

May 2019 Outer Sites Board Report

End of School Year

The 2018-19 school year is coming to a close at a frantic pace. So much has been going on for the past 6 weeks as is per usual in April – May each year. Our teaching staff is top notch and takes advantage of all the incredible learning opportunities that can be had with the good weather. From Kayaking down the Thorne River to school vs school baseball games. As you can see from their site reports they are getting their students out in the communities as well as across the island and even off the island with field trips to Ketchikan.

PEAKS and MAPS Testing

State PEAKS testing and MAPS testing is done for this year! This is the third year that our students have seen the PEAKS testing format and are becoming more and more familiar with this medium. As I get feedback from teachers, I am optimistic that we will see student growth from last year scores. Unfortunately, we will not know until the end of May or early June when we receive scores from the State.

Great job to the certified and classified staff members that facilitated the testing, Airica Tripple for setting up the tech devices and troubleshooting issues and Amy McDonald for training the staff and organizing the testing window and troubleshooting any issues.

New Automotive Technology Course

The Thorne Bay school Automotive Tech 1 class wrapped up the year on a high note. We have had a great class with an incredible group of young people. It is with great pride that I can say we have succeeded in gaining a higher level of knowledge and understanding of the basic functioning components, as well as the basic maintenance of modern automobiles. This is a skill that will serve them well in the future and apply to a variety of applications, as well as provide the foundation for building on later.

The emphasis this year has been on mature and responsible practices, safety in the work place, and professionalism has shown. There is no doubt about the potential as well as the abilities of our students, and I know they will go far.

We are all enthusiastic about what next year will bring and the students are requesting a more advanced and project-based level class to follow this one. I can only hope to continue the momentum we have built so far, and encourage the excitement to learn. We as a class are proud of each other, as well as what we have accomplished.

Alex Hert and Shane Clark, Automotive Tech Instructors

Community & Parent Support

We have had many volunteer parents and community members work with our students over this past year. The expertise and support they bring to our schools is phenomenal.

Teamwork

School Sites Staff, Students, Maintenance, Fleet, Food Service, Technology, District Office, Admin, Coaches, Parents, Community Volunteers, and Student Workers have all worked together this year to make this a very successful school year. Below are some accomplishments of this teamwork in action...

- Increased Participation in Extracurricular Opportunities
- More Diversity and Opportunity of Elective classes
- Lots of Field Trips on and off Island
- Enrollment maintained or increased all most of our sites
- Minimal Staff Turnover
- Increased student to student interactions between school sites

I look forward to us finishing this year strong and instilling a sense of pride in our students so that when they go out into their communities and beyond, they talk well of their teachers and schools and look forward to coming back for another exciting and meaningful year 😊

Nick Higson
Outer Sites Principal

Whale Pass School



May has had a flurry of activity for our school. We began May by completing a community clean up at a site on Twin Island Lake. The students and staff cleaned up an old camper that had fallen. Thanks to the help of Caleb Toman, we were able to haul off the metal and burn the rotten wood. This site has already been used by several families in our community for camp outs. Our next goal is to build a picnic table to place there. Mr. Cook's class is currently working on a project to build several picnic tables to place around the community. This project has been turned in to the Health Networks Youth Leadership Program for some funding for the wood and supplies.

All students grades 3rd – 9th completed the MAPS testing the week of May 6-9. Also that week, on Monday, May 6 Stacey Mank and the American Red Cross visited us. Stacey updated several students on shots and the ARC installed new smoke alarms and gave the students an emergency response crash course.

The Elementary students have been taking swim lessons each Friday in May. This last Friday, May 24th, we plan to eat lunch in town before swimming.

As school winds down, we have several fun days planned as listed below.

May 23rd—Fish Hatchery Tour and Lake Day at Neck Lake

May 28th--- Community Clean Up Day with Naukati—will be meeting in the middle at Chum Creek for Lunch

May 29th ---Memorial Beach

May 30th –El Cap Cave

Christine Cook
Lead Teacher

Hyder School

Hyder School is winding down for the school year and the students are getting excited about their summer vacations. We have been able to take walks in the afternoons with some or most of the students when there have been nice days, which has been pretty frequently lately. The students are finishing up novels in the 3rd-11th grades, and almost all of the students have reached their A/R reading goals for the year and are anxious to go to the popcorn and movie party! In grades K-8, we have been learning about the various body systems and have built our own paper bodies, complete with the systems that run it! The elementary students (3rd-6th) have been learning about westward expansion, slavery and emancipation. The middle school students have been learning about medieval times and have built castles and “kingdoms,” as well as a coat of arms that shows their personalities.

