



An Affiliate of NAESP

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President's Message by Peter Swanson

Leadership in any organization or group can be exciting, challenging and often demanding. Being a relative newcomer to the AAESP board I have been working on a steep learning curve. Fortunately, there are a lot of good people who have years of experience and the willingness to come alongside this newcomer and help push that curve.

It reminds me of my experience of coming into this great state just ten years ago. The educators I met as I attended the April job fair and the ones who interviewed me were more than willing to provide advice and helpful suggestions as I pursued a new professional opportunity and life change for my family. The Sitka district administrators continued that support when I joined their team and I found the same to be true when we moved to the Kenai district.

Our strength as an organization is only as good as our membership makes it and with the challenges that administrators now face we really need each other. My experience has shown me that we have an incredible group of administrators in this great state. My hope is that we can all pull together to not just weather the storm but to make our schools and districts the best places for our students and communities.

Your active membership in AAESP is an important factor as you bring your experiences and skills to come alongside and help push the curve. Please encourage any and all eligible administrators to join with us as we continue this great work together.

NAESP Website

The NAESP website naesp.org is a great place to check to get current information on hot educational topics. After you sign in with your ID number (if you have misplaced or forgotten your ID number email aaesp@gci.net and I will email it to you), go to a section called research at the top of the page and a list of topics will appear. When you pick a topic you will get current information on that topic.

You may want to try the E-Knowledge Portal that contains articles, reports, tools, experts and learning related to educational research. This is an exciting way to research a topic and this section of the NAESP website contains a lot of valuable information.

Alaska Legislative Updates

In January when the legislative session begins you will be receiving updates on all legislation that deals with educational issues. Mary Francis, executive director of the Alaska Council of School Administrators will be compiling this information and it will be sent to you via email. If you do not receive these in January, 2008, please email aaesp@gci.net to check on your email address. These are important bulletins. We all need to be advocating for educational funding and other important educational issues.

National Educational Updates

If you would like to receive educational updates on the national level, please email Karen McCarthy at karen_mccarthy@murkowski.senate.gov. Karen does a fantastic job of sending information on all educational related issues and grants. Karen also will ask for your input on items dealing with legislation on education. It is a great way to keep in touch with educational legislation.

Welcome New Principals

We have a number of new members that we want to welcome to the principalship (and assistant principalship) and/or to Alaska. Jason Arnold, Old Harbor School, Kodiak; Kimberly Bautista, Ptarmigan/Northstar, Anchorage, Michelle Beito, Delta Elementary, Delta-Greely; Cassandra Bennett, William Tyson/Susitna, Anchorage; Kris Bjornson, Huffman, Anchorage; Wendy Brons, Ursa Minor, Anchorage; John Brown, Talkeetna/Trapper Creek; Mat-Su; Lori Cheek, Bowman, Anchorage; Patricia Daugharty, Chinook/Bayshore, Anchorage; Susan Forbes, Aquarian Charter, Anchorage; David Foshee, Joy, Fairbanks; Linda Goldeski, Shaktoolik, Bering Straits; Leroy Grant, Campbell, Anchorage; Cheryl Hingley, Susan B. English, Kenai; Brooke Hull, Denali Montessori, Anchorage; Esther Ilutsik, Aleknagik, Southwest Region; Heather Jones, Eagleview, Unalaska; Linda Kang, Salcha, Fairbanks; Brooke Kelly, Goose Bay, Mat-Su; Jennifer Litera, Fred Ipalook, North Slope; Jeff Mann, Hunter, Fairbanks; Linda Mason, Nancy Moon, Main, Kodiak; June Nelson, Northwest Arctic; Eric Ressler, Rogers Park/Northern Lights, Anchorage; Brian Singleton, Government Hill, Anchorage; Lisa Vrvilo, Cottonwood, Mat-Su; Douglas Waclawski, Razdolna, Kenai; Carol Wadman, Mt. View/Fairview, Anchorage; Ted Wilson, Glacier Valley, Juneau and Rebecca Coleman, Clark's Point, Southwest Region.

We hope that your year is going well. If you would like to be connected to another principal in Alaska that you could call or email just email aaesp@gci.net and a principal will be linked with you. If you have any questions or concerns regarding AAESP or NAESP please email aaesp@gci.net.

