

Uqapiaqtaurat

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



A NEW YEAR BEGINS

On August 15th this year, we opened for our second year of operation. Much has changed; for most of last year we had just four students and one full-time immersion teacher. This year state licensure has allowed for twelve ECE learners and we have a full teaching staff, assisted by Teachers for the Arctic Coordinator, Ikayuaq Martha Stackhouse and student intern Amber Downey. Further, we are moving forward with brand-new curriculum and learning activities. We are in a position to accomplish remarkable things as we keep moving forward.

Some of these things have already started to happen. Our students are really picking up Iḷupiaq fast this year! My son is a student at the immersion nest, and already he has scolded me several times for speaking to him in English. He is also teaching his sister, who is not a student, what he learns; almost every night they sing the *atchagat* song and "Aḡnaiyaaq/Aḡutaiyaaq

Uvaḡa" together. Other parents have expressed similar experiences, and I just don't have the words to describe how happy and thankful that makes me. Each of you should be proud of the part you play in helping our kids to learn.

As we move forward, let's remember that we are a team. We will never be able to reach our full (and considerable) potential without everyone participating. To this end, I encourage everyone to come into the Nest and get more involved. Parent participation is still only between 40 and 50% of where it needs to be, and I can guarantee that once we have everyone consistently meeting their volunteer requirements the good results we are seeing now will grow and overflow our classroom, expanding into our homes and community.

Thank you all so much for being part of the team! I look forward to all this year holds.

Naḡiaq Devin Bates
UU Program Director



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DAILY ROUTINES

by AYAIYAQ CONNIE FISHEL

One of our daily learning activities is the “*Aġnaiyaaq Anġutaiyaaq Uvaŋa*” dance, as seen in the picture below. Dancing is one example of how our teachers have incorporated Iñupiaq culture into classroom activities. Other examples of Iñupiaq culture in the curriculum include making *uunaalik*, traditional foods potlucks and the *kisitchisit* song.



(Dancing is an important part of the curriculum!)

Another example of Iñupiaq dancing in the classroom are the popular *sayuutit* like “*Anayanahaa*”. The children love to participate. Most times they even ask to keep on dancing when the song is over because they can’t get enough. Sooo awesome!



(Reciting the Pledge of Allegiance)

Other parts of our daily routine consist of the *Unniqsuqłiin* (Pledge of Allegiance), *pitqurat* (classroom rules), *atchagat* (alphabet), *kisitchisit* (numerals), and *qaungich* (colors).

The kids are really progressing well this year! It’s so wonderful when they “get it” and that light bulb goes off - it’s amazing to see. They don’t know it yet but they’re learning their first language!

UNNIQSUQLIIN - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

by AALAAK EMMA FERGUSON

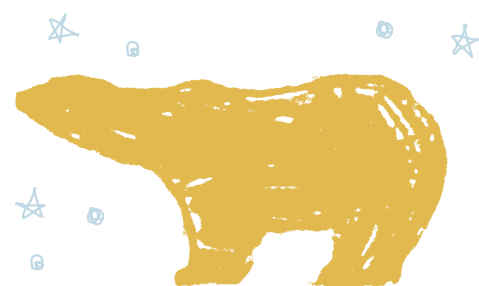
Unniqsuqłiin is new to our morning routine, and provides a good example of how our little ones are learning. When we first started, they could barely stand still, but now they are getting used to it and actively participating. As soon as we say *takuyaaq* (flag) they run up to the flag and put their right hands over their hearts. Even though some of the kids haven’t quite memorized the words yet, everyone participates; they are learning it by hearing it every day.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES IN THE LANGUAGE NEST

by AHKAK CHARLOTTE AHSOGEAK

I am new to the Language Nest this year, but it has been really amazing to see our two and three year olds learning. Each child brings different strengths and attitude to the classroom. The teachers are doing an excellent job, and the kids are picking up good behaviors and knowledge like the *atchagat* and *kisitchisit* in a really spectacular way, even getting to the point where they do it on their own, without any help!