The secondary class has been researching various artists from around the world and doing art in the style of the artist in preparation for a big presentation on Thursday. Last week, they made quiche that we will enjoy this Thursday as well. They seem to have enjoyed both art and cooking this year and I hope that some of these traditions can continue with the upcoming year and the new teachers.

We are getting ready for Field Day and the end of the year community BBQ as well as early release on the last day of school. The students are excited for these events and anxious for summer to begin as well.

Lastly, I just want to say thank you to all of the staff members and students who have made my years here at Southeast Island School District and Hyder School such a joy and I feel that even though I am leaving to take care of my family, I am also leaving so many family members behind here as well and I will miss every one of you. I hope that you will keep in

touch and that we will see each other again one day soon. If you plan a trip to Texas, make sure to add me to the list of those you plan to visit!

Virginia Pulley
Lead Teacher

Port Alexander School

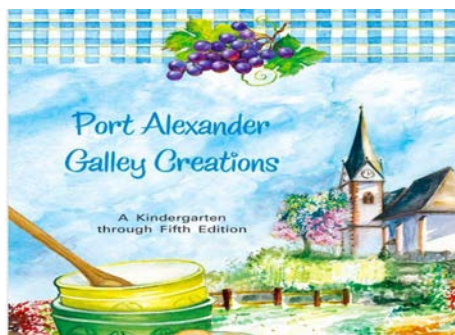
Kindergarten/8th grade & senior graduation this month. A great time of celebrating milestones in the lives of our young people. Our student MAPS scores are stellar and we have been enjoying all the sunshine.

6-12th grade: We finished our small engine class this week. Students completely stripped down new engines and rebuilt them. They all start :) A couple of our students have begun repairing and overhauling boat motors and lawn mower motors on the island with their new found skills! The college trip was an excellent experience for our 2 high school students and they both enjoyed prom. We wrapped up this last week with a team Olympics.

Kindergarten through 5th grade: Springtime is a perfect time for outdoor classes and we are enjoying cooperative learning building structures and exploring our environment.



4th and 5th grade students helped finish typing recipes into the program for our Port Alexander Cookbook. The cookbook will be available for purchase on June 1st. Anyone interested should contact Anna Mekki for purchase. They will cost \$20 per purchase.



We finished MAP testing and students gained in most areas since Fall. Students agree we will finish well this year. I'm proud of the hard work and time on task for all of the students. PA's art show was amazing. All students won ribbons on their creative masterpieces.

~Soar High~Port Alexander!~

Joe VonDoloski, Anna Mekki, Shanna Smith, Laura Pollard, Heidi VonDoloski

Naukati School

Naukati School started the month of May with MAPS testing. Everyone struggled with wanting to be outside as the weather was amazing. On breaks we took advantage of our beautiful surroundings and went walking down to the beach and played on the playground. The students were happy to get testing out of the way and got a few extra minutes of outdoor time!

Nine of our students had the opportunity to carve, sand, and paint their way through the Native Paddle-making workshop. All students and staff had a great time working and learning together. *Thank you Priscilla for fulfilling a wish to gain more Native Culture from the area.*



We are still selling hanging baskets for \$20. This fundraiser is used for endeavors like planting seeds, plants, woodworking projects, and other ideas that might just put our community on the map for POW. We are currently working on "Fresh" ideas.

Our last two weeks of school are filled to the brim with activities such as Baseball Games with Coffman School, Road clean-up and cook out with Whale Pass, a potential Role Playing event based on D&D, our AK 49 pizza party and last but certainly not least, our Kindergarten Graduation and last day BBQ. It is busy but looking to be wonderful time.

Best Wishes,
Naukati School Staff

Howard Valentine School

My students have informed me that as of today, there are only 6 school days remaining! I keep telling them that we still have 6 school days remaining! ☺
This is always a chaotic and exciting time of year. The students are counting down the days and are anxious for school to be over and for summer vacation to start.

