



November 2018 Outer Site Board Report

Principal's Report

The holiday season is upon us. Each school has been busy organizing and facilitating events like Fall festivals, holiday plays, fundraiser dinners, Veteran's Day programs, food drives, and many other activities. Teachers and their staffs organize these activities in addition to the educational day. They work hard at creating and maintaining a bridge between school and community and it shows. The newsletters that schools are developing and sending out to all the SISD staff and their communities are informative as well as entertaining. If you have not had a chance to see them, please visit the sisd.org website and click on School Newsletters under the Quick Links column.

SISD Food Service:

Naomi McDonald, SISD food service coordinator, has developed and sent out a prepopulated Production Record that will make the site food service worker's job much more efficient when filling these out. She has also developed a new more efficient way of tracking daily student breakfast and lunches. She has taken ownership in the food service department and it shows. She is constantly looking at ways to save money, yet bring in quality food products for our students and staff to enjoy.

Curriculum & Electives

We continue to add elective class syllabi to the curriculum webpage. Port Alexander is starting a small engine elective class that we will "can" and make available to all sites in the Spring. We will also be starting an Automotive course in the Spring. I will be the teacher of record for this with our certified mechanic, Alex Hert, doing the instruction. We will also start up a SCUBA class in the Spring. I personally look forward to this as I will be participating in helping with the instruction and the pool and ocean dives.

November 9th Teacher Inservice

Our certified staff came together at Thorne Bay School at the Nov 9th teacher inservice to share some of the lessons that they have used to teach the 4th R curriculum. We also looked at the criteria on how the State "grades" schools and our school's State report cards. Alan and I will present this at the Nov 28th board meeting (forum). Teachers are analyzing the individual student data to see how we can individualize instruction.

Dancing With The Spirit

Big thanks to Pricilla Goulding, Lauren Burch, and all the SISD staff for facilitating another great year of Dancing with the Spirit. Big thanks to Jason and Stella for getting students interested and engaged in the learning. The HoDowns were a lot of fun for students, staff, and spectators. We are already looking at how to bring this back for next year!

State Testing Data & School Classifications

All of our school, save one, have made the grade of “Universal Support” which is the standard that all school in the state strive for. Naukati School did not make this classification, instead, they are classified as “Comprehensive Support” which means that we will need to write and implement a school improvement plan. I will give more details on this at the board forum on the 28th of Nov.

Whale Pass School



The end of October and beginning of November has been a flurry of activity. We finished our week of “Dancing with the Spirit” on October 19th with a big performance for the parents and community members. All of the students did a bang up job with their instruments. There was marked improvement of musical skills over last year. We continue to have music class once a week on Thursday with both the elementary students and the MS/HS students. Currently the elementary is learning songs on the recorder and the MS/HS are learning on the guitar. We are very thankful to the musical talents of Mr. Jason Wakefield who is leading these classes. We also want to thank the school board and Priscilla for giving us a chance to work with Stella and Jason and hope we will have many more years of their instruction.

Our MS basketball team finished strong this year. Giving many of the island teams a run for their money. We went undefeated until the Wrangell Tournament, but our team continued to do their best to the very end. Way to Go Rebels!

Our walk-a-thon was held on November 8th. All of the students completed the 10 miles around the bay except for a few little ones who did walk the five miles to the log dump. We continue to take in pledges, but it looks like we will clear at least \$2000.00 on this go round. The community and parents joined us that day for a hot dog cook out with homemade cookies for dessert.

On November 20th, the school helped cook a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for our parents and community members. All of the students joined in making everything from deviled eggs to pumpkin pie. We finished off the afternoon with a well-deserved movie and popcorn.

Some upcoming events next week will be our ASC Dinner on Tuesday, November 27th at 5:00 with a Taco Bar and our first aid training with Jenny Vasser on Thursday, November 29th.

Christine Cook
Lead Teacher

Hyder School

Hyder is busy getting ready for winter! We have been writing thankfulness books in elementary and thankfulness essays in the upper grades in preparation for Thanksgiving next week. It is always interesting to see what the students are thankful for!

