



**NORTHERN LIGHTS RESTAURANT** — High school students at the village of Selawik have seen that initiative can pay off handsomely. Last summer, the students, along with their teacher Kirk Meade, went to work refurbishing an old building and built it into a restaurant. The

restaurant is being run by the students with adult advisors. The business is earning money and the students are also learning about conducting a business. The picture shows the exterior of the Northern Lights Restaurant.

## Selawik High Schoolers Start Their Own Restaurant

Selawik High School is a small school of only 26 students in ninth and tenth grades, but the students in this Arctic Circle community of nearly 500 have managed to put their small school on the map with a unique project.

The high school, which operates in makeshift classrooms in the elementary school building, has the usual English, math, science, social studies, homemaking and shop classes. In addition the school has an unusual business department.

Jim Ede, Selawik Principal, decided that if Selawik did not have enough businesses for distributive education, the school would start its own business.

With a loan from the school board, the high school business

students and their teacher Kirk Meade went to work to set up their own business.

Last November 18, the Northern Lights Restaurant, owned and operated by the students themselves, opened as the first business of its kind in Selawik. A building was rented, remodeled, decorated, and furnished by the students and teachers.

This restaurant is open four days a week after school hours and serves sandwiches and other short order items. The newest addition is a juke box.

They are in the market for a soft ice cream machine next. The crowd in the Selawik restaurant is served by high school students earning credit instead of money for themselves.

All profits are currently used

to pay expenses, to pay back the loan with interest to the school board, and to build up

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# High Schoolers Start Restaurant...

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the business.

They are hoping in the future to include wages for the workers in their budget.

Mr. Meade, business teacher and restaurant supervisor, spends many hours beyond the usual school day on this busy activity.

He has been aided by other teachers and a crew of volunteer adult sponsors who donate their time to supervise the young people who do the work running the restaurant.

Ben Foxglove, a sophomore, will earn bookkeeping credit for his work in keeping books. All of the students are learning about ordering supplies, pricing, profit and loss, depreciation, advertising, and how to work in the restaurant along with the meaning of responsibility.

At the end of this school year some Selawik young people will have had a very meaningful business experience without leaving home. Their principal, teachers and parents will have had the reward of watching high school students receive a unique and valuable education right in their own village.

Plans are to build a high school building in Selawik next summer. This million dollar facility will have over sixty students, a larger enrollment than several high schools in Alaska which have been in existence for some time.

The new building is much needed and well deserved by the people of Selawik who have long felt that their children should and could be educated at home.

The beginning of this unique business program in Selawik this year is only a sample of what small schools in the bush can do. Education for bush youngsters does not have to be in large schools in far places with irrelevant curriculum.

It can be kids learning to do their own thing in their own village. It's working in Selawik. Next time you're in the neighborhood, stop in for a hamburger at the Northern Lights.



**SATISFIED CUSTOMER** — Young Henry Knox is having a highly satisfied look on his face after eating at the Northern Lights Restaurant.



**FLOWERS AND BALLOONS** — When the Northern Lights Restaurant opened in November, the interior was decorated with balloons and flowers.