

## **Ałak School Highlighted Report SY23/24**

Ałak School is having a great year! Students have been involved with many extra-curricular activities.

Ałak Student Council, led by advisor Wilkerson, sponsored a Veteran's Day lunch for our local veterans. Ms. Wilkerson and Ms. O'Neal worked together with the home economics students and created a 5-course lunch. The student council served the veterans in a nicely decorated classroom that was American and Alaskan themed. In addition to this, the student council helped serve during the annual Thanksgiving Feast. The students learned how to divide the items, and serve them to the attending families. The next big project will be a Spring Carnival at Ałak School that is coming in early March.

Ałak School students participated in Robotics this year. Coach Wilkerson guided the students in building a robot that was presented in the December Robotics Tournament held in Utqiagvik. The students still meet on Saturdays to further develop their robot building skills even though the season ended in December. We are very glad to see this occurring at Ałak School.

During our annual Christmas Program, Joseph Ahmaogak led a group of student drummers and singers in an outstanding performance. Our students are learning to drum and sing our Ulġuniq aġġi songs. Mr. Ahmaogak comes in on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the Cultural Arts class to teach students how to drum and sing.

Ałak School is working with local artists to provide a sewing class, too. Students will be learning how to make atikluks, mittens, and hats. This is in the beginning phase, and students are excited for this class.

Ałak School had a great cross-country and volleyball season. We are currently in basketball season. The student-athletes traveled to Utqiagvik and Wasilla to participate in games. Ałak School hosted Nuiqsut and Pt. Lay, and that was a success. The community came and supported the students.

The SAC has been very proactive at Ałak School. The SAC sponsored a catered dinner for our Ałak School Community Engagement Night. To help increase parent/teacher conference attendance, the SAC provided door prizes for parents and guardians. The SAC also helped secure funding to sponsor Ałak School's own Prom 2024.

The village of Wainwright is very fortunate to have many blessings.

Not too long ago, Ałak School lost its longtime counselor David Bauer. David Bauer came to Wainwright in 2008, with his wife Carrie Bauer. Mr. Bauer was a dedicated counselor and volunteered his time during school events. Mr. Bauer remained in Wainwright through Christmas breaks and became good friends with many people in the village. He enjoyed listening and learning from our village elders, and often referred to the stories when working with students to help build good character in our students. His service at Ałak School is greatly appreciated and is missed. Thank you, Mr. Bauer for your service.

## **Ałak School's Highlighted Students, Staff, and Volunteers**

### **Ałak Highlighted Student K3-3<sup>rd</sup>: Julian Ahmaogak**

Ałak School would like to recognize kindergarten student Julian Ahmaogak.

Julian has made great progress in his classroom this school year. Consistent attendance in school provides many learning opportunities for students. Julian attendance has improved. As a result, Julian has made academic gains quickly. Julian has increased his stamina to stay focused in his classroom. His teacher, Ms. Anna Mekki, is very proud with Julian's reading growth. Julian's decoding skills, spelling of words, and reading level is continuing to develop.

Julian's parents are Jason Ahmaogak and Jerri Dee Bodfish.

Ałak School, and the village of Wainwright, are very proud of Julian Ahmaogak's academic growth in kindergarten.

### **Ałak Highlighted Student 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>:**

Ałak School would like to recognize 5<sup>th</sup> grade student Madison Carson.

Madison is being recognized for many reasons. She has earned an Academic Excellence Award for earning the Superintendents Honor Roll Student this last quarter. Madison's leadership skills in the classroom creates a positive learning experience. She is involved with Ałak School's Student Council and Robotics. She is upbeat and has a positive outlook. Madison is a well-rounded student who participates in many activities both in Ałak School and the community. We hope to continue to see her grow in the years to come.

Madison's parents are Derek and Janet Carson.

Ałak School, and the village of Wainwright, are very proud of Madison Carson's accomplishments.

### **Ałak Highlighted Student 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>:**

Ałak School would like to recognize 12<sup>th</sup> grade student Josiah Henry.

Josiah is focused, polite, and hard-working. He is engaged during class, and is a positive role model in Ałak School. He works diligently in class and performs above expectations. Josiah's quiet demeanor and his ability to be positive is appreciated by everyone.

