

January 2020 Board Report **Assistant Principal/Coordinator**

Teacher Evaluations

The first of two formal evaluations for non-tenured teachers in Naukati, Coffman Cove, Whale Pass, and Port Alexander have all been completed. Attempts to get to Hyder have failed on three occasions. Arrangements are being made to complete the first formal evaluation for that site by using video. Initial conversations for tenured employee evaluations have begun.

State Review of Naukati School Improvement Grant

District office and Naukati staff, as well as community members in Naukati, met with three auditors from the state during the last week of December. The auditors were pleased with the efforts that have taken place in Naukati thus far, especially the increased amount of parent and community involvement and the district's response to the needs identified by the local community.

Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant

I met with Southeast Region Superintendents in Juneau on January 15th and 16th to gain their perspectives and ideas in regards to Governor Dunleavy's Alaska Reads Act (ARA), which applies to all schools in Alaska, generally and the Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant (CLSD), of which some districts including SISD are participating in, specifically. Whereas past reforms have been broadly applied to all students, ARA and CLSD are focused on reading in grades K-3. Highlights of that focus are; high quality Pre-Kindergarten programs with an emphasis on oral language, early attention to screening and intervention beginning in Kindergarten, and collaboration between districts with similar demographics as they apply to strategies and curricula in the K-2 grade levels. The consortium of superintendents agreed that Third Grade is the clearly defined point for measurement as all students in all states have a statewide assessment that includes that grade level. However, they were equally in agreement that benchmarking and formative assessments need to begin much earlier and take place multiple times per semester.

Howard Valentine

Prepare students for post secondary life

- Our students continue to explore and learn skills that will benefit them in post secondary life.

Provide sufficient/effective staff support

- We are excited to be working with Lisa Kness from Salmon Sez. She has been in for observations and trainings with students and staff and will continue to provide support.

Improve communication district and community wide

- In order to improve communication between the school and the community, we have a calendar of events posted in the lobby.
- The Howard Valentine School ASC has created a Facebook page and email address to post events and spread the word about the amazing things going on in our school.

Increase visibility to share lifestyle and increase enrollment

- In December the school invited the community to share in a potluck dinner an Alaska Themed Winter Program. Parents, teachers, and community members collaborated to create sets, and put on a wonderful play.
- Sheri Dillman came in and hosted a painting party for the school and community.
- In lieu of Battle of the Books, the Howard Valentine Students did a “Bookopoly” reading challenge. All of the students participated and earned enough points to have a Pizza/Pool party, Ice Cream Sundae Bar, and Game Day. The Ice Cream Sundae Bar will be held Monday Jan. 20th!

Hyder

December brought lots of snow to Hyder, finally. The kids got out on snow shoes for PE class and added a few snowmen to the playground. Our December community pot luck included a performance from the Hyder/Stewart choir and a festive sing-along. The elementary students enjoyed eating greens (spinach, kale, chard, beet greens) from their micro-gardens and keeping track of growth in their gardening journals. Each day of December, the elementary students tackled a new S.T.E.M. ornament challenge. Using a variety of art materials and recycled items, each family ended up with a wreath full of beautiful ornaments. Over half of the elementary students surpassed their Accelerated Reader 360° goals some actually doubled their Fall goal.

The high school class has continued building their outdoor photography skills by working with telephoto and macro lenses. With all the snow and ice we've had, they've been able to learn about using natural light and backlight to compose eye-catching images. They also set trail cameras in the forest and captured multiple wolves, until the

snow got too deep then they had to pull the cameras. In math class they've continued stepping beyond traditional calculations and applying skills to real-world jobs. Learning how to budget money and make decisions that will impact them once they enter the workforce has been a focal point. Their communication, writing, and organizational skills continue to expand with a multitude of activities.

We ended December with a school wide celebration that included Christmas Gift BINGO, book buddies, baking Christmas cookies and creating holiday Mad-Libs.

