

September 2016 Board Reports (Naukati, PA, and Hyder)

Principal's Report

Professional Development

I am very pleased with our returning and new staff at our school sites. Fall inservice saw our staff juggling tennis balls and breaking 1in thick boards with our hands. We also learned about student and self-resiliency along with the importance of anchors in our students' lives and how it affects learning, attendance and self-concepts. A big thanks to Amy McDonald and Cristal McGill for facilitating SISD, Hydaburg, Klawock, and Community Connections new and veteran staff together at a joint inservice. I felt that we all were working together for a common goal and am excited to see how this translates into the classroom and with our collaboration among organizations. ONE OF THE BEST BEGINNINGS OF THE YEAR INSERVICES THAT I HAVE BEEN A PART OF ☺

We will be focusing in on "resiliency" at our future inservice days throughout the school year as well as team building and peer collaboration.

This has the feeling of one of the best staffs at each school site that I have seen in my years in SISD. The synergy at sites feels very good. So far, a very smooth start to the school year.

Curriculum and Instruction:

This year we will be looking at our elementary math and science and how it aligns to the new state standards and our current resources in these content areas. We have established committees that will meet periodically this year to collaboratively do this.

New Middle and High School Math was adopted at the end of last year. The committee did a great job. The new math materials are out at sites and are being used along with an interactive on-line piece that fits nicely into our goal of integrating technology into our curriculum. Great job to Mark Gunkel and his curriculum committee for doing the legwork and then training at our fall inservice.

We are looking at a strong field of Battle of the Books and Spelling Bee contestants this year. Sandra Campbell, our new Thorne Bay Librarian and district resource person, will be taking the lead on these two important programs. I have great confidence in her and her ability to organized and lead these and other programs that engage our students in learning that is fun and meaningful.

Nick Higson

Hyder School

This school year is off to a great start. The students have been eager and excited to learn. We have a lot of plans for this school year. We want to send big “Thank you” to the School Board for the playground that is being built this week. We are also building a dedicated library space, and many more excited happenings to come. We will have a slide show at the board meeting of the building of our new playground. We had many parents and community members as well as former students come in over the weekend to help with the construction.

Again, from the students, staff, and community of Hyder, Thank you!
Respectfully yours,

Chad Dillman
Lead Teacher

Port Alexander School

Welcoming students back to school is always a fun time. Students are excited about their new clothes, supplies and (secretly) excited about what new things they will learn about throughout the school year. If you watch closely, you can see the curiosity written all over their faces.

Our back to school gathering of “Cupcakes and Conversation” was a quick meeting where we reached out to the community for not only many great Friday Activity ideas but also volunteers. We urged parents AND students to offer ideas for activities to be added to the Activities Calendar posted in our hallway. Parents were eager to check on the upcoming events that we have posted already!

The Elementary Class has been working diligently to learn our centers rotation schedule and where materials go when they are done using them. We are only a few days into school and I see the students learning all of the routines with ease.

The Upper Elementary and Middle School classes here in Port Alexander, have been busy starting the school year; distributing textbooks, reviewing classroom rules and practicing organizational procedures. We have had some fun telling stories of what each of us had done over the summer. The kids really enjoyed making a Personality Sphere to show off their uniqueness.

We are beginning to get into each subject matter in earnest and even getting homework! We are looking forward to the upcoming weeks where the students will be working on some fun book report projects, Math skills practice and experimentation with some interesting labs in Science. Writing and Technology will be sprinkled in each subject as much as possible. We are not only learning about each subject such as Math, English, Science, etc., the class has been discussing how to

express ourselves appropriately and how to interact with others, especially when we have different viewpoints. We will continue this throughout the year as well as projects/discussions with students working on Character Traits. It is looking like the start to a GREAT year out here in Port Alexander!

We are wishing everyone a great year!

The Staff at Port Alexander School,

Allen, Laura, and Shanna

Naukati School

Naukati School is enjoying its first weeks of school. We have one full time teacher and one part time teacher with 24 kids enrolled including pre-school. The theme of the school this year is Superheroes.

We have the school greenhouse up and running and are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our chickens ducks and goats. We have 11 students participating in the cross- country meet and 2 kids going to Maritime trades. We have special classes running here like entrepreneurship, bike maintenance, and greenhouse development.

