



KUSPUK SCHOOL DISTRICT

UPRIVER SCHOOLS

Crow Village Sam School, Johnnie John Sr. School, Jack Egnaty Sr. School,

Gusty Michael School

March 2020

**Upriver Principal's Report**

Distinguished Members of the Board and Esteemed Colleagues,

This has been a very busy month for recruiting, and for working with potential new hires. We have been fortunate enough to start the hiring process with some very enthusiastic teachers for the Upriver schools. At this time, we have identified staff members for all of our current teacher openings next year. We expect some transfers from village to village for next year. I will move to Chuathbaluk in order to overcome some of the communications and space challenges presented in Crooked Creek, and Mr. Tom Hoban has been approved to transfer to Gusty Michael School next year and will continue to function as lead-teacher.

We are currently expecting to have one Upriver graduate from Johnnie John Sr. School in Crooked Creek. She will finish her academic graduation requirements within days (if not hours) and plans to continue at campus to prepare for the ACT testing at the end of March, and to receive support with college transition and scholarship applications. She has discussed becoming credentialed as a health-care professional and has also discussed returning to the region after college to provide services locally. We are very proud of this student because of her tenacity, self-motivation, and positive attitude during this unusual school year.

## **GMS Monthly Report**

Dr Abernathy and Mr. Bodenschatz have dealt with some weather-related maintenance issues lately. Specifically, there has been a recurrence of the snow-related window breakage this year. Because this occurred in the past, and again this year, I am hoping to develop a district-initiated approach to addressing this next year.

### **Enrollment: 14**

Outstanding Maintenance/Facilities Issues: Dr. Abernathy has reported several issues to me. Workorder generated.

### **Campus Update from Dr. Abernathy:**

We continue to see amazing progress among our students in Stony River. Most of our students' Star scores have increased dramatically from previous years. If we charted the math and reading scores, almost everyone in the school shows an increase on their chart of a 45-degree angle or higher. The 5-7 graders are improving a grade level or more this year. We are thankful for our amazing students and the parental support.

Because I have been giving the Star test weekly (Matt gives the test every other week) to the students and have them map their improvements, they are getting excited about learning. It has been wonderful to see the students "own" their education and ask for assignments targeting needs the Star Assessment reveals.

We are experimenting with creative teaching strategies for the students to aid them in appreciating who they are, their culture and heritage. I have led the school in interviewing elders in the community and writing a story about their life in Stony River. We are planning to have a mock campfire in class this Friday where the students will share their stories with one another, along with enjoying S'mores and a video of a campfire on the SmartBoard. A storyteller in the village is coming to share some of the cultural heritage with the students after the students share their stories.

## **JESS Monthly Report**

Ms. Hayden and Ms. Smith have had a busy, but very productive month. They have accomplished a great deal even though they have been battling an outbreak of head-colds amongst the students.

Enrollment: 19

Outstanding Maintenance/Facilities Issues: Ms. Hayden has reported several issues to me. Workorder generated.

Outstanding Material Issues: Ms. Hayden has reported an issue to me. I have reported to the DO.

Technology Update: Ms. Hayden has reported several issues to me. Tech request generated.

### **Campus Update from Ms. Hayden:**

For the month of February, the Sleetmute Wildcats were raising funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. We used the Hero Squad curriculum to talk about goal setting and the students set their goal to be \$1800, figuring \$100 a student was an achievable goal. At the last moment they raised \$1807!! Sheree's class organized a Krispy Kreme Donuts and Papa Murphy's Pizza fundraiser that brought in \$450 and the rest of our donations came from online donations as well as coins and cash students collected from their families. A special thanks to some of our KSD donors like Harvey Hoffman, James and Lesi Anderson, and Emily Vanderpool. We couldn't have done it without you.

Sheree Smith set up a virtual field trip to the Sea Life Center in February, using a certificate donated last year before COVID hit. Students learned about the variety of species that live in the various levels of tide pools. It was a great hands-on science experience. Students were able to virtually see a live "touch tank" where the presenter could pick up and touch each tide pool organism as she discussed habitat, adaptations, and food chains with the students. Our students love these virtual field trips and hope to participate in more in the future.

