

Student Representative Report for March 2021
Submitted by Brooke Singson

My name is Brooke Singson, and I am a junior at BHS. My monthly report covers the following schools: Barrow High School, Ipalook Elementary, Meade River School, Alak School, and Kiita Learning Center.

Barrow High School

At Barrow High school, the first half of the semester began on red status and students were participating in distance learning. However, BHS moved to yellow status and began an A/B schedule with in-person classes on March 1st. With both groups combined, opening day had a student turnout of about 180 students.

This semester, several BHS students also participated in Battle of the Books, coached by Dave Horwath. BHS is now placing the majority of their focus on keeping seniors on track to graduate this May, and their goal is to use Wednesdays as “credit recovery days” for seniors, providing them with a quiet place to work and get help as needed. Counselors and advisory teachers also worked together to place students in elective classes of their interest. BHS teachers have worked on self-reflection and evaluating their own practice-- teachers have been receptive of student feedback and learned that they must be more accommodating and flexible to meet the needs of their students during this time.

Alak School

During the first semester of school at Alak School, they were on an A/B schedule. However, at the start of the second semester, they were ordered into red status, and they began distance learning on January 4th. However, at this time, they are now back on yellow status.

For student support, Alak School is providing talking circles with the counselor to give students a chance to talk. They also began Battle of the Books in January, and they had the induction ceremony for the National Honor Society on January 18th. Students also began participating in the NSBSD Message of Hope program and are excited for the possibility of going on to green status and beginning intramural basketball and volleyball.

Teachers have expressed that they are proud of all the work the students have been doing and that students are continuing to work hard during these times.

Ipalook Elementary School

The staff at Ipalook was thrilled to open the school doors to students on March 1st. As everyone is aware, Ipalook is in the yellow status, with students divided between Group A and Group B. There are also families who chose to keep their students learning through distance delivery. Students are excited to be back in the building engaging in classroom activities, participating in PE and music, and continuing to learn the Inupiaq language and culture through ILT classes.

BOB: Ipalook Elementary recently wrapped up Battle of the Books. Representing Ipalook at the district battles in grades kindergarten, first and second were: *Kindergarten*: Lilly Martinez,

Joshua Prothero, Nora Sage, Joaquin DeGuzman; *1st grade*: Ivan Sage, Michael Holt, David Lowe, Cassidy dela Rosa; *2nd grade*: Chase Brower, Carter Brown, Eleanor Williams, Syriah Houston. Coaches Con Bailie and Alonda Singson said all of the students and their families put in a lot of time and effort and their hard work paid off. During the district battles our kindergarten team placed 1st, the first-grade team placed 2nd, and our second-grade team tied with Meade River School for 1st place! All of the students did an excellent job representing our school.

The 3/4 grade team consisted of Jake Prothero, Brooklynn Knapp and Holly Gray. Their coach Jane Alzner said they had a lot of books to read in a short time and did it with a smile on their face. The Ipalook team placed 2nd place at the district battle.

The 5th grade team had members Myron Prothero, Ashlee Rangel, Price Moberg-Thompson and Atticus Stroud. The team's coach, Jamie Phan, stated students have been working hard over the last few months on getting authors/titles memorized and aiming to complete 3-4 books each before district competition. They have shown great perseverance with not only having to meet 100% virtually but also getting their readings done in a shortened BoB season--not an easy task with most of the readings being larger chapter books! They are rocking it! Congratulations to the 5th grade team for a 2nd place finish at the district competition!

Ipalook would like to thank ASTAC for their continued support of Battle of the Books. The funding from ASTAC provides each school in the district with the books and t-shirts for every participant and coach.

Music: Mr. Calderwood made the Music Ace software available to all students on the slope and has seen voluntary activity in this program from students at a variety of district schools especially Wainwright and Barrow High School. If your child would like to use the program, please reach out to Mr. C. at Ipalook for information on accessing Music Ace. As always, Mr. C. encourages all parents to reach out to him directly if they would like additional music learning materials.

Robotics: During distance learning, the extra-curricular options of robotics began. Robotics for the school year 2020-21 will be for all students in K-4th of Ipalook. The objective of robotics this year is to provide to the students simple fun activities that will enhance the children's creativity and manipulative skills. The manipulatives are all paper-based, from coloring, playing with shapes, to cutting and folding 3D Star Wars characters.

The activities are optional but highly recommended. The children who will be doing the activities are encouraged to take a photo of their creative work to be sent to the teacher. All photos will be collated and will be posted to the Ipalook Facebook Account. The teacher will also give special prizes for the first two students per grade level, who will be able to send photos of the six 3D Star Wars characters completely done.