The students have been learning about the "Underground Railroad" and Harriet Tubman and were astonished to learn that this did not include any train tracks. ☺

They have been preparing for our two upcoming fundraisers in early and late December: On December 1st, we will host an all-you-can-eat baked potato and salad buffet fundraiser. On December 22nd, we are planning a community potluck with a dessert auction and holiday student craft sale.

They just completed some awesome 3-d animal and plant cell projects in elementary and the middle school has taught us about different types of birds with some visually inspiring slides projects!

We are in the process of getting a Science Club started for the students, as well as in the planning phases of a proposed Astronomy Club.

Virgina Pulley
Lead Teacher

Port Alexander School

Port Alexander School Happenings: We completed our Parent teacher conferences having a great turnout. Students are all growing and demonstrating what they are learning to their parents.

Grades 6-12 for November: We have been working hard on our small courtyard getting it ready for future use. We hauled about 3 yards of gravel up from the beach one bucket at a time and spent a Friday afternoon hauling up kelp to fertilize our soil in the greenhouse.



We attended a city council meeting this week to help with a grant application being made by the city to replace our faltering water tank. Students wrote letters of support for the grant to the Community Development Block.

We have been very successful in our fundraising efforts with Bingo recently. Locals have stated that they have never seen such a turnout for Bingo and the money we are raising is also

unprecedented. Our community is embracing our school and supporting it in multiple ways.

We are losing our only junior as he is traveling to Thorne Bay for the basketball season. Coach Gunkel will be hosting our student Joseph in his home.

K-5th Class: The trip by teacher Anna Mekki to Thorne Bay, Hollis and Naukati proved to be very fruitful for our kindergarten through fifth grade classroom. I was able to get some wonderful programs from the seasoned SISD teachers and implement them in our classroom. The students are enjoying the Daily Five program as well as using a spelling, phonics and vocabulary program called Words Their Way. We gained another "free" reading program from Naukati called "Epic". The students also just began a unit on coding and are excited to learn more about writing programs. Science is exciting with the study of cells and microscope discoveries which the students highlight in their science journals. The students are engaged and flourishing. We are planning a fine dinner and performance for Christmas break.

Preschool: Our students have really grown this month! The kids are getting more comfortable being a part of a large group. They are also enjoying their time in the gym, and two of the class just learned to pedal a tricycle. They learned about the human body and toads. They made colorful turkeys with real feathers. They do music most days with guitar led sing-a-longs and dancing. The children especially enjoy building boats, rafts, planes, boardwalks and forts with their large building boards. They never want to leave when it's time to go home!

Joe Vondoloski
Lead Teacher

Naukati School

The holiday seasons are fast approaching. Halloween came and went with students enjoying and working at the Craig Haunted House and staff volunteering at the Halloween Carnival. Everyone seemed to have a spooky-fun time.

Our Veteran's Day feast went well with over fifty people in attendance. The elementary students created lovely table centerpieces and posters while the middle/high school students cooked and served the meal. Their motto was "You served for us, now let us serve you!" It was a great turn out. Our very own Principal Nick Higson came wearing his service uniform! Thank you again to all who have served. We support you!



The Elementary students have been doing so many fun things on their elective Thursdays, the halls and walls of the school are being filled with amazing artwork and scientific projects.

The middle/high school students enjoy heading into Thorne Bay for their elective classes. They have been making furniture in woodshop, creating pottery in ceramics, welding and learning to code machines in welding and design fabrication, cooking up some delicious food in Culinary class and using acting skills to the utmost in Drama. The Drama class is presenting a play on January 14th, on the Thorne Bay stage. More information on this play will be coming soon!

Happy Holidays from The Naukati Staff

Laura Anania
Lead Teacher

Hollis School

We want to express our gratitude to everyone who supported our students and their learning opportunities documented in this report, as it was the work of many who made each and every one of our students' learning experiences possible.

