

Superintendent's Report

To: Unalaska City School District Board of Education

From: Darrell J. Sanborn, Superintendent

Date: November 21, 2002

This evening we will be focusing on the ASSETS Program and how we can assist the children of this community in developing external and internal assets. This needs to be looked at as a community project rather than just a few individuals and/or entities. It also will be something that will take time to develop this program and will need our constant attention. I encourage folks to look at it as developing and implementing a strategic plan. The "Power of Five" is an interesting concept where if a child can name five adults that he/she feels that really care about the child, the child is much more likely to develop more internal assets. These relationships many times will help shape the child's values, morals, habits, routines and problem solving abilities. These five adults may or may not change through the child's growing years, as the child will discuss different dilemmas with different adults. The important aspect is that they work through these large or small questioning times in their lives. I encourage all parents, and teachers to talk to the children about the "Power of Five."

The community hustle has slowed down as we are between our two larger fishing seasons. We are seeing families taking vacations during this time prior to the A season. I have been so impressed with the work ethic of this community, and I know that these vacations are well deserved. However in saying this, I also want to remind folks about the benchmarks and exit exams that will have a big impact on education in the near future. Members of the Class of 2004 will be the first class who must pass these tests to receive a high school diploma. Those that do not pass will receive a certificate of attendance. I encourage parents to work closely with their child's teacher to collect work for the child to do while they are on vacation. With our remediation efforts, we must focus on the younger years, getting students to the proficient levels in reading, writing and math. Obviously there is a direct correlation between attendance and academic proficiency. I encourage all parents to take advantage of every remediation opportunity that is available. This may come in the form of after school sessions, summer school, or working with their child on skills that the teacher recommends. We have not only the Alaska tests, but shortly we will see the effects of the No Child Left Behind Act.

The Election is over and I am waiting to see who are all the players with the new Administration. Although most eyes are on the U.S. Senate seat, we also need to be aware of who fills certain key positions that affect education. It appeared that all candidates on both sides of the isle "talked the talk" and we must do everything to remind folks that it is time to "walk the walk!" I am pleased with the progress that AASB has made through the years, and the role Unalaska City School District Board of Education plays in process, given our positive reputation around the State. We are also very fortunate to have someone like Carl Moses representing us as I think that this strengthens our cause.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. I have so much to be thankful for given my stay here at Unalaska City School District. I am so very appreciative of the past three years. I remind myself constantly how fortunate I am, and never take the relationships for granted. I believe that we all have life good on this Island!!!
How about that Spelling Bee!!!! Great Job done by all involved!!! ☺