

**Distinguished Students:**

Branden Ahkivgak is a kindergarten student at Ipalook. He is a very bright young man who loves to learn! Brandon is always asking questions and trying his best to learn everything. For instance, Brandon is the highest performing kindergartener in our Lexia Reading program. Brandon just started Lexia in January, at the beginning of the kindergarten level, and in just 3 months has made it all the way to the middle of the 1<sup>st</sup> grade level. His teacher, Ms. Crowder, reports he is doing very well in math, also. With such a love of learning, we know Branden will always have great success in anything he chooses to do!

Price Moberg-Thompson is in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Hi teacher, Ms. Alburg, says that Price is an amazing young man. He's works very hard, always tries his best, helps others and excels in all he does. He is a wonderful helper to other students and his teacher. Price has the biggest heart in the world and his positivity brightens our classroom every day. Price's greatest achievement is that this year, as a second grader, he has tested out of all of the Lexia levels available to him in elementary school, which means he has completed the 5<sup>th</sup> grade level! Price is now working through a higher program Achieve 3000. We are all very proud of Price and lucky to have him as a leader in our classroom.

Gabriel Ortila is in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Gabriel's teacher, Ms. Stevens, says he is an exemplary student with amazing leadership qualities to include serving as our student council vice president. He perseveres in all tasks, large and small, and approaches challenges with enthusiasm, humor and honesty and is a stellar role model for his peers. His academic performance exceeds expectations for his age and grade. Gabriel is a model young man with a bright future.

**Distinguished Volunteer:**

Stacy Bowen is our distinguished volunteer. Stacy is a SAC member and the parent of a child at our school. She is at our school every day, and helps out in the classroom most of those days. She always offers to help with any project and supports us in many of our activities and fundraisers. In addition to supporting our students, Stacy also provided gifts for each teacher at the beginning of the school year. She takes time to visit with office staff, paraprofessionals and teachers, and always brings a smile. We love having Stacy at Ipalook; she is an important part of our Ipalook team, working tirelessly with us to ensure we provide the best for every student.

**Distinguished Staff:**

Frances "Peanut" Pikok is our distinguished classified staff member. Peanut is a special education instructional aide, and also rides both our morning and afternoon busses to make sure our students stay safe while riding on the bus and while going to and from the bus to home. Peanut is always at school early in the morning, she rarely misses a day, and does everything with a smile. Students love going to work with Peanut. In fact, many of our students ask their teachers if they can have a turn to go with Peanut. On the bus, Peanut runs a tight ship- students know how they are supposed to behave and they do it, because they know Peanut is watching. But they also know Peanut as a caring, safe adult that they can talk to if someone is picking on them or if they have anything worrying them. Peanut is a strong contributor the happy and safe climate at Ipalook.

Kris Nesteby is our distinguished certified staff member. Kris has taught 1<sup>st</sup> grade, Kindergarten and Pre-K at Ipalook for over twenty years. Kris has also been guiding aides who are providing interventions for students who are struggling for the past two years. Kris has been a very important part of the Ipalook team. She arrives early and stays late, she supports special activities, and she goes out of her way to make sure all students get whatever they need to succeed. Kris has many friends on the Ipalook staff and in our community. In fact, many parents of our students had Ms. Nesteby as their kindergarten or 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher! We are very pleased for Kris that she is finally taking the big step of retirement at the end of this year, but at the same time we are very sorry that she will no longer be on our team. She will be deeply missed by parents, students and staff. Thanks for all of your years of service to Ipalook, Kris!