



Superintendent's Report

To: Unalaska City School District Board of Education

From: Darrell J. Sanborn, Superintendent

Date: November 18, 2004

Governor Murkowski has proclaimed tomorrow as School Principal Recognition Day. In these days of more scrutiny, accountability, and sometimes more distractions, principals need to remain focused on being the instructional leaders of their school. Instructional leaders are much more than managers of a building. We are fortunate to have those that realize the difference they can make in our students' lives, and the job is not a popularity contest, yet one of paying attention to details, supporting the educational priorities and working with teachers for the common good of our students.

We just completed our Parent/Teacher Conferences, which again, I am pleased with the turnout. We are blessed with the level of interest our parents have in their child's education. It is my hope that parents received a clear message about where their child is at in regards to their educational levels and what strategies or assistance they can give us at home. Some times students may need guided practice with their homework and others may need a quiet place to do their homework along with some motivation. Attendance still remains the big issue for most students not succeeding. Whether the absence is excused or unexcused, the child is still missing the instruction. We many times see where a child who is not reading on level has missed an entire year of school by the fifth or sixth grade. Most often, these excessive absences continue into their junior high and high school educational career.

With the National Election being completed, many of us are expecting to see some "fixes" to the No Child Left Behind Act. There are many issues dealing with special education, highly qualified teachers, Adequate Yearly Progress, testing, limited English Proficient and lots more. I am hopeful the new Education Secretary will address these quickly and in a sensible manner. It also appears the special education funding on the Federal Level may also have had some movement.

I hope folks enjoyed the Talent Show sponsored by the Junior Class. We are so fortunate to have a community with the climate to have students who have the self-confidence to sing, dance, and play before a large group. I am really proud of all students who participated, as it appears they had fun. However, I have heard from Mrs. Border, Mrs. Conwell and Mrs. LeClair along with Mrs. Sanborn, that none of the "UCSD Village People" should even consider quitting our day jobs due to the lack of talent!!!!☺

Life is still good on our Island, very good!!!!