



The Northwest Arctic Borough School District

NEWS RELEASE

Northwest Arctic Schools, native organizations team up to celebrate subsistence culture and arts in second annual Regional Iñupiaq Days
February 16, 2006

From fish hook-carving to donut-making, Eskimo dancing to skin-sewing, Iñupiaq Days 2006, in Kotzebue March 8-11, will spotlight all the things that make native culture in the Northwest Arctic exceptionally beautiful, resourceful, delicious and fun.

Kotzebue will host hundreds of visitors from nearby villages as the local school district, native organizations, and borough and city government team up for this celebration of subsistence traditions, with a community potluck and 1A basketball regional championship tournament.

With 15 different mini-courses for students, taught by elders and experts in subsistence skills, Iñupiaq Days 2006 promises to be the single largest celebration of the Iñupiaq culture anywhere. Kotzebue will host seven 1A basketball teams from nearby villages, with the winners of the tournament to advance to the state championships in Anchorage.

“Respect for Elders,” one of the 11 Iñupiaq Values, is the theme for these second annual Regional Iñupiaq Days, recognizing our elders’ singular abilities to thrive in an often harsh corner of Alaska, and pass on Iñupiaq traditions to the next generation.

The newly remodeled Kotzebue schools, completed last November, will provide a fitting backdrop, with work by local artists hanging above the events in an airy, modern building.

Classes, dancing, basketball games and the potluck will take place at the schools, but Iñupiaq Days 2006 is also organized and supported by NANA, Maniilaq Association, the Northwest Arctic Borough and the City of Kotzebue, along with other local sponsors.

For more information, contact Patrick Michels, Northwest Arctic Borough School District Public Relations Coordinator, at (907) 442-3472, ext.237, or email at pmichels@nwarctic.org.

#####