

February 2017 Board Report

Professional Development

February 10th brought our teachers together for an interactive inservice. The inservice was centered on team building, breakout rooms, progress Monitoring instruments, and STEM week. A big thanks to Colter and Alan for facilitating this inservice!

James Stevens set up an archery challenge for our teachers at the inservice. The staff seemed to love shooting arrows with each other. Thank you James. We will continue to do team building activities at our future staff functions.

Nick Higson
District Principal

Hyder School

February seemed to just fly by. We want to recognize and congratulate all of the students who participated and competed in the Battle of the Books. Our students had a lot of fun reading the books and competing. Some of our students who are not big readers found some books they really enjoyed. Our Valentine's Day celebration was a huge success. Thank you to Nick Higson for the Strawberry Shortcake! As usual, the students enjoyed having Mr. Higson out here. We still have several feet of snow on the ground, with more snow predicted for next week. The students are excited for more snow!



The elementary students have been busy doing projects galore! For science, while learning about the different parts of a plant, they planted beans. Many of the beans sprouted and formed roots that the kids could examine. They were all very excited. In social studies, they researched and created state brochures. The students are all having a great time learning.

The middle/high school students have also been working extremely hard. In science, the students have researched volcanoes and are conducting an experiment this weekend about underwater volcanoes!

This school year continues to move full steam ahead.

Chad Dillman
Hyder School

Port Alexander School

February has turned in a fun-filled month as we have been busy. The month started with a Friday Activity of “topping” the 37 pizzas for our Super Bowl Fundraiser.



Thank you to Deb Gifford for pre-making our crusts! We received a few extra orders this year so we had a few hours of work. The students even hand delivered most of the pizzas. The students enjoyed working together and making food for the community of Port Alexander. The Eyak was gracious to be the delivery boat to our friendly neighbors in Port Armstrong.

With the Battle of the Books coming to a close, the students really got into their “characters” for the contest.



Although we are a small group, the students read as many books as they could to give the other groups a “run for their money”. Congratulations to Naukati and Whale Pass for heading to the state battle. GOOD LUCK! We will be sending good vibes for you all from down here.

Since the weather has turned into a cold and rainy mess, the PA School students were fitted for roller blades and helmets. Not many of the students have had much experience on roller skates so Mrs. Anania had to strap on a pair (sorry, picture NOT included) and show them how to get it done. Once the basic skating and proper falling techniques were understood, the students have picked up this sport quickly. So quickly in fact, that they have been experimenting with hockey skills and doing the Limbo. They have continued to grow in their skating skills and love wheeling around in the gym once a week with good behavior.



The students participating in Archery have been shooting well. We may have a few that are prepared to try Kentucky again this year. Our Valentine’s Day shoot focused on more aiming skills and having some fun. My two smaller students got in on the fun as well. We have some young, budding archers coming up from first and second grade!

The Port Alexander School is getting excited for the possibility of again coming into Phlight Club/Stem Week. The students have begun drawing plans for their Pinewood Derby Racers and brainstorming fun and educational places to visit once we hit POW. Last year, the cave exploration set the bar pretty high for future adventures. Our hope is to try to also get a few hours at the pool in Craig as last year it was closed for repair.

We send warm wishes from Port Alexander to all for a wonderful month of March!

Partners in Education,

Port Alexander Students and Staff

Kasaan School

Well it has been an interesting month in Kasaan.

We had an awesome field trip planned for Juneau, but unfortunately the state ferry had to cancel the trip due to maintenance.

There were seven students that participated in the “Battle of the Books”. The students enjoyed the books and the competition. They are looking forward to the swimming party that is associated with the competition.

One student from Kasaan participated in the middle school regional wrestling tournament in Ketchikan. He placed 4th overall in his weight class.

The four middle school students are have started volleyball this week.

Shane Scamahorn
Lead Teacher

Hollis School

The Hollis Crew earlier today:



Thank you: We want to send out some "thank you's" for some people who came together to help us have the resources we need to teach:

