

# **February 2018 Outer Sites Board Report**

## **Battle of Books**

The annual district wide Battle of the Books competition is set to kick off February 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. All of the school sites have teams in almost every grade level category. Last year we had record numbers participate and this year we look to top that mark. It is one of our most popular activities/competitions with a fantastic pizza and pool party reward for all the participants. Good luck to all the teams!!!

## **MAPS and PEAKS Testing**

Spring MAPS testing starts at the end of the month. This will be our second round of MAPS testing this year and we will compare and analyze the data with the fall testing results. Our goal continues to be adequate academic growth with our students progressing through grade levels and content at a pace that challenges them yet remains fun and engaging. PEAKS testing will begin in April and we are excited to compare the baseline data from last year to this years test results. The teachers are working hard with their students to meet or exceed the standards. A big thanks to Airica Tripple for rolling out the technology that will make both the MAPS and PEAKS testing possible.

## **New Wood Boiler and Kitchen at Whale Pass School**

The new wood fired boiler is just about finished. Jonathan Fitzpatrick has been working hard through the winter months to get this money savings heat source ready to go. Bud Willard and his crew (Neil Thomas and Brent Russell) completed the kitchen renovation at the school this past month. It is now bright and functional with new dishwasher, flooring, sinks, and refrigerator. Well done to everyone involved in this much needed and well-deserved upgrade to Whale Pass School!

## **Heating at Howard Valentine School**

The maintenance crew has been working on the computer system that controls the heating at Howard Valentine School. Shane Clark has made some progress with the programming; however, there are still some bugs that need to be worked out. We may have to source out at considerable expense to get it fully on line. We will have a meeting of the minds (maintenance and admin) to get a better understanding of what our next steps will be to have a fully functional heat control system at the school. For now the school heat is being manipulated manually with valve controls by the teachers. This is only a short-term solution. We will know more and what our next steps are by the end early March.

## **New Look to the SISD Website**

Please check out the new look to the SISD website. Same URL [www.sisd.org](http://www.sisd.org) but great new look. Airica Tripple has worked diligently at the transition from our old to this new version. School site pages are being updated also at the Feb 9<sup>th</sup> teacher inservice. Airica will be the district web page “master” and we are confident that with her direction the web page will be kept up to date with pictures and content that keep our stakeholders informed.

Nick Higson  
Principal

## **Whale Pass School**



February began in Whale Pass with 6-12 inches of snow. We currently have lots still hanging around for the kids to play in. The kids have been busy at recess building various snow people and animals, as well as a huge snow fort.

Our upper elementary, middle school and high school have been busy practicing archery. We are geared up for Nationals on next Saturday. A few of our middle school students have been consistently in the top ten, so we are excited to see what the final results are.

All of our students 1<sup>st</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> have been practicing for the up coming Battle of the Books competition on February 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. We have teams in each section with two middle school teams this year. I will have to say that our K-2 team has not missed a question yet during practices. All the students are excited to show what they have learned.

We only had a short ASC meeting in January, but on February 27<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a dinner also. The Middle School Home Ec. Class will be cooking this dinner as a project for their class. On the menu is spaghetti with meatballs, French bread, salad and dessert. They cooked a trial run this past Thursday for school lunch and everything was amazing.

The elementary social studies class has been learning a unit on Alaska Natives. We have been studying the various tribes in Alaska and making several art projects. The students have been quite interested in cedar bark pulling. We have made bracelets and mats to go along with this unit. We have also had several taste testing classes to explore native foods. The students really enjoyed making Akutaq—Eskimo ice cream.

In Middle School, the students have been exploring the green house building and planting. They have also begun a unit study on World War II.

Our greenhouse, boiler and kitchen are still in construction, but we hope to have these projects completed within the next month.

Coming up in the next month is elementary swim lessons, SAT testing, and lots of learning projects.

Christine Cook  
Lead Teacher

## Hyder School

This month, students have been learning about maps of all kinds, including various types of maps and landforms in social studies. In science, students have been learning about tectonic plates, volcanoes, geothermal energy, and more! They are preparing to present projects soon on these science topics, including one group who has written a song about the layers of the earth for their project. They have also been working hard to get ready for the Battle of the Books! Elementary students made heart garland and love bugs this week in art class. The middle and high school students are so excited to learn more about acting and its history in Theater Arts this semester as well.

We are preparing for a French-themed Valentine's Day Banquet on Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, and a movie night on Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, complete with popcorn!



Snowman making on the last Friday Fun Day!



Glove Friends we made on the Friday Fun Day!

Virginia Pulley  
Lead Teacher

## Port Alexander School

Our first Friday activity, which turned into a Saturday activity because of frozen water pipes, was an assembly line set up for our Super Bowl Pizza Fundraiser. The students quickly tested their skills of pizza decorating, putting together just over thirty pizzas for our community and a few households in the neighboring port of Armstrong. The students had such a great time working side by side and playing pizza makers. But making pizzas is not the only skill the students have been working on improving.

