

Superintendent's Report

To: Unalaska City School District Board of Education

From: Darrell J. Sanborn, Superintendent

Date: January 24, 2002

This is truly the busy time of the year. The students are in the swing of learning, teachers are teaching, and we are getting ready for the next academic and fiscal year. If you have not yet had the opportunity to visit the elementary school, I would encourage you to do so. Ask a student to be your tour guide as they are very excited to be there. Yesterday the Spelling Bee was quite the event. It was good to see so many parents present supporting their students in this quest.

The Budget Committee is very active in dealing with some tough decisions concerning next year's budget. We will again, be hit hard by SB 36, (AKA Quality Schools Initiative) even more so than last year. In FY 03, we are expecting a shortfall of \$233,00 with our cap and we are estimating that 52% of our operating budget will come from Local Funds. We should always remember that we have life good on this Island due to the support of all for the school. As I have said many times, there are many people that make this a great place to raise kids.

Coming up on February 8th & 9th, we will be looking at our Strategic Plan with Dr. Bruce Johnson. I really encourage folks to get involved in this process. I believe that Unalaska City School District has benefited greatly from this process and this is the biggest reason why this District is as effective as it is. The long-range plan that this has provided has seen us through some important times. I am certain that the coming of the benchmark and exit examinations will have impact on our Strategic Plan.

In early March our students will again be taking standards-based examination and norm-referenced tests. I want all of our students, and parents, to understand these tests and the information they provide. I would hope that if parents do not understand the tests that they visit with the teachers and/or discuss them with their children. I believe the most important part of these tests is that the students are prepared and ready to give their absolute best. The results of these tests are an indication of where the child's skills are. We will again be encouraging students to get plenty of sleep, eat a healthy breakfast and be ready to give their best.

Also this time of year, we need to keep an eye on what is happening down in Juneau. We are fortunate to have someone like Carl Moses serving our community. He is respected in the House and also has a good grasp of the total picture. Like previous years, we need to not only watch and support the good that the Legislators do for education, we also need to watch for issues that may have a negative impact on our educational program here at Unalaska City School District.