The Official Launch of our 2018-2019 Alaska Perspectives Exploration!

Sitka Sojourn:

After fishing in September we dug deeper as our Intermediate though High School students ventured to Sitka for a week of exploration of the multiple perspectives of Alaska's history, landforms & geology, arts & sciences, economy & careers, and challenges.

This year's Sitka Alaska Day theme "Museums Preserving History" for 2018 was to recognize the important role of museums and other care takers of the stories and artifacts of historic events and many cultural traditions important in Sitka and Alaska's heritage which is perfect as we are exploring the importance of story to support our learning, document personal, community & world events and inform decision-making.

Over the course of the week our Hawks explored our history from many points of view. They also explored:

- early and new technology and its many applications,
- a range of sciences to include environmental sciences and sea, fish & wildlife management & conservation,
- many forms and mediums of ancient and modern art,
- and from books to oral, art to plays, the many purposes and forms of documenting and conveying our stories
- a staggering and varied list of careers to explore and consider as they begin to think about what their life's work might be and what roads they should take to prepare,
- the different expectations and protocol that are expected during different formal events and ceremonies.
- the planning & organization, problem-solving, self-direction, patience & courage, communication, self regulation, financial, flexibility & resilience and a myriad of other soft skills that that can be necessary and helpful when traveling, exploring and trying new things.

We have to give a shout out and thank you to Cheryl Bobo and Ellen Hannan as without their amazing efforts to provide years of annual teacher science camp and ongoing teacher training activities, inspiration and introductions, these activities would not have been possible.

We also wish to thank the many Sitka agencies and organizations, instructors and facilitators who without hesitation opened their doors to connect with our students and extend their learning. Thank you to our many hosts who invested in our learning to include:

- The Alaska Day Festival Committee members and volunteers,
- Angie, Sheila and Cara at the Alaska Raptor Center,
- Leota Bagby & Robert Hoffmann and the Sheldon Jackson Museum
- The Alaska Department of Public Safety Training Academy and Academy Deputy Commander Sergeant Spitzer, Corporal Miller, Corporal Stroebele, Corporal Ryan Mauall of the Trainee Squads, and the State of Alaska Crime Lab staff.
- The Alaska Sea Life Center with Biological Monitoring Intern Callie Simmons, Aquarium Manager Sandy Mclung and summer interpreter and Whalefest assistant Meg Ward
- Sitka Performing Arts Camp Odess Theatre
- Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
- Sitka National Historical Park
- Baranof Castle State Historic Site

There were many Sitka businesses for whom we have gratitude as they welcomed and engaged with our students so even our meals and shopping explorations were winning learning opportunities to include:

- Island Artists Gallery and watercolor and acrylic artist Pat Kehoe
- Agave Mexican Restaurant,
- Little Tokyo
- The Chocolate Moose
- Kenny's Wok & Teriyaki
- The Ben Franklin Store
- The Nugget and their fandarntastic breakfast, lunch and pies!
- The Lutheran Church and their wonderful pies!

Thank you to the Mount Edgecumbe High School students and staff, Residential Principal Andrew Friske, Science teacher Chohla Moll and Intro to Robotics and Engineering teacher Kevin Gwinn and his student mentors for some amazing hands on learning opportunities and such a marvelously welcoming culture.

Thank you Alaska Seaplanes and Carl Ramseth along with friendly ground staff Lacie Lester, Lauren and Kenzie and the pilots Jered, John and customer service agents and everyone in between all of whom who supported our safe travel and work to make it affordable for schools to take their students on such amazing adventures!

Thank you to our amazing chaperones Sam Schlobohm and Colleen Watson, who took personal time, to support our students and our school. Thank you SISD colleagues who provide the support to make these adventures possible. Thank you to the SISD District office Staff who assisted with navigating travel support and thank you to SISD Board and Superintendent Lauren Burch and Assistant Superintendent/Hollis Principal Nick Higson for supporting opportunities that extend student learning.

