

# September 2018 Site Board Reports

## **Professional Development**

I am very pleased with our returning and new staff at our school sites. Fall inservice saw our staff exploring the new math resources, 4<sup>th</sup> R Training and ACES (these last two were focused on developing relationships with students). We all are working together to achieve a common goal, student success, and I am excited to see how this translates into the classroom, on test scores, and especially how they feel about themselves and strategies to develop positive relationships with others.

The synergy at sites feels very good. We have had probably the smoothest start to the school year thus far in my tenure here in SISD.

## **Curriculum and Instruction:**

This year we will be looking at how our current resources align to our standards in Middle School Social Studies, Work Skills, and Technology. We have established committees that will meet periodically this year to collaboratively work together on ensuring our resources are up-to-date and available for teachers to use in the classrooms.

We are looking at a strong field of Battle of the Books and Spelling Bee contestants this year. Amanda Blankenship, our Thorne Bay Librarian and district resource person, will be taking the lead on these two important programs. We have great confidence in her and her ability to organize and lead these programs that engage our students in learning that is fun and meaningful. This is the first year that Battle Books went out at the end of inservice...Great Job AMANDA!!!

## **Powerschool:**

I have inquired about acquiring an electronic package for filling out enrollment paperwork. I have a meeting with Powerschool on Wednesday, Sept 26<sup>th</sup> to determine if this works for us and if it is cost effective. I have confidence that we can work something out with Powerschool to meet our needs at a reasonable cost. This will greatly cut down on the time spent for both parents and school staff at enrollment time.

Nick Higson  
Principal/Assistant Superintendent

## **Hyder School**

This month, the elementary students have been learning about the 13 original colonies of the United States, while the middle school students have been researching the ancient civilization of Mesopotamia.

In science, the elementary students have been studying aquatic mammals, and are beginning to study land mammals and birds from various parts of Alaska. The middle school students are researching various types of animals as well. Both classes will be presenting projects on their animals.

We also have been the first stop for Dancing with the Spirit and have enjoyed the time with Jason and Stella! The students will be performing at the music jam and potluck this Thursday, September 20, at 5:30 PM! We are all so excited! We will have pictures next month!

The high school and middle school classes are busy writing a holiday play with a Harry Potter theme for December. They have been working very hard and are excited!

Virginia Pulley  
Lead Teacher

## **Port Alexander School**

Port Alexander School Happenings:

- Created a school Facebook page: Please look us up and join our site.
- Took a field trip to Port Armstrong fish hatchery. Big thanks to Ryan and Molly who taxied us all.
- Went on mushroom hunt with local expert to combine with multiple units of study
- Making lists for supplies and getting school facilities cleaned
- We have the best lunches of any school I have ever eaten at!
- Applied for \$5,000 grant to bring Paint Nite to PA
- Cheena grow tower, salmon aquariums and small greenhouse in the works
- Library redesign and updating in the works
- Preschool official launch set for Oct 2
- Maintenance - hoping after fishing season ends, individuals will be available to help remove trash, recycle cans, replace old and out of date parts and equipment. A full list is being compiled for Bransen and Nick for the "5 year revitalization plan."
- 2 students were selected to participate in Sister school exchange program with - - Thorne Bay students. Carlyn Wooten will be the leader, Joe will be the male chaperone.
- Technology has been a struggle. Both teachers not relying on having internet for school day and lessons.
- Dancing with the Spirit arrives on the 24th- eagerly looking forward to the week!
- Our student designed and written newsletter, The Troller, is hot off the presses.

We love it here!

Port Alexander Eagles  
Joseph VonDoloski - Lead Teacher

## Naukati School

Our Greenhouse is becoming greener each day. We now have planted and are currently growing carrots, corn, zucchini and a few different herbs. Our lettuce starters were not producing from seeds so Megan, Rose and Eric brought us some starters so we can hopefully get a rotation going with fresh lettuce.



The fish are doing well. The Elementary students are out there daily feeding the fish and watering their plants. The Middle/High School class are currently looking after the zucchini and learning how to check the chemicals of the greenhouse system. They are all working under the watchful eyes of their teachers as having a greenhouse adds a huge learning curve to a busy schedule. It seems like once a few “green things” were seen growing; the students began having a positive outlook towards the greenhouse. We are hopeful to keep that going.

The school is gearing up to show Jason and Stella from Dancing with the Spirit a good time in Naukati. We are excited to have them come again and share their skills and music. Thank you again to the SISD Board Members and other District Heads for putting up the rest of the funds for them to come and for organizing the calendar. We appreciate all that you do for our school and the students!

