

# **Superintendent's Report**

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

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

**Date:** December 16, 2004

We have reached what some folks think of as the halfway mark of our academic year. Although students in grades 7-12 will tell you the semester doesn't end until January 21<sup>st</sup>, most will be charging their batteries over this Holiday Break. This is also the time of the year when many folks start thinking about New Year's Resolutions. I would also encourage parents to discuss with each of their children about setting goals or making resolutions concerning their education. I feel this is particularly important for children who are not working at grade level or being found as "proficient" in the various subject areas and particularly to reading, writing & math. I encourage parents to continue to monitor their child's progress closely during the second half of the year. For all of those students not being found proficient or meeting grade level expectations, I would hope that we have had a Student Assistance Team meeting and developed an Individual Learning Plan for each of these children.

I should also state, that for the most part, we do not "teach to the test" as we teach to our curricula. However we do "teach to the test" when a student does not pass the Exit Exam the first time around, the spring of their sophomore year. I do not apologize for this, as we all know the economic value of a high school diploma. I am also very pleased with the success of a number of students in this past testing cycle. The bilingual dictionaries and various accommodations seem to assist in our remediation efforts for our students. I commend the faculty, students and their parents for all working for this common goal of a high school diploma. It appears it is working!!!

With the events on the Island over the past couple of weeks, I am very thankful we have been able to remain focused on our educational mission. I am also thankful for the efforts of so many from afar to assist in rescue and cleanup efforts. I have been very proud of the community in the way folks have stepped up to assist in what ever way they could. Life is still good on our Island!!

Happy Holidays to all!!!