



## Highlighted School Board Report October 1, 2020

**Enrollment:**

Total in PowerSchool -	81		
ECE3 -	3	6 <sup>th</sup> -	6
ECE4 -	6	7 <sup>th</sup> -	2
K -	7	8 <sup>th</sup> -	4
1 <sup>st</sup> -	7	9 <sup>th</sup> -	6
2 <sup>nd</sup> -	4	10 <sup>th</sup> -	7
3 <sup>rd</sup> -	7	11 <sup>th</sup> -	3
4 <sup>th</sup> -	5	12 <sup>th</sup> -	5
5 <sup>th</sup> -	8		

**Anticipated:**

ECE3 -	2 (waiting on shot records)
ECE4 -	2 (not in currently in village but expected)

**Educational Staff:**

Inupiat Language	Lilly Itta	
ECE3 & ECE 4	Patti Lloyd	
Kindergarten & 1 <sup>st</sup>	Rod Lloyd	
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Darleia Caldwell	
4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	Stewart Hughes	The position of counselor remains vacant
6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> (MS)	Jethro Albin	
HS & Math	Carrie Hughes	
HS & ELA	Dave Lance	The position of library aide remains vacant
Paraprofessional	Amy Kagak	
Paraprofessional	Jaqueline Ahkivgak	
Paraprofessional	Heather Kippi-Spear	
Home School Facilitator	Amanda Brower	
Secretary	Ashley Droste	

**Maintenance & Operations:**

Plant Manager	Mel Wong	
Maintenance	Paul Bodfish Jr.	
Maintenance	William Itta	
Maintenance	Stephan Tagarook	
Bus Driver	Sharon File	The position of part time cooks helper remains vacant
Cook	William Shugluk	
Janitor	Karen Kippi	
Temp Janitor	Jaqueline Ahkivgak	
Temp Janitor	Bridgette Ahkivgak	

The start of this school year has been challenging due to the pandemic. While the schedule results in the entire staff being busier than in previous years, everyone is happy that we have students in the building. Students are also excited to be back in classes. Our students are resilient and are doing very well adapting to the new routines.

Our M&O staff has also demonstrated a great resilience with the changes required under this pandemic. Without the support and hard work of Mel and his entire staff, it would not be possible for Meade River School to be holding in person classes. We are also thankful for the two temporary janitor positions provided to assist with the additional cleaning needs.

Acknowledging that this is a frightening time of unknowns, paying attention and following the guidelines handed down from the CDC, Dr. Zinc, DEED, and our district, I am working with our SAC, the City of Atqasuk, the Native Village of Atqasuk, our village NSB representative, our NSB Police, and our health clinic. Through remaining rooted in facts and evidence, we are prepared for the knowns of the pandemic, we are seeking answers to unknowns as they come up, and we are doing our best to prepare for the unknown unknowns and thus protect our students.

To protect both our students and our community, the Meade River School SAC made the decision to abstain from athletic travel during this time. In the letter provided to me at our last meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup>, the SAC requests that our students participate virtually when possible and further request that teams from other communities do not travel to our community. This letter was subsequently emailed to the Superintendent, Pauline Harvey, our board representative, Madeline Hickman, our board chair, Muriel Brower and was copied to board secretary, Chelsie Overby on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Cross-country is underway and we have two coaches working with the runners this year. The cross-country team was open to all students in 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. While we have had several runners over the past weeks, three have been the most dedicated. AKP organized an event Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> and we had two runners participate with one of them taking 1<sup>st</sup> place in the high school boys division. On Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> Meade River School organized the virtual Cross Country Regionals. (As this report was written prior to the meet, an update will be provided verbally.)

Mixed 6 volleyball is scheduled to start today, October 1<sup>st</sup>. At this time, how Meade River will do volleyball is an unknown. Being at medium risk, yellow, having spectators at events is not allowed under our plan. We have considered scrimmages with an adult team from our community; however, we are concerned about spectators. We will continue to work with our SAC and community regarding team sports. As we all know, our beloved sport, basketball, follows the mixed-6 volleyball season.

