

Alak School
Board SAC Report

Members:

Amos AguvlukNashookpuk – President
Cora Akpik
Cheryl Panik
2 vacant seats to be filled

Activities:

Alak students participated in both interscholastic Cross Country running and Mixed 6 Volleyball in the Fall semester. Over 25 total students participated in the sports this year. The head coach for both Cross Country and Volleyball was Ms. Marsh Etsitty. She was assisted in volleyball by Mr. Larry Johnson.

The Alak middle school robotics team under the direction of Mr. Tony Anzalone won the Utqiagvik robotics competition for the second year in a row. The next competition will be held virtually over the district-wide video channel.

Academics:

Four Alak students, David Panik, Jamie Panik, Arthur Tagarook and Nathan Nakakik traveled to Connecticut to participate in a study of beluga whales. The students earned the right to attend the conference by winning an essay competition sponsored by the North Slope Borough Wildlife Management. The students were chaperoned by a parent Ms. Madeline Hickman.

Alak fifth grade students under the direction of teacher Mike Huhndorf are participating in the World Bridge project which allows students to study real world scientific issues in a local setting. The 5th graders are studying the erosion rate of the local beach by learning how to use drones equipped with cameras to measure the changes in the shoreline. The project will continue throughout the year. Mr. Tony Anzalone's middle school robotics class will also participate in the World Bridge project and will focus on using electronics to learn about local weather issues.

The secondary science classes recently completed dissections of locally collected starfish. The students of Ms. Carolyn Ripley found a variety of sizes of starfish along the Wainwright beach and then used the specimens to learn about the anatomy and physiology of them. The students each dissected and identified the critical organs and systems of the starfish.

Students throughout the grades have signed up to participate in this year's Battle of the Books. Language Arts teacher Ms. Rebekah Chapman is sponsor of this activity.

Senior Jenysa Ahmaogak, the daughter of Roy and Edna Ahmaogak, recently was awarded the University of Alaska scholars award because of her excellence in academics.

Staff:

The Alak staff has participated in a number of cultural and professional in-services during the first semester. Several of the trainings have focused on helping the teachers develop and implement Inupiaq themed units in their classrooms. The teachers were also led by Ms. Jana Harcharek in a study of local historical landmarks by using traditional maps that linked the past to the present. Recent in-services have also provided training in Trauma Informed Schools as well as review of building safety and safety procedures.

Community:

The city of Wainwright in partnership with Alak School recently hosted a basketball tournament over the Thanksgiving break. Students and staff volunteered to help the City of Wainwright to put on an excellent tournament. The community filled the gym Friday and Saturday Night to watch exciting basketball. Prior to the basketball tournament on Thursday night, the community gathered at the Alak gym for traditional Eskimo Dancing.

Several lock-ins have been sponsored by the city to give the students of Alak an opportunity to have fun and safe activities on weekends. The Borough also sponsored a community fun-run that brought together the school and community in a healthy activity during the month of September.

Elders have visited a number of classes this semester and talked on a variety of topics related to the Inupiaq culture. The students in the elementary classes have been busy preparing Inupiaq Christmas songs for the annual Christmas program for the community.

The Alak staff hosted its annual book and craft fair for the community last weekend.