

# REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



**"Qigcikluku nunamta  
atullerkaa**

**Have respect for our  
land and its  
resources."**

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

## **Board of Education**

Kay Andrews, President  
Marie Paul, Vice-President  
Ferdinand Sharp, Sec./Treas.  
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Wassillie Gust, Member  
Helen Gregorio, Member  
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## **Superintendent's Office** David J. Piazza, Superintendent

### **Site Visits**

Superintendent Piazza and Board Vice President Marie Paul were able to attend the Clarks Point School's Open House before the first day of school. The students and community were excited to see that direct educational services were beginning after several years of school closure. While the old school building will still require additional work before it is ready to be utilized again, the community has put in great efforts to ensure that the children have a place to call their school. It is anticipated that the students and staff will be into the temporary building soon. In the mean time, the students have been attending classes within the Village Council's meeting room to get off to a great start for the year. Dave was also able to visit the Aleknagik School and the Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School during the past few weeks.



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Awards

Each Spring the District solicits candidates for three Employee of the Year awards. The following individuals were selected for additional recognition.



### **Classified Employee of the Year**

Jason Munster  
District Office



### **Instructional Aide of the Year**

Grace Gamechuk  
Manokotak



### **Teacher of the Year**

Joshua Gates  
New Stuyahok

The following staff have been recognized at the beginning of the year with longevity awards for their time working at Southwest Region Schools.

### **5 Years**

LeEsia O'Sullivan - Manokotak

Ryan O'Sullivan- Manokotak

Abby Active - Togiak

Ella Kohuk - Togiak

Charles Becker - District Office

Kyle Schneider - District Office

### **10 Years**

Mary Walcott - Ekwok

Genevieve Kapatak - Koliganek

Mary Ann Mochin - Manokotak

Alexandra Gumlickpuk - New Stuyahok

Justin Gumlickpuk - New Stuyahok

Nick Gust - New Stuyahok

Richard Togiak - Togiak

Monte Murphy - District Office

### **15 Years**

Kirk Kofford - Manokotak

Lisa Andrew - New Stuyahok

Jasper Andrews - Togiak

Corey Evans - District Office

### **20 Years**

Rhona Shavings - Manokotak

Esther Ilutsik - District Office

David Piazza - District Office

## Superintendent Travel

Superintendent Piazza, Associate Superintendent Steve Noonkesser, Director of Yup'ik Studies Esther Ilutsik, School Board President Kay Andrews, Board Member Wally Gust, and Board Member Helen Gregorio participated in the Association of Alaska School Board's (AASB) Robert Wood Johnson Grant funded Cultural Safety and Equity in Education Policy Review workshop. Other participants included staff and board members from Nome City Schools, AASB, and the First Alaskans Institute. The first phase of the project was aimed at looking at current school board policies to identify areas that could be improved to meet the needs of the students, parents and communities within our region. The team reviewed the policy on meal service to determine if local regional subsistence foods could be more prominently utilized within the schools' breakfast and lunch programs. The group was able to review several other policies and AASB will look to bring the suggested changes into practice through the formal policy review process in the Spring.



**Instructional Aide of the Year**  
**Grace Gamechuk**



**Teacher of the Year**  
**Joshua Gates**

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Associate Superintendent

Another year is off to a great start! We opened school this year with a number of exciting new possibilities. We spent most of our fall inservice time with staff preparing to continue new initiatives started this past year (Exploration Weeks and increased options through online curriculum).

### Site Travel

Steve traveled to Aleknagik and Manokotak over the past two weeks to observe and look for ways that district office might better serve the sites as we start off a new year. It was heartening to have lunch with old friends at the elder's table in Manokotak, see new staff already in the middle of instruction building relationships with students and returning staff smoothly into their instructional routines. Both schools were up and running smoothly and a sense of purpose and focus was very evident.



## INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TEAM



Les Parks  
Technology Coordinator



Dianna Schollmeier  
Elem. Ed. Specialist



Corey Evans  
Technology Specialist



Charles Becker  
Sec. Ed. Specialist



## Cultural Safety and Equity in Education Policy Review Workshop

Steve also participated with Superintendent Piazza and board members in the Association of Alaska School Board's (AASB) Robert Wood Johnson Grant funded Cultural Safety and Equity in Education Policy Review workshop. During the workshop a variety of school board policies were examined and improvements were discussed. Steve worked with board members and the group to begin drafting a new policy (BP1311) to address the role of the school and staff in the community. The experience was a positive one and should help further our efforts to improve the links between school and community.

