



**Nuiqsut Trapper School
Highlighted School Report
February 2025**

Principal Zina Robinson

I would like to take a moment of silence for the passing of our oldest elder and the last of her siblings “Flora Ipalook (Kivvaq)” who was 94 years old.

Enrollment: 145

Pre-K3: 3	Pre-K4: 2	K: 11	1 st Grade: 11	2 nd Grade: 8
3 rd Grade: 10	4 th Grade: 12	5 th Grade: 11	6 th Grade: 11	7 th Grade: 11
8 th Grade: 14	9 th Grade: 12	10 th Grade: 15	11 th Grade: 9	12 th Grade: 5

This year has been off to a great start. Our current enrollment is 145 students. We have 20 certified staff, 6 classified, and 2 OJT students. We began the year with a Back to School Bash (**Slides 3 & 4**), sending off our whaling crews at the river (**Slide 5**), and a staff field trip to learn more about the oil industry and the drilling sites that surround Nuiqsut (**Slide 6**).

Attendance:

We are very proud of our students working hard on their attendance. Not only did we meet the District October challenge, we surpassed it. We showed some tremendous growth in the month of October! We went from being last in the district in August and September to being 7th out of 11 schools for October. We were also up over 8% from last year October 2023 total. We had prizes for individual students with great attendance and their parents, as well as prizes for the classes with the best attendance (**Slide 7**). Ms. Jovelyn’s second grade class dominated the competition, with an increase of 17.44% from September to October (**Slide 8**)! In November however, Ms. Tracy’s sixth graders came back with a vengeance (**Slide 9**)! They had two straight weeks with 100% attendance. It was amazing to see them support each other to come to school and be the best they can be. When one of the 6th graders was late, their classmates would call and text them to encourage them to come to school. Their reign continues today. For the last four weeks they have been the winners of our weekly class competition trophy.

	August	September	October	Oct. Attendance Challenge
K	60.99%	72.27%	70.66%	↓ 1.61%
1	55.77%	65.83%	77.27%	↑ 11.44%
2	57.69%	70.63%	88.07%	↑ 17.44%
3	64.10%	68.89%	75.25%	↑ 6.36%



4	59.62%	65.61%	80.58%	↑	14.97%
5	58.74%	67.27%	79.75%	↑	12.48%
6	58.33%	75.11%	80.17%	↑	5.06%
7	86.23%	74.68%	81.04%	↑	6.36%
8	73.31%	66.55%	75.83%	↑	9.28%
9	56.27%	64.80%	71.29%	↑	6.49%
10	61.20%	63.48%	75.31%	↑	11.83%
11	56.73%	60.61%	65.23%	↑	4.62%
12	46.88%	55.07%	64.47%	↑	9.4%
Total	62.51%	65.68%	76.33%	↑	10.65%

Testing - We have completed the Beginning of Year and Middle of Year testing periods for MAP and MClass. I would like to give a special shoutout to Ms. Rachel’s kindergarten class. There was a 27% increase in students who were at or above benchmark in reading. We are seeing growth in our students. We had 9th and 10th graders gaining 8 points in Math, a kindergarten student in Reading gained 123 points, a 5th grader gained 12 points and an 11th grader gained 20 points. I am positive we could see more growth with a reading specialist and another interventionist.

PBIS is going strong. Students look forward to FUN FRIDAY and using their DOJO points to purchase items from the Trapper Store (**Slide 10**). Favorite FUN FRIDAY activities include scavenger hunting, making slime, Girl Talk (hair/makeup/nail polish), flag football, beading, chess, and board games. There is something for everyone.

Celebrations: At Trapper School, we are always looking for a reason to celebrate. In November we had our school-wide celebration for Eben Hopson Day (**slide 11**). The students prepared a dance performance, the community was invited for a potluck, and students and their family members had the opportunity to participate in a variety of crafts and activities, including soap carving, Inuit trivia, beading, traditional games (stick pull, leg wrestling), an aurora lights craft, and coloring pages created by local Inupiat artists.

In December we had our Christmas program, which is one of the biggest events of the school year. The students sang in Inupiat and English, performed choreographed dance routines, and even wrote their own holiday skits. We had a buffet style dinner and gifts for all, thanks to our community partners Santos, ConocoPhillips, Toys for Tots, and Kuukpik Corporation. There was tons of fun and holiday cheer to go around.

