

# Speaking about Reading 2009.

## Who are we?

Mikelnguut Elitnaurviat is a English primary school servicing the grades of K-2 in Bethel. We have 275 students, and 52 staff members.



## Our inquiry question.

How will improved teaching of Language influence our students reading?

## What was our process?

We have focused on the resources to improve the teaching of Language. Language was never taught except to our ELD students. Our staff has focused on staff development and educating our staff in SIOP, ELD curriculum, Direct Instruction and SRA Language programs.

## How has our logic model worked?

The process has been interesting to say the least. Language was identified as a major concern for students struggling in Reading. We have sent staff (15 in all) to several different trainings. We have been identifying programs and process to improve language skills in all of our students, this process is not complete. We have spent numerous hours investigating the major weaknesses in our students' Language using the Picture Peabody Vocabulary Test. We have recorded many successes.

## What have been our successes?

Success is measured in many ways. We have a very professional staff, many views and the biggest success is that we have everybody on board recognizing this issue. The number of staff willing to sacrifice their time to attend seminars to improve instruction is amazing. Above all, it is the whole putting students first to find the right fit for our students.

## What impact has the network had on school improvement?

Communication! Just the fact that we are starting to network between the 4 schools here in Bethel.

## Leadership in our school.

The roles in leadership in our schools has been very visible. The District has recognized the great leadership in our school stealing 2 teachers, one who is my Lead Teacher, and placing them into new Curriculum Coaches position across the district.

## AEIN Network.

AEIN has opened up the communication between two schools who had very little to do with each other because of a Language. Instead today I feel we are looking more at the children of Bethel than the schools in Bethel.