## Instructional Team Notes

### Exploration Week

- The district returned to the adopted Mirrors and Windows program for secondary Language Arts with the replacement of electronic books with updated textbooks for all students. This curriculum also now includes a consumable workbook for homework and added practice. A large section of All Staff Inservice was set aside for training Secondary Language Arts teachers on how to best implement this curriculum.
- On the subject of Language Arts, all of the high school teachers in that subject are new to the district this year, and for most of them this is their first teaching job ever. They are: Anne Tarsia (KGK), Daniel Brune (KNW), Ryan Hickel (WKK), Katie McNeil (KMO), and Rachel Cullett (TGO). All are very excited about being here and have quickly coalesced into a collaborative cohort. New faces have brought in new ideas and fresh energy, willing to face challenges and experiment with different platforms. As we use many different technological tools at SWRS (Google Docs, Powerschool, Polycom, etc.) their learning curve has been steep but they have adapted and are being supported by District Office since there is not a "veteran" member of the group to guide them through these processes.



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

- All Staff were given the opportunity to complete all of the Mandated Trainings required by the state during the first on-site inservice day. This was made possible by the development of Slideshows sourced from the DEED website. Without these, each teacher would have had to of completed the training individually at a much slower pace.
- Elementary Science materials are being handled in a different way this year. Elementary teachers chose a specified number of lessons from a list for the first semester and requested materials specifically for those lessons. Those materials have been assembled and will be sent to sites soon. This will be done again at the beginning of second semester. Previously, teachers received materials for all potential lessons three times throughout the year. This new system will save money through both materials and transportation cost; and also increase teacher motivation and success due to personal commitment to and enthusiasm for the activities.

## Exact Path

- Dianna has been working with staff to begin implementation of the new ExactPath resource. It is exciting to be implementing a system that will allow for very targeted instruction based on the MAP assessment to address specific student needs in Language Arts and Mathematics on an individual student basis. We are optimistic about the possibilities this new program brings.

## Re-Opening Clarks Point School

- As we start a new year, we have an exciting project in progress. New Principal/Teacher Shannon Harvilla has arrived in Clarks Point with his family and we are re-opening the school! With the old school building needing work to bring it back to code before occupancy, the summer has been a whirlwind of activity working with the community to put temporary facilities and housing in place and obtain all necessary permits from the Fire Marshall and others to begin operations. For this first few weeks of school the community has been gracious in providing space in their facilities to hold classes while the new portables are set up.
- Over the new few weeks we hope to move into the new portable classroom unit.



## Technology Team Notes

In the midst of a busy start of year, we have a new large project in the mix. We are opening a new school! Les has been hard at work planning and getting a new network ready for the facilities in Clarks Point while dealing with the usual start up duties. Corey has been busy with all the usual startup activities as well, while planning implementation of an exciting new options for our lower elementary staff and students.

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

### Apple School Manager

- Apple School Manager allows us to link Powerschool to create “classes” in the JAMF iPad management server that allow teachers a set of management tools not previously available. This helps to ensure that student have appropriate apps and access. It also allows the district to use managed Apple IDs to further increase options and stability.

### eRate / School BAG Funding Year 2017

- Category 1 - Status of application remains "In Review"...
- Category 2 - Funding Commitment Decision Letter received for \$1,481.55. Filed For 486 (Receipt of Services)

### KMO Network and Phone Outage

- KMO suffered a major outage to network services after the failure of their main switch. WiFi and telephone services were affected. Service was restored after replacing the switch with a unit purchased for another location. Configuration and installation of the new classroom printers was also begun during the repairs.
- Repair parts are being shipped for the failed switch under warrantee by HP Aruba.

### CLP network engineering, installation, and configuration

- Identified and appropriated a closet for telephone/Internet connections (data closet)

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## State & Federal Programs

**Jon Clouse, Director**

### Title I-C – Migrant Education

Pauline Askoak (New Stuyahok), Virginia Bartman (Manokotak), Pam Johnson (Nushagak River Villages), Natalia Ishnook (Koliganek), Kyle Schneider (district office) and Jon Clouse attended the annual migrant recruiting training in Anchorage on August 30th and 31st. In other exciting news, the SWRS migrant program provided summer school to up to 20 migrant student at Manokotak School. The focus was on culturally relevant reading and vocabulary, physical activity, and an art/science activity.