The month of October looks to be filling up with some neat activities. We are looking to plan a Halloween Carnival and some presentations from visitors from other countries. We should also have some bunnies to sell and more eggs!

The older students have been enjoying the trips into Thorne Bay for electives. Thank you to the teachers offering those electives. You truly offer amazing opportunities for the students.

Your Partners in Education,

*Naukati Bay School Staff*

## Whale Pass School

The month of September has been a flurry of activity. We are getting into the groove with our nineteen students and seven staff members. We have two new staff members this year. Caren Cooke is our food service person and is doing an awesome job cooking our meals and trying to incorporate vegetables from our school greenhouse. Jason Wakefield is our new paraprofessional working with Migrant Ed. Students in Andy Cook's class. Andy Cook is teaching our 6-9 grade students and Christine Cook is teaching K-5 grade students. Anggi Wakefield has taken over teaching the PreK class in the mornings. This has been a new challenge this year with two new PreK students. We are excited to have finished the room for them including an awesome ocean mural. We have a few new students this year. Tommy Cook-PreK, Jeremiah Toman-PreK and Joseph Hillis-K have enrolled and we look forward to getting to know them.

Our elementary students and middle school have been competing in Cross Country with Caren Cooke as the coach this year. We have one more meet in Craig this Saturday and the Middle School will be going to Ketchikan on September 28<sup>th</sup>. Caren has done an excellent job coaching this year.

A few new things to brag about so far this year include our addition to our building. We are still waiting for completion, but look forward to using it as a workout room and extra space. Our front and back porches are now complete. All of our rooms, including the bathrooms, have a fresh coat of paint on the walls and ceiling.

As the next month approaches, our middle school students are gearing up for basketball. We will be combining with Naukati this year again to make one team. We are still in the process of hiring coaches, but will have one coach from Whale Pass and one from Naukati to share the coaching job. This will allow some time at each site if the weather should turn bad during the season.

Many of our middle and high school students have been involved with the Health Network this summer and have continued during this fall season. On September 10, Sarah Alford and Christine Cook had the pleasure of taking a group of students to Craig for an Opioid Task Force discussion at the Peace Health building led by Colleen Watson. These students will be marching in Craig on September 23 from 3-6 for the Recovery Month march.

The week of September 24-28, all of our middle school and high school students will be going with Andy Cook, Jason Wakefield and Caren Cooke to Winter Harbor for a subsistence week camp out. This is the first year for this and we hope to continue this for many years to come. The students will be learning subsistence skills such as hunting, fishing and gathering. Andy Cook plans to also teach map skills and fire arms safety.

We are looking forward to our week with the Dancing with the Spirit group. This year we have art and music on Thursdays. Jason Wakefield has been leading classes with the elementary in recorders and MS/HS with string instruments. We hope Stella and Jason will see the improvement in musical skills since this time last year.

Our artist Melva Broad. Awesome job!



Fish Printing in Art.



Christine Cook  
Lead Teacher

## **Kasaan School**

It has started off as a terrific year in Kasaan. We have 12 students (5 elementary, 1 middle school, and 6 high school). Eleven of the students live in town, and one is traveling in from Southside.

Each student has an electronic device from the school district, and the school network is working well. It is a slow on occasion, but not trouble.

Tlingit and Haida Central Council supplied a free backpack and school supplies for each of our students. They have always been great supporters of the school and we really appreciate their efforts to help us when they can.

The Organized Village of Kasaan has a new carver working in the carving shed, and we are taking the elementary and middle school down to work with him on Thursdays this year.

The boiler building had an extension built on to it this summer, and it turned out great. The added storage will help us with much needed room for wood. Last year we ended up burning wood that was stored outside that remained wet, and it was not very efficient.

Mike Congdon is currently working on reconstructing the entrance to the school in order to increase headroom. Last year our taller students learned to duck pretty quickly.

Shane Scamahorn  
Lead Teacher

## Hollis School

For updates and ongoing information please feel free to check out our Hollis School Facebook Page. It is a tool for us to provide school information to our target audience – our parents and community.

The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1483681851918203/>

“It is hard to believe we are concluding our first month of school. It has been great!”

The Hollis Crew on the first week of school:





### **STARTING OFF THE SCHOOL YEAR:**

We have a super crew at Hollis School! We had expected turnover this summer as three (3) students left Hollis but continue to attend school. Seven (7) new and former students enrolled with us and we are excited to share that we have twenty-five (25) new and returning students enrolled for the 2018-2019 school year. Our students range from pre-K (3 and 4 yoa) through 11<sup>th</sup> grade in attendance.

