

January 2017 Board Report



Curriculum

Julie Vasquez's Math Committee continues to meet in February to look at how our current resources align to the new State math standards. We will also be looking at internet resources that will help teachers teach Math more efficiently at all grade levels.

An internet based Math and Reading program was implemented at the end of last year called Renaissance Learning. This program is designed to assist struggling readers learn their phonics and improve their vocabulary and reading fluency. Our teachers have been using this instrument to monitor student progress and articulate the results to both students and parents as well as drive their instruction. So far so good!

Lisa Cates is working with her Social Studies committee to find resources to match our middle grades standards. From what I can glean so far, they are close to bringing us a list of resources and ideas ☺

The end of the semester is now past and the 2nd semester has just started. Students have been placed into their new classes and report cards will go out this week.

Professional Development

February 10th is our next teacher inservice in which we collaborate on "STEM Week, College Trip and Prom forward planning". We will also be continuing to work on our district wide goals. This has been very valuable to our staff as we try to focus on what is most important.

Thorne Bay Cafe

We are getting better at reducing our food and labor costs at the cafe. The numbers are getting better for revenue vs expenditures. We have had to adjust our framework as Americorps informed us that Sydney could not act as cafe manager and cook going forward at the cafe. She is great working with the kiddos so we will still have her down at the cafe in that capacity but have had to look at hiring a cook. I will manage the cafe and cook with another cook currently being trained. We will also hire Sydney as a cook under the SISD umbrella to help fill the void. That said, it will raise our operating cost once again, but we will continue to look at other ways to cut costs.

The Thursday night fundraisers at the cafe have been very successful. Students are earning monies for their classroom field trips, book publishings, and sports trips. Big kudos to Christy Plate and all the volunteers that make this happen.

We have started to serve weekend specials at the cafe. Last weekend was our first run at this and it was very successful.

Nick Higson
District Principal

Whale Pass School

Wow! January in Whale Pass means frozen water and less than ideal conditions on the roads. Getting to school for those who have to drive, has been a great ordeal. However, we seem to have received a reprieve this last week with temperatures rising. As of today, everyone now has water. Sometimes we take things for granted until we don't them.

On a brighter note, the students have been working hard to complete assignments in their classes for the end of the nine weeks. The elementary and middle school students have been studying a unit on plate tectonics and volcanoes. Their first assignment for the new nine weeks will be to create their own volcanoes. The middle school students have been studying a unit on the Revolutionary War. We will sum this unit up in the next two weeks and start a unit on the Civil War.

Our Middle School Math students have a new math teacher, Mr. Erickson, who is replacing Ms. Cooper. They will dearly miss Ms. Cooper, but wish her good luck in her move to Thorne Bay. We look forward to working with Mr. Erickson for the remainder of the school year.

In November, the upper elementary and middle school students entered an art contest with the Alaska Municipal League. We are proud to announce that one of our 5th grade students, Logan Cooke, won a place in the calendar for the month of May. Logan also received a grand prize of an art set. All students who entered received a calendar and certificate.

Each month the students and staff vote for the student of the month. This month, we had a tie. So the students for the month of January are Autumn Huestis and Ashlen Cooke. Each student receives a \$5 dollar bill and a candy bar. Congratulations Autumn and Ashlen!

All the students from Kindergarten to 8th grade have been practicing for the Battle of the Books on February 2nd and 7th. Our students hope to be a challenge to their competitive teams. The students are also gearing up to enter the Ididacontest with their photos. These are due January 31.

On January 21st, we will be competing in the archery tournament in Thorne Bay. We will have eight students, grades 3rd-8th, competing this year. Our coaches this year are Anggi and Jason Wakefield. Last year, we had one middle school student, JD Alford, who was able to go to Nationals in Kentucky. We hope to have more this year.

