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School Board Report - Greenhouse/Ag Program

1 message

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Greenhouse/Agriculture Program School Board Report:

Thorne Bay:

There is a lot of activity in the Thorne Bay greenhouse! We now have enough lettuce growing for the school lunch program, and to start open hours selling lettuce to the public once a week, which will be staffed and operated by students. A new garden entrepreneurship elective and a work study course are bringing older students into the greenhouse daily, and preschoolers visit to feed the fish every day as well. Seeds have been planted for the spring "starts" sale and flower starts for the Mother's Day hanging basket sale will be arriving soon. Students will be caring for them throughout the spring. Plans are being made with teachers to involve all grades in spring planting.

Coffman Cove:

The Coffman Cove Greenhouse has had a tough winter. After having many pipes break during the freeze in December, in January a faulty valve stuck open and released too much hot water into the system which was fatal to all of the goldfish. Repairs will hopefully be completed on the pipes soon. We will purchase a small number of goldfish from Ketchikan, plus transfer some from Thorne Bay to restock. We're using this as an opportunity to do some spring cleaning. District leadership has decided to operate the Coffman Cove Greenhouse at limited capacity for the spring season. We will focus on fast-growing crops that can be used in the Coffman Cove school lunch program. A recent ASC meeting in Coffman Cove provided a lot of valuable community feedback on future ideas for the greenhouse, including turning a portion of it into a community garden, converting some beds to soil, etc. We would like to have a new superintendent in place, though, before making any large-scale decisions or changes.

Naukati: A spring planting event will happen at the end of this month with students at Naukati School. We will do some tree care for the fruit trees planted last year and will be starting seeds to grow in the classroom and to be transferred to the greenhouse.

Hollis and Kasaan: All final ag grant items have been purchased and all money has spent for these sites (we're very excited about the Hollis freeze dryer and the Kasaan irrigation system!)

Grants:

Amanda completed a Letter of Intent for a \$50,000 AK Division of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant for the Coffman Cove greenhouse. We will know in a few weeks if we are invited to complete a full application. Many thanks to everyone who helped make this happen in a short period of time!