Thank you: As we begin our year 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 Matt and the County Line Kitchen crew at Forward Products for your generous donation of a school supply of your fandarntastic County Line Kitchen Flip Top Mason jar lids. Thanks to the County Line Kitchen crew we can up-cycle our canning jars and provide awesomely cool, easily cleaned, BPA free and classroom friendly water bottles and unlimited access to potable water to every student.*
- *Thank you to our SISD Maintenance Crew Branson, Forest, Ron, & Principal Nick and our amazing Hollis Community Volunteers: Dan Sharp, Travis Watkins Sr, Nicole Graham, Ron Curtis, Catherine Guillaum, Nick*

*Gregg, Mike Hoffman, Lynn Burnett, Chad Burnett, Deanna Tipton, Jessica Hoffman, Steve Gass and Roger Cates* for coming together and working hard to finish old projects and help us to bring our vision of a community and family friendly healthy futures place based playground to a reality. We are just waiting on some final finishes to ensure all is safe so keep a look out for our grand opening!

- Thank you to *Cathy Starkweather and Sam Schlobohm* for mentoring and empowering our students to create an amazing meal for our workers!
- *Airica Tripple* for the updated tech equipment that allows us to seamlessly deliver content.
- Thank you Bud Williard and Brent Cason (We have not had potable water) for all of your tireless work to install and maintain an entire new water system so that our water will be safe to drink while making sure it operates to allow access to water for nondrinking water systems.
- *Thank you to Heidi Young, Ami Eller, Colleen Watson* and the many adult youth mentors who have worked together to make the dream of a Health Network supported youth program a reality. Our students have thrived over the summer as they attended and participated in meaningful events across the island. Their peer, elder, anchors have been amazing.
- *Thank Sandra Nessett* for our 1<sup>st</sup> day of school celebratory balloons!

### Curriculum Highlights:

Our pre-school focus is language and social skills development.

We continue to build upon success with the Daily Five (5) literacy and math instruction and dedicated Writers' Workshops. We continue to incorporate Words Their Way, Visualizing and Verbalizing and Story Grammar Marker across curriculum in our 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms to support their writing and reading comprehension skill development and enhancement

Alaska Perspectives guides our 2018-2019 integrated content to include science (life science, Earth Science, and geology), literacy studies, and art and music. We are planning a trip to Sitka to launch our Alaskan exploration. Students may pick a lens (art, scientists, battles, food, inventions) to support this exploration.

We will continue to use primary source documents, fieldwork and information from elders to map our state's true story and they will evaluate the question, "Who determines our history?" In doing so will continue exploring their own story and identifying who they are as learners.



At the moment the entire school is completing the final drafts of their book, "Rainforest at Rick" before it is sent to the publisher for its final printing. Then our students will send copies to every library and school in the state.

Our students are also launching a planning effort to support small, rural Alaska communities so they may define and build the school that best fits their culture and needs in a manner that also allows students to benefit from the best instructional and learning practices and environments.

Literature circles continue to be an important part of our literacy skill development and we are excited that we will be partnering with several SISD schools to conduct Literacy Circles and broader discussions about our respectful guiding questions to increase student opportunity to develop their respectful accountable talk learning and listening skills.

#### Citizen Science:

**Trees:** We have already started our third year working on yellow cedar tree propagation with Pat Tierney.

**Wolves:** In October we will begin our third year participating in the POW wolf project. This is a short-term program that allows us to meet standards across content while engaging our students in the outdoors. It is an experience that engages all ages.

**Journey North:** Our Primary students are participating in Journey North Citizen Science activities to include seasonal observations, weather tracking, the tulip test garden and Monarch Butterfly migration.

#### Testing:

Last week we conducted our fall AIMS benchmark assessments. We are now completing fluency reads and make-ups. Lisa and Julie use the AIMS assessment results in conjunction with MAPS and SBA data to track student progress, set goals and identify instructional interventions to support student progress.

