



## **Report to the Utqiagvik SAC August 27, 2020**

Since our February report: Our last day of school in the building was March 12. Kiita had a snow day on March 13, and on March 16 classes were suspended for two weeks. (The report we were to present at the cancelled March 18 SAC meeting is attached.) We finished the semester remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Current Situation**

Kiita is opening the 2020-21 school year by remote instruction, as are our sister schools. Kiita students will have the choice of computer- or paper-based materials and assignments, which will be delivered to homes by Kiita faculty and staff.

2020-21 Staff: Geoff Buerger, Principal; Laura Simmonds, Secretary; Jen Brower, Counselor; Alice Sage, Science, Health, and Night School; Pamella Simpson, English and Social Studies; Kern Wilson, Mathematics.

To consolidate Special Education services, our 0.5 FTE SpEd teacher has been reassigned to Barrow High School. Students with IEPs will be enrolled at BHS.

### **Enrollment Data**

Our enrollment at the end of the school year was 32, plus 13 in night school. (At Kiita enrollment changes quarter to quarter, but never fell below 30.) As at August 21, we have 19 students returning to Kiita. We will update numbers as new Juniors and Seniors register this week and next.

### **Graduation Data**

In 2019-20 we graduated 24 students: 6 in December, 13 in May, and 5 from night school. 10 of the 14 for whom 2020 graduation would be “on time” graduated, as

did 2 students who graduated early. Our graduation rate is therefore 75% ( $10+2\div16=.75$ ). This is a notable achievement, given that credit-deficiency is a prerequisite for admission to Kiita.

## **Highlights**

Student schedules are ready to go, as are the course materials. We are following the Kiita Syllabus program that was developed and proved so successful last Spring.

Our School Improvement grant has been approved. We are waiting to see how much of last year's grant is left to be rolled over into this year's amount.

Two August events have reduced the overflowing stock of the Kiita store -- bounty that had accumulated over five months of contributions without sales.

## **Challenges**

Budget: Our school operating budget is approximately \$100 per student. We have had to cut in half our Apex seats (used to provide credits that are not available to students at the time needed) to try to ensure adequate materials for the year, and I am not optimistic that we will be able to manage. The majority of our budget lines have been zeroed out.

Deep Cleaning & Maintenance: Kiita has not yet received a deep cleaning, despite being vacant for five months. Even ordinary housekeeping as basic as filling paper-towel dispensers and cleaning refrigerators has been neglected. One toilet is still non-functional, and its replacement has been sitting in the hallway. We will need a concerted effort by M&O before the building will be ready to receive students.

Security Cameras: We were allotted 6 in our FF&E budget, but Dolph says that the PO received by the vendor was for only 3 – it appears that someone in the financial offices cut our order in half. We really do need the cameras for the back deck, as every morning we find evidence of activity.

In closing, may I express my gratitude to the remarkable staff of Kiita, who have both welcomed me to the school and worked tirelessly to prepare KLC for the rigors of what promises to be a challenging year.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoff Buerger, Principal

# Kiita Learning Community

## North Slope Borough School District

Kiita Learning Community

March, SAC Report

Our daily enrollment is currently 49 students.

Seniors: 35

Juniors: 12

Sophomores: 2

Total of 50 students (of this total, 13 are Night Students)

The Kiita store is up and running. It is open on Saturdays from 12:00noon to 4:00pm.

### Highlights:

- **See "Kiita New" handouts.** The Kiita Student Newsletter used to improve self-esteem, school pride, and to improve our writing skills.
- We are scheduled for SIOP training for ELL student support for 3/20/20.
- We are scheduled for Trauma Informed Schools and Restorative Practices for April 15<sup>th</sup> and April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- We are working on offering additional classes for our students to help prepare them for future employment such as:
  - Developing an Entrepreneurial Life Skills course. Have Kiita students supervise children's craft sessions during the Kiita Store from 1-4:00 on Saturdays for \$20 for each child while the parents shop in the Kiita Store.
- We are working with NSB for more career exploration opportunities. (See Friday presentations below)
- Our projection rate has improved from 20 to 22 seniors who will be graduating 5/6/20:  
Projection changed for 2019-20 to = 64.70%  
Projected 2019-20 = 55.88%  
2018-19 = 52.17%  
2017-18 = 45.83%  
2016-17 = 57.14%

### **To answer questions from the last SAC meeting, see attachment – Kiita Learning Community Graduation Numbers and Employment**

- Family/community engagement –
  - A parent/community Kiita Learning Community newsletter is generated each quarter and sent home to the parents with the student report card. The newsletter encourages the parents to access PowerSchool online.
  - Parent Potluck Mondays - parents are invited to eat with their children every Monday where their child can share accomplishments.
  - Quarterly Awards ceremonies - parents are invited to share in the celebration of our students' success.
  - We have an elective traditional cooking class every Friday. Our parents are encouraged to join us for lunch every Friday and share their traditional recipes.
- Update due to students finishing the MAP testing:
  - 8 students improved their Math MAP scores.
  - 8 students improved their Reading MAP scores.
  - 10 students improved their Language MAP scores.
  - 13 students improved their Science MAP scores.
- We are working with various organizations to provide guest speakers to come into our school on Fridays to promote Healthy Living, Life Skills, and various career opportunities. These are the presenters from the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters (See our Kiita Learning Community Newsletters for pictures):
  - Rural Student Services from UAF - Michelle Kaleak and Tim Murphy presented to our Kiita students about what services are available through their program to enable our students to experience success at UAF.
  - Laura Thomas, Theresa Muldez, Deshaun Whiskey and Courtney Butler from AWIC, Prevention, and the Health Department came on 2/12/20 & 2/14/20 Sobriety and Domestic Violence, go to [www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org) for more information.

