

September 2017 Site Board Reports

Principal's Report

Professional Development

I am very pleased with our returning and new staff at our school sites. Fall inservice saw our staff exploring the new agricultural curriculum, collaborating on strategies to teach in a "modified block schedule", and diving into the new web based teacher observation/evaluation instrument. We all are working together to achieve a common goal, student success, and I am excited to see how this translates into the classroom and on test scores.

We will be focusing in on "teaching in the modified block" at our future inservice days throughout the school year as well as team building and peer collaboration.

The synergy at sites feels very good. So far, a smooth start to the school year.

Curriculum and Instruction:

This year we will be looking at how our current resources align to our standards in Reading/LA 9th-12th grade, Science K-8th grade, and Physical Education. We have established committees that will meet periodically this year to collaboratively work together on ensuring our resources are up-to-date and available for teachers to use in the classrooms.

New elementary math was adopted at the end of last year. The committee did a great job. The new math materials are out at sites and are being used along with an interactive on-line piece that fits nicely into our goal of integrating technology into our math curriculum. Thorne Bay School elementary will be piloting the new math curriculum this year as it is a very expensive purchase and we want feedback on its functionality before jumping in with both feet. Great job to Mark Gunkel and his curriculum committee!

We are looking at a strong field of Battle of the Books and Spelling Bee contestants this year. Sandra Campbell, our Thorne Bay Librarian and district resource person, will be taking the lead on these two important programs. We have great confidence in her and her ability to organize and lead these programs that engage our students in learning that is fun and meaningful. Last year we saw record numbers of student take on these two challenges.

Nick Higson

Hyder School

This school year is off to a great start. The students have shaken off the summer rust and are back into the school routine. These first few weeks have flown by, and already the students are doing some incredible things.

All students - we went on a field trip to Fish Creek, which is the Bear viewing boardwalk run by the Forestry Service, where Eric Abele, a forestry ranger, gave the students a guided tour of the boardwalk and gave a science lesson about the interconnectedness of the environment. While we were there, a new grizzly bear came to the river to feast on salmon. The students had a great time.

Elementary students - the elementary students have been working hard, and are looking forward to doing nature collages to tie in art with their science lessons!

MS/HS- the middle and high school students have adjusted well to the new block schedule. They seem to like it, as it allows more time for discussion and research.

We are expecting another phenomenal year here in Hyder.

Chad Dillman
Lead Teacher

Port Alexander School

The school year is off to a busy start. There are endless huckleberries and we have wasted no time, on those end-of-fall, sunny days, to meander outside and collect our fill. Several of the berries may not have made it to the bucket as the evidence is clearly written on the faces of the pickers! We are collecting berries for miscellaneous cooking projects the students will be participating in.



Our first Friday Activity was an Open House for the parents and community members to come and see what the students have been working on. The Home Economics class baked up some brownie balls and berry bread while our younger students made cupcakes. The supply of treats dwindled rapidly, so to say the work was a success would be an understatement.



We have a large community cleanup happening at the end of the month where the Afognak has offered to not only dispose of our aluminum can stock pile but also take in larger, trash items like heavy metal and tin. The school is coordinating with many homes in Port Alexander to make sure all the garbage is gone. Thank you in advance to the Community of Port Alexander and the Afognak. We could not keep the community as clean as we do without your help and hard work!

We are all looking forward to a fresh year in Port Alexander. We are looking into expanding our playground, getting a grant for musical instruments and researching rabbits. We are ready to roll up our sleeves and get our hands dirty.

We wish you all a stellar year!
Port Alexander Staff
Laura Anania, Sylvia Lowery and Shanna Smith

Naukati School

Naukati School opened with 18 students, and one student has since transferred in. The gardens and greenhouse have been amazing focal points during the first week of school. The elementary school students dug 65 lbs of potatoes from the garden and harvested some carrots and radishes from the greenhouse. Bob, our cook, made potato salad and green salad from the harvest as part of lunch and each student took home five pounds of new potatoes.

