



Supporting Alaska's Principals

Advocating for Alaska's Children



*An affiliate of NAESP*

November 2010 Newsletter

## President's Message by Anne Salzer

A principal friend told me about a cryptic message she once saw in another principal's office: **APW = MP + NMP**. The letters meant, "All the Problems in the World equal those that are My Problems plus those that are Not My Problems." This principal said she looked at this little equation whenever she needed to recover her balance and perspective. She found she was more effective when she could correctly decide what was in her realm of responsibility and what was not.

Often as principals we see students who have any number of needs including dangerous home lives or the devastating effects of poverty. Those students come to us with many needs, and education is one of them. At the principal's conference I sat down with a group of principals during the Commissioner's Breakfast hoping I could engage my friends from around the state in a conversation about multiple measures. But, my colleagues from rural Alaska had different things on their mind. They were concerned about student safety, staff safety, hungry children, and community and parent support for education. They didn't need help in looking at student achievement data; they needed real help working with their communities.

While we have many of these problems in Anchorage, in an urban area we can pick up the phone and a police officer will arrive to support us if we need help. If a student needs eye glasses, we can find a way to help that child. But when you are miles and miles from real, on-the-ground, tangible help, the topography looks different. Priorities are different. Suddenly, APW becomes MP.

This leads to the second little phrase in our journey through helpful clichés: "Think Globally and Act Locally." When I connect this to the

principal's equation, I see that My Problems are part of All the Problems in the World. I can make the world a better place, not by worrying about fixing what I can't fix, but simply by working on fixing what I can fix. There's a bit of peace in that, I think.

At the Principal's Conference this fall I experienced the value of seeing the professional challenges of the principalship in another context. I came to more clearly appreciate the priorities of others. I gained valuable professional development in Response to Intervention, Arts Education, working with diverse learners. I heard the welcome message from NAESP president Barbara Chester that the principals' voice is important in advocating for education. It was a great conference and I am looking forward to our conference next year. ►

## 2010-2011 Board of Directors Election Results

**State Representative: John Kito**  
Tyson Elementary, Anchorage

**President-Elect: John Pothast**  
Redoubt Elementary, Soldotna

**Vice President: Cheryl Stickler**  
Haines Elementary/Middle, Haines

**Secretary: Christine Ermold**  
Sterling Elementary, Soldotna

**Member at Large: Marilyn Rosene**  
Dillingham Elementary, Dillingham

Special thanks to the principals leaving our AAESP Board of Directors after completing their term of office serving the children of Alaska.

**Tim Doran, State Representative**  
**Karen Pollard, Vice President**  
**Pete Swanson, Past President**



## Parent Involvement Month

Alaska Parent Information and Resource Center (AKPIRC) celebrates Parent Involvement Month by offering AKPIRC's Family-Friendly Red Carpet Award to schools around the state.

Governor Parnell recently proclaimed November 2010 as Alaska's Parent Involvement Month. To recognize the vital connection between families and schools in improving student achievement throughout Alaska, AKPIRC will select three Alaskan schools that set the standard for parent outreach. The selected schools will each receive an AKPIRC Red Carpet, \$250 for books or resources for the school's library or family resource room, and an AKPIRC Certificate of Achievement.

Applications must be postmarked by December 10, 2010. Schools, parents and/or community members can access nomination and application forms at <http://www.akpirc.org>. Awards will be announced in early January 2011. ►



*Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving.*

### AAESP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Anne Salzer — [salzer\\_anne@asdk12.org](mailto:salzer_anne@asdk12.org)  
President Elect – John Pothast — [pothast@kpbsd.k12.ak.us](mailto:pothast@kpbsd.k12.ak.us)  
Vice President – Cheryl Stickler — [cstickler@hbsd.net](mailto:cstickler@hbsd.net)  
Secretary – Christine Ermold — [cermold@kpbsd.k12.ak.us](mailto:cermold@kpbsd.k12.ak.us)  
Treasurer – Kathleen Beebe — [Kbeebe@northstar.k12.ak.us](mailto:Kbeebe@northstar.k12.ak.us)  
NAESP State Representative – John Kito — [Kito\\_John@asdk12.org](mailto:Kito_John@asdk12.org)  
Member-at-Large – Marilyn Rosene — [cstickler@hbsd.net](mailto:cstickler@hbsd.net)  
Executive Director – John Pile — [aaesp@gci.net](mailto:aaesp@gci.net)