

Uqapiaqtaurat

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



A SHOUT OUT FOR A BUSY YEAR!

Uqautchim Uglua's Language Nest opened its doors for the first time on November 26, 2012, which means that since the last newsletter came out, we have passed our first full year of operation. As I was preparing for this issue of *Uqapiaqtaurat*, I tried hard to pick one accomplishment during this time that has been most emblematic of our work and progress during that time; one indicator that illustrates our trajectory as we continue to move forward.

This was a more difficult chore than I had imagined. Even I was surprised, while reviewing our reports and records, to realize how much we have managed to accomplish since opening.

In November of 2012, we had only four students, and had been working for six months to obtain state licensure. Today, licensure has been granted, allowing us the twelve awesome students who currently attend, along with the likelihood in the foreseeable future of expanding our age demographic to include younger children.

As of the last newsletter, we had worked for more than two years to create and implement a structured, interrelated curriculum that follows the Iñupiaq cultural calendar. Since then, our new Program Coordinator has been central in helping us to finish the first three of ten month-long units that will complete this curriculum. These materials are allowing us to introduce a logical progression of cultural knowledge and language acquisition leading

towards a more truly Iñupiaq-oriented classroom environment.



(A busy day with our students during a family potluck)

In short, a year ago we were just beginning regionally unprecedented efforts to indigenize Iñupiaq education. Now, we have taken enormous steps towards that goal in more ways than I have room to discuss here. As the parent of an Uqautchim Uglua learner, I feel a joy I can barely begin to describe when my son speaks to me in Iñupiaq, insists on subsistence foods over Western alternatives, or shows determination and desire to be involved in local cultural activities over pursuits such as movies and video games. Just as much, my heart sings when I hear or see one of our other young ones doing the same.

It has been hard going from time to time, and there's no doubt that we have much more to accomplish before we truly begin to reach our potential. But we are definitely heading in the right direction, and in addition to our students, partners and teachers, an integral part of that has been YOU, the families of our students.

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PHOTO SPOTLIGHT

NEW WEBSITE!



As we head into the next year, let's continue to work hard, challenge ourselves, and accomplish great things. Things are only going to get better, and I am thankful for the privilege of being a part of that with all of you.

Naġiaq Devin Bates
UU Program Director

NATCHIĠMIK PĪLAKTUGUT- BUTCHERING/SKINNING A SEAL by AALAAK EMMA FERGUSON

One of our parents recently donated a seal (*natchiq*) to the program, so we used this as an opportunity for our students to gather around and see how to skin and butcher one of our most common subsistence animals. Each of the children got to feel and touch the seal before it was butchered and Ika (Martha) & Kuutuuq (Ethel) told us how it was going to be done. I really wanted to get right in there and learn with them since I had never cut up a seal before. It was fun; not only rewarding for the students but for me also.

We cut the seal up, packaged its meat, and cut the blubber into strips and put it in a bucket to make seal oil, which will be given to our elders. Some of the meat was served at our parent, staff and student potlatch, and whatever was left over, the staff got to take home and share with their friends and family.



(Aalaaq starts cutting the seal as the students look on.)

TUESDAYS AT PIURAAĠVIK by HEIDI AHSSOAK

"Kiiq! Run, run, run!! Kiita!" This is what our Tuesday mornings at Piuraagvik sound like. The students have been enjoying our weekly trips to Piuraagvik! Winter time is difficult for children because they are cooped up inside much of the time with little opportunity to burn off all their energy. The teachers have noticed the difference in the students' attention span on the weeks that we do not make it to Piuraagvik. The children are antsy the rest of the week and do not nap as well if we don't go.

As soon as the teachers announce that it is time to get ready to go to the gym, every student has a smile ear to ear and hurries to get their jacket and boots on as quickly as possible. They are getting used to the van and have their own favorite seats. A couple of the students learned how to throw a Frisbee the correct way this past week and many of them enjoyed climbing the

rock wall. It is so thrilling to watch the kids learn new activities and the smiles of pride on their faces is incredibly rewarding!