- *Thank you everyone who had a hand in coordinating the Battle Book program and the amazing event in Thorne Bay. Our students really enjoyed the Battle Books competition in Thorne Bay and we thank everyone for their hard work to make our students and ll of the children in attendance feel so very valued and successful.*
- *Thank you to the Priscilla Goulding and Janet Stout:* Hollis School was in the process of working on a Steelcase Education had received our Active Learning Center Grant for specifically designed furniture to support integrated learning we strive to provide to meet all student needs. Priscilla heard about our grant and stepped in to help us get it completed and turned in within the time lines. Janet helps with polishing. Thank you both so much for working during your holiday and weekend to help us give it a shot! Now we wait... March 23, 2017 is already circled as a possible Red Letter Day on the Hollis School Calendar
- *Thank you to everyone from New York and Pennsylvania to Kotzebue, AK for your support and donations to Julie's latest successful Donor's Choose Grant Request: "Help young, eager scientists succeed with Dots, Dashes & Osmo!"* This grant will allow us to increase our robotics and coding opportunities for all of our students. Here is a link if you would like to know more about our plans:
https://www.donorschoose.org/project/help-young-eager-scientists-succeed-wit/2312332/?utm_source=dc&utm_medium=teacher&utm_campaign=fac_ebook&rf=facebook-sitishare-2016-11-teacher-teacher_2609625&challengeid=20503158
- *Thank you Megan Fitzpatrick* for standing outside of your parent's 1850's New England home during a Governor declared State of Emergency state of Emergency nor'easter to connect with our Morning Community crew to help our students better understand how our many weather instruments work.
- *Thank you Patrick Tierney and Bob Girt Bud Willard* for making the trek to Hollis and making the time to give us new perspectives and really teach all of us the value of a tree. It was exciting to learn about and now be able to identify the subtle differences we may find in different trees. Thank you for patiently sharing your wisdom and knowledge even then faced with full class of eager kindergarteners through seniors in high school. We are so appreciative that you considered involving is in your work to ensure our forests' future while teaching us that each tree brings gifts as long as we continue to use them with balance. We love doing real world science that connects to our island and our culture.



- *Thank you Bud Willard* for giving your afternoon and help to support two of our crew to disassemble a wooden platform so that they could bring it to Hollis and use it as the foundation for our new outdoor classroom. We really appreciate the help, especially since we lost our temporary classrooms in one of the many windstorms which have taken their toll this winter.
- *Thank you Travis Tripple and sons Tell and Tru* for your continued tireless efforts, no matter what the weather, to bring brand new windows to let in the light and keep out the cold along with incredible windowsills that provide more storage in our classrooms. Thank you *Priscilla* for all the work you put into grants to make these changes possible.

Grants and Upcoming Events:

Donors Choose Grants–

We have been so excited about our work Osmo and Dot & Dash and the excited response of our students that Julie submitted two Donors Choose grants. We are hopeful that word will spread and with the funding, these items will add to our maker space. The links to the grants are:

1. Dash and Dot Robots and Osmo Coding program:
<https://www.donorschoose.org/project/help-young-eager-scientists-succeed-wit/2312332/>
2. Inspire and Encourage Creative, Artistic and Confident Kids with Technology: <https://www.donorschoose.org/project/inspire-and-encourage-creative-artistic/2312458/>

Curriculum Highlights:

We continue to explore life science about US history. With the new Primary students will begin their, "Community" expedition and the will go forth and explore on their "Ho!" Expedition. Both will be their life science studies as they



and learn semester "This is My Intermediates" "Westward completing engage in Bird,

Butterfly and Macro

Invertebrate investigations. Our Intermediate and Primary Students have been dissecting owl pellets and mentoring Kindergarten scientists as they all explore the world of bones. Junior High and High School are researching the Revolution and completing character studies as they read "New Found Land" about Lewis and Clark.



"Student Lead Projects": We know that when a wave comes at us, Hawks "go deep" - we dive into the problem. Thus our first participants to launch our Student Directed Learning aptly named it DIVE TIME – Diverse, Independent, Vital, Exploration Time. This dedicated learning experience has already been an exciting new addition to our school.

Our Junior High and High School Students helped to design this program with their teacher so they can explore a variety of unique interests that are not always possible in a small school setting. Program participation requires an application, peer review, weekly reflection, a written summary report and presentation to a panel where the student will share their selected learning goals, process and outcomes.

Student participants must:

- Must have a question to answer
- A problem to solve
- A concept to learn or master

Their work can be question driven or product driven but students must be able to clearly articulate: *how the project is connected to their learning, *what outcomes they expect,* their goals for given work time, *their plan – long and short-term plans.



With freedom comes responsibility and thus participants must:

*Be intentional and purposeful, *Be reflective, *Be accountable, *Be flexible, *Be excellent to each other and themselves, *Keep a growth mindset – mistakes are opportunities to learn – this entire process is an opportunity to learn.

