

Superintendent's Report

To: Unalaska City School District Board of Education

From: Darrell J. Sanborn, Superintendent

Date: January 27, 2005

We are in our busy time of the year, not only in the fishing industry of our community, but also starting our second half of the academic year. I know our parents are working long hours at this time of the year, yet I still encourage them to monitor their child's progress in school. Please continue to work with teachers to encourage your child to get the most out of school, especially if your child is working below grade level. AYP is most important when discussing each child's progress and we all need to work together and remain focused on the goal for each child's educational program.

I would also encourage parents to make the State tests a priority again this year, as we will be having some of these tests in a couple of weeks. Grades 5 & 7 will take the Terra Nova on February 8-10, and all grades, 3-10 will be tested during the week of April 4th. All of these tests determine our Adequate Yearly Progress. Participation – attendance is most important. If memory serves me, we had 100% attendance during the tests last year. We should all be very proud of this!!!

This is the Budget time of the year for districts across the State, including Unalaska City School District. The Governor's proposal is good, but still leaves us short. I encourage the Board to build the FY 06 budget on the Governor's numbers. We should also remember that this is not a done deal, as it could be better or no increase at all. Yet, I do see the possibility of additional funds exceeding the Governor's proposal. Of what I am hearing, the two-year, forward funding idea will not become a reality in the near future. However there appears to be a concentrated effort to complete the educational funding bills during the first forty-five days of this Legislative Session. I encourage the Board, and members of the community to encourage those folks in Juneau to fund education to an appropriate level. If the funding level remains status quo, drastic cuts would be seen throughout our educational program.

I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage parents to supervise their children's activities on the Internet. For many of us, this can be a challenge as our children may be much more computer savvy than we are, yet they need our protection even more given out times. At the schools, the Internet is filtered, supervised and monitored. This may not be the case at home or other places children may be on the Internet.

I am saddened to report that John Novak passed away January 9th after a long battle with kidney cancer. John had a long history in education in our State, including serving Unalaska City School District as Superintendent from 1987 to 1991. John was a good friend and he will be missed.