There are several improvements to the school in progress at this time. We will soon be having all the windows replaced. The district received a grant for the windows, which we are sharing with Hollis School. We also have a new school sign by the road. Before Christmas, Mr. Higson and Travis Tripple spent a day with the middle school students building the frame. Over the past two weeks, they have completed the roofing and we are in the process of completing the sign insert.





Hyder School

It is hard to believe the school year is already half over. The students all returned from break refreshed and ready to hit the ground running. This last month has been an exciting time here at the Hyder School. The students have been reading non-stop preparing for the Battle of the Books!!!

The older elementary students have begun using Scratch. Scratch is a elementary level computer programming website. The students are able to create their own animations, mini videos, and other applications. The students are having a great time programming their own video.

In Science, they just began a unit about space. In Social Studies, they just completed a unit about Native Americans, and each student created their own booklet about the Native American People that they researched.

The middle and high school students have been incredibly busy. They also created booklets for social studies/history. They researched a dynasty from Ancient China and wrote their booklets from their research.

Also, we will be hosting a Valentine's Day banquet on Feb. 11th for the community. The older students will be preparing spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic bread, salad, and desserts, while the younger students serve the food.

Chad Dillman
Hyder School

Port Alexander School

It has turned into a cold and snowy January in Port Alexander, however, the students have found that rollerblading for PE keeps them quite toasty. After having a few lessons on forward movement, falling correctly, getting back up after a fall and helmet measurement, the students have been “making the rounds” in our gym at a steady pace.

January didn't only mark the beginning of a new year but also the start of Archery Practice. It seems a little late but we like starting when its cold and working hard to prove our skill set. We have four participants this year ready to fight for Kentucky and an excited second grader who has put a few “nocks” of experience into her belt for practice. We are looking forward to the tournament coming next week.

The end of January marks the time in PA when everyone starts to get a little excited for our annual Fundraiser of making SUPERBOWL Pizza's!! The students and a few community volunteers will be rolling up their sleeves soon to participate in the production of these tasty pies. We already have over thirty orders.

VIVA POW! Here we come!

Laura Anania
Port Alexander School

Kasaan School

Life just cannot get in better out here in Kasaan and it shows with how fast time is moving past.

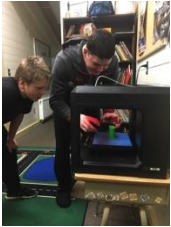


The older students have been working on creating a wood shop area in the boiler room. Mike and the students have build workbenches and a table. Some tools were purchased with Perkins Grant. The class is building a wood kayak, catapults, and equipment to help with gardening.

The younger students have been working in the greenhouse and the potato garden (on the one warmer day that we had). The plants are doing well, and the fish are growing and getting quit large. We are going to start growing some flowerpots to sale around Mother's Day and start



tomato plants next month.



Mike Congdon and I have both recently attend a train for 3D printers. All of the students are designing and building different items that the printer is making. This has been very enjoyable and satisfying.

The all of the middle and elementary school students are participating in wrestling. We have quit a brute on the team, and in his first match of the year he broke his opponents arm. Other then that small set back the wrestlers are enjoying the sport and the opportunity to participate.

We have three students traveling in to Thorne Bay on a nightly basis for high school basketball practice, and we are also using this trip to take archery participants in to practice as well.

The school has a weeklong field trip planned during February to Juneau. We will be taking the entire school to UAS for the mining simulator and construction tour. We plan on giving the students the opportunity to ski or snowboard at Eagle Crest and attend a play at the Perseverance Theater. In addition we will visit the state capital, museums, a fire station, and the glacier.

Hollis School

The Hollis Crew on the first week of school:



STARTING OFF THE SCHOOL YEAR:

We have a super crew at Hollis School and we are excited to share that we have twenty-five (25) new and returning students enrolled for the 2016-2017 school

year. We have students ranging from Pre-K (3 & 4 yoa) through 12th grade in attendance.