With the delivery of instruments, both from the district and a Donors Choose grant, the students have been practicing their instrumental skills in music class as well as a few Jam Sessions we have opened up to the community. It is great to see so many students interested in learning an appreciation for music.



We have been working hard preparing for Battle of the Books coming next week. Although our largest team contains just three students, our smaller partnership teams and single students are excited to participate!

Our older students are anticipating the information about STEM Week. Phlight Club is an amazing experience that all students that had participated last year are looking forward to connect with all of the other students from POW and beyond and make positive connections.

Port Alexander School is looking forward to making our yearly trip into the main land and want to thank the District School Board for supporting the school in traveling and providing activities that the students can look forward to that are meaningful as well as fun and also the PA ASC for helping fund these adventures!

*We are looking forward to a great Spring! Sending warm wishes to all!*

~Soar High~Port Alexander!~  
Laura Anania, Sylvia Lowery, Shanna Smith

## Naukati School

On January 29th, Dan Weaver, Chief of Physical Therapy at Alicia Roberts Medical Center, showed the middle schoolers how to use the weight room safely and more effectively. Dan stressed proper form and posture when lifting. He showed us how much weight is too much and how much is just right. As Dan showed us the proper form, we videoed students doing the exercises for a reference tool.

This weekend is our last wrestling tournament. Eight students in grades 2-7 participated and had a lot of fun. We are already looking forward to next year. Archery also has one more tournament. Ten of our twelve eligible students participated in Archery this year plus four students from the community. The young archers have shown great dedication in their attendance and effort. The staff at Naukati were particularly happy that every eligible student regardless of skill or ability was able to participate in either or both of these sports



Our chickens are laying eggs! In our morning meeting a younger student is assisted by an older student to graph the number of eggs laid that day. We also are keeping track of the different colors of eggs we get each day. We will use this data to calculate mean, median, mode and range.

Dawn Jones  
Lead Teacher

## Hollis School

For updates and ongoing information please feel free to check out our Hollis School Facebook Learning Blog designed to keep our parents and community engaged in our learning. The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1483681851918203/>

The Hollis Crew on the first week of school celebrating their Froggs Toggs Rain Gear:

**Thank you:** After one month we have so many that 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 Amy McDonald* for spending a day in Hollis to coach Lisa as she plans the much anticipated March 2018 trip to Juneau.
- *THANK YOU Jonathan Fitzpatrick!* Thank you for installing the garage door on our Greenhouse, wood storage room! We cannot wait until the building doors and windows are installed so we can put down roots in our up cycled greenhouse.
- *THANK YOU Sharlet Collins* and Hydaburg school for inviting our students for a Friday February Archery shootout! We love opportunities like this for our students to collaborate with your students in Hydaburg.
- *THANK YOU KASAAN LEAD TEACHER Shane Scamahorn* for arranging for all SISD students to enjoy a winter Saturday swimming at Craig Pool! It is always wonderful for our SISD students to get to know and play with their peers from other SISD schools.
- *THANK YOU HOLLIS COMMUNITY MEMBER Annette Sharpe* for visiting our school before your departure to introduce fermentation and coach us on Kombucha making. Your second batch of homemade cookies in a week was a lovey surprise enjoyed by all.
- *THANK YOU Public Health Nurse Colleen Watson* for mentoring our students as members of the POW Opioid Task Force. It has been a great opportunity for them to see how a Task Force can be managed to support its members to address issues and address them to make meaningful change.

### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

#### **Greenhouse and the Garden**

- The very busy SISD Greenhouse/Agriculture Program Manager Cody Beus was able to visit! Not only did he tour our green house with Sam to brainstorm and help us get up and running, he took the time to talk to us about his role and how he can help us as we raise food for our school. Sam is energized by Cody’s guidance on possible grants and sources to help us get dirt and seeds so we can get started after the remaining doors and windows are installed in the green house. We really appreciate how he showed genuine interest in our students. He was engaging and our students really felt valued. What a treat to have him come by, share his ideas and join our class discussions.

#### **Brains and the Nervous System**

- Junior High and High School students are getting hands on knowledge of the brain and the central and peripheral nervous system.

#### **Social Thinking and Universal Tools and Supports:**

- Hilary Mako of the Occupational Therapy Program, School of Health Sciences of Indiana Wesleyan University has come to Hollis to complete her residency for her Doctorial program. She has us all up and moving and learning more about sensory

integration and how it can support our learning and our success in and out of the classroom. Hillary is flexible and informed and engaging with our staff and our students and their families. She is putting together training for SISD teachers as well as available for parent information nights to promote sensory integration understanding and how they can use it to support their children.