### Site Visit: School Improvement

EED has continued to “freeze” the star-rating for schools until the ESSA plan is approved by the US Department of Education. That being said, Togiak continues to be identified as a Focus school and will receive additional support from EED for school improvement including school improvement funding. PBIS is a positive behavior support system that continues to be a focus for the school. To reinforce this system, Togiak School has taken the next step in implementation which is using the CHAMPS system to provide structure and procedures for schoolwide behavior expectations. Jon Clouse traveled to Togiak (August 21 & 22) during the first couple of days of school for a quick visit.

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

By the time you read this report, the first session of the Bristol Bay Regional CTE (BBRCTE) program will have concluded. In review, the BBRCTE program is a partnership between Lake & Peninsula School District, Bristol Bay Borough Regional School District, Southwest Region School District. The courses being offered this first session include:

- Introduction to Healthcare Careers
- Introduction to Aviation Careers
- Coding
- Fisheries



### Student Information & Support Specialist: Kyle Schneider

### Powerschool University

During the summer, Kyle Schneider attended a weeklong PowerSchool training. Over the course of the week, attendees take eight classes for a total of twenty-four hours of instruction. He took courses focused on bringing the district’s customizations into the new gradebook.



## School Photography

During the last week of August and the first week of September, Richard Johnson from Purnell Photography traveled to all of our schools and took pictures.

## Migrant Ed Recruiting

Kyle Schneider traveled to Anchorage with Jon Clouse at the end of August to receive training from EED's Migrant Education Program on recruiting and managing Migrant Education records. Staff from Manokotak, New Stuyahok, and Koliganek also traveled into Anchorage to learn about the changes to the Migrant Education recruiting process under ESSA. Migrant recruiting for Togiak and the smaller schools will be conducted from the District Office.

Children's eligibility is determined by whether or not they have made qualifying "moves". A "move" means that a child took a trip of more than 20 miles for either commercial or subsistence fishing and stayed away from home for 7 nights / 8 days throughout the year. Children can also qualify if they "move" to another district for the required length of time (this can be for fishing or certain other activities). Most of the students we recruit have either "moved" to fish camp or to Dillingham for commercial or subsistence fishing in the summer.



**Counseling & Assessment Specialist: Steve Ito**

The Alaska Developmental Profile for Kindergarten and first grade students that have not attended a public school will begin within a window from September 15th to 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. Student skills and behaviors are defined by goals and indicators in five domains Physical Well-Being, Health, and Motor Development; Social and Emotional Development; Approaches to Learning; Cognition and General Knowledge; and Communication, Language, and Literacy.

Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Public Schools (PEAKS) Score Reports for

grade 3-10 have been disbursed to all sites that participated in testing during the 2016-17 School Year. Statewide summative assessment results at the grade, school, and district level provide information about how the educational system is performing for all students. This information may be used to help inform local decision makers about changes needed to instructional programs, needed additional student support, and professional learning for teachers.

Student performance on the PEAKS assessment is reported in one of four overall achievement levels. On the Alaska Science Assessment reports, these are reported as proficiency levels. These levels describe the performance of the student on the standards tested at the grade level. The four achievement or proficiency levels are: Advanced, Proficient, Below Proficient, and Far Below Proficient.

DEED is working with Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) to plan future assessment designs for all content areas. In 2018, the ELA assessment will include items that ask students to produce a writing sample. Listening and speaking will not be assessed on the 2018 ELA assessment. DEED is investigating high school testing in one grade only for 2018 and considering end-of-course assessments in future years.

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director

### New Teacher Orientation

Angutekayak Louise Gloko of Manuquutaq, Ukayiq Martha Fox of Tuyuryak and Pi'piq Anastasia Ishnook McDowell of Qalirneq assisted with the new teacher orientation. The participants were introduced to the Yup'ik language, cross-cultural communication situations and different techniques that would help in those situation especially with their students; each presenter presented an introduction to the villages with photos of the community and/or people engaging in cultural activities. This followed with a field trip down to Kanakanak beach where participants were able to see a subsistence set net site (Steve Ito) in action. We only caught 2 fish so participants watched Nicole (Steve Noonkesser's daughter) split the fish. The fish then were prepared for the evening barbecue. The session concluded with the participants learning the Akutaq dance (which they performed during the district wide in-service).

