

Whale Pass School Board Report  
May 3, 2023

Hello All,

April was a busy month. During the first week of the month I successfully concluded my 100T Masters class, and submitted all the documentation to the Coast Guard. This will support the school's sixth year of Subsistence Week, which will take place in late August or early September.

With the help of Shaine Nixon and Tawnya Weaver we multi-tasked our way through simultaneously administering AK STAR, MAP and the PEAKS Science tests. The logistics of administering the State tests in Whale Pass is always an interesting exercise in scheduling, since all the staff is related to some students in all the rooms! By the end of the month the final i-Ready diagnostic of the year had also been administered.

Kayleena led the pre-K and first grade students in exploring the lifecycles of beetles and amphibians. This included short hikes from school on nice days to look for examples of beetles and amphibians, and considering their habitat needs. They are also working towards their goal of reading 100 books by the end of the school year.

In the Elementary end of the building Astrid, Michelle and the students took deep dives into the scientists of the Middle Ages, spiders of Alaska, medieval kings of England, France, Germany, and Spain. In Art they produced some superb pieces demonstrating foreshortening, perspective, and their understanding of the color wheel.

On Thursday, April 20, the seven middle school and high school students traveled to Naukati to participate in a First Aid/CPR course conducted by board member Sandy Curtis. She was ably assisted by James England. James is a member of the Craig EMS team. WPS students had experienced a First Aid/CPR course six years ago, when they were too young to be certified. This time all seven students did a great job, and received their certifications in their email just a few days after the course concluded. Between Whale Pass and Naukati 19 students earned their certification. Plus Whale Pass resident, Tom Weaver, took advantage of the opportunity to renew his certification for his captain's license.

Six of our seven Middle School and High School students qualified for the National Archery Tournament in Salt Lake City, Utah. They are returning home today. A big thanks to John and James Stevens for all their efforts. Another big thanks to Laura Anania for providing overnight accommodations for my son, David, ahead of the trip, and for assisting with travel for WPS students all year!

I'll conclude the report with another big thanks to my wife Astrid, Michelle Dempsey, and Kayleena Toman for stepping up preparing meals and maintaining food production records while Caren has been away both on her family vacation to the U.K, and chaperoning the archery trip. It seems we are like rubber bands. . . . having the ability to be stretched in all directions as circumstances dictate.

Respectfully,

Anthony Cook  
Lead Teacher  
Whale Pass School