

ARCTIC GOLD









DESCRIPTION

On a clear winter day just a week after the first sunrise of 2019, Helen Kalvak Elihakvik's 'Arctic Journalism' class walked to nearby Father's Lake to hikulaktok. Hikulaktok, an Inuinnaqtun term, is the word used in the community for the act of gathering and delivering ice. The Grade 10 and 11 students learned the proper technique for cutting up ice and were allowed to decide who they wanted to deliver their ice too.

The day was filled with fun and laughter as well as hard work and motivation. Besides cutting up ice, the students were challenged to tell the story of their trip through photos, and two cameras were brought along that rotated among the student photographers. While picking and choosing their favorite photos, students said it felt 'good on the heart' to get and deliver ice, and that it made them proud and happy to be able to provide for their family and for Elders.

In an Arctic desert where tap water needs to be filtered to drink, clean lake water is like gold, hence the title 'Arctic Gold'. Other students compared the value of lake water to that of other native foods and meat, calling the water 'clear drinking meat'. Students came away learning not only the skills necessary to get and deliver ice, and to record their experiences through photography, but also learning—or reinforcing—the value of fresh drinking water and of giving back to the community and to Elders.