The Sleetmute Wildcats sent two Battle of the Books teams to the state competition this year. Angela's 3/4 Grade team and Sheree's Middle School team represented the District in the State

Battle of the Books the last week of February. Our teams battled hard and did an amazing job reading as many of the books as they could, memorizing details, memorizing all the titles and authors, and displaying good sportsmanship throughout the Battles. We can't wait for next year's books to arrive so we can keep on reading!

March will kick off our Skiku experience. Usually, Skiku comes out to our village and experienced coaches instruct the students about cross country skiing, but this year it is going virtual. Students will watch a video once a week that will offer them a challenge, or a skill to practice, and then the students will log their skiing time. Their logs will enter them into a contest that ends the middle of April. Our students love skiing, and we love how it improves their balance, coordination, and their focus in the classroom.

A big thank you to our custodian, Edward Yako, for sprucing up our carpets using the carpet cleaner sent up from Aniak. He has also spent many hours stripping the gym floor and bathroom floors, scraping up layers of old wax. The ToughGuy sanitizing cleaner that is constantly being sprayed on the bathroom surfaces has not been kind to the floors and has left them looking very dingy. However, his hard work has them looking clean again. Now we're just waiting for more wax to be sent up to give them a nice glossy coat again. We are also noticing the ToughGuy sanitizing cleaner is causing the paint on our doors to start peeling off, but not much can be done about that. We have greatly appreciated the new air purifiers that Mr. Reese purchased for our site. It is nice to know we have air circulating and being purified in our classrooms. We will also benefit from the new dehumidifiers once spring comes and our roof starts melting and leaking into the building.



The students enjoyed their FLN activity this week. We received a lot of fun and unique responses for what the students want to be when they grow up such as: veterinarian, dancers, and robot dancer. The robot dancer says he wants to be this so he can “protect the world and then dance.” I love the creativity. Despite half our school being absent due to illness or quarantine, we still received 9 out of 12 back this month.

Currently we are pursuing our next round of Parent Teacher Conferences after sending home progress reports. This will be our second official round this year. Thus far we’ve been able to meet by phone or in-person with all but three, which we plan to meet with the first week of March.



## **JJSS Monthly Report**

Mr. Stathis and Mr. Bailey have been enduring many power and water outages in the village. So far, this has had little effect on the JJSS students.

Enrollment: 24

Outstanding Maintenance/Facilities Issues: Continuous power issues in Crooked Creek.

### **Campus update from Mr. Stathis:**

Things seem to be running pretty smoothly for the most part, and we are grateful for our supportive paraprofessional staff who are a big help.

The students still have to be reminded frequently about social distancing / mask wearing rules, and we are all hoping that guidelines will relax soon as possible so that we can play in the gym and go back to having a normal school experience.

The K-4 classroom has been out skiing regularly and have started the SkiKu program, which the kids are enjoying.

## **CVSS Monthly Report**

The village of Chuathbaluk has received quite a bit of snow lately. The roof is covered in deep snow and the area around the school (including the roadway) has become difficult to navigate.

Enrollment: 23

Outstanding Maintenance/Facilities Issues: There is an ongoing issue with the snow on the roof and the snow on the access road to the school. We are working with maintenance to come up with a solution that we can use year after year.

Campus update from Mr. Hoban:

Crow Village Sam School opened the month by fully re-opening our building and class schedule. In this short month we have:

Enjoyed the benefits of the hard work that was done during the lockdown, which included:

1. Deep cleaning of classrooms, gymnasium, kitchen
2. Re-organizing of storerooms, and
3. Re-organizing classrooms and re-examination of existing materials.

Instituted strategies to better ensure that the activities and objectives of Family Literacy Night are fully executed. All materials have been distributed to households and follow-up activities are being monitored.

A music program which began as a behavioral modification technique has evolved into an excellent interdisciplinary exercise. I found that my introductions to the genre of the day turned into longer lessons to set context. This has expanded into lessons which have students investigate the History of the period, and short lessons have become good exercises for nonfiction reading which in order helps add substance to our syllabus for the ELA nonfiction reading class that is offered this year. Genres for the day were initially chosen at random, for the past week and a half we have been moving through an evolution of music which started with ancient music from Alaska, Africa, and other areas, to music of ancient Greece, Medieval Europe, the Renaissance. Today we worked on the Baroque period.

We made attempts to complete the WIDA tests but were unable to open a program that executes the tests on student computers. Lead teacher is presently working with Emily and Elric to work through this glitch.