#### **ACTIVITIES:**

***Hollis Hoops Project:*** After a year long delay to meet other obligations our students are in the process of launching the Alaska Hoops Project. This is a chance to share in a phenomenal integrated learning experience for everyone at Hollis School while also providing a wonderful addition to the Hollis School Cross-Generational Outdoor Lifelong Fitness and Play Area designed by Hollis students and members of the Hollis Community. Hollis students will design and

build a giant State of Alaska backboard with standard and small sized basketball hoops that will be located on the backboard to represent different communities on the map. To make this happen we are selling twelve (12) hoops with nets that we anticipate will represent twelve (12) Alaska communities to include but not limited to: Hollis, Juneau, Fairbanks, Seward, Anchorage. Student planning may change the selected hoop locations but they cannot change the number of hoops. All investors will be recognized with a student created "Map Key". We already have ten (10) investors. Guided by learning targets our students will form a team to plan, organize, manage budgets and supplies, design and build the Alaska Hoops Project! They will also provide investor reports. Here is a link to learn more, review learning targets or invest in this project:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HollisSchool/permalink/2034831243469925/#>

***Phlight Club:*** We have finished our Phlight Club applicaiotns and your students are filled with excitement to attend the Fall 2018 Phlight Club in on the third day of school. This year we took four (4) students. Our Phlight Club reflection and debrief is always time well spent as evidenced by a few of the thoughts shared and their rich ideas for taking it back to the classroom and the community.

***Kayaking:*** We are really using the kayaks. Our first trip included an exploration of watercolor on the water. We are hoping to plan longer trips in the spring.

***Chickens and Garden:*** Our chickens and garden are thriving. The garden has been such a wonderful gathering place for the Hollis community. It has been a treat to send fresh vegetables home for our students to share with their families. Sam has launched student garden classes using the new curriculum and we are excited to see where it takes us.

***Community Reflection and Norms:*** An important part of our intentional process to weave new people into our community includes a review of all we do in our community to ensure what we do has value and that all are invested in their purpose. One of our most important annual activities started day one as the students across all grades began working on our 2018–2019 school norms. The discussion started with "a box challenge" as students worked in small groups to see who could create a structure for the marble to move the greatest length. Upon reflection they discovered the power of respecting and listening to each other and that sometimes it does not work when everyone wants to be the leader more than they want the team to succeed. We also watched the film "Wonder" over the course of a few days. Our focus was on "what did you see that you want to see in our school?" and "what do you want to make sure is not a part of our school's culture?"

These activities supported strong discussion as they discovered their universal expectation was respect could be the only norm we have. The discussion grew deeper as they each defined what respect looks like and how can it be different across different settings. They are reflecting on our draft norms and anticipate

**Cross Country:** Our students continue to love Cross Country and have participated in all three meets thus far. They are looking forward going to Craig next week! Coach Sam Schlobohm has everyone running!

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**June:** Lisa attended a one week science camp in SITKA

Sam attended the annual Brightways Learning class at Alieska with several other POW teachers and stakeholders.

**July:** Lisa completed a second one-credit 2018 Summer Arts Integration and STEAM Online Conference with Education Closet.

**August:** Lisa attended a one week SEALASKA class that included trauma informed instruction.

## **Howard Valentine School**

This first month of school has been a blast. The students, staff, and parents are back into the routine of school and things are running smoothly. We are also gearing up for an incredibly busy time of year filled with fun and exciting activities for the students.

The students brainstormed then voted on electives they wanted to do this semester. This semester we are excited to be offering Quilting/Sewing, Coding, 3-D Design and Printing, Art and Maker Space!

Our Cross Country Team has been very competitive this year. Coached by Cassandra Christopherson and Misty Fitzpatrick, the team had five of six runners finish in the top ten in they division in the first meet. They improved on this by having five of their six runners finish in the top 6 for their division. We are extremely proud of our team and cannot wait to see how they do this weekend.

We are excited to be hosting this year's first potluck and fundraiser on October 5<sup>th</sup>. It will be a live auction of desserts and gift baskets with all proceeds going to the Howard Valentine Gaming Club for our trip to Gateway Games in Ketchikan. The trip to Ketchikan is tentatively schedule for November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Our greenhouse and orchard are growing fresh fruits and vegetables consistently. Every Wednesday from 3:00-4:30 the greenhouse team of Megan Fitzpatrick and Rose Ruel with volunteer help from Kailei Dillman host a farmer's market where they sell fresh produce to the community. We have also started selling baked goods

during this time. Sheri Dillman and Kate Holtman have baked and donated fresh pastries to be sold.

Lastly, I want the School Board members to know that Cassandra Christopherson is doing an amazing job as Aly's long-term sub. I have had parents comment that their kids really like her and that they are happy.

Chad Dillman  
Lead Teacher  
Howard Valentine School