### Cultural Mentors 2017

We welcome all our new teaching and administrative staff but especially those enrolled in the Ed. F 456 Orientation to Teaching in Rural Alaska. Five participants have enrolled representing the following sites: Togiak, New Stuyahok, Koliganek, Ekwok and even Dillingham. They will each be assigned a site based cultural mentor who will introduce them to the community and engage them in some of the cultural and subsistence activities. The cultural mentors for each of the site are Mickia Walcott in New Stuyahok, Darlene Wyagon in Koliganek, David Williams in Ekwok, Sam Gosuk in Togiak and George Tinker in Dillingham/Aleknagik.



## Yup'ik Studies Session/Fall In-service

Angutekayak Louise Gloko co-presented indigenous ways of evaluating and really asking ourselves as Yup'ik Studies Instructors, “What is the BIG GOAL for teaching our Yup'ik language?” “What do we want our learners to do in our language?” and “How can we want our learners reach the BIG GOAL?” Discussion followed on the different way schools assess and how does that differ to assessment by our own people. And most importantly how do we begin to implement authentic assessments into our Yup'ik Studies that we teach. We will continue to address this and look at the different methods that we can incorporate into our lessons and units.



## 2017-2018 Highlights

The Yup'ik Studies program will focus on revising the K-2nd Yup'ik Studies Curriculum with the following serving on the committee Cungass'aq Grace Gamechuk of Manuquutaq, Arnayagaq Pauline Askoak of Cetuyaraq, Cuungaq Melody Noden of Alaqnaq and Ukayiq Martha Fox of Tuyuryaq.

We will also be working on revising our Yup'ik Studies High School classes YCC 101 Introduction to Yupiaq and YCC 201 Yup'ik Orthography. The following will serve on the committee Kiarpiar Fanny Parker of Tuyuraq, Anguk'aq Justin Gumlickpuk of Cetuyaraq, Angutekayak Louise Gloko of Manuquutaq and Tan'iq Larry Bartman of Manuquutaq

Yup'ik Only Rule Committee Year 3 will convene to work on YOR Year 3 and consist of the following members Cungass'aq Grace Gamechuk and Angutekayak Louise Gloko of Manuquutaq, Anguk'aq Justin Gumlickpuk of Cetuyaraq, and Kiarpiar Fanny Parker of Tuyuryak.

## Site Visit – September 6 and 7

It is always a pleasure to visit our schools and engage with the staff and students. My first site visit was out to Alaqnaq. It was so encouraging to hear the students introduce themselves using their Yup'ik names. They took such pride in presenting themselves. Qu yana.

Also, made site visit out to Tuyuryaq and was able to met and observe most of the Yup'ik Studies classes. It was delightful to observe the engagement of the students during their Yup'ik Studies classes. And was so proud of the self-portraits with their Yup'ik names posted on their lockers and bulletin boards. Qu yana.





# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Special Education

Sherry Becker, Director

### 2017-18 is Off to a Great Start!

The special education department is pleased to welcome back eight special education teachers this school year. This includes Jeremy Millard who returned to the district and to the secondary special education teacher position in Togiak after having been gone for a few years. We are also happy to welcome “new to our district” special education teacher Amy Arnold. Ms. Arnold will also be the general education teacher and principal in Ekwok this year. Finally, the special education department is very pleased to welcome Vince Henry. Mr. Henry has worked as our school psychologist for the past three years on a contract with SERRC. Mr. Henry is now working directly for our district as the counselor in Togiak for two weeks of each month and he will also serve as the school psychologist for the entire district during the remainder of each month. The special education director will serve as the special education teacher of record for both Aleknagik and Clarks Point schools.

### Assistive Technology Grant:

The special education department is now in year two of a grant awarded to us by the Department of Education and Early Development. This grant is a technical assistance grant that addresses the assistive technology needs of students with disabilities in our district. This technical assistance is being provided by Mystie Rail, Assistive Technology of Alaska (ATLA) Executive Director/Alaska Center for Accessible Media (akCAM) Project Director.

### How has akCAM benefitted our students so far?

2016-17: 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 BookShare and Read2Go, these students are learning to utilize accessibility tools built into their Macs. This is just the beginning of something amazing!”

