

# Superintendent's Report

**To:** Unalaska City School District Board of Education

**From:** Darrell J. Sanborn, Superintendent

**Date:** December 19, 2002

It has really been the busy time of the year with all of the Holiday Festivities. I really appreciate the community support at our different academic functions and holiday concerts featuring our students. I welcome every opportunity to showcase our students.

Although things have slowed down a bit over the past few weeks, we will see things really pick up after the Holiday break. I know this is true for our community with the coming of the "A" Season, and it is also true for the District. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved if folks are interested. The curricula areas that we are working on now include: Health & Physical Education, Fine Arts, and the Guidance & Counseling areas. We are developing committees on Strategic Planning, which will include such planning as updating our Student Handbook, School Crisis Response Plan, Technology Plan, just to name a few. We are also reviewing student report cards and I would very much welcome parent comments and suggestions for effective ways we can report student progress. My goal is for parents to have a clear understanding as to how their children are doing in school. We also have need for participants to work as part of our Budget Committee. Even though we did not have any takers to be part of the Calendar Committee, I would suspect after this evening, we will have ample opportunity to discuss this.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Legislature will be starting up next month. Most of us have a 'wait and see' attitude about what this may mean to our educational program. Let us remember that education was listed as one of the top priorities during the campaign process. This is the first year that we will no longer be listed as one of the "four" (North Slope, Valdez & Skagway) due to our decrease in our assessed valuation. This means that we default to the four-mil level rather than the 45% of basic need. The impact of this on the District is still unclear. This year we have been fortunate as the surprises have a financial impact on the District have been positive: our increased enrollment and the good news on our insurance costs. We need to be vigilant again with our efforts in working with the State Legislature.

I hope that all have a very Happy Holiday Season and safe travels.