We have the following events coming up:

- Paper Mache class on Friday Sept. 23 at 3pm
- Paper Making class on Friday Sept 30 at 11am
- Cross country meet on Saturday Oct 1st at 10am
- Bead making class on Friday Oct 7th at 1pm
- We are planning to have our large Halloween carnival here on Saturday October 22 at 4pm.
- We are also going to host boy scouts and girl scouts here monthly

Sincerely,

Jessica Goldman
Lead Teacher

Hollis School

For updates and ongoing information please feel free to check out our Hollis School Facebook Page. It is a tool for us to provide school information to our target audience – our parents and community. The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1483681851918203/>

The Hollis Crew on the first week of school:



STARTING OFF THE SCHOOL YEAR:

We have a super crew at Hollis School and we are excited to share that we have twenty-five (25) new and returning students enrolled for the 2016-2017 school year. We have students ranging from pre-K (3 and 4 yoa) through 12th grade in attendance.

Thank you: As we begin our year we want to send out some thank you for some people who came together to help us have the resources we need to teach:

- *Thank you Airica Tripple* for the updated tech equipment that allows us to seamlessly deliver content.
- *Thank you Bud Williard:*
 - For making our kitchen sink counter adult height and locating extra flooring from Thorne Bay's kitchen remodel and installing – not a l in

our kitchen in place of the carpet. It is no longer literally back breaking to wash dishes and

- (We have not had potable water) for tirelessly working to maintain the entire system so that our water will be safe to drink while making sure it operates to allow access to water for nondrinking water systems.
- *Thank you to Nick Higsen and Travis Tripple* for coming in on the last days of school and first days of summer to finish our work shop classroom building.
- *Thank you to the POW Marathon Committee* for their donation of extra POW Marathon backpacks for our students' "Hope for Kids Packs"; a student project that emerges from our Change Agent Tuesday discussions.
- *Thank you to Amy McDonald* for spending two days with us, supporting our learning and helping us to launch our year.

Curriculum Highlights: Our pre-school focus is language and social skills development and with their support, we continue fostering a school wide use of sign language. We continue to build upon success with the Daily Five (5) literacy and math instruction and dedicated Writers' Workshops. We are incorporating Visualizing and Verbalizing and Story Grammar Marker across curriculum in our 1st through 12th grade classrooms to support their writing and reading comprehension skill development and enhancement

Our 2016-2017 course of study includes United States history (pre-Revolution through westward expansion, social studies, science (life science, magnetism and electricity), literacy studies, art and music. The students have conferred and plan to continue their work testing water and monitoring proposals to spray for pesticides on the island as well as in other Alaska locations. This fall students are continue to us primary source documents, fieldwork and information from elders to map our nation's true story and they will evaluate the question, "Who determines our history?" In doing so they are starting by exploring their own story and identifying who they are as learners. Literature circles continue to be an important part of our literacy skill development and we are excited that we will be partnering with several SISD schools to conduct Literacy Circles and broader discussions about our respective guiding questions to allowing them to make meaningful connections with peers and other adults in the District while developing their respectful accountable talk learning and listening skills.

ASSESSMENT AND GOAL SETTING:

Last week we completed our fall AIMS benchmark assessments. This week students are completing interviews to share what they want teachers to know. In addition

Junior High and High School students are completing Executive Functioning surveys and High School students are completing a Brigrance Transition Skills Inventory.

Lisa and Julie use the interviews, surveys, inventories and AIMS assessment results in conjunction with MAPS and SBA data to track student progress, set goals and identify instructional interventions to support student progress.

Students have individual assessment summaries. Over the next few weeks students will use the survey, inventory and assessment data along with their personal reflections and portfolio review to set annual academic and character goals.

ACTIVITIES:

First Annual Cleanup and Fix-up Day: In early August we hosted a successful one-day work party with lunch and fun for Hollis School staff, students, families and community members over the summer. Paint and sawdust were everywhere and we have made inroads in sprucing up our building and preparing for the coming year. And of course, we have more ideas for futures school wide work day events.

Summer Intermediate and Junior High Fun Day: In August had a student fun day over the summer to help them check in, rekindle friendships and plan for the coming year. It was a fun day with archery and a barbeque around the fire. The students also built a bench to donate to the Hollis Volunteer Fire Department fundraiser.

Annual Working Open House: The Saturday before our opening day we held a successful annual open house which allowed visitors to tour the school and meet staff and provided parents with support to complete required paperwork. Hollis resident Annette Sharp thoughtfully provided homemade baked goods for us to share at our open house.

