

August 6, 2013

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2013-2014 school year. I am excited to be your principal. Originally from northern Wisconsin, I have spent the majority of my teaching career in Alaska. I have also taught in Wisconsin and Maine. For the past six years, I have been the site administrator of Quinhagak School.

My family, wife Sherry, son Einar (6), and daughters Adela (4), and Ingrid (1), and I are slowly getting moved into our house. After 12 years in the bush, we are discovering many of the challenges, both positive and negative, that change brings. With new leadership, change is inevitable. I assure you that the high quality of education that Paul Banks has offered for many years will remain the same.

This year the State of Alaska has put forth the new Alaska School Performance Index (ASPI). This replaces the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) rating system. There will be more information coming out on this topic in the upcoming months. Along with support for the academic areas of your child's education, Paul Banks Elementary will also need your help and focus on your child's attendance.

It is evident that there is a lot of pride in being a Peanut. My goal is to push it to the next level. My leadership philosophy has always been based on students come first. I always ask myself what is best for students when faced with a decision. Many times this involves bringing data into the scope. It is important to me that students have a sense of belonging to an entity larger than self.

Though my time at Paul Banks has been short, I can already tell there is a high caliber staff that puts students first. The teachers here are very dedicated and work hard for your children. If at any time you would like to talk with me or a staff member about your child's education, please feel free to contact the school. My door is always open for conversation, concerns, support, or a good joke if you have one to share. I believe the key to successful collaboration is communication. Together we can continue to offer the best possible education for your child.

Parent volunteers are one of the many shining stars at Paul Banks. There are numerous opportunities for you to participate at our school. If you have any interest in helping, please contact the office or your child's teacher to get more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Pederson', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Eric Pederson