

Kata loved her local culture and Native heritage. She weaved traditional stories into her classroom and helped new staff learn the importance of traditional ways.



Katherine 'Kata' Groat

Naknek, Bristol Bay



Kata was born Dec. 1, 1949, in Naknek, the fifth of 10 children born to Trefon Angasan Sr. and Vera Kie Angasan. In her daily life, she practiced the Sugpiaq values passed down from her parents and grandma Pelagia Melgenak. She would say, **“I want to be a Real Person (Sugpiaq) and serve my people,”** and in fact, that characterized her life.

Kata became an elementary school teacher with the Bristol Bay School District in 1974 and was recognized on many occasions for her contributions to primary education and culture in the classrooms. Her work was cited in the book “Transforming the Culture of Schools: Yup’ik Eskimo Examples.”

In 2000, she participated in bringing the virtual classroom to licensed teachers in rural Alaska. Kata was the only Alaska Native teacher in the Bristol Bay Borough School District for many years and even as she approached retirement, she was working toward a master’s degree.

Kata understood children and early learning. She understood the need for motivating and encouraging students, and showing them what was needed to be successful in school and life. Mrs. Groat held all students to high expectations and never gave up on a child. She spent countless hours after school and on weekends helping children to read and do other school work. Her home was a place where students would drop by regularly for help, to hear her read a story, or to have a snack and visit.

Kata was a very generous person, looking out for the welfare of her entire family (immediate and extended), keeping tabs on everyone and making sure they were not in need.



Educator Nomination Submitted by the
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