We had one outbreak of aphids, but the students treated them and we only had to pull a few plants. We will be planting fall garlic this week to overwinter in the raised beds. We should be getting fish in the greenhouse soon. We also have a dozen new chicks--4 chicks each of 3 breeds. Students are recording the weights weekly to compare the growth.

Naukati middle and high school students are on the new block schedule. Although we are still tweaking the schedule, it seems to be going well. Elementary students are doing the block electives, art and agricultural science, with the rest of the school.

Almost every student (15 of 17) is participating in cross country this year. All middle school and high school students participated in Phlight Club at Hydaburg.

Listening to the students on the way back, the trip was extremely meaningful and productive. Friday tutoring and activities have begun and are doing well.

Sincerely,

Dawn Jones
Lead Teacher

Whale Pass School

The month of September has been a flurry of activity. We are getting into the groove with our eighteen students and six staff members. All staff members have returned from last year with one new person. Andy Cook is now our Middle School and High School teacher. Also Kayleena Toman will be working as an elementary paraprofessional, as well as, continuing to be our food service worker. We have a few new students this year also. Joe, David, Alex, and John Cook have enrolled and we look forward to getting to know them.

Our elementary students and middle school have been competing in Cross Country with Caren Cooke as the coach this year. We have one more meet in Thorne Bay this Saturday and the Middle School will be going to Ketchikan on September 30th. Caren has done an excellent job coaching this year.

A few new things to brag about so far this year include getting our kitchen grant to remodel our outdated kitchen. With the help of Priscilla, we have won a 10,000 grant to purchase a new dishwasher, a large refrigerator, and an industrial sink. We will also be replacing the flooring. This comes as a great boost to our school. At the end of last school year, we won a donors choose grant for new kitchen appliances such as, a Kitchen Aid mixer, food processor, blender, bread maker, and other kitchen gadgets. Our Middle School culinary arts class has been making use of these things on Thursdays.

We are continuing to incubate eggs for the Icelandic chicks. We have introduced a new breed, Ayam Cermani, and hope to be selling those chicks also. This is a rare breed and chicks are selling for \$50 each. We also have ducks and hope to be selling their eggs in the next month. We will be updating our coop this month to accommodate the various stages of chickens.

Christine Cook
Lead Teacher

Kasaan School

We are off to a great start in Kasaan. We have 11 students this year with two new kindergarteners. The staff is excited to teach and the students are eager to learn.

We have chickens growing; the greenhouse is in operation, and the school new kitchen equipment.

The students were disappointed with the summer weather and it has been warm and sunny a few times this school year. So we have been kayaking a couple of times. The students have really enjoyed the experience to be in the bay and kayaking with friends.

All of the elementary and half of the middle school are participating in cross-country. We have one high school student that is on the Thorne Bay volleyball team.

Shane Scamahorn
Lead Teacher

Hollis School

For updates and ongoing information please feel free to check out our Hollis School Facebook Page. It is a tool for us to provide school information to our target audience – our parents and community.

The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1483681851918203/>

“It is hard to believe we are concluding our first month of school. It has been great!”

The Hollis Crew on the first week of school:



STARTING OFF THE SCHOOL YEAR:

We have a super crew at Hollis School! We had a 25% turnover this summer. We are excited to share that we have twenty-four (24) new and returning students enrolled for the 2017-2018 school year. We have students ranging from pre-K (3 and 4yr olds) through 12th grade in attendance.

Thank you: As we begin our year we want to celebrate and send out some thank yous for some people who came together to help us have the resources we need to teach:

- *Thank you Frogg Toggs* for the generous donation of raingear – ponchos – to support all of our students so they are dry and warm when out in the field no matter what the weather.
- *Thank you Airica Tripple* for the updated tech equipment that allows us to seamlessly deliver content.
- Thank you Bud Williard and Brent Cason (We have not had potable water) for all of your tireless work to install and maintain an entire new water system so that our water will be safe to drink while making sure it operates to allow access to water for nondrinking water systems.
- *Thank you to Nick Higsen, Travis Tripple, Brent Cason and Bud Williard* for coming in on the last days of school and first days of summer to finish our outdoor classroom – it is getting an immense amount of use.