Meade River Bell Schedule:

### ECE & Elementary:

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri	
Breakfast 8:15-8:45	
<b>AM - 8:45-11:15</b>	<b>PM - 12:15-2:45</b>
ECE 4	ECE 3
Mr. Lloyd's, Mrs. Caldwell's, and Mr. Hughes classes are divided into AM & PM sessions.	
All ECE & elementary students have lunch 11:15-12:15	

Early Release	
Breakfast 8:15-8:45	
<b>AM - 8:45-10:50</b>	<b>PM - 11:50-1:55</b>
ECE 4	ECE 3
Mr. Lloyd's, Mrs. Caldwell's, and Mr. Hughes classes are divided into AM & PM sessions.	
All ECE & elementary students have lunch 10:50-11:50	

## Middle School and High School:

M,T,Th,F	Group A - Mon & Thurs		
	Group B - Tues & Fri		
1st	9:10	10:45	95
2nd	10:50	12:20	90
Lunch	12:20	12:50	30
3rd	12:50	2:20	90
4th	2:25	3:55	90

Early Release	Appointments with Teachers		
Tutoring	9:10	11:55	
Lunch	11:55	12:25	30
Tutoring	12:25	3:10	

Meade River School has been operating at medium risk level, yellow, since the first day of school. We did have one day where we increased to high risk, red. Thankfully, once a conversation with the COVID-19 tracing team occurred, it was agreed that the village risk level did not require the additional precautions and the school returned to medium risk, yellow, the next day.

Our medium risk plan requires a great deal of scheduling as the many pieces all have to fit together within specific time frames. This starts with our bus schedule. With social distancing on the bus, Sharon is making five morning runs instead of two. At lunch there are five runs taking students home alternating with five runs bringing students to school. As the AM students are dropped off at home, the bus aide sanitizes the seats for the students being picked up for their PM session. When the bus arrives at the school, the seats are again sanitized for another round of students.

The activity in the school is just as busy. When all elementary students go to the gym for lunch, Mel and his staff have one hour to sanitize the high touch surfaces in the 4 classrooms, 4 restrooms, and the hallways. The elementary students are seated in the gym at tables with settings marked "Aquavitin Uumuna" (sit here) spaced 6 feet apart. Teachers bring the students their lunch trays and collect them when they are finished eating. While the student goes to wash their hands, the setting place is cleaned, and ready for the student to sit and read a book, do homework, or use an I-pad while they wait for their designated bus run. As groups leave for their bus run the table and seats are again sanitized for the next PM bus group to arrive. During this hour, the four elementary teachers rotate to have their 30min duty free lunch. There is a 5min break between the change of elementary to middle school and high school lunch; this is enough time for the two sets of tables to be sanitized and ready for the students. It's a tight turn around, however, with everyone working to stay on schedule it works.

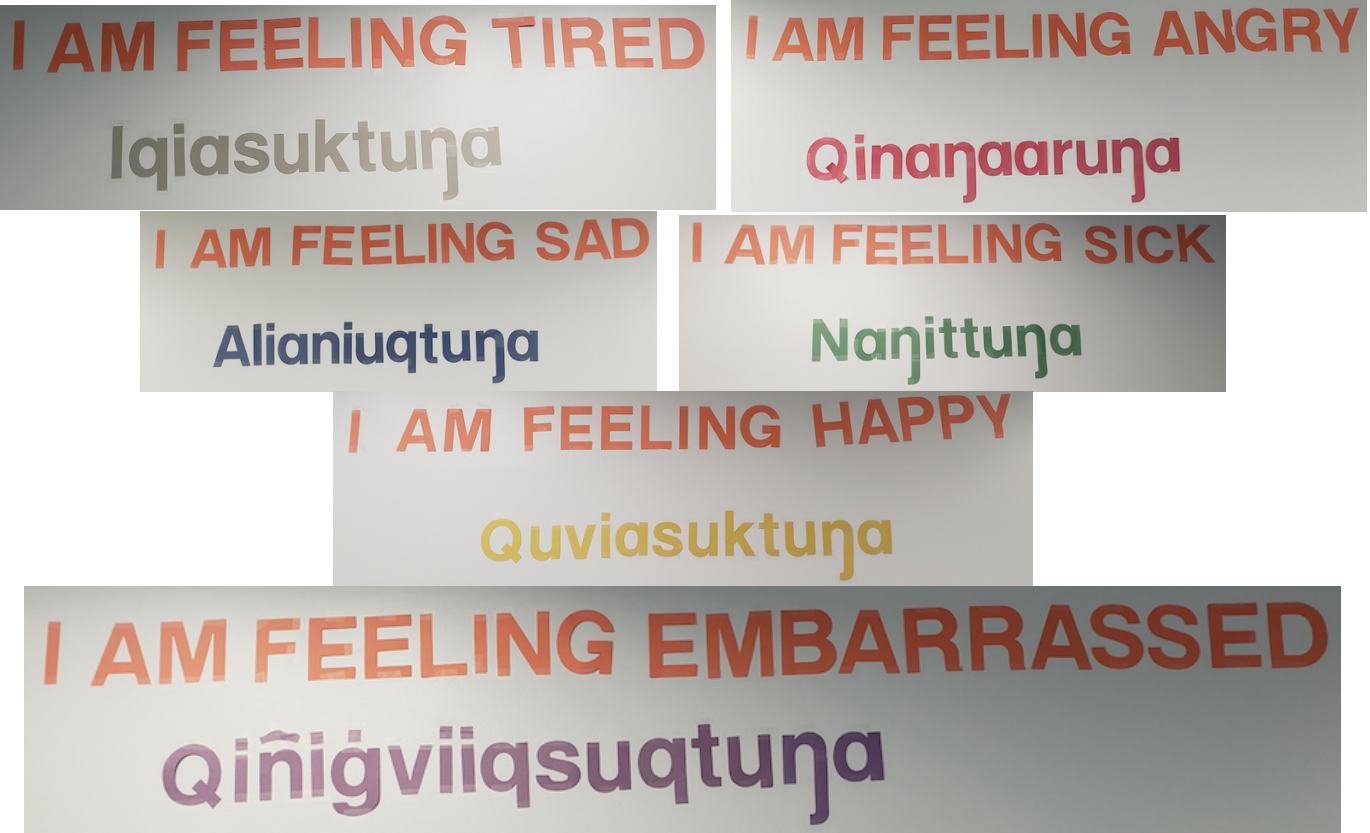
We are choosing to look at this pandemic through a positive lens and keeping our students active both physically and mentally. We are concentrating on the growth our students can make with focused instruction. As students in Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are learning to read, we recognized the importance of their attending school every day. The elementary has 2hrs 30min of instruction 4 days a week and 2hrs 5min on Wednesdays. The teachers are focusing on reading, writing, and math. Having this focused time with smaller class sizes we are seeing students engaged and fully participating in learning.