January brought us back to over 8 feet of snow in Hyder. The sledding hill has been getting a lot of use - see the fun on Hyder School's Facebook page. Additional new year's projects in the elementary have included growing dandelions in egg cartons, brewing kombucha tea and learning about SCOBY's, cell science with celery and icicle science. Each student is writing their own ABC book based on our study of alphabet books. Some are based around animals, some full of poetry and one on original comic book characters.

Sub-zero temperatures are rare around here and have provided for interesting weather studies. Thanks to Hyder parent, Jackie Korpela, we have now outfitted the whole school with cross country ski's, boot's and poles. They may be vintage, but they work great and we are all excited for the trails that parent, Nick Korpela is grooming for us around town.

In January the high school students expanded their creative composition skills in photography class which allowed them to tell a story with each photo. The goal was to teach them how to not only capture unique images, but learn how to utilize photos for future jobs relating to marketing. Keep checking in with Hyder School on Facebook to see student work. They have also been integrating their world history class with their language art studies, reading books on their own and giving oral presentations. The students have completed a semester of intense circuit training in P.E., and have been curling two hours every other Wednesday night in the town of Stewart, which they've loved.

Port Alexander

No better way to spend a cold winter day than in the water! PA Students took the AMSEA Cold Water Survival Course. We learned about "7 Steps of Survival," diagnosing hypothermia and how to treat it as well as the importance of having the proper attitude, training, and equipment in order to survive. The two day training was capped by students plunging into the icy cold ocean in their survival suits.

PA students playing the stock market! As part of our financial literacy program, PA Students are competing with their peers across the state to create high performing investment portfolios. Applying their academic subject knowledge and STEM skills to real world financial and investment situations, WE ARE: Preparing students to succeed in the digital age through critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication.

LEGO League Robotics Game (4th-8th grade): We participated in our FIRST EVER Robotics competition on December 14th! We competed against over 100 teams in the state of Alaska! The PA Students programmed their robot and completed as many missions as possible in two and a half minutes. 260 points was our best score, and that is amazing for a rookie team! The 21st Century Skills of critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication were on display.

Recycling Community Project: PA school wants to provide solutions to the recycling problem in our community. Students will collect aluminum cans and hard plastics from the community and send them to Sitka on the EYAK. We have identified community partners to help us in the huge yet important task.

Whale Pass

► **Prepare students for post-secondary life**

- We have had a couple of students interested in going to a Civil War Camp in Gettysburg this summer. We are currently working on the scholarship applications.
- We are working on sending a few students to the FEMA camp in Anchorage this summer.

► **Provide sufficient/effective staff support**

- Thanks to Branzon for helping deliver our food and other materials from the DO
- Our new paraprofessional took and passed the Para qualifying test. We are working on getting them qualified for their current paid positions.
- Due to the water outage in our community the past few weeks, we have opened up the school to staff members without water for showers and laundry.

► **Improve communication district and community wide**

- Our Facebook page and web page on the sisd site is up and running. Visit us there for all the latest school news.

<https://www.facebook.com/WhalePassSchool/>

- Our next ASC dinner and meeting will be Friday, January 24th at 11am. This is in conjunction with our DWTS Hoe Down. We will have our first drawing from our gun calendar.
- We have opened up the school so community members can get showers, laundry and water during the recent freeze up.

► **Increase visibility to share lifestyle and increase enrollment**

- We have sold all but two gun calendars and will hold our first drawing on January 24th.
- Our current enrollment is 17 students PreK-10th grades. We have 5 High school students, 4 Middle school students and 8 elementary. We welcome JD Alford back from Mt. Edgecumbe. JD is an 11th grader and set for graduation next year. Welcome Back JD.
- Mr. Cook has been teaching a unit on Sitka Black Tail Deer to his middle school students. The students have built their own deer calls and practice using them to call deer. He has been using a community game camera to catch some wildlife in our area.
- We are continuing with archery practice here at Whale Pass School and with Naukati School on various Fridays.

Naukati

No report submitted.