

Superintendent's Report

To: Unalaska City School District Board of Education

From: Darrell J. Sanborn, Superintendent

Date: September 1, 2005

WOW!! Another academic year has begun, and I like the excitement that the teachers, staff, students, and parents are bringing to the beginning of another year!!! I feel like all are looking forward to working hard and again, making great individual academic strides. I want to remind folks of the importance of "routines" which is not only important in every classroom but also at home. When students get into routines at home which include a regular time to do homework in a quiet place, we see that they are real successful in school. I have been pleased to see the numbers increasing in our after-school study hall sessions. Some students find it easy to put themselves in a routine, and others need assistance.

Over the next few weeks, we will be "Reporting to the Public" as required by separate regulations of both the No Child Left Behind Act on the Federal level and different regulations on the State level. Much of this deals with AYP – Adequate Yearly Progress. I hope to make it real clear that in my belief AYP don't mean diddly unless your child is making Adequate Yearly Progress. Individual student tests for grades four through ten were mailed to parents last week, and I hope that parents really take a look at these, and please remember, proficient may not be good enough. Unalaska City School District's standards and expectations have always been higher than that of the State's. Also please remember that school is much more than reading, writing and math. We hope that parents take advantage of every remediation opportunity we offer, and assist us in the home by supporting our efforts. Please do not leave this decision up to the children.

I also encourage parents to get to know their child's teacher (s) as this open communication focuses joint efforts and improves academic achievement. Another very important issue is attendance and being on time. Again, the State's goal is set at 85% where our rate is at 94%. Elementary students who are consistently late in the morning miss a great deal of direct reading instruction.

The AYP data will be released publicly on September 6th. I feel we will have much to celebrate; yet I still want to get as many students as possible to that "proficient" level. I believe by working together we can make this happen for all children. We have much to be proud of as we have life very good on our Island. I hope all take advantage of what we have to offer.

I also want to ask folks, while driving, to watch for students before and after school. They can seem to get quicker especially when it is getting darker. Let's all be careful and look out for each other.