

October 2019 Board Report

Assistant Principal/Coordinator

Suicide Prevention Training

A team from Mat-Su Central School provided inservice training to SISD staff on Friday, September 13th. The team included Counselor Tara Moore, Assistant Principal Stacey McIntosh, and two student leaders; Rylee McIntosh and Sage Tedds. They shared the “Navigating Transitions” curriculum available through the DEED eLearning Classroom. This curriculum provides interactive resources for teacher-led as well as student-led lessons for grades 5-12. The student leaders were able to model for teachers how the student-led piece is implemented. Teachers will use these skills and this curriculum to give students skills to adapt to an ever-changing world; whether those changes occur while on the island or beyond it, in the near or distant future. This training was made possible by a grant from Prince of Wales Health Network.

Alaska Safety and Well-Being Summit

The Alaska Safety and Well-Being Summit was held in Anchorage on September 18-20. I attended sessions on The Neuroscience of Traumatic Stress, Comprehensive Approaches to School Safety and Supportive Learning Environments, Violent Threat Assessment, and Preparation and Response to Active Shooters. These sessions have helped me to provide effective staff support, and improve communication district and community wide. This training was made possible through funding provided by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

Howard Valentine ASC

I traveled to attend the ASC meeting at Howard Valentine School in Coffman Cove. It is great to see a number of community members willing to participate in and support the guidance of the school. The ASC voted to use some of its funds to help students attend the carnival in Naukati. This is a plus for both communities. A concern was also brought by a student that she had not received reimbursement for stacking wood over the summer. The ASC agreed to help her remedy this and I am working with District Office staff to track down the funds. This was a positive example of several people working together to improve communication district wide.

Naukati School Climate Meeting

Naukati hosted a meeting on Wednesday, October 16th to address parental concerns about the overall school climate. It was highly productive and highlighted the aspects of school, both academic and extra-curricular, that the school is doing right. Parents also used the platform to provide positive solutions to obstacles in school-community relations. SISD Counselor Amy McDonald served as the moderator and did an excellent job of drawing out a balanced representation of points of view, as well as assuring that all voices were given a chance to be heard. This meeting was an action step toward improving communication district and community wide.

Hyder

Hyder students have had an eventful first quarter. The silver salmon arrived and all students were able to catch fish. After studying fish science and fishing techniques in the classroom, curing their own eggs for bait, their hard work paid off. Students also learned how to clean their catch, fillet the fish and brine/cure their salmon for smoking. We smoked a large batch of fish and everyone took fish home to share with their family. A few other all-school activities have included hiking the local trails, gathering rose hips for tea, picking high bush cranberries and mint for water infusions, attending a professional theater performance in Stewart, BC and participating in a public health disaster drill. We have great photos of all of these events posted on the Hyder School Facebook page, please check it out.

While studying meter reading in the high school consumer math class, a representative from BC Hydro stopped in and shared with the kids how to read meters, relating that to electrical and hydro power use.

Elementary students have completed over 30 STEM challenges using 30 different building materials. The upper elementary students are taking a coding class at the local public library and many of our students will be starting after-school figure skating and hockey this month.

We have a Halloween Potluck scheduled for October 30th and our students will be sharing their theater reviews, bat poetry, haunted house listings and their latest student written (k-6) classroom book, Scaredy Bear, with the community.

Whale Pass

► Prepare students for post-secondary life

- ❖ We are sending staff and students to Anchorage Phlight Club on November 8-11.
- ❖ We have completed all fall testing with MAPS testing and Renaissance Learning. We will be completing the Renaissance testing each quarter at the beginning of

the nine weeks. We have also been using the Fast ForWord program with our elementary students in reading.

- ❖ Our high school Marine Biology class will be going to the Sitka Whale Fest with Mrs. Brown on October 31 – November 3.

► Provide sufficient/effective staff support

- ❖ Thanks to Branzon for getting our boiler cleaned out and some general maintenance work around the school.
- ❖ Mr. Cook has been teaching Code.org this year to the Middle School and High School class. He was trained this past summer and has recently traveled to Ketchikan to receive further training in the course.
- ❖ Mrs. Cook has been working with her science class on code.org also and other science activities she learned at the Science Camp in Petersburg this past summer.
- ❖ Thanks to Stacey Mank for visiting on October 15th. Stacey taught lessons to both the elementary and MS/HS classes from hygiene to stress management. Stacey also updated vaccinations and conducted a flu clinic.