We would like to encourage all of you parents to take some time to come to Piuraagvik with us. The more the merrier! Also, please be sure to dress your child for the weather, especially on Tuesdays, when we go to the gym. We are outside for a very short time, but their tiny bodies get cold quickly especially if they are not dressed properly.



(The kids exploring the world of rock climbing! So many possible routes to attempt!)

Daily Schedule by Ikayuaq Martha Stackhouse

UQAUTCHIM UGLUA DAILY SCHEDULE



(Aalaaq dances with the little ones)



(Ikayuaq reviews classroom rules with the students)



(Aalaaq reviews colors with the children)



(Ikayuaq goes over the atchagat with Qiilu)

8:00-8:15	Students arrive at Uqautchim Uglua
8:15-8:45	Breakfast
8:45-10:00	Playtime with bathroom break before 10:00
10:00 -10:15	Read books
10:15-10:40	Circle time:
	Pledge of Allegiance
	Sing Atchagat
	Sing Kisitchisit 1-20
	Go over classroom rules
	Go over names of colors
	Sing: <i>Niaquq, Taliq, Argak, Niu; Ikka, Pikka, Kanna, Uvva; and Kiguyat-kii;</i>
	Dance <i>Ajayaᅇa-haa</i>
10:40-11:10	Art or craft project
11:10-11:45	Playtime until lunch
11:45-12:10	Lunchtime
12:10-12:25	Bathroom break & brush teeth
12:25	Start getting into cots for naptime
12:50-2:00	Naptime
2:00-2:20	Snack time
2:20-2:40	Playtime
2:40 until pick-up time	Puzzles; color/cut; beading

MAKING PROGRESS!

The Uqautchim Uglua students will at least be familiar with the Pledge of Allegiance when they go to Ipalook Elementary School. They now know the *Atchagat* and *Kisitchisit* by heart. They know how to say words like *anaunak* (don't hit), *kiiᅇak* (no biting), *akiaᅇaᅇtaaq* (share), *aqpannak* (no running), and what they mean. Most students know how to sing to 20. Initially, we

counted from 1-10 and later we added 11-20. Most students will know the name of the color if we say the beginning of the word. For example, if we say "tig...", they will shout "*tigluuraaqtaaq!*" Of course most students like singing *Niaquq, Taliq, Argak, Niu,* and *Ikka, Pikka;* getting faster and faster as we sing several rounds.



Quviasugitchi Upingaksrami!

HAPPY
SPRING!

Uqautchim Uglua TEAM MEMBERS

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WE'D LOVE TO
HEAR FROM YOU!

Uqautchim Uglua

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Photo Spotlight



(A group of caribou and their young calves grazing on the spring tundra. Credit: Matt Martinsen)

Check out our
New Website!

With the support of the Wakanyeja Initiative of the American Indian College Fund, Uqautchim Uglua has launched a NEW program website! The initiation of the site represents a significant step forward, and provides wealth of information about the program. **VISIT US TODAY!**

The screenshot shows the website header with the Uqautchim Uglua logo and the American Indian College Fund logo. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for HOME, ABOUT, NEWS, RESOURCES, MEDIA, STAFF, OUR LOCATION, and CONTACT. The main content area features a photo of a woman and children at a table, with a text overlay that reads: "Uqautchim Uglua at Ilisagvik College" and "Ilisagvik College's Uqautchim Uglua (Language Nest) program approaches the end of its second year of operation as a strong, vibrant force in the effort to indigenize education on the North Slope. The program has overseen development and implementation of an Ifupiaq Early Learning A.A. degree program, opened an Ifupiaq... read more".

[HTTP://WWW.SACREDLITTLEONES-ILISAGVIK.ORG/](http://www.sacredlittleones-ilisagvik.org/)