That being said, we have all survived another STEAM Week, PEAKS and MAPS testing, and Phlight Club and all of the challenges that come with them. We are finishing up indoor soccer and swimming lessons. This Wednesday, we are excited to have the Naukati School join us for a baseball game here in Coffman.

We were fortunate enough to have Cheryl Fecko and the Stream Team this year. We paired with the Kasaan School and went out to Staney Creek for the morning. It was an incredible trip. Our students learned about hydrology, insect classification, habitats, ecosystems, and some tracking. Afterward, we all went to Eagles Nest for lunch. I want to give a special 'shout out' to Shane Scamahorn for bringing fresh fruits and snacks for the whole group.

Students are finishing up the last of their projects in ELA, Social Studies and Science. They are continuing to learn about the Engineering Design Process by creating Egg Cars in MakerSpace. Many of our students in gaming club have created deck boxes in our 3D Design and Printing class.

Continuing a tradition here at the Howard Valentine School, we will be having lunch at Luck Lake on the last day of school with an early release at 2:30.

Best,

Chad Dillman
Lead Teacher
Howard Valentine School

Hollis School

Thank You....



Everyone who supported an amazing two weeks of Prom, STEAM, Native Youth Olympics, Battle Book Pool Party and more. Our post event reflection included many “Celebrates, Opportunities and Recycling” to process all we did and inform future planning. Everyone, bar none appreciated the chance to connect with peers and staff from other schools. Connection was the biggest celebrate of all!



Priscilla, Megan Fitzpatrick and Earl Jeffrey’s making a day of cold-water safety training for three of our students. Given their subsistence life this training was real world and might just the difference for one of these boys and we cannot be more appreciative of this and other opportunities like this.



POW Health Network Director Heidi Young and Assistant Amy Eller and Colleen Watson supporting our Youth Leaders to plan and host our "United Island Recovery Festival. It was a successful day of kids’ games, crafts, art, dance, prizes, food and information and speakers. What a GREAT event.



James and John Stevens for supporting our Nationals Bound Archers’ Chloe and CJ with ongoing training and also ensuring they had an amazing experience! In Utah. Thank you also for the wonderful archery celebration nights to cap the season.



Mike Congdon for leading the planning and construction of our long awaited new chicken coop. PLEASE celebrate the amazing efforts of Mike Congdon along with his thoughtful instruction to enable our students to participate with the build our coop would still be on the drawing board. We are so excited and appreciative for A4LE Alaska Chapter 2018 Transformation Grant and all of the district’s support of this project so our students who have this incredible construction experience and chickens can once again be an important part of our Hollis School community.



Thank you Priscilla for getting the dirt and Alex for brining it. We cannot be happier as a community to get such a wonderful gift.



Thank you to Miss Amy McDonald, Kari Carl and Dante Huffline for what was – with students from all four school districts - not only the largest Phlight Club every

conducted on our island but also one of the best organized, well thought out with richer curriculum and thoughtfully presented PHlight Clubs. It was powerful.

Current Academic Explorations:

Primary students are wrapping their exploration of community and quality of life. They have written their pamphlet text and completed their filming. They are completing their pamphlet and best of all – they are revisiting what they need for quality of life and there had been quite a shift from what they reported in the fall and what they have identified after their year exploring community. Next fall they will build upon that knowledge as they plan their “future city (or town)” based upon their reflection and learning.

Intermediate and Middle Schools are sending information to Hoops Project donors and will resume their work in the fall. They are currently working on their “Personal Compass Rose “ as they consider where they are in the world and where they are going.

High School had wrapped up their exploration of Alaska History and Civics. They have completed their discussions and identified what they believe are the most pivotal moments, places and people that define Alaska’s story and we look forward to their additions to our timeline.

They have spent the past month exploring events, people, qualities and other influences in their lives. They have brainstormed, reflected, synthesized and written about these influences and are not to the point that they are summarizing what they have identified and crafting their personal creed.. The accompanying art projects have already begun to go beyond what was assigned and we look forward to hearing their presentations at our Thursday May 31, 2019 “2018-2019 Celebration of Learning”.

Later this week we will move some of their work to their portfolios to share and document their learning.

