



SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Board Report
October 19, 2021
Deidre Jensen

Area Principal

The school year started off very busy with staff shortages, covid cases, and virtual learning. Unfortunately, in-service for teachers needed to be held virtually as well, which gives us all a renewed taste of the importance of in-person learning. All the challenges, however, were superseded by the busy hum of excited students back to school!

On-Island Outer-site Schools

Site visits have been made to all the schools and it's so good to see students engaging with staff and educational content, as well as with each other.

Benchmark Assessments

Schools have completed the Fall benchmark assessments with MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) as well as i-Ready (Diagnostics for Reading and Math). Professional development for teachers on November 5th will incorporate reading those results and developing learning plans for students.

Curriculum

Strawberry DNA extraction kits were ordered last year by the science committee and have been sent to each site. Science workbooks from Open Educational Resources were also selected by the science committee last year and we are in the process of ordering these. There is a free online component that aligns with this curriculum. Leisure reading books have also been sent to every site for them to distribute in a manner that their site chooses; learning fairs, game prizes, gifts, behavior or learning rewards, etc. The curriculum committee is looking at the curriculum review schedule. Currently, the Technology, Social Studies, and Health/PE committees are scheduled to be developed and the content and needs reviewed by these committees this school year.

***Barry C Stewart Kasaan School:** Kasaan students started school a week later and have scheduled their make-up days on 10/29/21, 11/12/21, 4/15/22, 5/20/22. Two teachers are busy in Kasaan this year; Mike Congdon and Karen Freese. Karen is primarily with the elementary students and Mike is primarily with the MS/HS students. During Health, the students are studying healthy balanced lifestyles as well as learning to persevere through challenges and hard things. They are using the block schedule to leave Thursdays for electives. They are learning ceramics half of the day and small engine repair the other half, using the Thorne Bay shop area. While they are in Thorne Bay, they take the opportunity to use the gym for some PE time. Naukati is going to join them for a few weeks to participate in their ceramic's lessons. Kasaan students are starting MS basketball this fall as well.

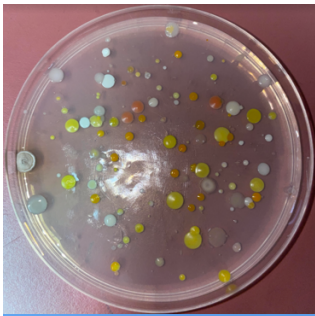
***Hollis School:** Hollis's students started a week later than anticipated and will be making those days up on 11/12/21, 2/4/22, 4/15/22, 5/20/22. Hollis is the only site that has *both* teachers returning to their same school this year, Lisa Cates and Julie Vasquez. The dynamic duo now has 20 students in grades PreK-12. Establishing community norms is a common theme at the beginning of the year for most schools and is a focus for Hollis school to create a productive learning climate for all their students. Hollis really focuses on place-based learning. They have adopted the Half Mile Creek through the stream adoption project working

with local biologists. Students will learn how to monitor the health of the stream and why that is important. They are also researching and designing a sustainable plan for care for the many new miniature rabbits that were donated to the school. If others would like to help care for some, they have plenty to share, but would welcome volunteers at the school as well. A community member donated 50 pounds of salmon and students are learning to process that, as well as planning to process deer in the near future. High school students are working on research and presentation, which you will see the evidence of during the board meeting. They have a new PreK teacher doing a fabulous job, and their amazing cook, Karen, is doing a great job completing the appropriate paperwork as well as preparing the food.

***Howard Valentine Coffman Cove School:** Howard Valentine delayed student start days a week later than planned and will schedule their make-up days at the October ASC meeting. We have one and a half teachers in Coffman Cove this year. Sharlet Collins is full time and Nhung Dinh (Lead Teacher), is doing half time AK-Trails as well as half time Coffman Cove. Things are running smoothly for the students with the help of our classified staff. A calm environment and intentional learning are evidence of the structure, guidance, and understanding provided by the teachers and staff. The high school students are learning some real-life lessons in their Business Class. They are learning about expenses and income, business plans, and application of those things through their student store and their recent bake sale. For their bake sale, the students made all the products; apple and rhubarb pies as well as blueberry and raspberry jam using produce from the orchard. They raised \$430 and hope to use the money for a student trip or activity nights. Their positive behavior and good grades this year have earned them a Fun Friday where they have participated in a nerf war obstacle course and a movie night is soon to be earned.