Since our return our students have been engaged in a series of research and writing projects that emerged during our Sitka Sojourn. Their reflections are to include not only what they did and what they learned, but also what they learned about themselves and we look forward to reading their final drafts over the next few weeks.

CURRICULUM:

Earth Science Unfolds with POW Landforms and Geology

We use Prince of Wales Island and Southeast as our lens to learn Alaska's history, geology, economy, current events, landforms, environment and more and this allows us to make solid connections and expand our learning to the rest of the world. This month we had one of those phenomenal opportunities that will allow for continued connections and learning throughout the school year and longer. Megan Fitzpatrick, in Hollis for other work, brought rock's samples from around the island and launched our geology exploration that we will continue as we explore the amazing autographed books, "The

Anchor and The Pick” that we received from Gary McWilliams. Megan introduced the Periodic Table of Elements, the tectonic plates, glaciers and isotatic rebound and compounds! Her presentation energized everyone. Who knew rocks grew... or do they? Thank you to Megan Fitzpatrick for making the time to connect with and share your enthusiasm and love of the topic with our students.

CITIZEN SCIENCE WORK:

Journey North Observations and Symbolic Monarch Migration

This is the third year our primary students wrangled the entire school into continuing their artful butterflies to join 16th annual Symbolic Monarch Butterfly Migration. We will be monitoring their progress over the course of the year. This month we will resume contributing information about our weather and other scientific observations to Journey North over the course of the year. This is important work for our 1st through 3rd graders and they take it very seriously.

Yellow Cedar Research

Our Junior High students have taken a leadership role in collecting data and monitoring our yellow cedar steklings to continue to support local research to keep the island’s yellow cedar healthy and thriving. We want to thank Pat Tierney for his patience mentorship and generous gives of his time, knowledge & experience and resources to enable our students to be a part of this authentic learning opportunity.

Wolf Hair Board Sample Collection

This month, we had our second handoff of the wolf hair board sample collection project as our Junior High students took over the work that our current high school students completed when they were in Junior High. This is a much-anticipated experience and our younger students are always excited when they get to hear about the work and maybe even observe and help and they quickly begin talking about when they get to go. Thank you Ellen Hannan for years of support and education to make this authentic learning experience possible.

SERVICE:

POW Youth Group

We are excited for the many connecting, service and leadership opportunities the Health Network has facilitated for our Junior High and High School students. In October our youth leaders volunteered at Hope’s annual Distinguished Men and Women’s Banquet. Then they gave up weekends prior to set up and then work at the haunted house and then gave up their Halloween to volunteer and run games to make the holiday special for the kids and families on POW all the while supporting fire and EMS services. We also want to give a shout out to our Ameri-corps Volunteer Sam who makes it a point to ensure our students are able to attend every event.

Community Education

On Thursday, Nov 8th our school and high school students joined with Community Connections and the [Prince of Wales Health Network & Wellness Coalition](#) for a viewing of the movie "Resilience", at Hollis School. It was a wonderful authentic moment for our students to connect with caring adults while experiencing a shared learning opportunity and the kids did a great job cleaning up and making sure all was put away after the event.

ACTIVITIES:

3rd Annual Hollis Hoedown!

This was our third annual week of music and dance with Jason and Stella of Dancing with the Spirit and we have no doubt that the opportunity enriches our school community and allows each of our students to find within themselves something that they can hold on to for a life time. And thanks to the grants written by Priscilla we now have the instruments to allow our students to build on their knowledge and we look forward to hearing even more music in our halls as they develop their talents. We had a super community hoedown and there is talk or hope to have another one during one of our long winter months. We are excited that next month we will take a page from Coffman Cove's playbook and host a weekly time for students and community members to gather for an after school jam! Thank you to the Board and Lauren Burch for providing funding and Priscilla for all she did to organize and facilitate this opportunity as it takes a lot of effort to coordinate all of the schedules and logistics. We are very appreciative.