Thank you: We want to send out some "thank you's" for some people who came together to help us have the resources we need to teach:

- *Thank you Ellen Hannan* for making it possible for our students to participate in the 2016-2017 Wolf Project. It was an amazing opportunity to conduct real world research and learn from and with expert in the field. Everyone bar none learned quite a bit and enjoyed everything about this opportunity.
- *Thank you to the POW Health Network and Gretchen Klein and the SISD Superintendent Lauren Burch, Principal Nick and the SISD Board of Education:* Hollis School had submitted a \$10,000 grant to playground improvement to include multiage, multisensory equipment for lifetime use! Wit the support of our administration and the Board we submitted our proposal and it has been approved. Thank you to all who made it happen. We cannot wait to make the improvements that will meet the needs of many in our community.
- *Thank you Alaska Trooper John Ryan, the Martynuik Family, the Graham Family and many others from our community* for sharing your harvest to help us to have a wonderful 2016 Harvest Dinner to share with all.
- *Thank you to the POW Health Network and Gretchen Klein and POW Health Network "Screen Time Reduction Task Force" with our own Hollis School student representative Kimejoe Lambeth:* Kimejoe heard about a pool pass distribution and she made is possible for our students to receives our pool passes as a part of last year's "Get Out and Play Healthy Futures Challenge Initiative".
- *Thank you Jonathon Fitzpatrick and Dave* for your continued tireless efforts to install new radiators and our wood fired boiler and build our up-cycled greenhouse from the windows salvaged during the upgrade. You did such a nice job in our classrooms, even making new shelves in places where we lost valuable storage when the radiators were installed in our classrooms. Thank you *Priscilla* for all the work you put into grants to make these changes possible.
- *Thank you Cheryl Bobo and Ellen Hannan* for your continued tireless efforts to bring authentic real world state of the art learning opportunities and resources for our students and teachers. In December they brought the Gizmos and Gadgets training to Hollis and in January they provided a 3-D printer training and they came to Hollis School to teach our students about coding and using the robots to further develop their critical thinking skills.

- *Thank you Travis Tripple and son Tru* for your continued tireless efforts to bring brand new windows to let in the light and keep out the cold along with incredible windowsills that provide more storage in our classrooms. Thank you *Priscilla* for all the work you put into grants to make these changes possible.

Grants and Upcoming Events:

Donors Choose Grants–

We have been so excited about our work Osmo and Dot & Dash and the excited response of our students that Julie submitted two Donors Choose grants. We are hopeful that word will spread and with the funding, these items will add to our maker space. The links to the grants are:

1. Dash and Dot Robots and Osmo Coding program:
<https://www.donorschoose.org/project/help-young-eager-scientists-succeed-wit/2312332/>
2. Inspire and Encourage Creative, Artistic and Confident Kids with Technology:
<https://www.donorschoose.org/project/inspire-and-encourage-creative-artistic/2312458/>

Curriculum Highlights:

Junior High students have almost completed Visualizing and Verbalizing and we are seeing evidence of program success in their later reading discussion. Our intermediate students will be starting the program in the next month.

Our students are eagerly reading and enjoying the Battle Books and are now preparing for their competition. It has been wonderful to listen to their book discussion, departing theme and discussion the character impact. All Junior High and High School students have selected one battle book for their literary analysis that they will be completing after the competition.

We continue to explore life science and learn about US history. With the new semester Primary students will begin their, “This is My Community” expedition and the Intermediates will go forth and explore on their “Westward Ho!” Expedition. Both will be completing their life science studies as they engage in Bird, Butterfly and Macro Invertebrate investigations. Junior High and High School are working on a Literary Analysis of a chosen battle book and completing character studies as they read “New Found Land” about Lewis and Clark.

We have committed to a literature circle with Coffman Cove. Our students are excited to discuss this nonfiction text with peers from another community.

ACTIVITIES:

“Building our Future”: On January 3rd our students were issued their personal tool bags. They helped to create the Tool Responsibility Agreement which requires they care for, do not borrow or loan and always clean and return to their proper place, their tools. It is great to watch a 2nd grader go off to grab his tool back to fix a loose screw in his chair.

