

*Aqsarniit Middle School  
Handbook  
2012-2013*



**Please help us keep Aqsarniit a  
Nut Free School!**

# Welcome to Aqsarniit!

## NOTE TO STUDENTS

*It is a pleasure to welcome you to Aqsarniit Middle School.* The following pages are designed to give you information that may help you be successful at Aqsarniit. We sincerely hope you will find this year interesting, rewarding, and satisfying.

At Aqsarniit School, we believe that you have the right to achieve to your maximum ability and to develop a strong sense of self-worth. Self-worth is strongly related to achievement in school and other areas, and is developed through interactions with elders, parents, teachers, other adults in the community, and peers. We all strive to accomplish this goal.

Aqsarniit Middle School teaches students from Grade 6 through Grade 8. The school program is designed to provide students with skills in Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, French, Inuktitut, and Music, Life Skills, and Health.

## ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS

### INTRAMURAL SPORTS

All students at Aqsarniit Middle School have an opportunity to develop their skills and have fun through the intramural program. Some of the activities that students may become involved in include soccer in the fall to floor hockey in the winter.

### COMPUTERS.

Every classroom is equipped with at least one computer and students have access to a computer lab and program. Each class has a weekly period scheduled in the lab. Outcomes are planned for each grade level.

### Weekly Rotations

For 6 weeks beginning in October, students of Aqsarniit are able to choose an activity or field of study to pursue. Students may select to learn to play guitar, keyboard, join a drama club, choir or pick from a host of other activities. There are a number of rotations planned for the school year and occur on Wednesday afternoons.



## Aqsarniit Middle School Staffing 2012-2013

Principal: Don Peters  
 VP: John Fanjoy  
 Secretary: Susan McKinnon  
 SST Elizabeth Dean

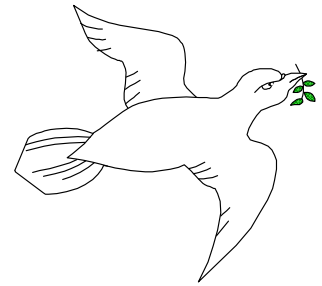
Teachers:  
 Grade 6 Jill Billington  
 Bruce Gallagher  
 Joselyn Morrison  
 James Rankin  
 Caryn Conley  
 Grade 7 Mark Caine  
 Ian Bittan  
 Marc Robinson  
 Beverly Netusil  
 Grade 8 Jennie Dawson  
 Mesut Simsek  
 Joey Rhodes  
 Natalie Panhuis

2 <sup>nd</sup> language Inuktitut	Reesie Churchill
2 <sup>nd</sup> language Inuktitut	Leesee Akulukjuk
Sanavik/Life skills	Trent Bacon, Serapio Ittusardjuat
6 Pre Intensive French	Byron Etchegary
7 Intensive French	Josianne Beaumont
8 Post Intensive French	Nick Kerton
Computer lab	Mark Caine
Physical Education	Rob Strutz
SCC	Rosie Kopalie
SCC	Annie Shappa-Ipiraq
SSA	Kim Roberts
SSA	Ida Nowdluk
SSA	Annie Demcheson
SSA	Mary Peter
SSA	Dwight Slater

# **Aqsarniit Rules**

## **Words Off, Hands Off, Feet Off**

1. Think of others! (Words off, Hands off, Feet off!)
2. Move safely!
3. Be prepared!
4. Help protect our school and the environment!
5. No Gum!
6. No phones or electronic devices!



***We all make our own choices.  
Think before you choose!***

### **OUR SCHOOL'S CONTACT INFORMATION**

- **Phone: 979-3900 Fax: 979-3399**
- **Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2350**
- **Iqaluit, Nunavut**
- **XOA OHO**

## ***Aqsarniit Middle School*** ***School Routine***

8:00 a.m.	Morning Bus Pick-Up Begins
8:05 a.m.	Supervision Duty Begins
8:20 a.m.	School Starts
9:45 - 9:55	Grade 6 Recess
10:00 - 10:10 a.m.	Recess Grade 7's & 8's
11:30 a.m.	Lunch Dismissal
12:30 p.m.	After Lunch Bus Pick-Up Begins
12:35 p.m.	After Lunch Supervision Duty Begins
12:45 p.m.	School Starts
3:25 p.m.	Dismissal

***(Supervision on the playground begins at 8:05 A.M.)***

### **OUR SCHOOL GOALS**

We want the students of our school to develop a sense of pride in who they are and in their culture.

