

# Uqapiaqtaurat

The Parent/Community Newsletter of Iḷisaḡvik College's Uqautchim Uglua Language Nest



## PLAYING OUT by EMMA FERGUSON

As spring brings warmer temperatures after a long, cold winter, we take advantage of every opportunity we have to bundle up the kids and go play out. It is a joy to be outside in good weather! Making snow angels is a fun activity, but the kids enjoy chasing Iḷisaurri Aalaak with snowballs even more. We also like watching out for snow birds.

Playing out provides a good opportunity for the kids to learn new vocabulary, and we teach our learners Iḷupiat words for everything we see. Some of the new words we've learned include: apun (snow cover), sun (siqiḷiq), clouds (nuviyat), dog (qimmiq), house (iglu), sled (uniat), boat (umiaq) and snowbirds (amauḷḡaaluich).

to strike it with a homemade harpoon we made out of cardboard, then when we put up a homemade flag and did a celebration dance.



(Students proudly celebrate their 'catch')

## MISIḡAALIUGNIKUN IḷITCHISA! by CLARA TAGAROOK

Uqautchim Uglua students recently used blubber from a seal donated by local hunter Raymond Lambrecht to make misigaaq (seal oil), an Iḷupiaq condiment that goes with just about everything. Teachers Ikayuaq, Aalaak and Panikpak had fun cutting up the blubber and letting the children put strips of it into a glass jar to render. At first the children were a little bit put off by the strong smell and oily texture, but as the activity went on, they had all kinds of questions, and got really excited about and involved in the activity. When the misigaaq was ready, each child took home a big jar to their parents, as proud as can be. The parents were also proud of what their children had made.



(Aalaak teaches students about breaking trail)

One of the most memorable activities was when Aalaak decided to teach the students about breaking trail for whaling by walking through a pile of snow. We brought out a box displaying a whale and we pretended

## In this Issue:

### PAGE 1

PLAYING OUT  
by Emma Ferguson

MISIḡAALIUGNIKUN  
IḷITCHISA!  
by Clara Tagarook

### PAGE 2

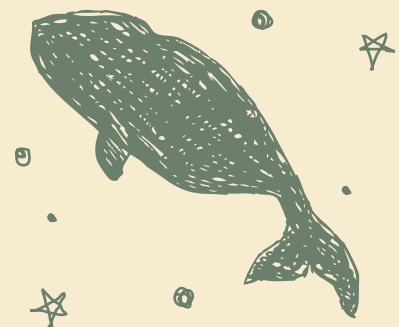
KIVGIQ FIELD TRIP -  
2/13/13  
by Connie Fishel

POTLATCHES  
by Emma Ferguson

INCENTIVE PACKAGES  
by Connie Fishel

### PAGE 3

COMMUNITY  
SUPPORT  
by Martha Stackhouse





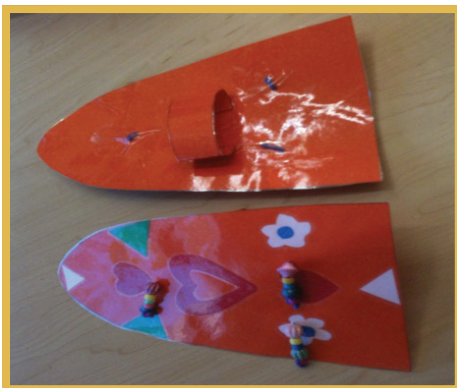
(Students cut up seal blubber for making misigaag)

This cultural activity wouldn't have been possible without the help of Ikayuaq, Aalaak, Ayaiyaq and Raymond, for catching the seal. Quyan-aqqakivisi!

### KIVGIQ FIELD TRIP - 2/13/13 by CONNIE FISHEL

One of the most memorable moments of this school year was our field trip to Kivgiq on February 13, 2013. We timed our visit so that our Language Nest students could see the Ipalook Elementary students performing for the people of the North Slope. The moment was made even more special when our learners had the opportunity to participate and show their skills to everyone in the audience!

Before the trip, we had an arts and crafts activity where the children made kalukaq-style dancing gloves in keeping with the community spirit of happiness and celebration.



(A student's handiwork: kalukaq-style dancing gloves)

Iļisaurri Aalaak and Ayaiyaq were chaperones. Ikayuaq arranged transportation with the Iļisaġvik shuttle service.



