

July 2017						
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August 2017						
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September 2017						
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October 2017						
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November 2017						
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December 2017						
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Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Class will meet regularly on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30 – 11:30. Students may be dropped off as early as 8:00 a.m. and must be picked up by 12:00 p.m. The language nest will run from 1/24 through 5/18

Student and Family Welcome Night 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Welcome night gives little ones and caregivers an opportunity to explore the language nest space together. Care givers will have an opportunity to ask any questions, and little ones will be able to participate in their first activity.

Individual meetings with families

Meetings will be a time for staff to orient families to resources, review expectations, and get to know one another better.

School not in session

School will not be held for teacher ins-service, training days, and teacher travel.

Last day of language nest before holiday break

Family language learning opportunities:

- Family Language Night | family learning to get families and the community using Alutiit | Kodiak Public Library, Wednesday Nights 5:00-6:30 p.m.
- Language Club | Community learning, bring questions and be ready to learn | Sun'aq Tribe, Wednesday 12:00-1:00 p.m.
- Native Village of Afognak afterschool program | to get more information, see afognak.org or call 486-6357

1. What is the target age?

Potty trained individuals ages three to five are welcome to enroll in the *Alutiit'stun Niuwawik*. Younger children are welcome to attend with a care giver. However, the care giver will need to keep in mind that the *Alutiit'stun Niuwawik* is a language nest, meaning that Alutiiq should be the only language used. Therefore, care givers will need to strictly honor our policy of target language use. Similarly, care givers will be required to have full background checks prior to attending the language nest.

2. What will be taught?

The focus of instruction will be two-fold. First, students will be immersed in the Alutiiq language with a primary goal of developing Alutiiq language fluency. Second, instruction will work towards kindergarten preparedness so students will be able to transition to kindergarten smoothly.

3. Will my student be prepared for kindergarten?

Graduates of the *Alutiit'stun Niuwawik* will be prepared for kindergarten. Care givers must keep in mind that an immersion pre-school aims to prepare the student to function in the target language, and for the cognitive and social demands of kindergarten. In this way, immersion settings are additive to a child's education, not subtractive. Similar immersion pre-school environments have shown increased cognitive development, an increased sense of heritage and identity, strong community and social ties, developmental biliteracy and bilingualism, and understanding of culture through language, since culture cannot be separated from language.

4. Who will be teaching at the *Alutiit'stun Niuwawik*?

Michael Bach and Marya Halvorsen will be the two full-time teachers at the *Alutiit'stun Niuwawik*. The teachers will be supported by Alutiiq speaking Elders, and cultural presenters. Alutiiq speaking Elders will be invited to attend and support immersion. Cultural presenters will be invited to teach cultural skills, traditional games, and ways of being. All teachers, Alutiiq speaking Elders, and cultural presenters will be required to complete a background check before participation.

5. What else do I need to know?

As a caregiver, it is important to be aware that the burden of language learning cannot rest on the shoulders of your little one alone. Staff expect the Alutiiq language to not be confined to the time of pre-school, but trickle into the home, community, and play activities of *Alutiit'stun Niuwawik* students. Bringing the language home is an expectation. Family members (parents, care givers, cousins, siblings, etc.) will be required to attend community language learning activities to develop their fluency alongside the enrolled student. Requiring co-learning not only offers fluency development for families, but also displays to students that they are part of a language family and community.

6. What does it cost?

Enrolling a student in the *Alutiit'stun Niuwawik* will cost \$50.00 per semester. Semesters run September to December and January to May. There are two semesters a year, bringing the annual cost of enrollment to \$100.00.

7. What is the language nest schedule?

This year school will begin on September 5th, 2017 and will end on May 24th, 2017. Sessions will be held each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Class will run from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Attendees may be dropped off no earlier than 8:00 a.m., and must be picked-up no later than 12:00 p.m. The language nest will be at the Afognak Native Corporation building on Near Island.

8. Where can I learn more?

Visit our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/CommunityAlutiiqLanguageNight/>
Or, call Michael or Marya at 512-5995.