The middle school students have adapted well to the schedule and are excited about being able to go home for lunch. The challenges of attendance for our high school students has not changed. We are developing an incentive program to encourage attendance on their scheduled days as well as encouraging the completion of assignments on their distance learning days.

As discussed last year, Meade River School is rated a Targeted Support (TSI) by the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED); thus the targeted instruction for reading interventions. Through the support of ASRC providing the funds for Sylvan Learning, we are having our instructional paras work with our tier 3 students; tier 3 students are two or more grade levels behind grade level. Our teachers provided a list of 24 students in grades 3-9 who they requested begin the Sylvan program. All 24 students have been tested and are now starting the individualized tutoring. Our three instructional paras, Amy, Ung, and Heather, are also working to include the Kindergarten, first, and second graders in the program. Having this support allows the teachers to focus their whole class instruction as tier 1 with many tier 2 supports. One point that is evident through the Sylvan program is that our students can decode very well. What our students are missing is vocabulary and comprehension skills. Much of the tier 2 supports are to meet these needs.

Additionally, our reading specialist, Kelly Browder, is working with the 4<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> graders to provide targeted reading interventions. She has completed most of the testing and will add the MAP data to her results to support our teachers in meeting the specific needs of the students.

With the abbreviated school day while we are at medium risk, I still wanted to include Inupiat Language acquisition for the elementary students. To fulfill this need, our Inupiat Language Teacher, Lilly Itta, goes into each classroom and converses with the students in Inupiat as she works with the students in their classroom lessons. All who speak Inupiat have been encouraged to do so as much as possible through the day. The IHLC Oral Historian for the village of Atqasuk, Molly Ahkivgak, has been wonderful with speaking Inupiat to both students and staff. We have also worked at providing labels throughout the school to encourage students and staff to read and use the Inupiat words. Molly assisted with this by providing the labels for the lunch tables. With this request and in consideration of our PBIS work, Amy created phrases to help students express their feelings. She then worked with Amanda to hang them throughout the hallways.



Additionally, Ronald Brower provided several lists of words and phrases as well as numbers for our use. We are working on making the labels for each classroom.

With the schedule, Lilly does have a dedicated Inupiat Language class for the middle school students. She is excited about the response of the students given the smaller class sizes. The level of participation has increased and it is proving to be a more fulfilling experience for her and the students.

Meade River School is continuing the Positive Behavior and Intervention Supports (PBIS) we revitalized last year. The LiveSchool license has been renewed and Amanda is running the reward system for our students. We are looking forward to when we can go to low risk, green, so we are able to incorporate the house activities we started last year. With green, we will also have the time to incorporate the circles our teachers learned through restorative practices. Additional PBIS signage was also added throughout the building:



Meade River School has five seniors this year. We are excited that all five are within range to graduate this school year as 4<sup>th</sup> year graduates. At this time, all of our juniors are also where they should be in relation to the number of credits toward a 4<sup>th</sup> year graduation.

