

Nunamiut School, Anaktuvuk Pass, Alaska

Highlighted School for the School Board Report, October 1, 2020

Superintendent Harvey, Assistant Superintendent Roseberry, Board

Members, and other supporters of the North Slope Borough School District. I am

Dale Richesin, the principal at Nunamiut School at Anaktuvuk Pass.

As of the Board report in September, Nunamiut School has 92 students, PreK through 12th grade. 10 in PreK 3 & 4 year-olds, 7 Kindergarten, 9 1st graders, 3 2nd graders, 10, 3rd graders, 6 fourth graders, 7 5th graders, 9 6th graders, 9 7th graders, 4 8 graders, 5 9th graders, 7 10th graders, 2 11th graders, and 4 12th graders. That is lower than usual, but we have already added some since that report. We have ten teachers, a counselor, a special education teacher, principal, and Inupiaq teacher. We have five teacher aides, school secretary, home school facilitator, as well as four janitorial and maintenance staff, two kitchen staff, and a bus driver. We welcome four new staff, Plant Manager David Matthews from

Texas, PE & Health Teacher, Candis Cook from Texas, 6th Grade teacher, Brandi Bowles from Texas, and Secondary Math teacher, Teresa Vossler from Chefnak.

Nunamiut School, like the rest of the slope, is in the midst of a new school configuration based on Covid-19 precautions. Unlike some schools in the borough, we are on Condition Yellow, and offer school at limited capacity. Half of the students come Mondays and Tuesdays and half come Thursdays and Fridays. On Wednesdays, we have parent teacher meetings for at home students. Instead of seven class periods, our secondary students are taking four block classes in the fall and a different four block classes in the spring.

Our SAC committee has determined the conditions for green-yellow-and red. If we have any Covid cases in the village, we will go to red. As long as Fairbanks continues to have new cases, we will remain at yellow. If Fairbanks goes 14 days with no new cases, we will go to green.

Face masks or shields are required for all adults and students 13 and older, and highly recommended for students 12 and younger. Parents who wish to keep

their students at home will be given homework packets for the students and will meet with teachers every Wednesday.

Obviously, this impacted our sports. Cross country adapted by having a virtual meet on Sept. 12. A total of 57 runners from 7 schools participated. We were proud to celebrate that Justus Mulcahy, 8th grade, and Kevin Gordon, 6th grade, took first and second place in the Middle School boys division with times of 23:10 and 24:08 respectively. The Regional event to determine what runners will go to state will be held September 26 with Meade River hosting.

We are tentatively planning our volleyball season. We won't have any road trips, but our team will play scrimmage games twice a week against adults in our village. We are scheduled to host the Regional Volleyball tournament on Nov. 12-14. We hope that can still happen. In order to follow Covid precautions, since the visiting teams will be sleeping in classrooms, we will not have school those days. And the tournament will take place with no audience. The winner would go to Anchorage for the state tournament, Dec. 3-5, and I understand the audience at

state will be severely restricted. We are hoping this limited season will work out and we will do something similar during the basketball season. Obviously, everything is tentative. At this point, these precautions do not look promising for our usual community Halloween Party, Thanksgiving Dinner, and Christmas games.

We have been to put together our Battle of the Books team and our Student Council. On September 19, our teachers enjoyed a Cultural Inservice with a trip to Big Contact. We are planning Parent-Teacher meetings on Wednesday, October 28 and Thursday, October 29.

In May we had a graduation parade to celebrate the graduation of six seniors and the advancement of our Kindergarten class, and 8th grade class. A seventh senior, Jana Ticket, was not able to graduate in May, but over the summer she completed her requirements and was recognized at a special celebration earlier this month. She just returned to Anaktuvuk Pass after giving birth to a baby girl, Karlene, on September 12.