(Language Nest students at Kivgiq celebration)

### POTLATCHES by EMMA FERGUSON

Every two weeks the Language Nest hosts a traditional foods potluck with our students and their families. Our parents and our staff work as partners, so this is a good chance for everyone to get together, enjoy some good food and good company, and keep track of Uqautchim Uglua goings on.



(Students and families enjoy traditional foods potluck)

The potlatches are also a great opportunity for our students to show what they have been learning, and they make the most of it. They recite their Iļupiat numbers to 20,

point to letters as they repeat the atchagat, share the colors they have learned and the crafts they have completed, and explain the classroom rules in Iļupiaq. They even sing songs they are learning and dance Iļupiaq style.

Not only are the parents proud of our learners, but so are the staff. The kids have really achieved a lot this school year, and word is starting to get out about it!

### INCENTIVE PACKETS by CONNIE FISHEL

In August 2012, when the Language Nest was getting ready to open, Iļisaurri Tuuġlak Diaz and Ayaiyaq had the idea to start saving little trinkets, pencils and gifts for the children. They thought that this would make a nice treat and a good way to congratulate the students for their hard work at the end of the school year. Tuuġlak left the Language Nest in December, but Ayaiyaq kept up the "Incentive Box" in her absence, adding to it little by little so we would have something special to give our learners when summer arrived.

At the end of the year, with the busy summer subsistence season approaching, Ayaiyak brought in drawstring bags from home and made a special packet for each child, printing out pictures of students and activities to include with the toys and gifts. Along with help from the other staff, we put together something we feel is really special for our students. We hope they will remember this year as fondly as we do!



(Student Incentive Packets)

# Community Support

by Martha Stackhouse



## ELDERS IN UQAUTCHIM UGLUA

Uqautchim Uglua has been extremely fortunate this school year to have three respected Elders come in and share with our children in the Language Nest. We would like to say a big “Quyanaqpak” to Nutaag (Doreen Simmonds), Sirraun (Edith Nageak) and Ayathuq (Evelyn Williams). They have been instrumental in completing a true Iñupiaq immersion environment for our learners, and we are very grateful for this.

The students are very eager to share their Iñupiaq knowledge with the Elders in singing the numbers 1-20 and the atchagat. The Elders read storybooks to the chil-



dren in Iñupiaq and converse with them in their Native language as they play together. They share their living knowledge of Iñupiaq values as they correct behavior with loving care. For example, if the students argue over a toy, they are instructed to play with it for a while and then give it up to share with their classmate later on. We appreciate our Elders setting a truly Iñupiaq example for the kids.

Once again, quyanaqpak to Nutaag, Sirraun and Ayathuq!



## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN UQAUTCHIM UGLUA

Barrow High School Iñupiaq language students visit our Uqautchim Uglua students every Friday. They play games and speak Iñupiaq with the kids, but the most exciting activity is the high-schoolers reading Iñupiaq language books that they created! The children listen attentively when they hear “big kids” read to them. The visits end with the high schoolers and little ones singing together all in Iñupiaq. We appreciate the positive difference that these visits have made to Uqautchim Uglua.

We would also like to thank the Kiita students who made a miniature sled for our class and a tent frame to put up a miniature canvas tent that looks just like a regular whaling or camping tent. And kudos are also due to another Kiita student, who used a wood burner to draw Iñupiaq cultural scenes and arctic animals onto wooden blocks for the children to play with. Quyanaqpak for the support that all of these people put into Uqautchim Uglua.





# Have a wonderful summer!

## Uqautchim Uglua TEAM MEMBERS

DEVIN 'NAĠIAQ' BATES  
Program Director

MARTHA 'IKAYUAQ'  
STACKHOUSE  
Teachers for the Arctic  
Coordinator

EMMA 'AALAAK'  
FERGUSON  
Lead Teacher

CLARA 'PANIKPAK'  
TAGAROOK  
Teacher

CONNIE 'AYAIYAK' FISHEL  
Administrative Assistant

WE'D LOVE TO  
HEAR FROM YOU!

Uqautchim Uglua  
PO BOX 749  
Barrow, AK 99723  
907.852.8101  
www.ilisagvik.edu



Greater White Fronted Goose Nest in the Tundra. Photo credit: Matt Martinsen

