

# March 2017 Board Report

## Curriculum

The math curriculum committee has finished their meetings and the sample curricular materials are arriving for our teachers to review for our math programs. We hope to have some consensus on these new resources by the end of April as teachers will have a chance to meet up over STEM Days next month.

## STEM Days

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics or STEM is the focus of our STEM days gathering of students and teachers on April 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> at the Thorne Bay School. We are very excited to have this opportunity for our district students participate and/or compete in events such as Pinewood Derby Races, Science Challenges, Technology Challenges, Spelling Bee, and a Talent Show.

## Native Youth Olympics

April 25<sup>th</sup> will bring in the second annual Native Youth Olympics at the Naukati School. Students from around the district will gather to compete in various physically challenging events.

## SISD Prom

April 28<sup>th</sup> is the date that was chosen for this year's prom event. It will take place at Thorne Bay School this year.

## Battle of the Books Pizza and Pool Party

SISD had 76 students participate in this year's annual Battle of the Books. This event fosters a love of reading as well as developing good reading habits and skills. The BOB Pizza and Pool party is scheduled to occur on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

Nick Higson  
District Principal

## Hyder School

As we near the end of March, the thought of Phlight Club and STEM Days is constantly on the minds of our students. They are curious about the events and learning opportunities to be had. With only a few weeks before our trip to "the island," all of the students are getting anxious and excited! However, it does not feel like spring here yet. With several feet of snow still on the ground, winter has not quite given up yet.



To begin, we would like to send a special thank you to Leah Carey. She came in as a guest teacher for two weeks and taught the students to crochet. It was an amazing class and the students had a lot of fun learning to crochet.



All of the students have been hard at work learning and training for the Native Youth Olympics. They are looking forward to competing, making new friends, and having fun!



The elementary students are hard at work writing a script and constructing backgrounds for their commercial they will be creating for social studies. Additionally, they have been writing stories about the importance of not bullying. They have also just completed their animal adaptations projects and their African American Inventor project and scavenger hunt.



The middle and high school students are hard at work researching facts about ancient Rome for their annotated timeline they are producing. They have also completed and presented their partner literary projects. Additionally, they conducted a volcano experiment using convection currents.

Lastly, the students will be hosting and serving the Mardi Gras Dinner fundraiser the ASC is putting on this Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup>. We are expecting a good turnout. The students made and delivered invitations and we have received a lot of positive feedback from the February Valentine's Day fundraiser.

Chad Dillman  
Hyder School

## Port Alexander School



Our first Friday Activity was a big hit with students and parents. We all designed our own mugs. Through the use of oil-based Sharpie markers and the oven, we let our imaginations fly to be rewarded with useable art.



One of our students turned seven over the first weekend and had an amazing craft of building your own red cedar sailboat. The kids jumped right in but ran out of time to finish. After all there was cake and hot dogs to plunder through!

The parents asked if the sails could be put on at the school and I quickly offered up art time. The students were thrilled to have the “boat building” follow them into the start of the school week.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dr. Seuss Literacy Event proved to be none other than awe-inspiring. Each year parent volunteers, older students, and PA Staff choose a book (or two) to read and present a craft to the students. The students are separated into two small groups and set on the listening and crafting adventure! The students have fun moving around to the different rooms to experience a Seuss-like enjoyment.

The last activity for the month will be a large Fundraising bake sale during our monthly Bingo Game. This is our last opportunity for a large fundraiser before our adventure to POW for Phlight Club and Stem Week. The students put in a lot of effort to pump up their local activities and the community supports them fully in their fundraising.

Our upcoming POW trip will hopefully include a night in Ketchikan to experience many of their cultural museums, movie theaters and swimming pool! We are looking forward to connect and travel with Hyder again this year and are excited to have the opportunity to travel to the “Mainland” of Thorne Bay.

Happy Spring,  
*Port Alexander Students and Staff*

## Kasaan School

We are very busy as usual in Kasaan.

The district has acquired a playground for our school. The students will be helping to complete the setup very soon. All of the younger students are excited and ready to be able to play on new equipment. We are very grateful to have this new playground equipment.

The WWOOFers have been out and have helped us move soil for the potato garden. We have two of the seven raised beds almost ready to plant. The students have designed and built a compost container out of pallets that have been sitting around.



