

**MKEA Officers**

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**Kuspuk Schools Reports****Sleetmute Report**

We've kicked off the school year with a variety of subsistence activities. Students have been harvesting cucumbers, tomatoes, and peppers from the school greenhouse and making pickles and fresh salsa. Students also harvested salmon from Barb Carlson and Margaret Bobby's fish wheel. Finally, students spent an afternoon picking high bush cranberries to make some jelly. During each of these activities students have been taking pictures and videos documenting the steps in each process to use for How To videos for both the KSD technology contest and the iDida contest later in the year.



The kids have been phenomenal, which has helped the dread of starting the first day on a Monday. It is difficult to start off with a full week when we don't always know who we are going to have, which leads to the greatest challenging—having the resources we need to get started. Three days into this year we finally received our newly adopted curriculum

along with materials that were requested at the end of last year. It might have been helpful if the curriculum department had assistance getting resources to airplanes in a timely manner so that we are better prepared to start our school year.

We have greatly appreciated the leadership and support we've received from our new Upriver Principal. We are excited to have a leader willing to jump in and set clear expectations, but who is also willing to listen to our needs and experience. Many thanks to Sharon Lemmert.  
- Submitted by Sleetmute staff.

### **Crooked Creek Report**

All challenges and changes considering, Crooked seems off to an okay start overall. We started the school year without a secretary, but have made good progress in hiring one. Students seem to be well-enough engaged in the classrooms and are jumping back into the school routine, and have responded well to starting the year with two teachers in the school and having a principal on-site to start the year with us. Our cross country running group has been practicing steadily and has grown to include a larger group.

Tech issues with laptops, etc and the new process of registering students and testing students have been some of the challenges we have faced here. Would be nice to have a paper version of the registration to be able to give to students. The Monday start-date for school gave little time in terms of work-days to prepare the classrooms, address maintenance/tech problems, etc -- and if possible in the future a Wednesday start-date to the school year would make things easier getting started I think.

- Submitted by Crooked Creek staff.

### **Auntie Mary Nicoli Elementary School**

AMNES staff and students were excited to start the new school year. Although we felt we were very prepared, we were met with some unknown challenges. The AMNES staff was happy to make a quick visit to the Interior River Fair to grab lunch during our Saturday work day. In the short time we were there we became aware there would be a lot of additional students attending school here this year. Due to the delayed enrollment/registration, we were unaware of the spike in enrollment. This spike required some changes in class structure. The teachers and principal made a decision based on our expertise and what we believed was best for students in the time given. Unfortunately this change upset some parents who were also unaware we no longer had a first grade teacher. Because we strive to have positive working relationships with the parents of our students, this issue has created unnecessary tension. This issue could have been prevented had there been better communication between the district and the community. Due to this, teachers had to make a lot of last minute changes which caused them to work an additional day without pay in order to be prepared for a Monday start.

With the 2019/2020 calendar all certified staff was required to work both days during the Interior River Fair and were not able to attend the fair for more than 30 minutes. With this being one of the biggest yearly events in Aniak, staff was sad that they could not participate and be a part of the community. For new staff this would have been a great event for them and their families to meet and be introduced to the community. Children come to school very tired after a fair weekend. Making a Monday start not the best educational decision. We would like to return to a Monday, Tuesday work day and a school start on Wednesday. This would elevate the community outreach of staff, unknown enrollment issues and help build stronger