Lisa is participating in the process and learning along with the students. Her "problem" is how to create a learner centered and directed independent project protocol that allows students to thrive while meeting expected standards. Lisa and the students conducted some research on best practices and after discussion, she documented and shared her goals for the students who choose to participate.

The working DIVE Time Goals:

*You will learn perseverance

*You will learn to listen and hear others when you least want to

*You will consider input

*You can articulate why you did certain things

*You can intentionally reflect in a manner that allows for continuous improvement and deeper learning.

*You will feel the pride of knowing you honored the process and in doing so, you will have learned more about yourself as an individual, as a learner, as a member of a community, than we could have ever imagined.



In doing so we want to promote intentional learning of “these 10 soft skills help students be effective in college and careers”:

- Analytical Thinkers: They think about the parts and pieces of the whole.
- Critical Thinkers: They think about effectiveness and validity.
- Problem Solvers: They creatively find solutions.
- Inquisitive Thinkers: They are intensely curious.
- Opportunistic Thinkers: They take advantage of new learning opportunities.
- Flexible Thinkers: They are resilient enough to cope with delayed success and ambiguity.
- Open-minded Thinkers: They learn from multiple sources, even critical feedback.
- Teachable Thinkers: They have a learning mindset.
- Risk-taking Thinkers: They are open to possible failure.
- Expressive Thinkers: They communicate effectively in spoken and written forms.”

It has been an exciting process. Everyone is at a different phase but all are



learning what they need to work toward the problem they have elected to solve. This week the students completed Stop Action videos to explain their projects. We will publish them after final editing. The videos, one of several formative assessments integrated into the process, have helped the student better articulate and understand what they are doing and why they are doing it.

ACTIVITIES:

“FUNday Fridays”: Our Fridays have been a blast. After archery Sam has had our students planning our garden, baking, and last week, they dug out all of our maker Space resources and started tearing apart computers and

discovering what they could make. They were so very engaged. Another great activity thanks to training our teachers received from Cheryl Bobo and Ellen Hannen's professional development grants.

"Battle Books 2017": We are proud of all of our teams. Our K-2 team, the "Robinhood Readers" came in 1st place. Our 3-4 Team, the "Hollis Archers" came in 2nd place, the 5-6 Team, "The Night Owls" came in 4th place, Our 7/8 Team did well and our single member high school team "The Casual Fridays" came in first. Now on to state!



"iDidaContest!": All of our 1st through 12th students submitted ASTE contest entries. We were very appreciative of the feedback the judges took the time

to provide our student regarding their work. We are still awaiting results on some of our entries. We have reflected on our work and with the students better understanding of what is expected they are already looking forward to submitting entries again next year.

"I Am!": Hawks continue to learn about who they are as learners and what they need to support successful life long learning. Building on our earlier work, they

are putting the finishing touches on their art, artist statements and related poem. Next, they will hand build their collage frames and present their work and how it resonates who they are to the school community. Each year we build on this work and their deepened understanding is evident.

“Archery!”: Our Hawk archers are training and are excited about upcoming tournaments. We had one tournament in Thorne Bay and sadly weather prevented our attendance at the Hydaburg tournament. Thought we were happy we were able to participate virtually, we look forward to attending future tournaments at Hydaburg School. Our next tournament will be in Thorne Bay 25, 2017 in Thorne Bay. We are finding our afterschool and FUNDaY Friday archery practices are well attended and we will continue them for the remainder of the season. This year we are hosting after school training two days per week in addition to our PE time and Fun Fridays.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Current Training:

On February 4, 2017 Lisa attended an the 2017 Winter Arts Integration and STEAM On-line Conference scheduled to take an online Arts Integration class in February. Hollis students are already taking advantage of the many resources and ideas that were presented in the class.



Naukati School

In the month of February we were able to accomplish the following things:

- We had one team make it to state in the Battle of the Books and one team come in second
- We have begun planting seeds in trays to get our greenhouse up and running with the date of March 1st as a goal to be working in the greenhouse
- We had a Valentines Day fundraising dinner with 15 couples in attendance
- We have a pizza fundraiser on 2/23 at the TB café
- We have received 2 new pre school students
- We are going to Sitka for a week with kids grades 3 and up
- We have Carl visiting us from TB every Wednesday to help us with our robotics program
- We have begun working on a playground for our goats with the help of Gebby and Sarah
- We are going to host Native Youth Olympics on 4/25 for the district
- We have begun working on a recycling program to get rid of the cans that have gathered in Naukati

Jessica Goldman
Lead Teacher