

May 2016 Board Report

Curriculum:

We are ready to move forward with adding a “D” to the high school and middle school grading scale. The letter grade “D” will represent a percentage value of 60-69 percent and will carry a weight of a “1” grade point average (GPA).

Professional Development:

STEM week was a great experience for staff and students alike. The “bridge building” and destruction was the main attraction besides the talent show. Mark Gunkel’s Algebra II class built a bridge out of popsicle sticks that held over 1600 lbs. The staff worked very long and hard that week to make each and every event a learning experience...from the kiddos climbing to the top of the wall in the gym to the science fair and Mad City Money. By the way...a big thanks to the Tongass Federal Credit Union for hosting that last event.

Nick Higson
District Principal

Hyder School

The school year is quickly drawing to a close. I am amazed at how quickly these last few weeks have been. It is clear the students are excited about summer, but they are equally excited about learning in these last weeks of school.

On behalf of the students at Hyder, I would like to begin by thanking the Board for bringing us out to Thorne Bay for STEM Week. The students had such an amazing time. They have built new friendships and created bonds that will stay with them forever. The learning and fun that took place was incredible. All of the students are still talking about STEM Week and are eager to return next year.

The Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success! We sold many books, and have qualified to hold another book fair next school year. It was great to see all of the students and their parents excited about buying and reading books.

Also, our Reading Challenge is almost done! We challenged our students to read 500 books by the end of school. As it stands now, our students will reach this goal!!!

I would also like to give a special mention to Morgen Craft. He is our graduating senior, and a wonderful young man. I relied on Morgen a lot this year, and he has proven to be a responsible, and dependable person. I am extremely proud of Morgen and how he has grown from the beginning of the year. I look forward to seeing his continued growth as he moves on from high school.

I have included some pictures of STEM Week!

Again, THANK YOU for all of the support!

Chad Dillman
Lead Teacher

Port Alexander School

The last month of school is always busy, busy, busy! But the workload keeps us all on our toes and ready for anything. Port Alexander, like most of S.E. Alaska, is gearing up for the fishing season and the school is preparing for the last few days that it will be filled with budding, young minds. PA has a few extra plans to bring the school year to a close.

On May 15, the City of Port Alexander will host their annual Art Show! The students, as well as many community members, have been working hard over the dark and rainy months, to create amazing works of art. The pieces will be judged and showcased for other art connoisseurs to view and discuss over cheese plates and cupcakes.

Our last Bingo will be on Saturday, May 21. Then, we jump right into our last week of school. The students will be working hard hauling some more rocks to make sure our swing set does not wash out to sea over the summer and assisting in preparing the school to sit idle for those few months of sun and fun.

Another day of celebration is close at hand. May 26th marks Graduation Day! We have one senior graduating and heading up to UAF and two Kindergarteners being promoted. With an Italian themed potluck in the works, no one should leave hungry.

The last day of school will end with a family luncheon where there will be discussions of tentative plans for next year and small presentations put on by 3-5th grades.

The Port Alexander School students and staff would like to send another large thank you out to everyone that helped the PA students get to Thorne Bay for STEM Week! Our Bingo and other fundraising money alone could not have funded the trip. The

students had a wonderful time meeting other students and seeing the “big island”. We appreciate all of the hard work that went into making STEM Week happen and all the dedicated people it took to make it run smoothly. Thank you!

Whale Pass School

I can't believe that the school year's end is just around the corner. Our last semester here at school has been packed full. Below is a list of events from now to the end of the year.

End of Year Calendar of Events Whale Pass School

May 9-17, 2016	Archery Field Trip to Kentucky (JD)
May 16-18, 2016	MAPS Testing (all grades)
May 19, 2016	Native Youth Olympics (Naukati School) Leaving 8:30 Returning 2:00
May 22-25, 2016	Seattle Trip (2nd-12th grades) Meghan Cook will be subbing for PreK
May 25-June 3, 2016	Project Grad Summer Institute (Megan W.)- Homer, AK
May 26, 2016	ASC Dinner and Meeting (BBQ) 5:00 pm
May 27, 2016	Hunter's Ed Field Day
May 28, 2016	POW Marathon
May 30, 2016	Memorial Day (No School)
May 31, 2016	Last Day of School—Memorial Beach or Neck Lake
June 1, 2016	High School Graduation 2:00pm

As you can see the rest of the year is packed full also. As the year ends, we are wrapping up a unit on Germany and the Holocaust in Elementary Social Studies, Using Lab quest Probes in Science, making bracelets for the Kasaan Whale House in art, and finishing units in math and spelling. This next week we will finish our MAP testing for the year.

Our high school students have finished the yearbook and they have been ordered. Hopefully they will be here before the last day of school. The cost is \$20 if anyone is interested in purchasing one.

We are discussing tutoring in math and reading for several students this summer. I have had a volunteer math teacher from Florida, who is working at one of the lodges; agree to tutor middle school and high school. I think this will keep several students from digressing over the summer.

In closing, I just wanted to remind everyone about the graduation on June 1 for Melanie Wakefield. Since this was her first year here, it would be nice if anyone who was associated with her to come that day. It has been a great year here. We close the year with eleven students with one graduating. We have the potential of four extra students next year if everything goes as planned. I look forward to summer and planning for another year.