***Naukati School:** Exciting things are happening in Naukati. While they began school on schedule, they conducted school virtually the first week. Things are up and running. We have one and a half teachers in Naukati as well. Laura Anania is full time and Cassandra Christopherson is half time Naukati, half time AK-Trails. The electives are the highlight for the students right now; as they are being offered, Culinary Arts, Music lessons, Art, Scuba (PADI certification) and now, Ceramics. Naukati's staff has provided a more detailed report about the busyness in the school.

***Whale Pass:** COVID hit Whale Pass earlier in the summer, so students began school in person on the scheduled calendar day. We have the great teacher team of Astrid and Andy Cook this year. Along with their classified staff, it is exciting to see the workings of the school in action. The upper grades participated in their annual subsistence week, catching halibut and lingcod on both rod/reel as well as skate lines. They harvested shrimp as well and they wrapped up the week, processing fish to distribute to the community. The elementary along with the MS and HS were also learning hands on preserving while they made lemon curd and they did two ferments; ginger beer (a non-alcoholic drink, by the way) and giardiniera (Italian pickled vegetables), which are still in the making. Science is always a favorite of the students, especially when they get to see real life application of growing bacteria/fungi and the need to deep clean! (See the picture below). They participated in a walk-a-thon that raised over a \$1000! The plan is to use this for field trips or enrichment activities. Whale Pass School had a successful cross-country team this year; one student (Joseph) won all three of his races the rest of the team earned several top five finishes among all the age groups.



Final remarks: While visiting these sites, I have had the privilege of watching our students learn and see them contribute positively to the positive culture of the schools. Our students are articulate when meeting new people, always cheerful and helpful and generally appear happy to be at school. Our teachers demonstrate a level of professionalism and work ethic that is unique to our school district with the many and varied tasks they have before them. It is going to be an exciting year to watch our students grow.

State and Federal Programs

***Migrant Education:** The fall poses the busiest time for the Migrant Grant with recruiting. A preliminary survey has recently been distributed and can be completed online with the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6HLQGHK>. The hope of this survey is to find new students that may not have been identified as a migrant student, but also to shorten up the interview process, saving time for the parents. The general eligibility requirements for Migrant Education are as follows:

- (1) **A guardian and child must travel at least 20 miles** from their home to do qualifying work (measured by actual miles traveled, not by air miles). If less than 20 miles, it must be a different school district.
- (2) **Qualifying work includes:**
 - a. **commercial or subsistence** fishing (dip net, drift net, set net, pole, jig, pots, diving, digging, collecting, seining, trolling, etc.)
 - b. **seafood processing** (subsistence cutting, drying, smoking, canning, freezing or processing at places such as Silver Bay Seafoods in Craig)

- c. **commercial logging** (harvesting, planting, thinning, processing, etc.)
- d. **berry picking or processing** (berries cannot be from family land)
- (3) **All of the trips must add up to a minimum of 7 nights/8 days away from home** during the past 12 months (including winter trips).
- (4) **The activity must be an economic necessity for the family.** It must provide needed food or income that is brought back to the home. It must be considered difficult to continue residence without the food or income from the activity.
 - * If the person fishing, picking, logging, or processing is 14-19 years old, he or she can participate in the activity without an additional guardian. A person 14-19 years old can also qualify as the working guardian for other children.*

*** A child that is attending school in a different school district or homeschooling, but lives within the boundaries of SISD, is eligible for migrant services in both school districts (such as Mt. Edgecumbe or Craig schools).*

**** Students that have dropped out of school and not graduated yet are eligible until they turn 20 years old (including students with a GED).*

The benefits to a student and family include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Additional educational resources (such as books)
- (2) Opportunities for student support (from the additional funding provided to the school district for migrant students)
- (3) Automatically eligible for free lunch and migrant services if the child transfers to another school district (such as Craig or Ketchikan)

For more information, please call or email Deidre Jenson at djenson@sisd.org or call the district office at 828-8254 Ext. 206.

***The Literacy Grant** covers our use of i-Ready which assessments have been completed. As stated earlier, continued training is soon and will assist our teachers in using the data they gain to program for their students. We are adding i-Ready Math this year, which, while it is not a part of the grant, can provide an extra resource for teachers and students.

***Title Programs** have and will continue to be discussed at ASC meetings. Input from stakeholders is critical in decision making for the use of these funds. Title programs are to be used to provide extra resources to students that are not at a proficiency level in their academics. Ideas for meeting the needs of these students can vary greatly and if anyone would like to brainstorm suggestions, give input or have questions about these grants, please email djenson@sisd.org or call the district office at extension 206.

Sincerely,

Deidre Jenson,
Area Principal, State and Federal Programs