

Greenhouse/Agriculture Program Report
October 2022
Amanda Kiely

The Ag program recently helped organize a district-wide Orchard Harvesting & Preserving event at Coffman Cove School. 60+ students and staff harvested all the remaining fruit from the CC orchard and worked together to teach and learn



different preservation methods including making dried apple rings, fruit leather, applesauce, apple juice, vinegar, and more. We hope this successful event can be replicated and improved upon in coming years.

Thorne Bay greenhouse activity is in full swing, growing and providing lettuce, tomatoes, potatoes, carrots, and kale for the school food service program. The Coffman Cove greenhouse is scaling back for the winter, but currently has almost 1000 heads of lettuce, vegetables, and chicken eggs that are being harvested for Thorne Bay Market, the school food service program, a Hollis School produce sale, and retail sales.

Ag Program coordinator Amanda Kiely is currently working on a \$250K USDA Food & Agriculture Service Learning Program grant. The purpose of this grant is to complement the efforts of the Farm to School Program, increasing availability of fresh, nutritious food for school breakfast and lunch programs, as well as increasing capacity in schools for garden education.

The greenhouse and IT departments are collaborating to automate the Thorne Bay greenhouse to reduce electricity, heating, and labor costs. This groundbreaking project is the first of its kind in an Alaska biomass-heated greenhouse. Student worker Trapper Nelson is installing temperature, light, and fan sensors to increase energy efficiency.