Special Events and Moments:

Swim Lessons, Soccer and Marathon:

- Swim lessons ended last Friday and they are always a favorite. This opportunity is important for our island students who spend so much time on the water.
- Elementary Soccer is perhaps one of the favorite sporting opportunities -it ranks up there with basketball and archery. They just love it.
- We have an 8 man/woman relay team and 2 running the half marathon. They have been training and they are excited. Please watch for our Soaring Hawks in the anticipated 70 degree heat and cheer them on!

Jonathon Wunrow:

Over this past year our Hollis high school students have been investigating the importance of story and perspective as they have explored Alaska history. Part of this study has been focusing on others' stories while also exploring their own. In tandem with this they spent the year exploring Jonathan Wunrow's book "Adventure Inward" to foster reflective discussion and journaling. We used that work as we launched the High School students' Personal Creed Project.

As we are at the last chapter of Adventure Inward and we are excited to share Jonathan Wunrow came Hollis School to spend the weekend with our high school students.

Planned as one of our Hollis High School students' final 2018-2019 cornerstone learning moment, the weekend's experience had multi-faceted goals to include a rich experience to connect with someone who can give them another lens to the world, who can provide a new perspective of what is and what is possible.

As part of our Hawks' goal to include service and community in their work they co-hosted an "Evening with an Author" reception for the community at our town library. They also prepared dinner for Jonathon and some anchors who made his possible. On Sunday, they all cooked breakfast and then, along with our Middle Schoolers, everyone went out for some time in our kayaks – as always this time included moments for connections and generated some wonderful ideas for new learning explorations in the coming school year while providing opportunities to fortify our grit and perseverance when we discover we are capable of doing what we here-to-for thought impossible,

Chicken Coop and Garden:

We continue to be excited about the possibilities our greenhouse will bring when it is completed. In the meantime, much work has been done and today we celebrate the arrival of dirt to top it off and take our garden to the next level. Soon we will be planting and growing and we are looking forward to several summer garden day's for kids and their families to come weed, do garden craft, enjoy lunch and play while also harvesting fresh produce to take home for dinner.

Our chickens are thriving in our wonderful new coop and the joy they have brought to our community is boundless. Nothing like holding chickens to better prepare our students to distress before sitting down to their annual state exams. Chicken check-ins can really give all an opportunity to breath and be in the best position to take an assessment.

Training:

Scheduled:

Lisa is scheduled for the annual science camp and is excited to bring back new ideas to implement in the coming year.

Julie currently taking the Alaska Staff Development Course for Elementary Reading Intervention Strategies.

2018-2019 Celebration of Learning:

On Wednesday a community member will be at Hollis School to teach our students how to corn the bear that another community member donated. On Thursday May 31, 2019 we will have our annual celebration of Learning to include a feast of island harvests - venison, bear, salmon and halibut - cooked by our students

The festivities will include”

- Sharing portfolios
- Celebration Presentation with:
 - This is My Community Film and Quality of Life
 - Mt Personal Compass Rose
 - My Personal Creed and
 - “My One Big Thing”
- And our traditional “End of the Year” home made root beer floats!

Lisa Cates and Julie Vasquez
Partners in Education
Hollis School

Kasaan School

Wow! I can't believe this year is almost over. The time has passed rapidly.

We are finally back in the school as of Wednesday last week. The insurance company painted the entire exterior of the school, replaced all of the carpet in the school with vinyl flooring, and cleaned the walls and air ducts.

We had a great April with STEAM Week, Native Youth Olympics, and a field trip to Ketchikan. The students really enjoyed all of the activities that the school district provided with the week-long festivities in Thorne Bay. It was very beneficial for our students to interact and participate with other students and collaborate on meaningful events. They found the geography bee challenging and science exploration was very educational with them.

In Ketchikan we attended the Ramona Quimby play that was put on by the First City Players Club. All of the students enjoyed the performance and found it refreshing to attend a live production. Many of the students had not seen a live play.

The school is going to kayak the Thorne River tomorrow with Mr. Higson. Then on Wednesday we are participating in a community clean-up in Kasaan, and next Tuesday the middle and high school students are going on a field trip to Calder Mine.

We have a busy end of the year to conclude with, but it has been a great year for the students and the staff here in Kasaan.

We thank you for all of your support and helping us the educational process.

Shane Scamahorn
Lead Teacher
Kasaan School