

Aniak Schools September Board Report

Gretchen Kelly, Principal

Aniak Jr/Sr High School

AJSHS recently had the English teacher position approved. Thank you! AJSHS continues to have new students enrolled about once a week. An additional online enrollment help day was offered with staff on hand to assist on September 23.

State Troopers presented to the high school and middle school in regards to living a drug free life.

Volleyball season started September 12. Friday the 27th, Aniak will be hosting its first volleyball match of the season.

Student government was elected.

Robotics class has started in the 6th grade class. This is an academic topic geared to increasing student interest in the sciences and increasing academic performance.

AJSHS hosted an Open House event on Monday September 23. There was a presentation about bus considerations. Many families were able to attend.

I continue to redirect individual students in regards to behavior and making responsible choices to combat bullying and rebuild the school climate in that regard working towards the goal of eliminating bullying.

Auntie Mary Nicoli Elementary School

Preschool students started school this month. Samantha Lang was selected as the preschool instructor, and has been utilizing the Big Day for PreK curriculum. Students are reading books with puppets and creating art projects already. The classes made moose out of hands and feet in support of the community moose hunting season. One day we were short of staff in both buildings, so we had Preschool with the Principal!

AMNES had the 1st grade position approved. Thank you! In the meantime, Mrs. Morgan and I have restructured her 1st and 2nd grade classes by separating out two different gym times for the first and second grade, incorporating "reading buddies" with the third grade class, and utilizing Ms. Fairbanks to teach the 1st grade math curriculum at the end of the day. This approach has allowed more focus on one curriculum at a time more effectively until the 1st grade position gets filled. We hope that these changes will assist in increasing academic performance for both the 1st and 2nd grade respectively.

Online enrollment help was offered with staff on hand to assist on Monday September 23.

Robotics classes started this week at the elementary. Battle of the Books supplies were recently dispersed so that program can get started up soon as well in each classroom. Both programs are geared to increasing academic performance- Robotics in the sciences field, and Battle of the Books with literacy.

AMNES hosted the Moose Trot cross country run on Friday the 13th. Many students from around the district came to participate.

Aniak dance group has scheduled practice at AMNES weekly- we hope this will help with integrating more Alaskan Native culture into the building.

AMNES hosted an Open House event on Monday September 23. There was a presentation about bus considerations. Many families were able to attend.

In terms of Professional Development for both schools: One thing that I am pushing really hard this year is accessing our in-house expertise. For example: when a teacher at a different location within the district recently needed support with Journey's materials, I offered a day of training with an AMNES teacher who was quite familiar with the program to assist. That went REALLY well and the cost to the district to use an inhouse trainer was minimal.

I also am utilizing the early out PLC time more efficiently with a similar approach. So far this year, we have had training on movement in the classroom, Dibels and Star testing, Trauma informed schools, Multiple Intelligences, and online lesson planning. I am hopeful this approach for professional development will increase academic rigor at both schools.