The IQ principles must be an integral part of our school's identity. The principles as described in the Government of Nunavut's document: Pinasuaqtavut: 2004 - 2009 are:

1. Inuuqatigiitsiarniq: respecting others, relationships and caring for people.
2. Tunnganarniq: fostering good spirit by being open, welcoming and inclusive.
3. Pijitsirniq: serving and providing for family and / or community.
4. Aajiqatigiinni: decision making through discussion and consensus.
5. Pilimmaksarniq / Pijariuqsarniq: development of skills through practice, effort and action.
6. Piliriqatigiinni / Ikajuqtiigiinni: working together for a common cause.
7. Qanuqtuurniq: being innovative and resourceful.

8. Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq: respect and care for the land, animals and the environment.

# Dress Code

## Dress Code



In terms of dress expectations while at school, school clothing and "hanging-out" clothing should not be the same:

- We are expecting our students to remove caps as they enter the school. This sets a tone that we are now getting ourselves ready to learn. *Inside the school is different than the playground and I must adjust accordingly.*
- Clothing that has offensive language or gestures, or advertises alcohol, drugs etc. are not allowed.
- Muscle shirts and spaghetti straps must have something under them.
- "Cheeks" and belly buttons should not be seen.
- Students are required to have indoor shoes preferably non-marking gym shoes to wear in our school and our school gym.

### **Celebration Slips:**

We have great students!!!

To celebrate that fact each month students who are "caught" helping someone, or just being a good school citizen are recognized by having the privilege of staying for an extra gym period at noon, given a healthy snack and a chance to win a fabulous prize, drawn each month.

Stay tuned for this year's first winners!

## School Calendar 2012 - 2013



First Day of Classes, Gr. 6	Monday, August 27 <sup>th</sup> , at 12:45
First Day of Classes all students	Tuesday, August 28 <sup>th</sup> , at 8:20
Labour Day Holiday (no school)	Monday, September 3 <sup>rd</sup>
School Open House	Thursday, Sept. 13 <sup>th</sup> , at 6:30
Student and Class Picture Day	Thursday, September 27 <sup>th</sup> & Friday, September 28 <sup>th</sup>
Staff Sessional Day	Friday October 5 <sup>th</sup>
Thanksgiving Day Holiday	Monday, October 8 <sup>th</sup>
Remembrance Day (no school)	Monday, November 12 <sup>th</sup>
School Closed /Parent Teacher Day	Thursday, November 22 <sup>nd</sup>
School Day/Sessional Day	Friday, November 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Christmas Holidays Begin	Monday, December 21 <sup>st</sup>
First Day Back to School in 2013	Tuesday, January 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2013
School-based In-service	Friday, February 1 <sup>st</sup>
School Closed/Parent Teacher Day	Friday, February 15 <sup>th</sup>
Professional Development Days	February 18 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup>
Nunavut Day (1/2 day Holiday)	to be announced
Easter Holidays & Spring Break	March 29 <sup>th</sup> -April 5 <sup>th</sup>
First Day Back to School after Break	Monday, April 8 <sup>th</sup>
School Closed/Parent Teacher Day	Friday, April 19 <sup>th</sup>
Victoria Day Holiday	Monday, May 20 <sup>th</sup>
Last Day of School for Students	Thursday, June 20 <sup>th</sup>

**\*\* Please note also:** In addition to the dates given above, the department of Education will be providing our staff with four in-service days. We will notify you of these school closures as soon as these dates have been set by the department.

Canteen: Our canteen is open daily for students to purchase a healthy snack, including an assortment of juices and yogurt bars.

### *OUR CANTEEN*

Students operate our canteen as part of our life skills program. Every classroom has a time first thing in the morning when all students can order a recess snack from our school canteen. The food items which can usually be ordered are: Juice boxes for \$2.00 each, Yogurt for \$2.00, Cereal bars for \$2.00 each and Apples for 50 cents each.

