

Tikiġaq School – Point Hope, AK

It has been a very busy month with sports. We started the new semester with our principal gone, and our vice principal has stepped up and has become the new one. Our students and staff have adjusted well to that. Although we are doing great, many are curious with what exactly is the cause of his absence.

This January, we hosted our Rex Rock Tip Off basketball tournament. Things went awesome and it was another event that brought our community together. School staff got together and made posters and did an amazing job running the student store. It was a happy week for our community and school.

I have an issue about the safety for our sports teams across the north slope. I would love if this can get to the school board and be addressed for the safety of our students traveling.

This last week, our high school girls basketball team traveled to Barrow. On our way home, something that could have ended really bad happened on the plane ride. There was an oil leak in one of the engines. The pilots turned around and started the forty-minute ride back to Barrow. We flew all the way back with one engine running. Everyone was terrified, especially the parents.

This experience was very dangerous and unacceptable. Our students on the north slope deserve to have the safest travel possible. Many parents in our community are furious. This is an issue that needs to be fixed. Raven is not a safe air-lines and my community hopes our school district does not continue to fly with them anymore. We are hoping to switch to a safer air-lines. We are very thankful for the pilots and that they turned off the engine before something bad happened.

Thank you!
Nichole Hank