The snow was awesome and we took advantage of that as much as we could. Sledding was available with the amount of snow that we received in Kasaan, and the students really enjoyed that activity while it lasted. We were also able to use the districts snowshoes and go for a couple of hikes around the community. This was an new experience for all of the students. It took a few minutes for them to get use to the snowshoes, but it was fun.

As usual the school has been working on carving with Harley Holter. They are creating either a mask, bowl, or spoon at this time.



We also have four students participating in middle school volleyball and two students with high school track.

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 to the Priscilla Goulding and Janet Stout* and all who supported and worked on our Hollis School Steelcase Education Active Learning Center Grant for specifically designed furniture to support integrated learning we strive to provide to meet all student needs. We learned today that we did not receive it. However, the process itself was a great learning opportunity for us to reflect on the best use of our space. We will use that reflection to create additional flexible learning space for our school and we will proceed with our outdoor classroom space build to provide us the extra room we need.
- *Thank you to Bob Andrews* for making time to come to the school for our student bone project presentations and for sharing your in-depth knowledge of bones.

*Thank you to Nick, Kyler, parents, Sam and the snowplow drivers:* With the rain and snows of late keeping the buildings accessible and intact and the kids safe has been a full time job and we want to thank all who continue their tireless efforts to keep at it to keep our roads clear and safe for the bus, for literally stepping up to help keep our school eves cleared to ensure kids are safe and the chicken coop and shop roofs clear to keep our chickens and building and for endlessly shoveling and plowing and making in sure the paths are open to the school, the chicken coop and the shop as well as to the library so our Pre-School and Kindergarten to go for their weekly library visit.



- *Thank you Patrick Tierney and Bob Girt* for your continued mentorship as we collaborate with Sealaska to care for a tray of yellow cedar seedlings so they may take root. Thank you Pat for spending another afternoon with us on March 23, 2017. We so enjoyed your patient and this rich integrated learning opportunity.





- *Thank you Bud Willard* for your quick response and hard work to help us when the back building classrooms furnace went out. We appreciate your taking the steps to fix it.

### Grants and Upcoming Events:

March and April will be full of activity as our students complete first aide and help set up the Wellness Fair and collaborate with Whale Pass for STREAM Team!

Our Donors Choose grant supplies have come in and the Codapiller is a great hit with Kindergarten! We have having fun exploring these new learning tools.

### Curriculum Highlights:

We continue to explore life science and learn about US history. With the new semester Primary students will begin their, "This is My Community" expedition and the Intermediates will go forth and explore on their "Westward Ho!" Expedition. Both will be completing their life science studies as they engage in Bird, Butterfly and Macro Invertebrate investigations. Our Intermediate and Primary Students are moving from bones to birds and their exploration will help to cap their life science exploration during which they will continue mentoring Kindergarten scientists. Junior High and High School are completing their Revolution research hand will soon explore the work that led to our constitution. The continue working on character studies as they read "New Found Land" about Lewis and Clark. Junior High student have been exploring the periodic table of elements, chemical compounds and electricity.



**“Student Lead Projects”:**

**DIVE: Our Student Directed Learning aptly named it DIVE TIME – Diverse, Independent, Vital, Exploration Time:** DIVE has been an exciting and rewarding experience. An early formative assessment required students to create stop-motion videos. Most are complete and on our school’s You-Tube Channel. We will use these videos to inspire community members to volunteer as mentors to support their learning.



**Hawk Seniors SOAR!:** We have one senior completing his senior project, part of an important passage for graduation. He has identified his project goal and is in the midst of his research. We will keep you posted on his progress.

**ACTIVITIES:**

**February 28, 2017 - Mardi Gras:** We have two student families whose relatives hail from the Mississippi Delta south and part of their family culture includes the food and music of Mardi Gras. They sent us a box full of Mardi Gras “throws” and a real New Orleans King Cake and the timing was great, as we have studied the Louisiana Purchase and the War of 1812 and this gave us a chance to learn a bit more about how Mardi Gras came to be in New Orleans and how it has evolved. To better understand we had to dig a bit into Spanish, French, English and US history and, can you believe it, we even had to look further into Russian history! We soon learned why so many were willing to fight over this city. We also learned why certain foods are popular in New Orleans and how this day has become such an important holiday. During our studies we created masks and enjoyed delving into some Dixieland Jazz. On Mardi Gras Day, with Landon and Maddie as the King and Queen, we decorated the King Cake, and held our own parade with “throws” after which we enjoyed a traditional Mardi Gras meal of pancakes and sausage. We ended our day with our very tasty King Cake. What a great addition to our US history studies.



