

Board Report November 2023

Elementary:

October flew by like a blink of an eye! Music has been amazing this year! We have had one of our amazing volunteers teach music to the students twice a week. She has taught them so much already, and they were able to perform on the recorders at a Halloween Concert!

Art is always full of excitement. Students have studied “Op Art” and created some really cool optical illusions through repetitive patterns. Students have mastered how to draw an animal of their choosing. And students have learned to draw Northwest Coast Formline Art. We weren’t quite old enough to carve, then print our formline design, but students got to paint their design! We had created a wolf, a bear, a mythical creature, an orca, an eagle, and a humpback.

My third through 5th grade reading group started the novel, Summer of the Monkeys! So far we are loving the adventure, the detail, the many connections we can make, and all the conversation the novel brings up. Students are expected to read two chapters a week, complete a set of comprehension questions, and complete a literature circle role. The students really enjoy our weekly meetings where we talk about the two chapters, and present the role he/she was assigned. Literature circles are always fun for all!

As an educator, we are so proud of our students' hard work! We have 3rd grade students writing 5 paragraph opinion essays! It wasn't easy, but the light bulb clicked and students were able to brainstorm, create an outline, and put those thoughts in organized paragraphs! Our students are probably dreaming about the Writing Process as we speak!

Middle School and High School:

Middle school and high school have also had an amazing time learning from each other through hands-on, place-based learning! . Of course the core subjects have been taught across the board, but here are some fun things the students have been involved in during the month of October. They traveled to a fish hatchery for a few days, and had some hands-on experience learning the process of raising salmon. Here, they also learned the challenges and successes a hatchery has to face. Students got to go longlining to see how the bait is set, how the fish were caught, and how the fish were

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sold. They were able to make fish prints on t-shirts, bags, or on just paper. Interested students learned how to extract the ear bones on a rockfish. Students had organized a barbeque for the local fisherman so the fisherman could come and tell their stories. They planned a halloween party for all the elementary students, planned (and competed) in a tri-ATTSAA-long, planned a watercolor paint night, and planned their very own prom! With the help of our amazing students, parents, volunteers, paraprofessionals, ATTSAACoordinator, and teachers, we have made learning in Port Alexander fun not just for the students we recruited for our program, but for our local students, local community members, and local AK TRAILS students in Port Armstrong!

One more thing to add to the Board Report: Port Alexander is going through great changes right now. Our 2023 ATTSAACoordinator program came to an end early November, and we currently have Mr. Trischman as our only certified teacher for our prek-8 students. There will be many challenges he will face, but luckily we have some amazing paraprofessionals, amazing community volunteers, and amazing admin to help Mr. Trischman through these changes.



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