

Gambell writes language books

By Grace Slwooko

It has been such a long time since I sent in news from Gambell. But there have been many things going on in Gambell.

One is the writing of our language has been getting on strongly, since it has been started a few years ago.

I've already written two hard-cover books of our legends for our high schools. It is called Siberian Yupik. It is wonderful!

Just recently, I tried writing all the names of the places on St. Lawrence Island, since we have this writing now. I could write over 300 names of the places in Eskimo, or Siberian Yupik, our language.

Like St. Lawrence Island, its name is Sivuqaq. We always call it Sivuqaq, only to the white people we call it St. Lawrence Island as they call it.

The meaning of the word Sivuqaq is "the one that has been wrung." It does look like some great hand has grabbed some earth from the bottom and wrung it and put it there in Bering Sea, in the map.