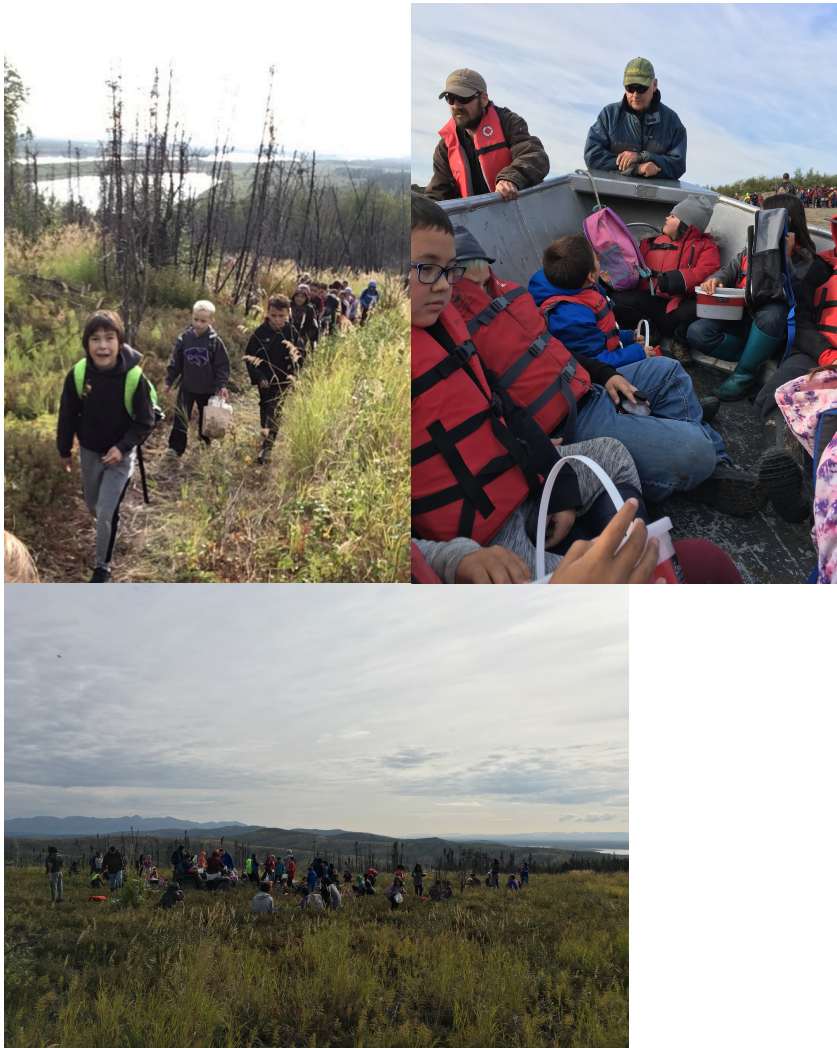


relationships between staff and community. With the delayed enrollment, AMNES staff would like to know if students who are not enrolled are covered by the districts liability insurance?

Despite some hang ups that are still being worked through, our staff has continued to keep the students as our top priority. Everyone is getting used to being back in school, we have a great staff this year and a very supportive and respectful new principal. Mrs. Kelly has really been pivotal in assuring a smooth start to the school year despite any issues that have arisen. We look forward to working with her this year and feel she is a great asset to our school and community.

Cross country running is off to a great start and there are over 25 runners, 3rd- 12th grade. Runners are looking forward to traveling to Sleetmute and Kalskag to race in the coming weeks. We wrapped up the first week with a wonderful berry picking trip across the river from Aniak. Students and staff had a great time and we would like to thank all the parents, grandparents, and maintenance men who helped boat us across and who were on bear watch. We were happy to do a combined trip with the high school and interact with the students and staff.

- Submitted by AMNES staff.



**Aniak Junior Senior High School**

We're happy to say that AJSHS has increased attendance by at least 10 students since last year. Scheduling has become increasingly challenging with only 3 teachers for 7-12th grade. This has led to fewer class options for students and forced us to utilize online classes for some students. The Berry Picking Trip went very well. After being unable to offer a shop class last year, we're pleased to once again have a wood-shop class.

- Submitted by AJSHS staff.

**Kalskag Schools**

Our first week of school was ok. GMSHS students, faculty and staff went to the Caunaq (Jow-nuk) camp and spent three nights and four days camping (Tues-Fri) . They had a blast with the awesomely awesome weather and activities planned. At least 55 students and a dozen staff and faculty were there. Loreen did an awesome job of feeding them 3 times a day!! The students had fun with Mr. Wolford, they even snuck up on him and poured a bucket of fresh cold spring water on his back by surprise!!

On Wednesday JOGES (60 + students) and ZLES (40 students), staff and faculty (a couple dozen) were brought, by our wonderful bus driver Danny, to the gravel pit up on the hills behind Kalskag hill. We went up toward the tower by lunch time. Then a musk ox was sighted at the last hills and we watched it go up the hill and toward the hills closer to us and it eventually made it to the bottom left side of the Rocky Hill, just beyond where we were having lunch by the tower! Thank goodness for our gunners, Earl Morgan, Dwayne Hoffman, and Hank Aloysius Sr. We eventually had to be hauled back down to the gravel pit by Mr. Gardner and Mark because the Musk Ox was 20 feet away from the road where we would have to walk back by.... Exciting first week of school!!

We ARE VERY THANKFUL TO SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER **DWAYNE HOFFMAN** FOR HIS MANY MANY HOURS OF VOLUNTEERING AT SCHOOL FUNCTIONS these past few years!!! The past few years he helped with our culture week ice fishing activities with his IGAP job. He has been helping at Caunaq and he was one of the gunners at our hill hike/ berry picking trip. Dwayne was able to stop the Musk Ox from crossing the road for a bit, by blocking it with his 4-wheeler!

- Submitted by Kalskag staff.