► Improve communication district and community wide

- ❖ Mrs. Cook's class visited the voting booth at the city office and witness two voters voting for our school board and city council members. We also baked cookies for the city clerk on his birthday to show our gratitude.
- ❖ Our Facebook page and web page on the sisd site is up and running. Visited us there for all the latest school news.
<https://www.facebook.com/WhalePassSchool/>
- ❖ Our next ASC dinner and meeting will be Tuesday, October 22 at 5pm . We are having a fish fry with all the trimmings and a dessert auction.
- ❖ We will be having parent conference on Wednesday, October 23 beginning at 2pm.

► Increase visibility to share lifestyle and increase enrollment

- ❖ Our gun calendar has been ordered and we will soon be selling them. We plan to e a drawing each month at our ASC meetings. More details to come later.
- ❖ Our current enrollment is 18 students PreK-10th grades. We have 5 High school students, 5 Middle school students and 8 elementary.
- ❖ Our subsistence week was a great success. We will be sharing the video at the next in service and posting on Facebook.

Port Alexander

KUIU Camping Trip Student skills were fostered and cultivated on KUIU island this past week. The students demonstrated teamwork and camaraderie as they hunted, fished, hiked and explored KUIU island. Three fathers in our community went along and shared

their resources with our students. The “sharings of southeastern lifestyle” was enjoyed by all. We are now working on a 3 page paper about the trip for English class.

MAPS testing was concluded before we left for KUIU and we are reviewing student results this week as we prepare to share them with parents during P/T Conferences.

Kindergarten through 6th grade: Dissecting sharks, dissecting rat fish, soaring through math, reading, and writing, oh my! The kids in Port Alexander are enjoying dipping their heads into the great world of life science through learning animal behavior and adaptations, learning why birds have different kinds of beaks, learning the anatomy of sharks and ratfish, and why there are cotton candy flavored grapes.

We’ve finished up MAP testing, and are ready to dive into the specific needs of each student. We continue to write complete answers by restating our question in our answers. We’ve begun literature circles based off of student interest. We are finishing up our lesson on tall tales. Just wait until you see how space formed, and how mountains were formed! We’ve been applying our knowledge in our writing with many sensory details and exaggeration!

Naukati

Naukati Bay School has been mimicking a beehive in the middle of Summer time. We have been busy. We currently have two sports, Middle School Basketball and High School Wrestling, occupying our gym. The students in both sports are doing well and getting many opportunities to compete. Sportsmanship is high!

Our Middle School Basketball Team has played several games and are growing in their “team” sport by concentrating on passing the ball and supporting each other with positive chants. The collaboration is strong with this group. Keep up the amazing job Naukati Wildcats Basketball Players!

Our High School Wrestling boys just got back from Wrangell. They put in a great amount of effort and learned a few new moves to try out at their next meet. Each encounter with a team is an opportunity to share knowledge of skills. They are both working hard at doing their personal best. Good luck to the wrestlers at their next group of matches!

We just had our Halloween Carnival. Thank you to everyone who helped support us by helping with games, playing the games, and bringing extra students over for a night of fun. It was a great time. We are looking into an end-of-the-year class trip.

As we “scream” our way through Halloween, we are already looking towards our Veteran’s Day Feast, Holiday Bazaar, and Christmas Program. *Is it really time to begin thinking about Christmas, you ask? Has it not been looming in the back of your mind as well?*

Howard Valentine

It is hard to believe that we are almost a quarter of the way through our school year. It has been an exciting first quarter and the students and staff at Howard Valentine are anticipating another great quarter!

Since early September, Cassandra and I have been meeting and talking with parents to get a feel for how the year has started and get a sense of what they have been hearing from their kids. (Improve communication district and community wide.)

We have several exciting activities coming up. First, it was our great pleasure to host the first community Volleyball game here in Coffman. We had a wonderful turn out with students from Whale Pass and Thorne Bay attending. Next, we will be traveling to Thorne Bay and Naukati over the next several weeks for their Volleyball nights. Also, our Halloween Carnival will be Saturday October 26th from 6:00pm-8:00pm. (Increase visibility to share lifestyle and increase enrollment.)