

# **Superintendent's Report**

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

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

**Date:** November 17, 2005

Earlier this month, Governor Murkowski released his proposed educational budget for the next fiscal year with a Based Student Allocation of \$5,347.00. I worry that some may attempt to circumvent increased educational funding and not make it part of the Foundation Formula. I do hope this will be the starting point for the talks in the upcoming Legislative Session, which begins January 9<sup>th</sup>. With Anchorage still seeing a budget shortfall, we will probably have expectations to see this increase more. There may also be talks about the Area Cost Differential, but I am not optimistic about this making much movement. We have to remain cognizant of the amount of local contributions we are blessed in receiving each year.

This time of year, we start to realize individual students who may have attendance/tardy issues. We also see parents choosing to pull the students out of school for family vacations or other travel. Full time attendance is very important to the academic success of a child. I understand some of the needed travel, but normally what we see are students who have attendance issues to begin with, and compound that with any family travel. For high school students, attendance is spelled out in terms of how many absences one may have and not earn credit. An elementary student, who misses twenty-five to thirty days per year, will miss an entire year in their elementary education career. Also please remember the numerous remediation opportunities we are providing this academic year. "Adequate Yearly Progress" doesn't mean anything unless your child is making "adequate yearly progress."

I want to thank Iliuliuk Family Health Clinic and the Oonalaska Wellness Center for their assistance over the past few months in providing counseling services to our students. Jane Bye, Elaine Fahrenkamp, and Angela LeClair were fantastic in filling in to work with our students.

I want to take this opportunity to thank some folks with their help in getting some places for our bus shelters. Coe Whittern & Bob DeMeo have been gracious enough to allow us to place shelters on their property, with Glenn & Archie at West Construction moving the shelters and providing gravel at no cost. I also want to thank Dan Masoni and the Lion's Club for supporting this program through the years.

I also want to encourage folks to take a look at the District's website, [www.ucsd.net](http://www.ucsd.net) as it has been updated a great deal since the beginning of school. I really appreciate all of the work folks have done, and look forward to any suggestions on how we may provide more information to parents and the general public. In my discussions with perspective employees of various businesses, they have indicated that the site does answer many questions.

I also want to encourage staff, students and parents to review our District Inventory prepared by AASB.