

Superintendent's Report

To: Unalaska City School District Board of Education

From: Darrell J. Sanborn, Superintendent

Date: October 30, 2003

We have made it through our first quarter and also parents have had the opportunity to spend time with teachers concerning the progress their child is making in school. I hope parents review the new report card format developed for the elementary grades. It is our hope these will give the parents more precise information pertaining to how their child is doing in relationship to the standards developed. Speaking for the school staff, we do look forward to comments throughout the year about these new report cards. I also hope parents had the opportunity to review their child's Benchmark and Terra Nova tests from last spring. Although parents and students had the opportunity to review these last spring, it is still good to revisit these a few times a year. These tests are the minimal standards set by the State, and please remember these State standards and our expectations are higher. If your child is not doing well, I do hope parents have students participate in one of many remediation opportunities. I also hope parents help students out at home, putting an emphasis on homework and learning various academic skills. For those whom may be making travel arrangements, please make note of the testing schedule coming up in the middle of February. Participation in this testing is not only important for the District results, but also gives students and parents an idea if there is any concern. It is also very important to remember, there are NO make-up opportunities for students taking the Exit Exams.

With the Board's Public Opinion Surveys completed during the Parent-Teacher Conferences, there appears to be only a few concerns at this point. I am still hopeful we will see folks mail or drop off additional surveys, as we would hope this would assist with our Strategic Planning efforts. I would hope we look at a Strategic Planning session sometime over the next couple of months, as "A" season always seems to be very busy on the Island.

Finally, a concern I have heard a number of times deals with our students walking to school with the lack of daylight in the morning. I would encourage parents to instruct their children to use the sidewalks, and crosswalks, to wear reflective clothing, and to review general safety issues they need to be aware of when walking. With the coming of daylight's savings time, and our paved parking lots, we need to slow down with the darkness of the winter months coming upon us. The paved parking lots are really nice but yet when the snow and ice comes, traction may be a concern.