

Kiita Learning Community
May 2017
Highlighted School
NSBSD Report to the School Board

Highlights:

Good afternoon, the summer and months have passed us over and literally flew by from a school point of view. The Christmas break put smiles on our students' faces and our students are staying focused on their academics. The fall season was a successful one with many of our students on whaling crews and out subsistence hunting for their families. Right now, we are in the 2nd half of the school year and are looking forward to furthering our students educational progress.

Kiita Learning Community has 47 students enrolled. We have a teaching staff of 3 ½ teachers, 1 counselor, 1 secretary. Rita Crouch splits her time between teaching classes and fulfilling her duties as our school counselor.

Mary Jane Geiser's English classes are reading stories about the North Slope and rural Alaska. She plans on having them create their writing projects. She worked with our Inupiat Ed. Department in working with Inupiat Values and had her classes present to various schools. This class was focusing on leadership, communication, and cooperation skills. This semester she is also teaching a baking class and the students are not only working on their baking skills but also fractions, equivalencies, and, of course, chemical reactions in leavening agents.

Alice Sage's science classes are learning the plant life in and around the area. She brings people to talk about science activities, plant and animal life, and subsistence to our students. She also dissects some fish and animals found on the North Slope. They learn the importance of each part, of the species, as it is substantial to life on the North Slope. She also teaches a skin sewing class, in which our students are making some wonderful pieces of work.

Kern Wilson is getting our students up to pace with Math, and we now have a few students taking higher level math courses. He is continuing with an art class working on stained glass projects.

Rita Crouch our Counselor is working with students on leadership and work place skills. She works with them to get them ready for life after high school. This class has really been a big hit with our students and will be very beneficial to them.

Culturally, our students are learning a lot with our staff. We offer skin-sewing classes in which our students have made gloves, hats, mittens, atikluks, slippers, and mukluks. This is a very popular class as our students use what they sew. In our cooking and baking classes that we offer, our students make some great meals. On Friday's they usually make lunch and dessert for all the students and staff at Kiita,

and we had several community members come in and join us for this lunch. In our baking class our students are learning to make everything from scratch, not in pre-boxed packages. In the past, we have made sleds, ivory carvings, sewn skin boat covers, and worked on the sewing of parkas.

Kiita's Iñupiaq language class students learn and practice the Iñupiaq language in class but also share what they are learning with others in the community. They go to Ipalook Elementary School to play language games with the students, and go to Uqautchim Uglua to sing and play games with the smallest children. They also go to the senior center to sing to the elders. The high school students are getting to practice their own language skills while learning how to serve in their community. The work they are doing will help the high school students become better speakers of Iñupiaq and will also teach them ways to help pass the language on to others. It would be wonderful if this service inspired some of our young people to prepare to teach Iñupiaq!

Highlights of the Year:

*Rita Crouch had her leadership students do a project...repaired an entry way for a community member

*Our Kiita cooking class helped out at the Veterans Day Luncheon at Ipalook

*Christmas cookie and candy fundraiser

*We had 4 December graduates

*Our students participated in educational tours to Ilisagvik College

*Our OJT students continue to work throughout the Utqiagvik community

*Lang. Arts students went over to Ipalook Elementary and taught a lesson on the values of Nature, working within the Inupiat Value framework

*Inupiat language students worked with the Uqautchim Uglua daycare and NSB Senior Center.

*Night School: Night School has been a success since it started last year. We have 12 students throughout this school year. We will have our first graduates of Night School, this year we will graduate 4 students.

Our students at Kiita are very proud of their Whaling Crews. Our students have started a wall dedicated to their whaling crews that proudly displays their different flags. In our small school our whaling crews are represented with 20 plus students and staff on the various crews. We had several students who were on successful crews bring in some whale meat to serve to our students for lunch.

Here is a list of the Kiita students and staff with the names of the whaling crews that they are on:

Whaling Crews:

Hopson 1 crew

Students and Staff:

Walton Ahmaogak

Oliver Leavitt Crew	Janae Hopson (Arey) Jaysun Rexford (Arey) Apa Reich (Yugu)
Kannik Crew	Charlene Kanayurak
Yugu Crew	Thomas Kingosak
Pamiilaq crew	Georgia Leavitt (Anagi)
Anagi crew	Walter Nayakik
Panigeo Crew	Paul Patkotak
Pameo	Nellie Sikvayugak
Nusunginya crew	Jimmie Tuckfield Jasmine Tuckfield
Akootchook Crew	Alice Sage
Leavitt Crew	Robert Johnson

Along with our student work, the Kiita Learning Community is also hosting evening events to the public. Such as skin sewing, dancing.

