

Editorial

Returning students; you're in charge

In a few short weeks, Native students in villages and cities all across Alaska will return to their classrooms — you may be one of them.

If so, you may be discouraged at the prospect. It may feel to you as if school is far removed from your reality, irrelevant to the life you want to lead.

It is very common, too, for people of all ages to feel hopeless and powerless to change and direct their lives.

The truth is: we are all inherently powerful. We are all born with high intelligence and creativity. We all have the power to dream, to heal, to love, and to choose.

The power of choice may be the greatest of all, for when ever we feel hopeless or discouraged, we can choose to act outside of those feelings. When we are overcome with frustration at how the world seems to work, we can choose not to be victimized by history, by the actions of others, or by fear.

Modern American public schools are far from perfect, whether they're located in Arizona or Alaska. But they are a starting point, a place to get your bearings. A place to build relationships, to scan the possibilities, to get to know yourself. A place to practice the power of decision. Don't like school? What are you going to do about it? Dropping out is an option. So is toughing it out. How could you make it better? You have a good mind, good friends, loving family. You have a strong, proud heritage. You have good values distilled from a millennia of successful survivors in this country.

This country, this life, indeed, the world is yours.

We know you'll make the right choices, and we're proud of you.