Thank you to Jonathan Fitzpatrick and Dave for all of your efforts to complete our amazing new wood fired boilers building complete with up-cycled windows from our building to create our long awaited and much anticipated dirt greenhouse. You made it possible for us to have a place to keep us warm and learn and grow healthy food to ensure we are ready for the amazing learning opportunities ahead. You have been working hard and we really appreciate it.

- *Thank you to Colleen Watson* for the gift of your time and incredible patience as you taught all of us how to make fish print shirts for our 2017-2018 Hollis School shirts! Something magical happens when community helpers and change agents share the gift of their time and talents at a school. This gift enables youth to connect with community helpers and change agents on a very different level. Trusting and respectful relationships are built upon the shared interests and experiences resulting from the gift of patience and time. When a community adult shares their talents and interests it allows students to explore new leisure pursuits that may become their life's work or avocation. This supports their development

of positive pursuits and healthy alternatives they can turn to when under stress or peer pressure. What is really exciting is the shared excitement over an activity with a willingness to take risks and make mistakes while learning together leads to trust. When trust develops between our youth and an adult, community helper, we know that if the time comes that the youth needs that individual's support they will be more apt to seek out their guidance and help because that trusted prior relationship already exists.

Curriculum Highlights: Our pre-school focus is language and social skills development and with their support, we continue fostering a school wide use of sign language. We continue to build upon success with the Daily Five (5) literacy and math instruction and dedicated Writers' Workshops. We are incorporating Visualizing and Verbalizing and Story Grammar Marker across curriculum in our 1st through 12th grade classrooms to support their writing and reading comprehension skill development and enhancement

Our 2017-2018 course of study includes World History social studies, science (life science, magnetism and electricity), literacy studies, art and music. Students will pick a lens (art, scientists, battles, food, inventions) to support this exploration.

We will continue to use primary source documents, fieldwork and information from elders to map our world's true story and they will evaluate the question, "Who determines our history?" In doing so they are starting by exploring their own story and identifying who they are as learners.

At the moment the entire school is engaged in writing their story...three books are in the making documenting their work and we cannot wait for publication.

Literature circles continue to be an important part of our literacy skill development and we are excited that we will be partnering with several SISD schools to conduct Literacy Circles and broader discussions about our respecting guiding questions to increase student opportunity to develop their respectful accountable talk learning and listening skills.

Testing:

Last week we conducted our fall AIMS benchmark assessments. We are now completing fluency reads and make-ups. Lisa and Julie use the AIMS assessment results in conjunction with MAPS and SBA data to track student progress, set goals and identify instructional interventions to support student progress.

ACTIVITIES:

Hollis Hoops Project: This is a chance to share in a phenomenal integrated

learning experience for everyone at Hollis School while also providing a wonderful addition to the Hollis School Cross-Generational Outdoor Lifelong Fitness and Play Area designed by Hollis students and members of the Hollis Community. Hollis students will design and build a giant State of Alaska backboard with standard and small sized basketball hoops that will be located on the backboard to represent different communities on the map. To make this happen we are selling twelve (12) hoops with nets that we anticipate will represent twelve (12) Alaska communities to include but not limited to: Hollis, Juneau, Fairbanks, Seward, Anchorage. Student planning may change the selected hoop locations but they cannot change the number of hoops. All investors will be recognized with a student created "Map Key". We already have 3 investors. After the nine remaining and nine remaining slots to fund and then we will launch our project. Guided by learning targets our students will form a team to plan, organize, manage budgets and supplies, design and build the Alaska Hoops Project! They will also provide investor reports. Here is a link to learn more, review learning targets or invest in this project:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HollisSchool/permalink/2034831243469925/#>

Phlight Club: On week two we hit the ground running at Phlight Club in Hydaburg! on the third day of school. This year we took four (4) students. Our Phlight Club reflection and debrief is always time well spent as evidenced by a few of the thoughts shared and their rich ideas for taking it back to the classroom and the community.