**March 1, 2017 – “Spread the Word to End the Word Day”** . We started our day as we do every day, with the Joy Song. Then, for the fourth year in a row Hollis observed the “Spread the Word to End the Word Day”. This year we agreed that we have eliminated that word from our school vocabulary and that kindness and respect are words and actions we will continue to strive to demonstrate in all of our actions. We now look to always doing an intentional activity on this annual day to meaningfully demonstrate those character traits. As we reaffirmed our pledge we again confirmed that respect was more than in pledging to not use the “R” word. Some noted it is more than this one word, and more than this one day, but rather how we treat each other as a community every day...as Derek Peterson says, “Put ups, not Put Downs” You can learn more at [www.r-word.org](http://www.r-word.org)

**March 2, 2017** - Dr. Seuss’s Birthday, Read Across America Day and at Hollis School, it is our annual “Pajama Read-In and Green Eggs and Ham and Day! With continuing snow and ten plus inches on the ground bus service was not possible but those who made were warm in their pajamas and slippers as they worked together to prepare what after a few hours turned into a fantastic brunch of ham and not only green eggs, but green pancakes too! They were told they could make it all themselves with one BUT... they had to clean up. And they did a great job, the kitchen was spotless when they were done. After brunch Dr. Seuss books were enjoyed.





**Indiana Wesleyan University (IWU) Comes to Visit!** - On March 8, 2017 we were fortunate to have Occupational Therapist (OT) Kari from Ketchikan Peace Health who was supporting the work of some phenomenal OT students and their professor Dr. Rachel Timmons OTD, OTR/L Indiana Wesleyan University (IWU). Our afternoon was already full of many hands on activities to complete and thus we had several stations for Hollis students to partner and share their learning with the IWU visitors. These included but were not limited to measuring and sawing their "I Am" collage frames, writing their life science found creatures bones structure and adaptations essay, creating art for the POW Health Network Wellness Fair, and measuring and lettering their name plates for their ceramics installation.

As our Hawks know from Phlight Club, there is something magical and life changing that happens for children when adults are therefore and care them. Though this was but one afternoon, the attentive and thoughtful time and attention the Indiana Wesleyan University Occupational Therapy program students provides had a profoundly positive impact on our students. This was evident in some of our students' reflections about the visit:

- "They were helpful."
- "They gave us helpful and respectful feedback on our work."
- "They helped people stay focused."
- "They were kind."
- "They gave us help when we needed it."
- "It was really good, at the beginning it was hard to saw. My hand was starting to hurt. They showed me different ways to hold the saw."
- "I learned about numbers and drawings. I want them to come again."
- "We got to play with play dough and slime. They were kind because they were being nice."
- "They were calm."
- "I want them to come again so I can finish my name."
- "They asked us questions about our art."
- "They cared."

As you can see, we are always happy when Community Helpers visit – your time makes a difference. We sure hope the Wildcats come back to see our Hawks again next year!



**March 14, 2017 – Pi Day!** Our annual Pi Day event keeps growing and so do the number of pies we create. Sam helped us to make homemade crust and everyone gathered to make their individual canning jar lid pies as well as create some full size pies to sample and share. We explored and created some new recipes. 2017's pie making expanded to include preparing a salmon pie for lunch complete with salmon the students smoked and jarred during their Alaska history studies. Junior High calculated the volume of an orange and estimated how many oranges we would need to enjoy fresh squeezed orange juice with our pies. Primary and Intermediate students used twine to measure the diameter and circumference of their pies and see just how Pi works! They even had to explain their understanding to three adults before the pies were cut. It was a deliciously calculating day as everyone knows we do not get to eat the pies until we work with Pi!

Before we loaded the bus we finished off our plates of pie and thanks to Priscilla we topped off our day with the creation of our first Pi Poem. So we bring to you OUR 2017 HOLLIS SCHOOL PI DAY PIE POEM!