Josiah is not only an excellent student in the classroom, he enjoys playing basketball. He supports his teammates on and off the court.

Josiah's parents are Pastor Tony and Josie Henry.

Ałak School, and the village of Wainwright, are very proud of Josiah Henry's desire to learn and be a role model in Ałak School.

### **Ałak Highlighted Certified Staff: Marissa Garcia De Leon and Rebecca Wilkerson**

Ałak School would like to recognize 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Ms. Marissa Garcia De Leon as a Highlighted Certified Staff Member. Ms. Garcia De Leon is always willing to help and support our staff, students, and families. She willingly volunteers to take notes, organize schedules in Excel, and shares ideas of what may work best for students in staff meetings.

Ms. Garcia De Leon is part of Ałak School's PBIS team, and is a role model by implementing positive behavior practices with her students, colleagues, and parents. She communicates with parents and guardians consistently, and her students' parents appreciate her positive approach.

Aļak School would like to recognize 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher Ms. Rebecca Wilkerson as a Highlighted Certified Staff Member. Rebecca's energy is evident in how she goes about the day. She moves with determination and purpose, and her willingness to go the extra mile for Aļak students is very much appreciated by everyone. Ms. Wilkerson robotics program has motivated students to look beyond where they are now and has enabled them to see future possibilities.

Ms. Wilkerson leads Aļak School's Student Council and has completed purposeful projects in Wainwright. The student council held a Veteran's Day lunch that was made by students in cooperation with a colleague, they sponsored the annual Christmas Bazaar, volunteered serving at our community feasts, and sponsored a carnival for our community.

Aļak School, and the village of Wainwright, are very proud to have Ms. Garcia De Leon and Ms. Rebecca Wilkerson as a teacher in Wainwright.

#### **Aļak Highlighted Classified Staff: Marietta Ahmaogak**

Aļak School would like to recognize Ms. Marietta Ahmaogak as our Highlighted Classified Staff Member. Ms. Ahmaogak is Aļak School's bus driver, and has been our acting Plant Manager since August 2023. Ms. Ahmaogak works a 24/7 job, and does it with a smile.

Ms. Ahmaogak is able to multi-task successfully. She comes to work before 7 am and leaves about 5 pm Monday-Friday. Ms. Ahmaogak attends Saturday meetings with other district Plant Managers, and completes tasks during the evenings and weekends. In addition to her duty as the bus driver, Ms. Ahmaogak ensures that Aļak School is a safe and functioning school, and also maintains the teacher units.

Ms. Ahmaogak completes many tasks at Aļak School, and the list of responsibilities is endless.

Aļak School, and the village of Wainwright, are very proud to have Ms. Marietta Ahmaogak as an employee in Wainwright.

#### **Aļak Highlighted Volunteers: Joseph Ahmaogak and Joseph Towksjhea**

Aļak School would like to recognize Joseph Ahmaogak and Joseph Towksjhea as our Highlighted Volunteers.

Joseph Ahmaogak is an Inupiaq Drumming and Singing Expert and Culture Bearer. Mr. Ahmaogak volunteers his time to teach Inupiaq drumming and dancing 2 days a week. During this time, Mr. Ahmaogak shares his life experiences and the importance of learning the Inupiaq language and ways of life.

Mr. Ahmaogak's approach to teaching is achieved through demonstration. He has a strong voice and steady beat, and at the same time, soft spoken and humble. His presence in Aļak School is felt throughout the school. Students in other classrooms can hear the drumming and singing, and this experience creates a positive environment.

Aļak School, and the village of Wainwright, are very proud to have Mr. Joseph Ahmaogak as a Highlighted Volunteer in Aļak School.

Joseph Towksjhea comes to Aļak School regularly to see if any help is needed in any part of the school. Mr. Towksjhea willingly helps during Aļak School events. He helps clean the gym and hallways after school events, and excitedly uses our Husky Mascot during home games.

Aļak School, and the village of Wainwright, are very proud to have Mr. Joseph Towksjhea as a Highlighted Volunteer in Aļak School.