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FAMILY-FOCUSED LEARNING



PHOTO BY CHRISANN JUSTICE

With the North Slope Borough School District's Visual Inupiaq Vocabulary Acquisition program, families can log on and work through 57 different language learning units. For more, see Page 5.

Schools offer program to learn Inupiaq as a family

BY CHRISANN JUSTICE
For the Arctic Sounder

The North Slope Borough School District Inupiaq Education department in cooperation with Iḷisaḡvik's Cooperative Extension has been holding events to encourage and support families in working together to learn more Inupiaq. Events were held in Barrow, Kaktovik and Pt. Hope. Events are planned for other North Slope villages once school starts in the fall.

Community and family members got to experience what the district's students are experiencing in their Inupiaq classrooms. Adults were given their own VIVA (Visual Inupiaq Vocabulary Acquisition) program user name and password. Students then taught the adults how to work within the VIVA program.

Each family was given their own set of picture cards that go along with the animal

unit. The students then taught the adults how to play a card game that encourages the use of Inupiaq and reinforces what they are learning at school.

The VIVA program is a free online program that currently has 57 different language learning units. Units are available in four different North Slope dialects and lead the learner from basic nouns to complex sentences. The North Slope Borough School District Inupiaq Education department will give you your own user name and password so that you can start learning too. Accounts are free. Simply e-mail chrisann.justice@nsbsd.org if you would like your own VIVA account.

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PHOTO BY CHRISANN JUSTICE

Students help their families play a Visual Inupiaq Vocabulary Acquisition card game.