

Alak School

November 12, 2020

Enrollment: 170

K-3 – **4** K-4 – **8** Elementary – **83** Middle School – **32** High School – **43**

Activities held since August 27, 2020:

Sports – Region I Cross Country held its season this year and all school competition was conducted locally. School results were passed on to district representatives to be processed. Alak school had five competitors join the team and only one participated in regionals. Tiana Bodfish's performance time did not provide her an opportunity to compete at State. No other interscholastic sport has occurred for fall/winter season 2020 due to COVID conditions.

ACT / SAT Testing: Alaska Rural range testing program has been cancelled for the semester. All Juniors and Seniors must apply and travel to Anchorage or Fairbanks to take their tests this fall.

MAP and STAR Testing: MAP testing for Alak school began Oct 1st and 2nd and continued through the week of October 5th 2020. More than 90 percent of students participated in the test and nearly all participants held their previous MAP test score from Feb 2020 or increased in academic performance. Alak school did not show a COVID slide in academic performance as compared to other schools on the slope. Nearly all students did well on STAR reading tests. 96% or more of our student population achieved a grade level or more since Feb 2020. This is a remarkable achievement for our students.

Battle of the Books: Alak school is fortunate to have Tracie Shelley, a new teacher to arrive to Wainwright, Alaska and become our Battle of the Books (BoB) coach. She is presently preparing activities for grade level teams. We expect our students to do even better than last year.

Halloween Assembly: Students of all grades participated in a Halloween assembly on October 29th and 30th 2020. A and B groups had a special Halloween costume parade, exhibition, and competition. Both days, all costume participants lead by teacher Tracie Shelley gathered on the gym floor and danced to Michael Jackson "Thriller" song. Following the song, Principal Bolling lead the costume competition and several winners were announced.

Awards Assembly: Alak School is preparing for an awards assembly on November 18, 2020. We have one Senior who has successfully completed all curriculum credits for graduation by end of 1st quarter and others deserve academic recognition too.

Staff Activities: Alak staff persons participated in mandatory training online and during administrative presentations. 100 percent of staff participated in training and completed all annual requirements.

Most teachers participated with and received instruction on curriculum-based instruction to increase their awareness and navigation of the following virtual/online platforms:

- IXL
- Lexia “Core 5” and “Power Up” online platforms
- Google Classroom training
- MyMath and Reach for Reading
- Measure of Academic Progress MAP Assessment
- Standardize Test for Assessment in Reading STAR training
- AimsWeb and Response to Intervention RTI training
- Milepost/MTSS training

Alak’s provided four Paraprofessionals to received 8 hours of Sylvan online Learning instruction to become certified tutors. They are now nationally certificated and tutor a caseload of 12 English Second Language ESL students.

Cultural Integration: Alak school continues to integrated culture in its workforce by hiring two Inupiaq employees to be teacher apprentices. Jenysa Ahmaogak and Tymon Driggs are recent graduates of Alak school and were hired as temporary para professionals. Both have been assigned a lead teacher and will accomplish college courses online while seeking a teaching certification. As a performance measure of Staff Success, this is one-way Alak school can fulfill Board approved strategic goals for this school year.

Highlighted Staff, Students and Volunteers:

Regina Bellereide, our school’s reading specialist should be commended for her tireless effort to help improve reading and writing proficiencies within all grades. She is a lead teacher and single-handedly set up our distance delivery program for the school. She provided professional development instruction to teachers each Wednesday and now arranges Zoom visits with other teachers on the Slope who have no distance delivery program at their school.

Jane Sielak, an elementary paraprofessional teacher, is recognized for stepping up as a substitute teacher while the regular classroom teacher travels off slope for medical reasons. She will assume the role of primary teacher for the remainder of the fall semester.

Alexsis Arnold, a Senior student at Alak school has fulfilled her NSBSD credit requirements for graduation. She is a UA Scholar, an honor roll student, and a member of the National Honor Society. She is no longer taking high school coursework but enrolled in Ilisagvik College’s dual enrollment program pursuing 6 credits of English and Mathematics.

Cora Akpik, Amos Aguvluk Nashookpuk, and Bertha Panik were sworn in as new School Advisory Council SAC committee members for school year 2020-2021. Amos should be commended for his efforts in support of Alak’s COVID-19 Response Plan. He is our Healthy Family Advocate representing ANSA and provides wraparound family and student services. He is presently working to develop a community mentor program for Alak School.