The money made from our canteen is used to buy special items for our school's many programs and extra-curricular activities.

### EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS

**Aqsarniit students** will be on time (8:20am), organized, prepared for class, with all materials ready.

**Aqsarniit students** will complete all homework and assignments.

**Aqsarniit students** will show respect for all adults in the school, their fellow students, elders and themselves.

**Aqsarniit students** will respect school property, the property of others, as well as their own property.

Verbal and/or physical abuse will not be tolerated. Aqsarniit students will conduct themselves at all times, in a safe, and orderly manner in class, hallways, cafeteria, washrooms, changing rooms, gymnasium, library, playground, the school bus, and walking to and from school.

**Aqsarniit students** will be courteous, using good and proper manners at all times.

**Aqsarniit students** will obey the school rules and be responsible for their actions and behavior.

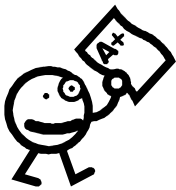


### Illness:

If your child is recovering from a cold or typical ailment, we ask that you keep him/her home to recover before returning to school. **We do not keep recovering children indoors during the recess break.** Health officials tell us that fresh air is better than recycled air for recovering students.



Students convalescing from major surgery or major illnesses are allowed to remain indoors where being outside will compromise their therapy.

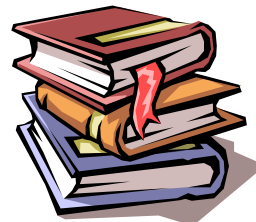


### Reporting Student Progress:

Each teacher keeps a record of a student's achievement on tests, class work, and homework. Student participation, behavior, and attitudes are also evaluated.

There will be four reporting periods along with 3 parent - teacher interviews; one in the fall, the winter and last in the spring. Parents should feel free to make an appointment with their child's teacher at any time to discuss the progress of their child.

Emergency Early Closings: *The school does not make the decision to close schools.* It is made at the IDEA office. You often hear about it before we do as it is relayed to the media first to ensure parents have ample warning.



Outdoor Clothing: Please make sure your child wears proper clothing for playing outdoors. Our playground is quite breezy, so be prepared for the cold, and weather changes so that your child will be comfortable outside.

*Please label all clothing and footwear with your child's name.*

Each year we throw out, or give away clothing worth hundreds of dollars because it is misplaced and we cannot locate the owner.

## Nut Free



# Communication Communication

Communication with home is very important and we make every attempt to keep you informed. If it is serious, or requires immediate attention, we call right away.

1. Personal Calls: Our staff makes every effort to contact parents when concerns or messages are pertinent to individual students. Please make sure that you have completed all of the information on our *Student Information Profile*. This is updated each September and helps us reach you.
2. Discipline Referral: A discipline referral sheet allows the home to be informed of discipline infractions that don't always warrant a phone call.

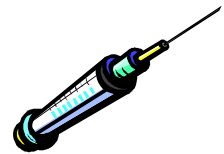


Students must have their teacher's permission to make calls home and are issued a phone permission card, which the office honors. Occasionally, the office calls on behalf of the student.

Parents are encouraged to contact teachers right away if there is a concern regarding behavior, attendance problems, schoolwork, relations with other children in the class, or confusing information. Children often confuse messages, so if it is not written down or if there has been no communication by telephone, check with the teacher first. The principal or vice-principal should be contacted if there are problems on the bus or on the playground.

## Medication and Health Support:

We need to be informed if your child has a medical condition. Please contact the school with the information. It would be helpful if you could provide a written report from your physician.



Teachers and support staff are able to assist students with routine medication. **The school is not permitted to provide or dispense any medication.** It must be provided by the parents and accompanied with a written request to administer. The note should include the dosage and frequency of administration along with instructions for administering. For prescription drugs, we would like a copy of the instructions on the package.

**More on extra-curricular activities:**

We are very proud of our students, staff, and community members who volunteer to help us provide a very impressive variety of extra-curricular activities. This year we will be offering: Gamer's Club, Student Council, Choir, Fiddle Club, Intramural Sports, Student Council, Chess Club, Basketball Club, Judo Club, Running Club, Cooking and Sewing, Fall and Winter camps, and Homework Club. A newsletter will be sent home by mid-September informing you of the schedule for available activities.

