

Southeast Island School District
Board Report – Thorne Bay Campus
Submitted by: Shaine Nixon
Title: Dean of Students & Area Principal
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Overview of Thorne Bay Campus

The Thorne Bay Campus serves **approximately 65 students** in **grades K-12**, providing a comprehensive education tailored to meet the needs of our rural community. Our dedicated staff focuses on academic excellence, social-emotional development, and career readiness, ensuring students receive a well-rounded education in a small-school environment.

Academic and Instructional Updates

- **Fine Arts Class:** Off to a great start! Students are practicing drawing and have picked their instruments of choice. Daily practice includes **trumpets, piano, keyboards, guitars, mandolin, ukuleles, and violins**. Additionally, students are collaborating with the **Small Business Class** to create banners for sporting events displayed around town.
- **Culinary Class:** Led by Ms. Dee, students are learning essential cooking skills and enjoying daily samples of their creations.
- **Alaska History:** High school students are currently researching the land and peoples from the prehistory period around **14,000 years ago**.
- **Welding Class:** A select group of students participate every **Friday through the end of the school year**.
- **New Secondary Schedule:** Begins **Monday, February 10th**, with the addition of an **advisory period**.
- **Middle School Social Studies:** Students are learning about **Mesoamerican civilizations** and have created impressive presentations, now on display in the hall.
- **"Convince Me!" Projects:** MS and HS students complete a monthly argumentative report to persuade their audience on whether or not to read a book. Creativity in presentation has significantly improved.
- **Algebra 2:** Students are completing the final unit of **Math 95: College Intermediate Algebra on Rational Expressions and Equations**. Upon successfully completing the **Math 95 Final**, they will be prepared for **college-level Precalculus entrance exams**.
- **Algebra 1:** Currently working on a **Systems of Linear Equations Unit**, with the final units covering **Statistics and Geometry concepts**.
- **Middle School Math:** Recently completed an **Algebraic Expressions Unit** and moving into **Algebraic Equations**. The **Edia.app math program** has been instrumental in helping students meet grade-level standards, contributing to significant **MAPS Growth**, with nearly every student meeting their average growth goals.
- **Middle School Science & Earth Science:** Recently wrapped up a **Weather and Meteorology unit** and transitioning into **Space Studies**. Students are currently exploring **Mars and SpaceX's efforts to send astronauts to the planet**.
- **Engineering Elective:** Now in **week three**, students have worked on **balloon-powered helicopters** and are now beginning **MouseTrap-powered cars**.
- **Weight Lifting Elective:** Students have shown **remarkable progress** in strength training. Last week, they worked with **Trevor Killian** to **re-organize and revitalize the weight room**, greatly improving the space.

3rd-5th Grade Updates – Submitted by Ms. Sonya Cook

- **Writing Process:** Students have been engaging deeply in the writing process, learning to:
 - Read and use rubrics for assessment.
 - Plan effectively for writing projects.
 - Conduct self-evaluations and peer evaluations.
 - Actively engage in improving their writing skills.
- **Math:** Students have been focusing on **computational strategies**, starting with **counting on**, and using games to **build fact fluency and numeracy concepts**.
- **Story Crafting:** Throughout the year, students have been working on creative writing projects and **story crafting**, enjoying the process of developing original narratives.
- **Musical Mondays:** The class is interested in starting **Musical Mondays**, inviting **community musicians** to share their talents and inspire students.
- **Spelling Bee & Battle of the Books:**
 - **Spelling Bee:** Eli Matejowsky will compete in the **online regional Scripps Spelling Bee**.
 - **Battle of the Books:** Dana Reynolds, Rylie Oatman, Brantlee Taylor, and Olivia Lusted will attend the **State Battle of the Books competition via video conference**.

K-2 Events – 2nd Quarter

- **Mid-Year MAPS Testing:** A great success, with all students demonstrating impressive **RIT growth**. Their hard work and dedication are truly paying off!
- **Spelling Bee – January 30th:**
 - **District Winner:** Eli Matejowsky
 - **2nd Place:** Auron Cook
 - **3rd Place:** Olivia Lusted
 - Two **2nd graders** and two **1st graders** competed bravely against upper elementary and middle school students.
 - Special thanks to **Ms. Sonya Cook** for planning and organizing, **Ms. Sheila Nyquest** for being the pronouncer, and our judges **Mr. Steve Cunningham, Mr. Shane Nyquest, and Ms. Tristy Morrison**.
- **Battle of the Books – February 6th:**
 - Naukati and Whale Pass joined us for a **wonderful competition**.
 - **District-Winning K-2 Team: The Wolverine Readers** – Penelope Lusted, Zane Corcilius, and Holly Sawyer.
 - **Runner-Up Team: The Bros R Back** – Warren Schmitz-Prefontaine and Galen Armstrong.
 - All students showcased **great teamwork and enthusiasm for reading**.
- **Literacy Engagement – February:**
 - A **school-wide reading competition** has been launched to encourage a love for reading.
 - Each classroom (K-2, 3-5, Middle School, and High School) will "**Fill the Love of Reading**" by sending home paper hearts to be filled each time a student and parent read together.
 - Hearts will be displayed in the Commons, and the **first class to fill their heart wins:**
 - **Winning Class:** Full **ice cream sundae party** with all the toppings.
 - **Runner-Up Class:** Ice cream with **two toppings** of their choice.

- **All Other Classes:** Ice cream with **one topping** as a thank-you.
- **Extra Toppings:** Earned by students reading beyond their class goal.

Conclusion

The Thorne Bay Campus remains committed to **high-quality education** and fostering a supportive school community. We appreciate the board's ongoing support in ensuring our students receive the best possible education.