First Day and First Week: After the phenomenally positive and productive professional development we asked Amy McDonald to come to our school and help us take our experience with PHlight Club to the next level. Our goal this year is to ensure that every one of our HAWKS, no matter what their age can take PHlight and have an understanding of the importance of developing and caring for their web. We gathered to tie-dye our own school shirts and barbeque while also taking time with Amy to lead Phlight Club different discussions and activities with staff, junior high/high school and also younger elementary. These two days along with the barbecue really helped strengthen our school community and launch our year.

Phlight Club: We started the year with Phlight Club in Hydaburg during the second week of school. Five students attended five students a teacher and a paraprofessional attended flight club in Heidelberg and all agreed in their reflection it was an extremely positive. Everyone stretched themselves and built upon their work toward achieving a growth mindset. Amy McDonald continues to grow as a

facilitator and leader and her seamless presentation and depth of knowledge was obvious and made for a solidly successful event. Of course we all stopped for our traditional post-PHlight Club Dockside lunch and milkshakes so that was a hit before we all headed home to get some sleep.

Kayaking: This week we are launching, weather permitting, weekly kayaking in conjunction with our growth mindset, US history, art, literacy and life science studies. We are looking forward to hearing their reflections and watching their growth as they develop their skills on the water.

Chickens, Geese, Ducks and Garden: Our chickens and garden have been joined by ducks, geese and more chickens and all are thriving. We had an incident with a mink and so last week our Junior Students learned from a local resident about how to set traps, an important island skill as well as another authentic experience to connect with their US history studies. The Starkweather family supported the garden over the summer and students have harvested and preserved the onions and enjoyed eating fresh green beans, lettuces and micro greens in their school lunch. We cannot wait until our green house is here to expand the opportunities for our students to have daily access to fresh vegetables.

I AM...We ARE: Our students have started the first steps of our annual exploration and reflection about who they are as individuals.

Cross Country: We have had two cross county meets. Coach Kyler Looper has everyone running and team support is school wide.

Student Jobs: We are in the process of looking at all of our students jobs to ensure they are meaningful and purposeful. The Junior High students are writing job descriptions and introducing changing to supporting connecting the jobs to their daily lives. Job descriptions will be complete and introduce over the course of next week.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND CELEBRATES!

Hollis Volunteer Fire Department: Hollis School sponsored the “Kids Korner” at the Hollis Volunteer Fire Department Annual Fund Raiser and 1st Annual Chili Contest. The students made a bench to donate to the silent auction. A Hollis resident purchased it to donate back to the school. The Hollis School won this year Grand Prize – the “Golden Ladle” for the best Chili on the island.

POW Health Network Screen Time Reduction Committee: Hollis student Kimejoe Lambeth and teacher Lisa Cates are serving as members of the POW Health Network Screen Time Reduction Committee. They are working on a Network grant request for playground equipment.

Spring 2016 Healthy Futures Challenge: Hollis School will receive a banner and

was given a \$200.00 check for outdoor equipment for having the highest percent participation in the spring challenge for a Tier 4 School. We have signed up for the Fall Challenge and are hopeful to keep our status.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Over the course of the summer Julie and Lisa attended/ completed the following professional Development:

June: Lisa completed a STEM Class focusing on life science, construction trades and electricity in Seward.

August: Julie and Lisa attended a Visualizing and Verbalizing Workshop that has always impacted school wide instruction to support student learning.

Hollis School Staff and Students

Barry C Stewart Kasaan School

School is off to a fantastic start this year in Kasaan. We have 12 students in grades 2-11 and they are awesome. The students have a strong desire to work hard and learn, and are willing to push themselves to achieve great things.

We have two teachers and the addition on Mike Congdon is much appreciated. He brings in a great skill set that this school has been lacking. He has background in construction and building and the students are looking forward to learning some of those traits.

The school also has a computer for each student and a mobile device for all.

The most exciting thing at this time is that school received a \$15,000 grant to remodel the kitchen and get new appliances. A huge thanks is owed to Pricilla for her efforts and work. We look forward to the changes that this will do for the school.

We will once again be working with OVK and learning some of the traditional wood working skills that Harley Holter has developed and is willing to teach. We are also going to be working with Carrie Sykes to create regalia for some of the students that do not have any traditional dress wear.

Shane Scamahorn
Lead Teacher