

## Whale Pass School 2/21/24 Board Report

The remainder of January and February suddenly became a “full schedule” with archery practices in the Naukati school gym (thanks Laura and Sharlet!) in preparation for the State tournament on February 23rd and 24th, Battle of the Books practices and district competition, Scripps National Spelling Bee practice and Regional Online Qualifier competition, staff out due to student injury, and myself traveling to Anchorage for the annual CTE conference.

Somewhere amongst all of that we also did a lot of school! All students participated in the two day hands-on electricity lab (pictures attached). This was a superb learning experience. The students unpacked the lab materials, read the instructions, and collaborated to hand out the proper materials to each team. Then they had to put together both parallel and series circuits, troubleshoot when “the light didn’t come on”, test circuit components with David Cook’s multimeter, and determine which batteries were good, and which ones were not. We all had a blast cheering when “the lights came on”, and puzzling through what the problems were. The wrapup assessment was two pages of questions that asked students to determine the resistance, amps, volts or watts of various household appliances. I’d like to point out that this was high school level Physics that the fifth grader, and five seventh graders worked through and were successful at.

In other classes we have started Alaskan History, are deep into Geometry, continuing with Computer Science Principles, and Typing. Interestingly, the students are really enjoying Typing. We utilize keyboard covers that have an image of the keyboard on the top. Additionally Typing.com has developed quite a bit in the past few years.. It now shows the students which finger to use to type as they type the letter sequences, which is very interactive, and gives the students immediate feedback. In World Literature the high school students are reading Wolf Totem. This is a fictional account based on the author’s, Jiang Rong, eleven years spent in Inner Mongolia, where he lived and labored with the native nomads, starting after China’s Great Leap Forward.

My wonderful instructional aide, Kayleena Toman, reported that while I was at the CTE conference the students were self-directed, and worked very independently. On Thursday of that week our three Battle of the Books teams,( three/four, five/six (our one 5th grader), and seven/eight (all 7th graders)) and their coach, Michelle Dempsey, traveled to Thorne Bay for the district competition. All three of our teams won their respective divisions. They will compete in their respective state competitions on February 27th, 28th and 29th. I would also like to note that Michelle made the UAA Dean’s List for the fall semester of her Education degree program. In a first for WPS, Matt Gore brought a 3-D printer to the school which gave the students their first exposure to the world of 3-D printing. This week we will be receiving the virtual reality computers that are making the rounds of the schools on the island (shout out to Becca Ververs!). Finally Dante Huffine and Ginger White spent a morning with the middle school and high school students taking a deep dive into resumes, the job interview, and how to present oneself to prospective employers.

Respectfully Submitted, Anthony Cook, Whale Pass School  
Grades 3/4 Battle of the Books Team



Grades 5/6 Battle of the Books Team



Grades 7/8 Battle of the Books Team



Electricity Lab