- We are continuing to explore Social Thinking books and curriculum. Our Junior High and High School students are reading “Socially Curious and Curiously Social” and we are adding Milo the Robot as part of the program. Our elementary students are becoming Social Detectives as they explore developmentally appropriate a multi-sensory social communication stories.

#### Authentic, Place-based Citizen Science Activities:

- **Journey North** – We continue watching our test garden and documenting and seasonal wildlife, weather and daylight observations.
- **National Weather Service:** We are monitoring precipitation.
- **Trees:** We are excited that this month we will resume our participation with the yellow cedar project. Our Intermediate students will be taking the lead for caring for our steklings to support this critical research.

#### Community Involvement and Change Agent Activities:

- **Pesticides:** Our trip to Juneau is rapidly approaching and we are excited. The Intermediate and High School Students’ books, documenting their efforts, are in final edit and ready to head to the printer. In tandem with this the student’s Juneau trip to share their book in in the planning stages. We are thankful to Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins for his assistance scheduling meetings with the Governor Walker, the House Transportation Committee and the Transportation Commissioner. We also thank Rick Peterson and Amy McDonald for their efforts assisting us in our planning. Thank you to Cathy Peavey who signed on as a chaperone and has enthusiastically shared her willingness to help us dive into all that can be found in Juneau documenting the history of our state.
- **Opioid Issue:** The students are attending the monthly task force meeting and they have identified a mentorship for foster children will be one of their projects.

#### ***Bird Expeditions:***

The upcycled birds are complete and will soon be soaring through the halls of Hollis School. They have written short stories about their creations that include their new knowledge about adaptations. Our culminating project will be a “Hollis Bird Book” with their stories and pictures of their created birds. Their real bird research with her scientific drawings will also be included.

#### ***DIVE:***

Our 2018 “DIVE TIME” – Diverse, Independent, Vital, Exploration Time project proposals are extraordinary. Students have completed their preliminary project



applications and presented their proposals to their peers for feedback. Proposals are in the revision process and will soon support some amazing student work.

### **TESTING AND GOALS:**

Our Junior High and High school students have examined their assessment data and they are in the process of completing their academic and character goals. They really responded to the data discussion on a very rich level.

### **ACTIVITIES:**

**Archery:** Archery season has been fantastic. Students are practicing during PE, on FUNday Fridays and after school. We were excited to be invited to join Hydaburg students for an “Archery Shoot-out” on Friday 2.9.18.

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

February 2, 2017: Lisa attended the 4<sup>th</sup> R training special education training in Klawock which provided free and powerfully well done curriculum to meet the requirements included in the June 30, 2017 Alaska Safe Children’s Act.

February 9, 2018: Julie, Lisa and Hilary attended the staff development meetings in Thorne Bay.

#### *Upcoming training:*

February 17, 2018 thru Wednesday February 22, 2018: Julie and Lisa will be attending their first ASTE conference. They have a list of things they want to learn to bring back to Hollis to take our use of tech to an entirely new level. Nick Higson will be covering Hollis School in their absence.

Julie Vasquez & Lisa Cates  
Hollis School, Partners in Education

## **Kasaan School**

We had a great month in January and the beginning of February. The students have been active and involved in many activities (archery, high school basketball, elementary wrestling, and karate).

The school hosted a chicken cook-off using the school roosters. It was quite an experience for us to butcher the chickens at the school. All of the students asked if they could kill the chickens, before we started, and then once we were ready to start none of them wanted to do it anymore. The middle and elementary school students were very interested and



involved in the process of plucking and gutting the bird, but the high school students did not want to participate in anyway.

We have rented the Craig Aquatic Center for Saturday February 10 for two hours. Hollis and Thorne Bay are going to join us in swimming and playing.



Shane Scamahorn  
Lead Teacher

## Howard Valentine School

Howard Valentine staff and parents have been busy training our students for the Battle of the Books Competition coming up February 13-14 for our two teams in grades K-2 and 3-8.

The State Archery tournament is also coming up. We are pleased to present our 8 competitors in grades 2-10 to the competition.

Decorations are being made by the Wednesday after school program, Helping Hands, for our Valentine's Day Dinner event on February 17th to fundraise for the Dancing With The Spirit program.

The State Archery tournament is coming up. We will be sending our 8 competitors in grades 2-10 to the competition.

Our students have planted over 200 plants in the Howard Valentine School library, which will soon be transferred to the greenhouse in Coffman Cove. We are also growing plants in our aquaponic farm in the library and our goldfish are looking reading to have schools of baby goldfish.

The students and faculty have been enjoying the snow in Coffman Cove! Our students went on a snowshoeing expedition in town for the Recreation Elective. The Public Library is hosting the students once a week for a reading program and are teaching current

events/science topics. This month, they taught the students about the formation of snowflakes.



Alyssa Howell  
Lead Teacher  
Howard Valentine School