I’m proud to be part of the Uqautchim Uglua team, and can hardly wait to watch the kids continue to learn this year.



Parent Volunteers

by Ikayuaq Martha Stackhouse

A LETTER OF GRATITUDE

The Uqautchim Uglua staff would like to say “*Quyan-aqpak!*” to all those parents who have contributed subsistence foods, homemade goods and even store bought food to share with our children. So far we have received two whole slabs of *maktak*, various kinds of muffins, salmon spread, smoked salmon, *tuttu* soup, cookies and even birthday cupcakes.

We cut up the slabs of *maktak* to make *uunaalik*; and put away some to eat as frozen *maktak* for future potlucks. As they gathered around, the children were very eager to watch us cut up *maktak* and told stories about going to see the whales.

We would also like to thank those who brought

snacks and who came to our classroom for short periods of time. We even had one parent shovel snow in the back for us so that our kids could play out.

For those who haven't volunteered yet, we would like to remind you of the volunteer requirement.

It's easier than it may seem, and can be done by coming in for a half hour or so every now and then, bringing food, or just asking what you can do. The Language Nest was designed to work in tandem with parent involvement, and it really is a joy to participate with the little ones. We look forward to seeing everyone here!



Quyuanaq!

NEW TEAM MEMBERS

by HEIDI AHSOAK

The Uqautchim Uglua staff would like to introduce our newest additions: Charlotte Ahsogeak, Heidi Ahsok, and Amber Downey.

In mid-September we welcomed our newest teacher, Charlotte Ahsogeak, to the Nest. Charlotte has been a great benefit with her fluent Iñupiaq and nurturing demeanor. She helps us to deliver the best education we possibly can to our little ones.

We've also added a new student intern position for this school year. Amber Downey, an Iñisaġvik student from Point Hope, has joined our team on a part-time basis. Amber is studying Allied Health.

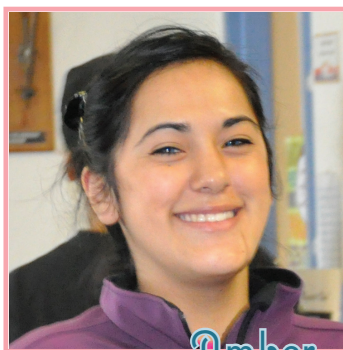
Her enthusiasm has been a great asset to the program.

We we'd also like to introduce our new Program Coordinator, Heidi Ahsok. The Coordinator position has been vacant for some time, so we are pleased to have Heidi joining us. She is a recent Iñisaġvik College graduate and joins the program with an abundance of positive energy and motivation.

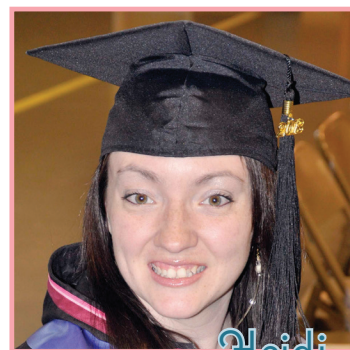
With these ladies joining the program, we are 100% fully staffed and ready to continue our journey forward with new energy. Please join us in welcoming our new staff members to Uqautchim Uglua!



Charlotte



Amber



Heidi



Quviasugitchi Ukiaqmi! HAPPY AUTUMN!

Uqautchim Uglua TEAM MEMBERS

DEVIN 'NAGIAQ' BATES
Program Director

HEIDI AHSOAK
Program Coordinator

MARTHA 'IKAYUAQ'
STACKHOUSE
Teachers for the Arctic
Coordinator

EMMA 'AALAAK'
FERGUSON
Lead Teacher

CHARLOTTE 'AHKAK'
AHSOGEAK
Teacher

CONNIE 'AYAIYAQ' FISHEL
Administrative Assistant

AMBER DOWNEY
Student Intern

WE'D LOVE TO
HEAR FROM YOU!

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Language Nest Students enjoy some outdoor play in August!