Student Activities:

Kiita students participating in BHS sports programs:

We have quite a few students out for sports at Barrow High School. They were competing in Football this fall. We also have a student who is in the Band.

Student Body:

We are in the process of getting a student government started so we can have it up and running for next year. We have a leadership team that assists us with student issues that helped out with some student decision making. But now we are getting organized to form a student government.

Kiita Store:

Our Kiita Store is up and running. Due to the limited space within our school it is challenging to get it organized, as we have been busy cleaning and sorting out bundles of interesting stuff. The Kiita Store is open on Saturdays from 12:00noon to 4:00pm. This is very beneficial to our school as it helps us out for funding.

Night School:

We have a new Night School up and running. It is located at Kiita in our multi-purpose room. It is for any BHS/Kiita/NSBSD student in need of completing a few credits for their high school diploma. The Night School runs from 6:00pm to 8:00pm Tuesday and Thursday evenings. This was one of the visions for our school to make it possible for more community members to earn their high school diploma. We will have our first Night School graduates this year.

Distinguished Students:

Makayla Fishel:

Makala came to Kiita 2 years ago to get caught up with her schooling. Eventhough she started off to a rough start, she soon realized that school is important. Her attendance has been solid and has worked hard not only in her enrolled classes but also in independent classes. She is on pace to earn graduate early next year at Christmas. She has been working hard in her classes and her attendance has been exceptional. In assitions, she is a bright, positive individual who adds to discussions and contributes to our school. She also worked for one semester splitting her time between the Tuzzy Library and NSBSD kitchen. She was reliable and punctual in both jobs.

Katrina Madsen:

Katie as we call her at Kiita, came to our school for her first year in Utqiagvik as an 11th grader. Katie has been an excellent student. She worked hard to finish her schooling and also helped out with other students in her class. Katie has been an inspiration to all with her goal to graduate early in spite of some major setbacks in her life. Katie will graduate early this year.

Brandon Marcano:

Brandon came to Kiita for his first year in Utqiagvik as an 11th grader. His main goal was to graduate early and he will meet that goa this year. He worked extremely hard and was a pleasure to work with exhibiting a great sense of humor. In addition, he is always willing and able to help his peers anytime they ask for his help. Brandon is aldo taking a semester long dual credit course from Ilisagvik College here in Utqiagvik. He will have college credit at the end of April to get a jump start towards his college career.

Distinguished Staff:

Kern Wilson:

Kern has been at Kiita for four years now. During that short time, Kern has done a lot to move the math classes at Kiita in a more positive and constructive direction for our students. Under Kern's instruction, our students' understandings and confidence of math concepts has been increased. This year, a geometry class is being taught to several students due to their need for a higher-level math class. Such a class has not been needed previously. This is a result of Kern's support and dedication he offers our students.

In addition to being a positive mathematical influence on our students, Kern is also a positive support in other areas. Every morning, Kern shuttles students to their jobs in the community. So that the students can be on time for their jobs, Kern arrives at least thirty minutes prior to his required start time for his own job. Meaning, Kern does this task on his own time. Another task Kern does on his own time is shoveling the area in front of Kiita and making sure it is safe for our staff and students to enter the building.

Kern is also busy during school hours to help students and staff alike with any task big or small. From talking snow machine and four-wheeler repair to climbing a ladder and replace a light bulb to teaching a class outside of his content area, Kern is always available to help. While his dry sense of humor takes some people aback, his "give it a try" attitude inspires others around him. Kern is certainly a wonderful and irreplaceable asset to Kiita.

Outstanding Volunteers:

Evelyn Donovan:

Evelyne Donovan is a beautiful Inupiaq woman who has lived her entire life sharing the culture of her people with enthusiasm and charm. Not only has she raised her own family, but she welcomes anyone into her home where she'll cook for them, sew for them, or simply laugh at jokes with them. She is a mentor and loving community member to all she meets.

Evelyn spent the last 2 years at the Kiita Learning Community volunteering to teach our students some sewing techniques. This year, she patiently worked with the students and allowed them to come up with their own designs and encouraged them to find someone to share the work as a gift. The students enjoyed her valuable instruction and carefree demeanor. She shared her wisdom and advice with every stitch, and kept the students in stitches with laughter!