Middle School; Basketball

Our middle school students had a great season and marvelous experience as members of the Thorne Bay Middle School Basketball team.

We have to start with a sincere thank you for our Coach Mark Gunkel and Tracey Gunkel who does so much to support not only all of the members of our teams but also all of the youth who cross their paths during the events of the season. Our students learned the importance of teamwork; sportsmanship, resilience and keeping their commitments and those lessons will take them far.

The trip to Wrangell, a highlight. It was fun and rewarding for students and staff alike to have this opportunity to travel and make connections while traveling and cheering each other on. We celebrated the Thorne Bay girls championship win and the sportsmanship, grit & resilience and dedication of all of our SISD teams. While traveling our students learned a bit more about our beautiful Southeast landforms and careers as we road a jet boat from Coffman cove to Wrangell! It was a great opportunity for our Middle School basketball players to experience another perspective our Alaska history as we could make a more personal connection with the importance of the Stikine and the location helped our students make text to self connections with Kataha, a story the school is reading as they learn more about a youth's experience and perspective of our Alaska history. While in Wrangell we also learned that Wrangell, founded by Russians, is one of

the oldest non-Native settlements in Alaska. We were able to view the location of the *Naanyaa.aayí* clan house of [Chief Shakes](#) and we learned the Russians build a stockade there and it later became a British fort as the Hudson's Bay Company expanded trade and then after Alaska's purchase the U.S. built a military post called Fort Wrangell.

The season concluded with the 2018 Island Tournament in Craig and they all returned to classes on Monday with the smile and positive energy we share when competing and connecting with other teams. They are already talking about next year!

Archery

We will officially launch our 2018-2019 Archery season on Monday November 26, 2018 when our students will learn about dates & opportunities and set norms and goals for the season.

Julie Vasquez & Lisa Cates
Hollis School, Partners in Education

Kasaan School

The school year is going fantastic out here in Kasaan. The students are excited for Thanksgiving and looking for all the delicious food that their families will be having.

As we begin to approach the month of December we have started practicing for our winter program. This year we will be using the instruments that Priscilla purchased for our school. We are trying to reinforce the skills that were practice during the week with the Dancing with the Spirit. Daryl West is working with our students on the string instruments and we appreciate his efforts. The program will be December 12th at 2:30 in the Kasaan City Hall.

As the weather continues to get darker we are using the sunlamps that we received from the Prince of Wales Health Network. They have been very beneficial to us and have helped with the energy level here at the school. We appreciate the health network and all that they do to help our school.

Shane Scamahorn
Lead Teacher

Howard Valentine School

The first quarter has already passed, and we are days away from Thanksgiving!! This year is truly flying by and it feels like the Howard Valentine School always has something going on.

Since our last board report, we have had Jason and Stella Norris from Dancing with the Spirits come to HV. It was such a wonderful week of music and dancing! As an extension of

that, we took a field trip to the Island Grind in Craig. It was a great night of music, and the students have requested we go again. We are already planning for two weeks next year.



Our extra-curricular activities have expanded as well. We are doing something everyday after school. We currently offer Music Mondays, Eric and Rose have graciously volunteered their time to continue the music program. Tuesdays and Thursdays we hold archery practice. Coach Patrick Koonrad has high expectations for our archers this year. We also offer Gaming Club on Wednesdays. Speaking of the Gaming Club, we are preparing for our 1st Annual (???) field trip to Ketchikan on Friday, November 30th.



Our students have made a lot of progress this first quarter and we expect a lot more progress to be made. In science, the students are learning about the Rock Cycle, while in social studies we are finishing up our unit on Ancient China. In art, Cassandra has the students excited for all of the different activities she prepares for them. The students are also writing a Holiday Play with the assistance of Carolyn Duncan. The play will be held Saturday December 15th at 5:30 in the HV gym. The students are having fun and learning. We are excited to see what the next quarter brings to us... Happy Thanksgiving!!!



Chad Dillman
Lead Teacher