- Monica Rowe from AWIC came to speak to our students on 2/21/20 on Domestic Violence. For more information, go to : [www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org); [www.trynova.org](http://www.trynova.org); <https://rhasnotcool.com>
- Inupiaq Days, 2/24/20 – The following presenters talked with our students about leadership, scholarship opportunities, and job opportunities with the North Slope Borough and ASRC:  
Rex Rock, Jr., Roxanne Brower, Martina Hopson, Carol Wilson-Excel, Donald Revels-Excel, Heather Hopson, Monica Hopson, Terza Brower, Barrow Brower, Mark Jennings-Conoco/Phillips, Heather Dingman, David Maasak Leavitt, Daniel Thomas, Qinguan Roddy, Kuutuuq Danner, Joshlene Nashagnik
- Our Superintendent, Kathy Ahgeak, visited Kiita this past 3/6/20. She our traditional lunch cooked by our students and helped the students in the traditional fur sewing class. Thank you for your time!

#### Needs/Concerns:

- Parts have been ordered for our ice machine. As soon as they arrive, James with M&O will be installing the part.
- M&O is working with us to determine how many cameras are needed on the back side of the Kiita Learning Community building.
- Developing a limited Kiita Day Care at Kiita Learning Community with no more than 4 children a day. The reason for doing this would be:
  - Providing day care to Kiita students who could attend school if day care was provided.
  - Coordinating with Ilisaġvik College to start a Dual enrollment or Kiita course such as "Day Care Provider/Parenting Class."
  - No charge to children in the Kiita Day Care that belong to Kiita Students.
  - The Kiita Students would earn credit and Hands-on learning from a mentor in the Kiita Day Care who is knowledgeable in the area of Early Learning/Infants Care.
  - Part-time pay would be needed for the Kiita Day Care Mentor.
- **We are applying for the FY20-21 School Improvement Grant for \$35,000. We will be listing items below as well as other needs in the grant:**  
Research-based instructional practices, programs, and materials:
  - Use of Academic Vocabulary to improve Reading/Language - Words to Learn By: Building Academic Voc. by Contemporary at [www.mheducation.com](http://www.mheducation.com)
  - Exploring educational assistive technology that can enhance and support our instruction and our students' learning.
  - [www.study.com](http://www.study.com) used to supplement the NSBSD curriculum to provide varied course opportunities within an alternative school that has a small staff. This program also offers courses/college courses that could be offered to students seeking advanced options. <https://study.com/academy/plans/teacher-group.html>
  - Maker Space Activities by Maker-Education ([www.rossieronline.usc.edu](http://www.rossieronline.usc.edu))  
"Reports from Maker Classrooms. Fostering a Sense of Empowerment and Resilience. Creating Flexible Thinkers Who Are Less Afraid to Fail. Promoting Collaborative Group Work. Sharpening Critical and Creative Thinking. Hands-On Education Improves Test Scores. Project-Based Learning Promotes Richer Learning Outcomes."
  - Incentives, awards and rewards for improved attendance
  - Quarterly awards ceremonies with parent invitations and a luncheon.
  - Graduation Kiita sweaters for graduates.
  - Student trips to Elder/Youth Conference and AFN for good attendance/grades. (ASRC funding?)
  - Weekly raffles of gift cards (gas cards, iTunes, Google Play, Headphones, etc.) for students who are able to put a ticket in daily for attendance.
  - Textbooks needed for our Night School students
  - Culturally relevant Language Arts books (When a Ghost Talks, Listen by Tingle, etc.). Place Based/Project Based curriculum is implemented from the Inupiaq Learning Framework into all curriculum and instruction in order to make the students' learning relevant and captivating.
  - Developing an Entrepreneurial Life Skills course. Have Kiita students supervise children's craft sessions during the Kiita Store from 1-4:00 on Saturdays for \$20 for each child while the parents shop in the Kiita Store.

**Kiita Learning Community Graduation Numbers and Employment**

<b>School Year &amp; total seniors for that year</b>	<b>Total Graduates</b>	<b>Total # of Grads. Working</b>	<b>Graduation % Rates</b>
2003	9	4	
2004	12	7	
2005	12	10	
2006	12	5	
2007=22	12	5	54.54%
2008=19	16	10	84.21%
2009=35	21	5	60%
2010=20	11	1	36.67% (55%)
2011=38	11	7	19.23% (28.94%)
2012=30	21	6	30.00% (70%)
2013=22	14	3	40.00% (63.63%)
2014=29	8	4	12.00% (27.58%)
2015=42	17	8	41.67% (40.47%)
2016=46	12	5	25% (26.08%)
2017=57	18 + 4 (+ equals night school)=22	10 + 2 (+ equals night school)	57.14% (38.59%)
2018=37	12 + 2 (+ equals night school)=14	8 + 1 (+ equals night school)	45.83% (37.83%)
2019=37	8 + 1 (+ equals night school)=9	3 + 0 (+ equals night school)	52.17% (24.32%)
2020=34	17 + 5 (+ equals night school)=22	5 + 3 (+ equals night school)	55.88% (64.70%)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>253 (- one death and one student disabled due to accident)</b>	<b>112/251= 45% with jobs</b>	