Board Members:

Peter Swanson, President, pswanson@kpbsd.k12.a.us

Barbara Nagengast, Past President, nagengast_barbara@asdk12.org

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Alberta NordbergRegion-At-Large, alberta.nordberg@matsuk12.us

NAESP National Convention—Nashville April 4-8, 2008

Currently you may register online for the National Association of Elementary Principal's Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, April 4-8, 2008. Political "insiders" Mary Matalin and James Carville will be the keynote speakers, Sunday, April 6.

There are still several rooms left in the Alaska block. If you would like to reserve a room in this block, contact Tim Doran at tdoran@northstar.k12.ak.us and let him know you would like to attend.

AAESP Board of Directors

Welcome new board members and members with new positions. Pete Swanson from McNeil Canyon Elementary in Homer, Alaska was elected the new president. Gale O'Connell-Smith from Taku Elementary in Anchorage, Alaska was elected the new secretary and Alberta Nordberg from Willow Elementary in the Mat-Su School District was appointed the new Region-at-Large board member. If you are interested in running for the board of directors for AAESP in the future, please email aaesp@gci.net and your name will be included for the nominating committee for next year.

National Distinguished Principal and Alaska Distinguished Principal

Nomination forms are now available to nominate one or more of your colleagues for the National and Alaska Distinguished Principal. The National Distinguished Principal is a prestigious award that is given out in the fall in Washington DC. After the nomination forms are submitted, the candidate will receive a packet of information that takes some time to compile. These packets will be due around April 1, 2008. Nomination forms may be obtained by emailing Erica Kludt-Painter at ekludt@psgsd.k12.ak.us or aaesp@gci.net. This award is a great honor, please nominate someone who would represent all Alaska principals.

CSI:Alaska Principal's Conference Thank You

The conference was a great success and we want to thank the principal's who attended and also all of our great sponsors and vendors. Thank you to the following sponsors: Alaska Humanities Forum, Anchorage Principals Association, Anchorage School

District, BP Explorations, Communities In Schools-Alaska, Inc., Data Recognition Corporation, Fairbanks Principals Association, Kenai Principal's Association, Mat-Su Principals Association, Northwest Playground Equipment, Sunset View B and B/Resort, Virco, Wells Fargo and Worldwide Interactive Network (WIN).

The following vendors also contributed to making our conference a success: Alaska Association of School Librarians, Alaska Focus Safety, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, Alaska Job Corps, Alaska Mineral and Energy Resource Education, Alaska Retirement Planning, Alaska Statewide Mentor Project, Alaska Teacher Placement, ASAA and AASG, Association of Interior Native Educators, ASVA Career Exploration Program, Ballard and Tighe Publishers, Boys and Girls Club Alaska, CIMAV/eInstruction, CTB/McGraw Hill, Curriculum Associates, Inc. D.A.R.E Alaska, Inc., Educational Renaissance, ExerPlay, Inc. Future Teachers of Alaska, Harcourt School Publishers, Headsprout, Houghton Mifflin, The Imaginarium, International Polar Year, Junior Achievement of Alaska, Inc. Lakeshore Learning Materials, Learning Matters, LightSPEED, Lincoln financial Advisors, McDougal Littell, Media Concepts, Mondo Publishing, National Geographic/Hampton Brown/New Leaf, Neff Motivation, Inc., Northern Industrial Training, Northwest Textbook Depository, Pearson Longman, Pearson Prentice Hall, Pearson Scott Foresman, Perma-Bound/Accelerated Reader, Phoenix Learning Resources, Premier, Rand McNalley, Redbrick Heinneman-Raintree Options, Saxton/ Bradley Inc., Saxon/Steck Vaughn/Northstar, Scholastic Inc., School Improvement Network, School Specialty Inc., Secure iD LLC, SERRC-Alaska's Educational Resource Center, Span Alaska Sales, Sporis West Educational Services, SRA/McGraw Hill, Statewide Suicide Prevention Council, University of Alaska-Fairbanks, Upromise Schools and Western Education Thank you vendors!

Alaska Association of Elementary Principals

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.ak-principals.org