2017-18: Students in Togiak, Manokotak, and Aleknagik are now also using the BookShare program and the Read2Go app on an iPad to improve their access to the general education curriculum. This assistive technology provides the students more independence and improves comprehension of materials presented in



middle school and high school. The students may not be able to read the grade level textbook due to a visual or learning disability but they can understand the material when it is read to them. We plan to expand this opportunity to additional students this school year.

### **Special Education Director Travel:**

The special education director traveled to Togiak on 8/20/17 and spent the first three days of school with the Togiak School staff and students. During this visit, all kindergarten students were screened for potential hearing and vision concerns. This was a great visit to Togiak School! Togiak staff and students were all smiles and the school spirit was evident everywhere you looked. The school looked amazing - classrooms and halls were cheerfully decorated with creative and engaging posters and signs. It was very obvious during my visit that Togiak teachers and paraprofessionals really appreciated the CHAMPs (Safe & Civil Schools) training they received the week before school. As a result of chatting with multiple certificated and classified staff members, it was evident that they are looking forward to a positive school year.

The special education director visited Twin Hills School on 8/24/17 and screened their kindergarten students for potential hearing and vision concerns. Finally, the special education director visited Aleknagik School on 8/25 and 8/28/17. The purpose of these visits was to not only complete the hearing/vision screenings, but it was also an opportunity to meet with and train the special education paraprofessional and the new secondary teacher. Twin Hills and Aleknagik students were very busy learning and appeared to be very happy to be back in school.



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Facilities & Maintenance

**Rick Dallmann, Director**

### ALEKNAGIK

- New gym floor installed
- New score board purchased
- All alarm systems inspected, kitchen hood certified.

### CLARKS POINT

- New modular classroom building is completed, at this time still waiting for Fire Marshal approval to start using the building.
- Teacher housing is completed.
- Start process to open old school building

### EKWOK

- Old bulk fuel tank farm decommissioned
- Alarm systems inspected, kitchen hood certified
- Fuel has not been delivered yet, Vitus is planning trips up river

### MANOKOTAK

- Gym floor lines repainted and sealed
- Fuel delivery completed
- All alarm systems inspected, kitchen hood certified
- On site custodial training

### KOLIGANEK

- Gym floor has been repainted and sealed, carpet in gym repaired
- On site custodial training
- Fuel and new truck have not been delivered yet, Vitus is planning to come up
- Materials for Teacher housing Arctic entries has been ordered waiting for delivery

### TOGIAC

- New front entrance completed
- Gym floor recoat completed
- Fuel delivery completed
- All alarm systems inspected, kitchen hood certified
- On site custodial training

### TWIN HILLS

- All alarm systems inspected, kitchen hood certified
- Custodial Training

### NEW STUYAHOK

- All alarm systems inspected, kitchen hood certified
- On site custodial training
- Windows for entrance have been ordered and installation scheduled
- Fuel and new truck have not been delivered yet, Vitus is planning to come up





## Aleknagik School

**Audra Finkenbinder, Principal/Teacher**

### May 2017

At the end of the 2016-2017 school year, Aleknagik held an eighth grade promotion ceremony. Glenn Andrews and Virginia Andrews selected “Today I will do what others won’t, so tomorrow I can do what others can’t.” Jerry Rice as their class motto.

### August 2017

The first day of school for the Aleknagik Lakers was August 21st and all students were greeted with a newly finished gym floor! Abiding by the “indoor shoes only rule” all students excitedly ran onto the floor to see what it felt like as well as to view the center circle logo.



August 21st also marked the beginning of the second year as a K-12 site. The high school enrollment has increased to twelve (12) students this year; up from nine (9) students in 2016-2017. In addition to a new gym floor and an increase in high school enrollment, we also welcome Mr. Ryan Hickel to our staff. Mr. Hickel is teaching secondary ELA, history, health and PE.

The first few weeks of school have been quite busy as all secondary students selected the Exploration Week topics in which they are interested, Purnell Photography was here for community and school pictures, we received the PEAKS assessments results, and the first round of MAP Assessments has been completed.

A special treat for middle and high school students was provided by Ron Bowers who volunteered to come to Aleknagik School to teach a Fishing Vessel Drill Conductor Training class. All middle and high school students participated in the class during school with the option to return in the evening as well as on Saturday to complete the course. Some of the skills taught include firefighting, cold-water survival skills, mayday calls, as well as getting to test out immersion suits in the lake!