Hollis School Community Harvest Dinner. We had such fun at our December 15, 2016 Harvest Dinner for students and their families and community members. Our students spend the week working with Sam preparing delicious scratch recipes. From freshly churned butter and homemade rolls to Russian Pie and halibut chowder the students’ cooking was delicious and there was more than enough for everyone. The meal was possible thanks to many contributions from our community. Students spent part of their break packaging and delivering leftovers to community members who could not get out in the weather to join us.

“Healthy Futures”: We have 100% qualified student involvement in the State of Alaska’s Spring 2017 Healthy Futures Get Outside campaign. The students enjoy tracking their data and watch for the packages.

“Robots and Coding”: On Tuesday January 10th Ellen Hannan and Cheryl Bobo spent the day with Hollis students. From preschool to high school their received hands on experiences operating our Dot and Dash robots and using coding to solve problems. It was a marvelous day and we are still processing our learn.

“I-DID-A-Day!”: On Thursday January 5th we gathered for our first our first annual I-DID-A-Day – with iPads and computers each students created a project from pictures to films to coding to create a project to submit to the annual ASTE contest.

“Student Lead Projects”: On Thursday January 12th we launched our Junior High and High School independent learning projects. Students helped to design the program which their teacher if completed with them as it unfolded. It requires and application, peer review, daily reflection, a written summary report or the project and a presentation to a panel of the student’s selected learning goals, process and outcomes.

“I Am!”: Hawks have been learning and reflecting about who they are as people and as life long learners. In doing so they have learned about and reflected upon their learning styles, their academic progress, their executive functioning strengths and gaps, their interests and their dreams. Developmentally driven this process has included but is not limited to interviews, completing surveys, writing poetry and synthesizing what they things into strong vocabulary that reflects

them as individuals. On Thursday. Everyone from Kindergarten through high school began their creation of a multimedia collage with carefully chosen color and imagery to reflect who they are. They will be using their tools to build the frames for their collage. All students will present their poem and final collage with artist statement to the school community. We are looking forward to their remarks as they work toward our school goal to have students who are self directed lifelong learner who know what they needs and how to advocate for it to ensure success.

“Archery!”: Our Hawk archers are training and are excited about upcoming tournaments. This year we are hosting after school training two days per week in addition to our PE time and Fun Fridays.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Current Training:

In December Julie, Lisa and Sam attended Gizmos and Gadgets training.

In January Lisa and Sam completed a 3-D printing training. Both trainings were provided by Cheryl Bob and Ellen Hannan and included classroom resources to share with the students.

Scheduled Current Training:

Lisa is scheduled to take an online Arts Integration class in February.

Naukati School

January has been a very busy and productive month here in Nauakti. We have been able to accomplish the following things:

- We have a new teacher here with us. Allen Erickson has joined our school from Port Alexander. He is teaching here full time and is a great addition to the school community
- We have 3 new students in school with us so that makes us the count up to 22 kids
- We are very lucky to have volunteers in our school that come once a week to help the kids expand their minds. Carl comes from Tb on Wednesdays to work with the students on robots and our 3d printer, Gebby and Sarah come from Coffman comes on Thursdays to work with the students on gardens and our farm animals. And Jeanette comes on Tuesdays to teach piano lessons.

- Our school has begun a lesson on maker spaces where the kids are given real world problems and working in teams they have to create and build a solution
- Nick and the students built a big wooden sign for the front of our school and have begun working on the landscaping
- All of the elementary and middle school students are participating in archery. We practice Mon and Wednesday from 4-5 pm
- We have been gearing up for Battle of the books with 5 teams, 2 in the 3-4 battle, 2 in the 5-6 battle and 1 in the high school battle
- Our goats and chickens are flourishing. We are working with the community and Americorps to build the goats a playground.

Jessica Goldman
Naukati School