Kayaking: We are really using the kayaks. Our last trip included an exploration of watercolor on the water. Our next trip will include a poetry read and discussion.

Hollis VFD Fundraiser: We are proud of our Hawks who volunteered at the 2017 HVFD Fundraiser.

Chickens and Garden: Our chickens and garden are thriving. The garden has been such a wonderful gathering place for the Hollis community. It has been a treat to send fresh vegetables home for our students to share with their families. Sam has launched student garden classes using the new curriculum and we are excited to see where it takes us.

I AM...We ARE: With the book "Only One Me" students have spent time exploring and articulating who they are as individuals. They have also learned about the power of symbols and are using their understanding to create symbols to represent their values, who they are and who they want to become. They are presenting these to the school community so we may better know, understand and support each other.

Community Reflection and Norms: An important part of our intentional process to weave new people into our community includes a review of all we do

in our community to ensure what we do has value and that all are invested in their purpose. One of our most important annual activities started day one as the students across all grades began working on our 2017–2018 school norms. The discussion started with an “inside outside circle” as students shared what was most important for them in school. As they spoke with peers they discovered their universal expectation was respect could be the only norm we have. The discussion grew deeper as they each defined what respect looks like and how can it be different across different settings. They are reflecting on our draft norms and anticipate they will be adopted next week. Our Junior High and High School student have reflected upon our Morning Community to insure the time we spend is purposeful. They are preparing to launch our new student designed morning Community next week! We are excited to see where they take us.

Prince of Wales Community Advisory Council (POWCOC): Hollis students will prepare and serving the September 26, 2017 Prince of Wales Community Advisory Council (POWCOC) luncheon hosted by the Community of Hollis. Our students will also be attending the meeting to meet community leaders, learn about vital community issues and problem solving. We are planning a menu of homemade Russian Salmon Pie – we are seeking some salmon donations - and the students will smoke the salmon for this dish. The pie will also contain our own chicken eggs and onions and cabbage from our garden. We will also have homemade applesauce and a salad made from our fresh garden greens. Dessert will be individual cheese cakes topped with a local fresh berry compote.

Cross Country: Our students continue to love Cross Country and have participated in all three meets thus far. They are looking forward to coming to Thorne Bay next week! Coach George Vasquez has everyone running.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

June:

Julie participated in the English PEAK standard setting.

Sam and Lisa attended a Brightways Learning class at Alieska with sever other POW teachers and stakeholders.

July: Lisa completed a second one-credit 2017 Summer Arts Integration and STEAM Online Conference with Education Closet.

Upcoming: Julie and Lisa will be

- attending GLAD training in October. They are hopeful it will build upon their Visualizing and Verbalizing training.
- presenting at the annual

In October we will be begin our second year participating in the POW wolf

project. This is a short-term program that allows us to meet standards across content while engaging our students in the outdoors. It is an experience that engages all ages.

Howard Valentine School

A bit of a rocky start to the school year as we saw one of our two new to the district teachers, Hessa Bateman, resign after the first week of school. We have hired another new to the district teacher, Alyssa Howell, from Craig to fill the vacated position. Things are looking much better at this site as we get our legs under us. We have begun progress monitoring testing as we need to see where our kiddos are at in Reading, Writing, and Math. This will give us a better perspective when we develop our lesson plans to target each student's individual needs.

Cody Beus, our new greenhouse manager, has been very active in the school. He is going to try shifting from aquaponics to hydroponics in the Coffman greenhouse. He feels that this change will be beneficial to growing crops in more abundance due to increased nutrient content in the water.

Angela Dunton, our Americorps worker and part time teacher has worked very hard to keep the school moving in a positive direction. She is excited about being able to work with kids in and out of the classroom in service learning and integrating Agricultural Studies in their content areas.

We are currently at 15 students enrolled at the school with 1.3 certified teachers and two paraprofessionals.

Nick Higson
Principal