In January we came together as a school to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr by celebrating the MLK Day of Service (**Slide 12**). Students learned about civil rights and being a community helper by participating in a variety of projects focused on service to our community. We decorated cookies to give to the elders of our community, made friendship bracelets, wrote letters to community members who are in hospitals or nursing homes, and made thank you cards for our clinic staff, police, fire fighters, and public works employees.

On January 31st, we had our attendance party for students with >80% attendance for semester 1 (**Slide 13**). Over 50 students were invited. Students enjoyed having open rec time, gaming on the





Nintendo Switch, swinging at a pinata, and eating delicious food donated by our partners at ConocoPhillips. Everyone had a wonderful time, and parents were invited to join in on the fun with their children.

So far this year we have sent 8 students grades 9 and 10 to our EXCEL program. We had 4 students attend Career Quest, where they learned valuable career readiness skills. The culinary class with Chef Ka'ainoa (Ka'ai) was extremely popular with our students (**Slide 14**). We had 18 students participate, and we have many who are interested in becoming culinary professionals in the future. Btw they baked some yummy chocolate chip cookies and created some awesome recipes. We have also had several students participate in the QLC programs in Utqiagvik. We were also lucky to be visited by Susan Hope, who led our high school students, teachers, and community members in sewing workshops. All participants worked hard and were so proud of their new skills (**Slides 15-19**)

Al Sokaitis, in partnership with Santos, visited Trapper school to showcase a mini basketball camp. He had something to do for all ages. In addition to basketball, he provided some life lessons for students. Students had a great time. (**slides 20-22**)

Distinguished Staff

Our **classified** distinguish staff is Harris Vines - (**see slide 23**)

Harris arrived in Nuiqsut late July 2024 and was assigned as a cook helper. Since his arrival he has never called out a day of work. Harris also stepped up and took over as head cook while she was on maternity leave and the interim head cook left the village for personal reasons. Another reason for his recognition besides his attendance, is that this is his first job ever, he is dependable, kind and respectful. He has adapted to the village with only one complaint...mosquitos. By the way, during this time we did not have a Plant Manager.

Our **certified** distinguished staff is Dr. Cheryl Jackson - (**slides 24-26**)

Dr. Cheryl is our Social Studies teacher. She is also head of Student Council and our School Store. Dr. Cheryl is amazing with the students. She has organized field trips, community service activities (school clean up, food bank). She is always willing to help in anyway possible. She finds the little things to celebrate or appreciate in students and staff. She facilitates spirit week and pep rallies for our students and community. We are happy to have her here at Trapper School.

Distinguished Students

Naomi Leavitt: (slide 27)

Naomi is a talented senior student athlete. She has played on the volleyball and basketball teams throughout her high school career, and is a leader on the team. Naomi is a strong student who shows hard work and dedication in her studies. She finished nearly all of the classes required for graduation as an 11th grade student, and has taken additional classes through the Iḷisaḡvik College dual credit program. Naomi is an active participant in our OJT program. She does a fantastic job cleaning the hallways and cafeteria and shows tremendous initiative and dedication in her work. She was instrumental in helping to set up for our recent Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. school-wide celebration. She is always willing to step in and help where she is needed. Naomi enjoys sewing, and has made her own atikluk, mukluks, and beaver hat. Please congratulate Naomi for being chosen for GCI's January 'ASAA (Alaska School Activity Association) Student of the Month'





Tatianna Kittick: (slide 28)

Tatianna is a 6th grade student this year, and is the president of the student council. She regularly displays the Inupiat value of compassion, showing kindness and friendship without expectation. At the end of the first semester, we gave out awards to students in each grade level: one for attendance, one for excellence in math, one for excellence in language arts, and the Trapper Award, for students who are responsible, respectful, and positive. Tatianna won the Trapper Award, however her teacher stated that she could have won any of the awards because she is an all-around great student.

Raymond Ipalook: (slide 29)

Raymond is a 4th grade student. His positivity and joy are contagious. He will volunteer to help whenever he can, including cleaning up after his classmates in the cafeteria without being asked. Last year he was the only student who participated in his grade level Battle of the Books. He is also one of the students Mr. Dube sent an email about how he and the two Nuiqsut students left their rooms not just clean, but pristine. He had a wonderful time at the Lego Robotics competition, and upon his return he was eager to tell his classmates and the staff about his experience and the friends he made. Raymond is one of the first students in the building every morning and greets everyone he sees.

Distinguished Volunteer

One of our elders Virginia Kasak (slide 30)

Also known as Virgie, she will come and eat with students or just sit with them. It's great when we have our community members come to the school. She is always willing to say a prayer for any event or before our meals. We really appreciate her!

