

Nome Elementary School

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April 3, 2024 (March Report)

Dear Board Members,

March really flew by, as it typically does. It's hard to believe we are in the final two months and last quarter of the school year. April and May will be jam-packed with assessments and events. Before we know it, the end of the year will be here!

We want to give a huge shout-out to Mrs. Sophia Pantelis, our STEM Teacher (provided by NACTEC through their EiE grant), for organizing our Science Fair which took place on Thursday, March 7th. There were about 30 elementary projects showcased by students in 3rd through 5th grades. These students work on their projects both at home and with Ms. Sophia after school each day. Congratulations to Third Place winner, Calliope Oleson; Second Place winner Silas Ventress; and First Place winner, Caleb Rhodes, all 4th grade students. Ms. Sophia will be accompanying these students to Anchorage for the Alaska State Science Fair April 5th & 6th. Congratulations and good luck to the students, and thank you so much to Ms. Sophia!

We enjoyed hosting coaches from SkiKu again this year, the whole week before spring break! They took our 3rd through 5th grade classes out several times throughout the week and the kids had a great time. We are so grateful for this continued opportunity for our students.

One student highlight we would like to offer this month is of Joseph Jack. On March 19th Joseph traveled to Stebbins in preparation for Curukaq, his coming-of-age ceremony, and acceptance to his native tribe in Stebbins. This included a reindeer hunt to harvest meat as an offering to the village, along with many other items. Joseph performed his first dance for residents of Stebbins, St. Michael, and Kotlik on Friday, March 22nd, and danced again on Saturday, March 23rd. This was his first solo dance. We are very excited for and proud of Joseph. Please see his special event featured on the bulletin board in our entryway.

The School Climate and Connectedness Survey closed on Friday, March 29th. We are looking forward to receiving and analyzing the results from AASB. We are pleased with our response rates this year, representing 313 students who attend our school:

-103 Family Members, 120 Students (grades 3-5), and 23 Staff Members. This compares to:
-97 Family Members, 123 Students (grades 3-5) and 27 Staff Members completing the survey last year.

The NES PBIS Committee has reviewed our Family/Student Handbook for the 2024-2025 school year. Proposed changes are minimal, with the intent of more closely aligning the language with our PBIS and trauma-informed practices. There will be some minor changes to this draft with the addition of the

updated calendar and staff lists, but no further changes to significant content are planned until our work with the Equity Committee next year. We're looking forward to it!

The Staff Celebration Committee created a bulletin board in the month of March for Staff Shout-Outs. It's great to see staff recognizing one another for the great things they are doing, and positive attitudes they are having! We appreciate our staff and are grateful to the committee for highlighting everyone's shine!

With the loss of one week in March, we still celebrated seven Read to Lead mascots! Ms. Janet's Kindergarten, Mrs. Cross's 2nd grade, Mrs. Erikson's 3rd grade, Mrs. Marvin's 4th grade, and Mrs. Shreve's 5th grade each earned one mascot during March, while Ms. Secor's 1st grade earned two! Way to go, Nanauyaat Readers!

STEM Star for March: 5th grader, Presley Reader! Presley was selected as our STEM Star of the month because she *"is an enthusiastic science lover, eagerly participating in STEM activities from clubs to the Science Fair. Her unwavering attendance and dedicated work ethic showcase her determination and passion for learning, making her a committed student in all aspects of her scientific pursuits."* -Sophia Pantelis, STEM Teacher. ☺ Congratulations, Presley! She received an Artie 3000 robot-building kit and certificate.

This Month's Inupiaq Values & Phrases:

Aziusrat sugunnai (Avoidance of Conflict)

Aṇalataasran (Responsibility)

Week of: Mar. 4: Pinasuaḡluu! – Try to do it!
 Mar. 18: Uniagati – musher
 Mar. 25: Iḡaluaq – tom cod

April & Coming Events:

- Mar. 25-Apr. 26: AK State Testing (AK STAR and Alaska Science)
- Apr. 5: High Table – Ms. Janet's Kindergarten
- Apr. 5 & 6: Alaska State Science Fair, Anchorage
- Apr. 10-12: Safe Bodies lessons in each class (Jennifer Dean-Johnson, Kawerak CAC)
- Apr. 12: High Table – Ms. Laurence's 5th Grade
- Apr. 18: Pre-Conferences: AK Native Language Summit, School Improvement Convening, Reading Endorsement Convening
- Apr. 19-21: Alaska Science of Reading Symposium (team of 20 attending, in-service day 4/19)
- Apr. 22-May3: DIBELS End of Year Benchmark testing
- Apr. 22-26: Bookworms author, Sharon Walpole on-site to provide Professional Development
- Apr. 30: Family Fun Night! 6:00-7:00, NES Commons
- April: Classroom Door Decorating Contest
- April: Kindergarten through 3rd grade progression conversations, per AK Reads Act
- Apr. 30-May 2: third ANSEP 5th Grade STEM Ready program at NACTEC
- May 3: High Table – Mrs. Conger's 1st Grade
- May 10: High Table – Mrs. Shreve's 5th Grade

Statistics:

School was in session for 16 days in March:

-We had an attendance rate of 83.74%. The percentage was fairly even across grades, with a range from 80.88% in 5th grade to 86.34% in 4th grade. Last year the overall percentage for March was 81.60%, ranging from 79.52% in Kindergarten to 85.46% in 4th grade (18 school days).

-We served 2,736 breakfasts, and 2,585 lunches.

-96 individuals from the community volunteered a total of 207.5 hours in the school. This includes the numerous families that were represented during our High Table Celebrations: 30 guests for Mr. Slingsby's 1st grade class on March 1, 18 guests for Ms. Secor's 1st grade class on March 8th, 22 guests for Ms. Ten Eyck's Kindergarten on March 22nd, and 15 guests for Kiminam Inauraa Kindergarten on March 29th.

Nome Elementary School provides a positive and welcoming environment where our culturally-diverse students, staff, and community members are valued through mutual respect, collaboration, safe interactions, and enriching experiences. Clear and high expectations serve as guidelines to reach success and wellness for all students in this rapidly-changing world.



