

## NUNAMIUT SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTED REPORT

Without a doubt, this has been a difficult year. A year ago, on March 11, literally on the eve of traveling to Anchorage, our boys and girls high school basketball teams were robbed of the chance to compete for the state championship. That was a huge blow. But at the same time, when the national NCAA championship and the Summer Olympics were also cancelled we realized that the pandemic affected millions around the world.

Over the summer the pandemic got worse. We started school at yellow, which was not an ideal format for school—for anyone, parents, teachers, and students. We were given many restrictions to follow (masks, social distancing, no gym nights) in order to maximize the health and safety of our students.

**And we were successful.** So far, there have been no cases of Covid-19 in our village. That is a great accomplishment, but it came at a cost. While we have had very limited school days, other schools were shut down entirely.

Many of us are concerned that our students' education has been sacrificed. We are not alone. The education of students around the world has suffered.

Consider it from our students' point of view. Most have attended school just two days a week, and many had to quarantine for weeks at a time when any family member left the village. Add to that the fact that our students have not had sports such as Basketball or Volleyball as incentives for them to work hard on their academics. With such a limited amount of time in the classroom, they fell behind. Students around the world have fallen behind.

But as we move ahead, here is what we have planned:

1. On March 8, our School Advisory Committee, SAC, changed our status to Green, effective March 22. Classes opened up four days a week for all students, Mondays, Tuesday, Thursdays, and Fridays. Wednesdays will be a time for deep-cleaning. We still wear masks, observe social distancing, hand washing, and other precautions. We now have Open Gym Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.
  2. All students are encouraged to take advantage of our after-school tutoring and study hall. Over 15 students are enrolled in the special Sylvan Tutoring program.
  3. We are planning a three-week Summer School for all students, K-12. It will be held May 17-June 4, 1-4 p.m. K-8<sup>th</sup> grade students will have an opportunity to improve their reading and math skills. High School students will have an opportunity to earn credits through Credit Recovery.
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1. We celebrate the success of Rashawn Stone, who won the Spelling Bee. Other winners included:
    - a. 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Grades: English & Iñupiaq Corey Galloso, Gr. 2
    - b. 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grades: English & Iñupiaq Paul Hugo, Gr. 4 and Jaret Smith-Mekiana, Gr. 4
    - c. 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades: English & Iñupiaq Rashawn Stone, Gr. 5
    - d. 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> Grades: Iñupiaq William Hugo, Gr. 9 Danny Morry, Gr. 10, English, Michael Ahgook and Danny Morry

2. We celebrate the success of those students who participated in Robotics led by our Science teacher
3. We celebrate the success of several dozen boys and girls who participated in Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Under the leadership of our LA and History teacher, Ned McGreavy, the Boy Scouts are building dog houses for our canine friends in the community.
4. We celebrate the success of our student athletes who participated in Cross Country in the Fall, and who have participated locally in Ski Club, Basketball, and Mixed-6 Volleyball. We salute the efforts of coaches Polly Bass for Cross country and Ski Club, Candis Cook, for Middle School Basketball, Girls High School Basketball, and Mixed-6 Volleyball, and Donald Torres for Boys High School Basketball.
5. We celebrate the success of the many artists who won the Messages of Hope Art Contest: 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Tamera Morry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Nevaeh Gordon, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Jaret Smith-Mekiana, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Sarah Edwards.
6. We celebrate the success of many students who won ribbons at the Science Fair: Jaret Mekiana-Smith, James, Howard, Gilbert, Justin, Patrick, Nevaeh, Kailey, Paul, the ECE class, Jeremiah, Alex, Ethan, Elijah, Cadyn, Tyler, and Justus Mulcahy.
7. We celebrate the fact that 100% of our students completed the Fall MAPS tests, and 99% completed the Winter MAPS tests. Both of those were while we at yellow. We are now in the midst of administering our Annual PEAKS tests and will administer the Spring MAPS tests later this month.
8. Earlier this month, our village welcomed Neil Shea and his crew from National Geographic magazine. They are interviewing elders, filming local caribou, and they will be making presentations to our students. This is a very exciting opportunity for our village.
9. Also in April, our PE teacher, Candis Cook, received training to be certified as an archery teacher. We already have the equipment for archery, and Ms. Cook will include archery among the many activities in PE.
10. We celebrate our March students and staff of the month.
  - a. Soraya Ahgook, Pre-K 3, Soraya has only missed 5 days of school the whole year! She loves school and plays well with her classmates. She always has a happy smile on her face and a happy soul. She's a joy to have in class.
  - b. Phillip Ahgook, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Phillip will succeed because he listens to and respects his parents. Two Inupiat Core values come to mind when describing Phillip; Family and Kinship and Avoiding Conflict. Phillip comes to school every day. He comes to school to learn. Phillip wants to be better today, than yesterday! His gets ALL his work done efficiently and neatly. Other Core values Phillip exhibits are Compassion, Cooperation, and Hunting Traditions. He is friendly, respectful, positive, helpful and a wonderful role model for his siblings. I am proud of Phillip; he pushes me to a better teacher every day.
  - c. Alex Galloso, 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Alex Galloso is a serious student who applies himself and takes projects seriously. His attention to detail on the Solar Balloon flights is an example.
  - d. Rebecca Mekiana, 10<sup>th</sup> grade, Rebecca started coming to school regularly and completing her academic work. This was a distinct development in the third quarter of this year. I believe she has found her renewed commitment to be rewarding; she's thinking about college, basketball, and life beyond high school.
  - e. Bill Monahan, our bus driver. In addition to driving the bus, he helped in the kitchen, did custodial and maintenance work. He helped everyone in many different ways. He was planning to retire this year, but agreed to serve one more year. Thanks Bill.

I want to thank all parents and grandparents and students who have recently expressed their concerns and frustrations. Your concerns have not been ignored. But if we work together in the final weeks of the 2020-2021 school year, we can find success. And more importantly, we can start the process to be prepared for next year.

For next year, Nunamiut School is planning to have two S-Terms to emphasize our Subsistence culture. In the fall, when many families are out camping, hunting, and gathering, we will have four weeks where all students will have special classes to affirm our Inupiaq culture. In the spring, we will have another S-Term for two weeks.

We have had four resignations at Nunamiut School, our Secondary Math teacher, our Secondary Language Arts and History teacher, our School Counselor, and our 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. We have interviewed several candidates and hope to hire new teachers soon. Deion Morry has just been hired as our new Plant Manager. Congratulations Deion. He has been working as Maintenance Staff for several years.