

Upriver Principal Board Report December 10, 2019

Some highlights from each site:

Stony River-

Stony River is carrying on with classes as usual. Attendance throughout the year has been very good. The teachers opened the school up on Thanksgiving for a community potluck and had about 28 people show up (including the two teachers), which is quite good for a village of 40 people. There were a number of people in attendance who were taking selfies with family members during and after the meal, so it appears that it was successful! On December 19, we will have a Christmas (Holiday) program that the students will put on for any members of the village who would like to attend. An Elder in the village has volunteered to come into the school and teach the students how to do traditional carving. We are looking forward to this being initiated. We continue to have lots of snow, which is quite scenic here. Our new teacher, Steve Iverson is transitioning well with the students, parents and community. Also, our new janitor is doing an outstanding job for us.

Crooked Creek-

We just lost a highly qualified, well-liked teacher due to a serious health issue caused by an apparent mold allergy. This teacher desperately wanted to remain at Johnnie John Sr. (we were lucky to retain him in the District), but he had absolutely no choice. His replacement is already onboard, as of Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2019.

Crooked Creek has endured tragedy nearly beyond comprehension in just a few short months and my heart goes out to the parents, guardians, relatives, and students of Johnnie John Sr. School. Currently, I have requested Behavioral Health-Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation visit the village and provide support services. Also, the Tundra Women's Coalition has agreed to visit with our community this month.

The school kitchen is shut down,

I share this parent's concern over the fact that Johnnie John Sr. School does not have a working kitchen. This unfortunate event was beyond my control – indeed, beyond the control of Kuspuk School District. Apparently, someone filed a complaint with the state agency in charge of such matters, and the District had no choice but to immediately close the kitchen. My sincere hope is that all regulatory problems will be addressed and our kitchen will soon be reopened. To date, a posting is advertised for the position.

Sleetmute-

We have a teacher on maternity leave. However a substitute teacher is available for the position. Currently we are looking for a new janitor the posting is listed for interested candidates. Sleetmute should be recognized for their effort preparing projects for the science fair.

Chuathbaluk-

Both certified teachers have been doing excel each month. This month the lead teacher did a lesson on "Its my Future" it's an all day lesson. Marie Sakar did hers on leadership in the village and students wrote about who they would like to be like when they grow up. We had a Thanksgiving potluck on Wednesday it went good. After thanksgiving break after school tutoring and gym nights begin on Wednesday. The goal is to have gym nights two days weekly after Christmas. It was suggested to have a practice lockdown soon. The Alaska trooper is visiting to talk with students about boating, hunting and survival skills this month.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me regarding this report or any other school related topic. Thank you for your continued support of our upriver schools.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Lemmert
Principal/Counselor