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Curriculum-wise, we are in the sixth year of using the science kits for all K-5 students. The students have enjoyed all of the hands-on activities the last five years and I can foresee that enjoyment continuing. We are in the seventh year of using the Reading Mastery program in grades K-5 and in the past six years have seen wonderful gains in the students' reading abilities. This is the fourth year with GO Math! The students' level of comfort and understanding of GO Math! have increased over the past few years and we look forward to that persisting this year. We will continue utilizing Reflex Math; the supplemental online math program to assist with fluency in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

We are embarking on the second year of Exploration Weeks. The first Exploration Week is scheduled for September 18th -22nd with the following course offerings for students in grades 6-12: Introduction to Demolition and Construction Part 2, Beading, and Berry Picking. High school students also have the opportunity to apply to attend Exploration Weeks in Dillingham and/or Naknek with offerings like Introduction to Healthcare Careers, Fisheries, Coding, and Introduction to Aviation. Elementary students (grades K-5) also get to participate in Exploration Weeks in the afternoon with the first session focusing on music. All students look forward to the change of pace and different activities with the arrival of each Exploration Week.

As the new school year begins, we will be continuing the following programs/activities:

- Breakfast Program
- After School Program
- Student of the Month
- Student Council
- Cross Country
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Spelling Bee
- Game Nights

All students in Aleknagik School will also receive instruction in Basic Internet Safety on a quarterly basis throughout the school year. This training is in accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act and Southwest Region School's Acceptable Use Policy.



If you have not had a chance to meet Mr. Hickel, would like to see what we have taking place, and/or have any questions, please feel free to stop by.





## Clarks Point School

Shannon Harvilla, Principal



Clarks Point School is OPEN! We have an enrollment of thirteen students and we are up and running. It has been challenging as we are working to get a new portable building open and ready.

We are currently holding school in a room provided by the Clarks Point Village Council in their new building. We are waiting on approval from the State Fire Marshall's office to occupy the new portable unit and then we will be in a larger place with a little more room to spread out.

Our internet and network is up and running in the new portable unit and the kitchen is being set up too.

We will do our MAP testing as soon as we can move into the new building with students and have access to the new network and computers.

We are fully staffed and everyone is working together well to get students grouped and instruction started. Students are focusing on character and conduct while learning Yup'ik values.



# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## William ‘Sonny’ Nelson School

Amy Arnold, Principal/Teacher

William “Sonny” Nelson School kicked off a new school year with 15 students, grade PreK, K, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7. We began our year by setting personal and group goals, as well as participating in leadership building activities. Working in partners, one student was “blindfolded” while the partner talked that student through an obstacle course. We debriefed about the skills needed to keep others safe and on-track, including communication, patience, and persistence during difficult times.

Since I am the only certified staff on campus, I utilize the evidence-based practice of small, flexible grouping to allow students to rotate between staff, based on their needs. Using a set schedule similar to middle school, students change classes to allow me to work with every child daily; my classified staff implement differentiated lesson plans designed by me to meet their needs. Every student receives 120 minutes of reading instruction and 90 minutes of math instruction daily.

While we are highly focused on academics, we understand that play is the work of children, and we ensure that students remain active physically as well. During morning meeting, we utilize Go Noodle to get our brains focused for the day. After lunch, Capture the Flag is a popular game to get the energy out in a constructive way.

During one of the students’ rotations, they utilize ExactPath for Reading and Math remediation or enrichment, depending on their needs. Students are excited to interact with their technology and show what they know!

For E-Week this first quarter, we are participating in Community Service. Tomorrow, our Community Committee, consisting of parents, Village Council members, local elders, and interested residents are meeting to discuss the needs of the village, as well as a trip down to the Ekwok Lodge, the site of the original village. Because we are doing community service, we felt it was important to involve the whole community.

We are off to an amazing, engaging, and achieving start to our school year!





## Koliganek School

### Deb Forkner, Principal

Koliganek School is off to a GREAT start with “Pride in our Past and Passion in our Future”. A welcome back to school and welcome to new staff hot feed/open house was a huge success the Saturday before school started.

New staff include: Deb Forkner, Principal

- Karen Kapatak, K/1 teacher
- Brad Henry, Math/Science teacher
- Anne Tarsia, Language Arts/Social Studies teacher

Koliganek School is fortunate to have all classified staff members, as well as, Anastasia McDowell and Diana O’Riley returning this year. The consistency is certainly a positive for students.

