hunter safety card, we ate our way around the world with International Cooking, students are ready to cut fish with the uluaqs they made and some beautiful items were created in the art, photography and barrette classes. The May E-week is rapidly approaching and students are excited to choose from the following classes: storage shed construction, subsistence hunting, baking, photography, intro. to football, painting, qaspeq making and net hanging. The elementary students will participate in a culture week.

Parent/teacher conferences the end of March were a success with 75% of parents showing up to meet with teachers. We've been successful with the RTI process and have exited 6 students, as well as, 1 student who was on an IEP. The interventions we have in place are working and students are catching up to their classmates.

Manokotak CSC have been working on revising the facility use agreement, setting clear supervision expectations for parents during school events and a code of conduct for those who participate in events.

Current and upcoming activities include: NYO is in full swing. Manokotak Nunaniq School was happy to host the first meet of the season. 5th and 6th grade students visited Bristol Bay Campus on April 20 as part of the UAA Kids to College program. PEAK and MAP testing have been completed. Prom will be May 6 and graduation May 12.







## **‘Chief’ Ivan Blunka School**

**Robin Jones, Principal**

**Students of the Month**  
 Aidan Petla – 4th grade  
 Barbara Acovak – 8th grade  
 Alyssa Gust – 10th grade

**Employees of the Month**  
 Danielle Dooley  
 & Ben Griesse

We are so proud to announce that 17 of our students schoolwide had perfect attendance for quarter three and many students were awarded for their achievements in reading, writing, math, and citizenship at our recent awards assembly. We also had a great turnout and quality conversations with parents during spring conferences. We dedicated a significant amount of time toward tutorials, practice tests, and accessing online tools to prepare for state testing, which we are currently administering. Students appear to be taking the tests with confidence and without difficulty. We are excited to see how well they perform when the results are posted.



We recently finished a very successful exploration week. The following courses were facilitated in the elementary: volleyball, flight exploration, ice fishing, science experiments, art, and sewing. The secondary school offered: robotics, cooking, wood hauling, ulu making, basketball statistics, & ice fishing. We were also happy to collaborate with UAF to provide a skin sewing beaver mitten class for dual credit. While facilitating exploration week at site, we also had students attend the BBRCTE courses for nautical science basic safety and Macintosh repair. The students and staff were highly engaged all week long.



Our seniors have been tirelessly fundraising all year and were rewarded with a trip to Disneyworld in Orlando, Florida. They had an amazing trip at the happiest place on earth and made memories that will last a lifetime. We have also fielded a large NYO team that will have competitions at Koliganek and Dillingham. We look

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Togiak School

Sam Gosuk, Principal

Togiak School has had a busy month this March and beginning April. Exploration week went very good. Some of the classes the teachers gave were cooking, sewing, photography, making movies and fablab. Elementary has been involved in the E-week also. One thing the elementary did was to make a 3D representation of Rapunzel and giving it a little twist, allowed Rapunzel to 'engineer' her escape.

Their work was displayed at the end of the exploration week at the commons for all to see and possibly buy. Both staff and students enjoy the E-Week and are taking advantage of it to give classes that are of interest to them. Some of the skills that students learn will be remembered and used later on in their life.

Another E-Week elementary activity was making craft out of parachute cords by braiding them and making them into usable items such as key chains, bracelets and other items. A 'paracord' will hold about 550 pounds.

Related to crafts and classes is Art. The fifth graders made art which were sent to Juneau were displayed as some of Southwest Region School District Students' and seen in interest by the Governor Walker and Mrs. Walker.



The interest in using the culture of the community and allowing students to express themselves through projects allow students to take ownership of their education into something that they can see, handle and use in their lives now and later.

This month, the four students who made student of the month are:

- Kaily Pauk, Kindergarten
- Brea Markoff, 4th grade
- Arnold Lockuk, 7th grade
- Antone Tommy, 9th grade

When we see these students, if you know them, please encourage them or their parents. A little encouragement from anyone to anybody goes a long way.



## **Twin Hills School**

**Nate Preston, Principal/Teacher**

Everything is going nicely at Twin Hills school for March and April. We have completed our second migrant night, the third E-week, and State testing. Bristol Bay Health come out to do a presentation, and we are scheduling the third round of MAP testing as well as the fourth and final E-week for later in April and start of May, as we continue to work on Reflex Math and Spelling city.

We celebrated Doctor Seuss's birthday a little late as we had to postpone our migrant night due to illness among our students, which put our two Migrant Nights very close together. So, on Thursday March 9 we celebrated Dr. Seuss birthday during the day and then held migrant night that evening after school. We served green eggs and ham while watching classic Dr. Seuss's cartoons and completed a book order with all our migrant students.

During the third e-week the middle school tried out several new recipes and figured out the different things they can make and bake to sell and raise money for their 8th grade trip. The High school classes had fun making origami airplanes and cooking basic meals. Our district spelling bee champion went to Anchorage to compete in the State spelling bee. We should have four more students completing Reflex Math testing and moving to the next level. At the end of March and during the first part of April we completed the new state test. PEAK testing went off without a hitch. We are waiting to see if there is a correlation between the student set goals on MAP and their scores on PEAK and MAP.

Bristol Bay Health did a G.A.S.P. presentation on choking, which was an area of need. As we addressed the one area, we learned that our students did not have an emergency contact "tree", therefore we have included a unit to teach students what to do and/or where to go in case of an emergency. We worked with the CSC and developed what we wanted to teach students and have been covering it in all the classes.

Later in April we are planning for the last round of MAP testing and the last E-week for this year. We are anxious to see how the goals set in MAP, and then worked on by our students will affect their scores. In addition, our high school students can't wait to receive their hunter safety scores and to make the trip to Dillingham to go through the hunter safety course. Middle school has more recipes to try for the final E-week, and the elementary students want it to be E-week for the rest of the year.

We have three staff members signed up for the weekend classes offered at Bristol Bay campus. They plan on learning how to do various crafts like fish skin sewing and drum making in order to offer it as a class next year.