This pandemic is greatly curtailing our normal school activities, but we're not letting it hold us down. The staff and SAC are discussing alternatives to our traditional Halloween carnival, family Thanksgiving lunch, and our Christmas program. Additionally, we are planning options to have some parent/family nights to assist in providing fun educational supports for our families.

Travel restrictions prevented Conoco-Phillips and Ski-Ku from visiting our school this fall; however, they did send gifts for our students and staff. Every student was provided with an assortment of gifts including cloth facemasks, hand sanitizer, pencil bag, pencil, pencil sharpener, and other items in addition to four pieces of fresh fruit. The students were very excited and appreciative of the gifts. Here are a few pictures:





At the writing of this we are only three weeks into having students. While the short time has not allowed for many achievements and exciting events to have occurred yet, the success of the students in our building who have readily adapted to the health mandates and the resulting schedule should be commended.

Respectively submitted,  
MJ Geiser, Principal  
Meade River School



Clayborne Tunik Kippi, is our distinguished student at Meade River School for lower elementary. Clayborne is in second grade this year. He is an outstanding reader and loves math and problem solving. He comes to school every day, and is always willing to try new things with a smile. Clayborne Tunik, is the son of Ronald Kippi Jr. and Jennie Kippi and grandson of Tony Kippi and Hattie Kunaknana, and Dennis Sr. and Virginia Aveoganna. Clayborne is a kind friend to everyone and goes out of his way to be helpful to others. He is a joy to have at school and is well loved by all who know him.



Rileianne Kingik is Meade River's outstanding high school student. The freshman's transition from elementary school has been seamless. She has A's in geometry, North Slope history and physical education. Rileianne, 14, is known around the village as being someone quick to laugh, is loving and has plenty of friends. "She's a very eager learner," said Mrs. Hughes, her geometry teacher. "And she's respectful."

Mrs. Are, the school's special education teacher, is as complimentary of Rileianne as Mrs. Hughes. "She's a good role model for the younger kids." So agreed Mr. Lance, her North Slope history teacher. "Rileianne is quick to participate in group discussions and respects all of her classmates. She never speaks when they're speaking, and when she wants to join in, she patiently waits while raising her hand. But besides all that, what I like most about her is that she's doing excellent work, comprehends well and I expect big things from her the rest of the school year."