The entire staff began the year with two full days of staff development. The focus was on realizing the uniqueness of each student and focusing on the positive. As a staff, we are working on phrasing communications with students in positive ways rather than always telling them what not to do.

Middle and high school students are excited for the first Exploration Week. Students will be building Tundra Terrariums, doing International Cooking and writing elder biographies in Journalism. The journalism students will be interviewing elders and writing biographies to post in the school along with the elder’s picture. Elementary students will be participating in subsistence activities such berry picking and making Agutaq.

Koliganek CSC will be working throughout this year to get art work created and installed in the school. Several local Dillingham artists will be visiting Koliganek next month to work with the CSC and community members to develop an art plan.





# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Lewis Beaver, Principal

### Academics:

Our current enrollment is at 74 students for K-6th and 50 students for 7-12th, with a total of 124 students. We have gotten off to a positive start. The after-school tutoring is currently set for Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:40-4:30 p.m. We had to have MAP testing extended another week due to technical difficulties at our site.

### Attendance:

The current schoolwide attendance rate is at 94.16%.

### Activities:

The cross-country running team has hosted at our site, attended Togiak's meet, and plans to attend the Dillingham event. The middle school and high school volley ball teams have begun practice last week and anticipate fielding teams. We also had the photographer visit with near 100% of everyone being photographed. The senior class also catered to 200+ attendees to BBNA's annual meeting held here on Saturday the 9th of September.







## **‘Chief’ Ivan Blunka School**

**Robin Jones, Principal**

Just like the silver salmon, we are already having a strong run at Chief Ivan Blunka School! We are framing our school year with the vision of “Together, we create a safe and culturally sensitive environment that encourages everyone to embrace challenges, celebrate perseverance, and discover a passion for learning.” We are also celebrating a Yup’ik value each month, with the August/September value being: “Have respect for our land and its resources.” Our goal continues to be to use our vision and monthly Yup’ik value to drive our instruction while also enhancing our student engagement, school climate, and connectedness (Board Goals 1, 3, & 5 / District Goals 1-6).

We started school on Monday, August 21, 2017 with a Welcome Back Assembly to share our vision, generate excitement about the school year, introduce the staff, and honor individuals. We currently have 138 students enrolled in our K-12 program. We were so proud to present longevity awards to several staff members and also to recognize Joshua Gates as the Southwest Region School District Teacher of the Year. On Wednesday, we hosted our annual Welcome Back to School BBQ and had an amazing turnout! Attendees enjoyed good food, great company, and lots of door prizes. We were also able to reinforce our Yup’ik values by allowing the community the opportunity to recognize students who are demonstrating our monthly values. The students recognized will be put on a bulletin board and will be entered in a drawing at the end of each month (Board Goals 1 & 3 / District Goals 2, 4, & 6).

We are anticipating an exciting first exploration week, where we will be offering Skin Sewing, Introduction to iMovie, Furniture Making, CAD, Fabric Design, Quilting, Pioneering, & Subsistence Fishing. To be able to offer these intensive weeks of study is such an amazing opportunity for the students. We look forward to the remaining exploration weeks and to the rest of the school year! (Board Goals 1, 4, & 5 / District Goals 1-6).



### **Elementary**

Kyle Chunak – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

### **Middle School**

Makayla Geffe – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

### **High School**

Preston Gust – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

### **Employees of the Month**

Makayla Walcott & Leah Sizemore

# REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



**Togiak School**  
**Michael Lee, Principal**

This year has gotten off to a great start at Togiak School. There have been a few changes and the students seem to be eagerly greeting the new challenges. We have implemented CHAMPS, a part of Safe and Civil Schools, as the next step in our Positive Based Intervention System. We had two days of training with for all staff prior to school starting with Karl Schleich, a consultant from Safe and Civil Schools. All of our teachers, Instructional aides, custodial / maintenance, and cooks attended. As a staff we present a unified approach to positive based behavioral interventions. Our custodial / maintenance staff, instructional aides, and teachers worked extremely hard to get the school ready to open this year. They have cleaned the building from top to bottom, redone all of the bulletin boards, and prepared the classrooms for the new students. Their hard work and dedication has shown off with the great start that we have had this year.

We started our first day with an opening assembly. In the assembly we recognized some achievements from our staff: Jasper Andrews with 15 years of service to the district and Ella Kohuk and Abby Active with 5 years of service to the district. We introduced the students to CHAMPS and taught the school wide attention signal. We introduced the new teachers and welcomed back the returning teachers. We reviewed our school wide expectations and some new incentives for attendance and behavioral rewards. Overall, it was great day with the students leaving happy and excited for the new school year.

