

Whale Pass School Report
SISD Board Meeting
1/17/24

Hello All,

The students and staff had a wonderful December and Christmas holiday. Everyone participated in the annual Secret Santa gift exchange during the three weeks leading up to the holiday break. All the students were involved in baking their favorite Christmas cookies. Astrid led the stollen (German Christmas bread) baking, which has become a “must have” holiday treat. We always make sure to bake enough of everything so there is plenty to send home!

On the academic front the elementary students took a deep dive into Alaskan ecosystems. This included each student making a powerpoint presentation, which they presented to the entire school after the holiday break. They continue to utilize the state mandated Amplify curriculum in ELA. I spend a math period with them regularly in order to introduce advanced concepts in algebra and geometry. They really enjoy the challenge, and take great pride in doing the same level work as the middle school students.

Middle school and high school students are nearing the end of the physics portion of Physical Science. Ensuring they have an understanding of energy, work, force, the Laws of Thermodynamics, and the differences between closed loop-no waste natural systems and the entropic “one way highway to the landfill” typified by industrial systems is vital to them making informed decisions regarding their future. We are completing the semester with a deep dive into electricity thanks to the wonderful electrical kit that was purchased via the \$1,000.00 Donors Choose opportunity that Alaskan teachers could take advantage of last summer.

We are also concluding the semester-long Civics course. We are ending with the formation of the I.R.S. with the Federal Reserve Act of 1913, how the fiat monetary system works, and how it came into being. We also considered how the decline of the U.S.D. as the global reserve currency is a contributing factor to the ongoing geopolitical events.

Last week we completed the winter MAP testing, and the students generally showed strong progress in all areas.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anthony Cook
Lead Teacher
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