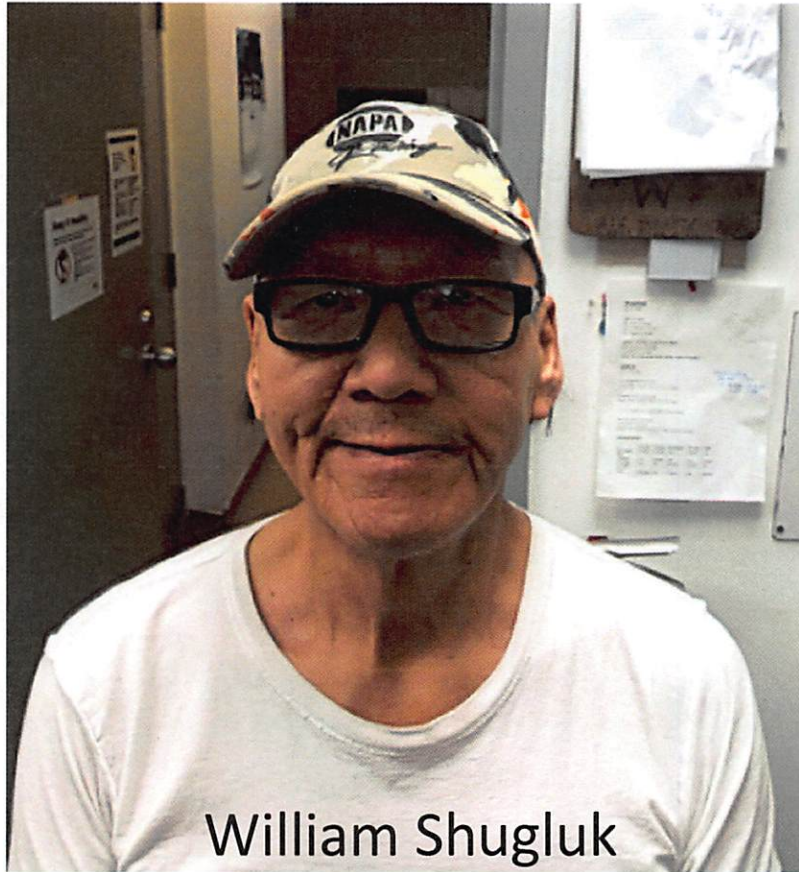




Jared is a current 8<sup>th</sup> grader who has shown himself to be a person of high moral integrity. When I asked his previous teachers for embarrassing stories from his younger years, all they were able to provide were cute stories. Jared doing the right thing, Jared being a nice, Jared being a cute kid. As an 8<sup>th</sup> grader he still has high personal integrity, but he has also become a leader in the classroom. He demonstrates to the younger students how to calmly, thoroughly work on assignments, he contributes thoughtful ideas to discussions, and in every way quietly leads the class. In sports, Jared is a cross country runner who has been challenging himself to compete with the high school runners. In reading class, he has chosen to work with higher level novel reading assignments to challenge himself and push himself further. Out of school he has conducted himself with high moral integrity as well and is becoming a skilled hunter. Jared is an excellent example of the qualities that we seek to build in our students at Meade River School. Please join us in honoring Jared Bodfish as one of our most outstanding students at Meade River School.



If any of the Meade River students want to know anything about Atqasuk and are stuck, all they need to do is walk to the main office. There's where you'll find Molly Ahkivgak, the school's oral historian, if she isn't out in a classroom. Molly is our selection of outstanding volunteer for her work with the school's students, teachers and principal. Since Molly moved her office into the school, she has consistently supported language in our school. Mr. Lance, the school's new English teacher, is taking a class on North Slope history online at Ilisagvik. His summative assignment was to write a village profile of Atqasuk, and much of what he learned came from Molly. She and her family moved to Atqasuk in 1978, a year after the village was re-established. Her first home here was a tent next to Imagruak Lake. An 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduate of Meade River in 1986, Molly's connection with the school and community runs deep. This is her fifth year as the school's oral historian. "I love the hunting out here, the fishing, the quietness. Nature. Living here is a blessing."



William Shugluk

William Shugluk (Baby William) is an outstanding classified employee at Meade River School. He is the son of Peter and Daisy Shugluk. He is the youngest of sixteen siblings. William is our cook and an outstanding advocate for all our students. William comes to work every day during the school year and continues to feed children during the summer food program. William comes to work early just to make sure the coffee is fresh brewed and the kitchen is ready for breakfast.

William cares deeply for the children of Atqasuk.

William works hard to make sure each student is served a nutritious and delicious meal twice per day. He is always ready to give snacks or help students that need a little attention. Whenever sporting events or community functions are held at the school, William can be found in his kitchen with a smile and a song as he works hard to make food for all who attend. The visiting teams have commented that it seems like William tries to put five pounds on each athlete that visits. He shares his love of food and life with everyone around him.

William began to work at our school as a cook's helper and worked his way up to the head cook position. As William has grown into his position, he has also grown into a strong advocate for helping our students learn Inupiat words and phrases as he serves balanced meals. He speaks to each student using their Inupiat name.

William is not only a steady and reliable worker, but an excellent friend. Over the years that he has worked at Meade River School, he has proven himself to be ready to help out wherever he is needed. He shares his knowledge and has proven to be a kind and true friend to all of us here at Meade River School. It is an honor to know and work with William Shugluk. Please join us in congratulating William as our highlighted classified staff at Meade River School.



## **Lilly Flossie Panigiuk Itta**

We are very fortunate to announce Lilly Itta as our highlighted certified staff for Meade River School. Ms. Lilly Itta has been an essential member of our staff for the past 5 years as our Inupiat Language Teacher. Lilly supports all staff and students as well as helping nurture so many minds in the Inupiat culture and language. Lilly always has time to help with learning and pronouncing words in Inupiat as we teach cultural lessons. Lilly works hard to help us learn and use student Inupiat names as well as helps to add common words to our Inupiat vocabulary. She not only supports language development, she has revitalized drumming and dancing in our school as well as leads the dance group for our village. She is a beautiful dancer and shares her gift with those around her. She is always willing to offer a supportive hand. She is very patient and willing to stay late to give help and encouragement when needed.

Lilly is an amazing lady – a mother of 8, the oldest sibling of 7. With her loving parents both deceased she loves family and helps in caring for and offering guidance for her siblings, nieces and nephews. Daughter of Candace Marie & Thomas “Cooley” Itta Jr. Grandparents: William & Lillian Leavitt and Thomas & Flossie Itta.

Please join us in congratulating Lilly as our highlighted certified staff for Meade River School! We are so lucky to have her share her expertise!!