3. We love pie -  
1 YUM!  
4 Apples, bananas,  
blueberries, cherries  
1 baked  
5 We measure, stir, mix, pour.  
9 We put them in the oven  
until all done  
2 Then we  
6 invite, slice, serve, top, and share  
5 We chew, swallow, eat, inhale!  
3 We are full!  
5 Home to sleep for break.  
8 Next year  
we'll have more pie to eat!

3.14159265358

**"FUNday Fridays"**: This month our FUNday Fridays have gotten all wet as our student are taking a dive into swimming lessons at Craig pool and they love it. Thank you to the Southeast Island School District Board for always funding this great opportunity for our student community.





**“Battle Books 2017”**: We are proud of all of our single member high school team, “The Casual Fridays”. Solomon literally help his own at state and did himself and our school and district proud. Way to go Solomon. He reports he will do even better next year.

**“iDidaContest!”**: Chloe placed 4<sup>th</sup> in her entry in the “Tell a Story” category. We thank the ASTE judges for their great feedback and are excited about our entries for next year.

**“I Am!”**: This year we are learning about character – the traits that made a character in a story, when a charter is flat or well rounded and we have also been talking about our character and who we want to be. We have explored the vocabulary we use to describe our character and who we are. We have written a poem with a focus on word choice, created a collage to reflect who are as evident in our poem and now, we are making frames for the collages so they can be added to our Kitchen Gallery. Now we are making our frames for our “I Am” collages and what we thought would be a simple step sure turned into a lot of problem solving. We had to measure, then account for the cutout for the mat to fit and then figure out the correct lengths and angles to keep it square. It was easier when Roger would build frames for us. Making frames is harder than we thought but with our speed squares and measuring tapes and a new saw it sure is fun.



**“Archery!”:** Our Hawks trained hard and today we learned the results of their hard work. Six POW school district students placed first in state for their division. Five from Southeast Island School District –and two from Hollis! Way to go Ben Moots and Isaac Starkweather. Well deserved. We are proud of all of our Hawks hard work and than you coach Kyler and our leaders James and John Stevens for their tireless efforts to bring this program to our students.



### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

#### Current Training:

March 23, 2017 - Lisa and Sam continue follow-up training on the 3-D printer and have developed some ideas to build on this learning and integrate it into student projects.

Four Hollis Staff (Tammy, Kyler, Sam and Lisa) are in the process of completing the ETT course with the Hollis Volunteer Fire Department.

## **Whale Pass School**

The middle of March continues to have snow and cold weather in Whale Pass. As we slide into spring we are preparing for a very busy few weeks. We will be testing 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> on April 3-6<sup>th</sup>, and April 10<sup>th</sup>. We have been trying to work out the kinks with the



new program with a little success. Fortunately, we have started early and should have all the problems fixed before testing time.

Our ASC dinner and meeting has been postponed this month until Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. At our last ASC meeting, the parents and staff discussed moving the day of the ASC meeting and dinners to Tuesdays instead of Thursdays. They felt we would get more community members coming to the dinners because Thursdays were senior discount days in town.

Our Middle School Students have finally finished their film on the Revolutionary War. We will be showing this at the next ASC dinner and posting it on Facebook. Below are a few pictures from our filming. We are also finishing up our units on the study of the Ocean. The Middle School Science class will be going to Hollis on April 6<sup>th</sup> for a sleepover and STREAM study with the Hollis students.

This week we have rearranged our math classes 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades to do some hands on math learning for test practice. This week we have covered measurement, probability, ratios, percents, and fractions. The students seem to have enjoyed the hands-on games and group activities.



This past month, our students 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades competed with the rest of the Southeast Island students in the state archery tournament in Thorne Bay. JD Alford, our 8<sup>th</sup> grader, placed second place in the middle school boys.

Our chainsaw raffle is coming to an end on March 28<sup>th</sup>. We hope to raise enough money to send one to two students to the National Archery Tournament in May. We will be serving Chinese food for this dinner. We will not have a dinner in April but will have a short meeting on April 20 at 3:30.

The remainder of the year is going to be fast and furious. We have three elementary students who will be playing elementary basketball for the next few weeks. We also have a team of students who will be playing soccer in April.



Christine Cook  
Lead Teacher