

Special Education Department

The special education department has been bustling this month. The Student Services Coordinator had the opportunity to visit the following sites: Whale Pass, Coffman Cove, and Kasaan. The coordinator worked with the teachers and aides who work with our students with special needs. The Student Services Coordinator also has taken on the responsibility of being the special education teacher of record for students in Port Alexander and Kasaan. This responsibility will require traveling to the outer sites and working directly with students receiving special education services, as well as working with the general education teachers to develop a plan of action for students in need of extra support and interventions.

Due to COVID-19, the district switched over to using virtual related services through Presence Learning. The district's new therapists are Hilary Sauder, Occupational Therapist, Hollie Fleming, Speech/Language Pathologist, Jonathan Mair, School Psychologist, and Sean Whitacre, Physical Therapist. They have been busy throughout the district providing training to teachers and instructional aides, testing students for upcoming new referrals and re-evaluations required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and working with students to provide services as outlined in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

The Student Services Coordinator attended the virtual Alaska State Department of Education of Special Education Director's training on 09/17-18/2020. Topics covered at this training included: Compliance Review, Changes in the IEP forms, Continuity of Learning in a Virtual and/or Distance Learning Environment.

Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) Training took place in Thorne Bay on October 9th for the newly hired special education aides and teachers who need to update their certification. A second training is scheduled for November 6th in Thorne Bay for the outer sites. Educators and administrators use CPI to build their prevention and de-escalation skills to promote school safety.