

“Always stay positive, believe that you are capable of reaching your goals. Fall back on the Inupiaq values when challenged with difficult situations.”

Edna Ahmaogak



Wainwright, North Slope

Edna's Eskimo name is Suakpak. Her family is from Wainwright and Point Lay. Mrs. Edna has 2 children, Jalen Agnasagga and Jenysa Ahmaogak. Her husband is Roy David Ahmaogak. Edna's parents are George and Lydia Agnasagga. Edna's maternal grandparents are Joseph and Edna Shouldla. Her paternal grandparents are Samuel and Ruth Agnasagga. She was born in Bethel, Alaska. Edna has an Associate's

degree in general transfer from Ilisagvik College in Barrow, Alaska, and earned a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. **She currently teaches 4th and 5th grade. She thinks that the Alaska Native way is important. She connects Inupiaq ways of Knowing to her classroom by way of integration.**

Her advice to FEA students is to **keep your mind open to new ideas.** Always stay positive, believe that you are capable of reaching goals. Fall back on the Inupiaq values when challenged with difficult situations. Ask for help when you need it; everyone needs help. In her own words, Edna said: **“My parents always supported education, and through their actions as community leaders, I learned to appreciate educational opportunities on the North Slope.** My in-laws, Freddy and Adinah Ahmaogak, taught me the importance of sharing seasonal harvests with community members. My Aaka Ruth encouraged me to complete my degree. She knew the value of a formal education and sharing knowledge with others. Leslie Jensen has guided me since I began my internship in Wainwright. Most importantly, my husband, son and daughter provided the patience, flexibility, and encouragement I needed to attain my degree.”

Edna spent 8 years as a teacher aide and has been a certified Elementary teacher for the last 5 years. **She was the 3rd person to become an Inupiaq certified teacher, but most of all she is a good basketball coach. Her students say she is an outgoing coach and one of the best teachers.** Edna is a smart and a helpful person. During her first year as a teacher, she worked really hard to ensure all her students were successful. On the first day of her teaching, she was very happy; its like it was just yesterday: “Wow! I got my own class!” **She encouraged us to go to school everyday and make sure we got our homework in.** She is a really good teacher to be around, especially when she is coaching basketball. GO EDNA!



**Educator Nomination Submitted by the
Wainwright Future Educators of Alaska Club**

University of Alaska Office of Academic Affairs
PO Box 755400 | Fairbanks, Alaska, 99775
907 450 8405 p | 907 450 8401 f | www.FutureTeachersAlaska.org