Students who chose to participate in lunchtime activities eat their lunch in our school's kitchen from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. under the supervision of designated staff members. If they forget their lunch, they are encouraged to eat the food that has been prepared by the Uppigaaq staff.

Lunch hour clubs and activities are held from 11:30 -12:40 p.m.

## Homework Homework

From a parent's point of view, you should expect your child to complete all homework that the teacher assigns. What criteria do teachers use when assigning homework?

- Reading and/or being read to nightly is vital.
- Homework is used to reinforce concepts and curricular outcomes.
- It is also used to give students the opportunity to practice what they have learned.
- Homework can also be assigned to enable students to complete work that they did not finish in class.
- Projects provide the students with research and organizational opportunities.
- Homework may be required to complete long-term projects.
- Homework assignments are often geared to the individual needs of the child. *A student on an accommodated program may study fewer words or complete fewer questions than other students. Students*

*requiring enrichment may be presented with a more challenging problem than that given to their classmates.*

# Note to Parents!

*Attendance is one of the most important factors contributing to student success!*

## **Safe Arrival Program:**

- ♥ **Please contact the school to let us know that your child will be absent or late arriving.** We are concerned about the safety of our students and want to know their whereabouts if they are not in school.
  
- ♥ **In winter, when the weather threatens snow or extreme cold weather, listen to the radio for school cancellations or early closures.**

## **Behavior**

At certain times it may be necessary for us to contact you at home.

If your child is experiencing difficulties they will be asked to fill out a behavior form and to bring it home to be signed. Please take the time to sign the form and review with them how this behavior can be avoided in the future.

## ***Beliefs and Mission Statement***

### **Aqsarniit Beliefs**

We at Aqsarniit School believe:



1. Everyone can learn.
2. Everyone has differing abilities.
3. Everyone is responsible for individual decisions and actions.
4. Each individual merits dignity, respect, and fair treatment.
5. Expectations affect performance.
6. Home, family, school, and community generate a sense of belonging significant to the individual's learning and well-being.

### **Aqsarniit School Mission Statement**

At Aqsarniit Middle School we believe that Inuit Qaujimaqatunangit should be the foundation of our school and that everyone has the right to a safe and caring school environment that is reflective of the culture of our community, enhances self-esteem, and promotes learning.

To achieve this, we believe:

1. The participation of educational staff, students, families, elders, and the community is essential in making decisions about our school and its programs.
2. Our planning and teaching needs to recognize, and respond to student diversity and promote the balanced growth of all students.

### ***Aqsarniit School Improvement Plan Targets for***

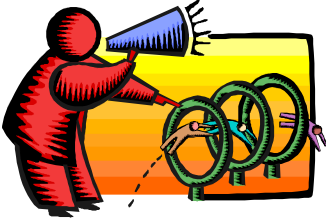
***2012 to 2013***

***Goal 1: To promote and increase community and cultural opportunities for all Aqsarniit students.***

***Goal 2: To increase the use of technology in the school.***

***Goal 3: To improve communication between teachers, students and parents.***

***Goal 4: To improve the overall Language and Literacy Levels of the school.***



### **OUR TRANSFER AND REGISTRATION POLICY**

To register at our school, new students should be accompanied by a parent / guardian and have with them their child's health card number, and the name, address, and phone number of their last school.

Any other information or materials should also be brought that would be helpful to us in assisting your child to adjust well to our school.

### **Bus Rules**

- Respect and follow the school bus rules and the instructions of the bus driver.
- Walk to a seat quietly, sit down, and remain seated (facing forward) while the bus is in motion. Students are to remain seated until the bus has come to a full stop.
- Respect all other students riding on the bus. Students may need to sit two to three students per seat. Please help the bus to stay on schedule by respectfully permitting other students to share your seat.
- Help keep the bus in good repair. Students who damage seats or other equipment must pay for it.
- Travelling by bus to school is a privilege not a right.

## NOTES











