

Whale Pass School
November, 20 Board Report

Dear S.I.S.D. Board Members,

Shortly after the October board meeting the students and staff completed resplitting and stacking the boiler wood over three days. A huge shout-out goes to custodian Mike Dempsey for his time and the use of his backhoe for moving the crates of wood, stacking empty crates out of the way, and then loading them on the district trailer the following week. It needs to be mentioned that he chose to charge the district at his regular custodial rate, and not his operator rate of \$125.00/hour. We re-split and stacked the additional wood the district delivered over an additional two days. Total wood volume was about 12 cords. The effort to split the wood to an appropriate size is well worth it as the fire burns much hotter thereby getting the boiler up to temperature much more quickly with less wood needed.

The kids had a lot of fun with our annual pumpkin carving and trick-or-treating on Halloween. We are still working through all the roasted pumpkin seeds that are a real treat!

In World History the students have been split into two teams. Each team is tasked with creating a commercial to promote whether or not farming was a good idea, or if the hunter-gatherer lifestyle would have been more beneficial. It is interesting to observe them wrangling with the concept that what is good for the individual is not necessarily good for the population.

Our order of microscope cover slips came in which enabled us to continue learning about the use and care of microscopes. The students had prepared in advance several weeks ago by getting one beaker of clear water and one beaker of mucky water from the drainage ditch behind the school. This was to keep the water warm and provide the needed environment for the protists and algae to remain active. It took a bit of patience and fine focusing adjustments in order to determine if there was anything alive in that water. The "clear" winner was the beaker of mucky water, which contained loads (scientific term) of amoebas, paramecium, "spider bugs", filamentous algae and more. Matt Gore assisted with taking pictures and video of the various creepy crawlies (another scientific term).

Additionally, as we learn our way through photosynthesis and cellular respiration each student has made a terrarium. We will observe the terrariums for the rest of the year and see who lives and who dies. . . .and attempt to puzzle through why some were successful and others not so much.

In American Literature our lone high school student, David Cook, had completed reading *The Perfect Storm*. To wrap that up all of us watched the movie and discussed the themes that run through this true life story. David has now started *Into The Wild*, and we will watch that movie sometime after the Christmas break.

We had the pleasure of April Hoy visiting us while job shadowing with Matt Gore. April got to interact with WPS students, and work intensively with some of them. It was a very positive experience for everyone, and a great way to build relationships across the district.

Students are building their skills in their stop action animations as they layer on having to create storyboards, scripts, and using the editing software to add special effects, music, and voice recordings.

We spent a very pleasant afternoon picking low bush cranberries for our Thanksgiving lunch. Last year the effort was a total bust, so it was great that this year had the best berry crop in a long time. Between everyone's efforts we picked a good gallon of berries, which will be turned into the best cranberry sauce ever!

Respectfully Submitted,

Anthony Cook
Whale Pass School
Whale Pass, Alaska 99950