There are some new classes in the school this year. We have started an alternative education program in Togiak called Pathways with 13 students currently taking classes through the program. We believe that all students can graduate, but some need a different path to reach the destination. The Pathways Program targets students that have dropped out or at risk of not graduating to help them reach their goal in school. The Pathways Program classes are currently being taught by Dale Richesin. We have also expanded our Yupik program in Togiak School with the addition of Sam Gosuk as the Yupik Coordinator. There have already been several subsistence trips with students and more already planned in conjunction with the Togiak Tribal Council. The students are excited for the opportunity to learn and practice their traditional subsistence skills. In one trip several high school students traveled with Mr. Gosuk up river and caught silvers. The high school students then taught the 5th grade class how to cut fish and prepare meals. The end product was delicious and both the 5th grade and Mr. Gosuk's class enjoyed a wonderful meal of silver salmon.

The school has been partnering with additional agencies to help ensure that our school and community have a great year. Starting last June, we finally had the Alaska State Troopers establish themselves as a continual presence in Togiak. The students have enjoyed seeing Trooper Dan and Trooper Dave in the commons during breakfast and at dismissal each day. They always have lots of questions for the Troopers and it has been great to see the positive interactions between the students and the Troopers. Togiak School has partnered with BBAHC Community Wellness Program to support the open gym. BBHAC is providing funding for 30 hours of open gym time per month. The school has also partnered with Togiak Tribal Council which has agreed to provide funding for an additional 30 hours of open gym time for the community per month. This will allow us to provide open gym almost every day. We are using open gym as part of our plan to increase attendance. We are currently working with the Dental team from BBAHC to get an effective cavity prevention program in place at Togiak School. Students that are in pain from a tooth aches are not able to effectively learn.

We also have a part time counselor / school psychologist at Togiak School. Vince Henry has been and will continue to be an extremely valuable resource. There were some traumatic events over the summer and his presence at the opening of the school was a tremendous benefit to the students. He has been working with the K-8 staff members to get the 2nd Step curriculum started in the elementary. This is a Social Emotional Learning program that helps to teach students ways to respond in difficult situations. Mr. Henry is a great benefit to the implementation of Safe and Civil by assisting the students and staff in positive ways to cope with stressful situations.

The month of September is in the books. Our Student of the Month winners were Jacob Smith, Koby Pauk, Nicholas Paul, and Kacelyn Carlos. Jane Holmes received the most nominations for the employee of the month and the entire custodial / maintenance department (Aaron Frost, Lenny Wassillie, Gary Nicholai) won the Top Dog award. The students and staff have really stepped up to our CHAMPS expectations. We also hosted a cross country meet in Togiak. Volleyball practice has started and we are looking forward to having a middle school and high school team. It has been very busy, but very fun and exciting. We have had a great start and we look forward to an amazing year ahead. From all of the students and staff at Togiak School, we thank you for your continued support.





## Twin Hills School

Nate Preston, Principal/Teacher

We are looking forward to an exciting new school year: All our staff has returned, we have had seven more students register, which brings our total number of students up to 26, and we, in conjunction with CSC, are going to focus on four goals. We have completed plans and preparations for our first exploration week of the year.

As scheduled, during the week of September 18th. to the 22nd . our school will be having the first E-week. We have prepared for all outdoor activities while the weather is good. The students really like being outdoors and learning about and practicing subsistence. We are offering three outdoor subsistence classes for E-week.

After looking at the district goals and talking with the CSC, our school will target four main goals. The first and necessary goal for this year is to improve attendance, which will work in tandem with the next goal of focusing our after school program. These two important goals will support our ultimate goal of boosting all our students' reading and math scores through group work, individual and one-on-one work when needs indicate such, and computer based programs that support that learning. Our final goal is to eliminate bullying at school. School activities will be geared to reach all four of these goals.

We will use the after school program to help with both improving attendance and academics. Students will be using the Exact Path Program and/or Reflex Math during the after school program as appropriate. Both Exact Path and Reflex Math give awards for the consistent use of, and the academic improvements made by students. As students gain these awards, the successes will be posted on the bulletin board and celebrated. Daily attendance will also earn them popcorn during movie night.