

HAROLD KAVEOLOOK SCHOOL
HIGHLIGHTED SCHOOL REPORT
February 2021

It has been a challenging year at Harold Kaveolook School. We are pleased to say that we have met these challenges with hard work, perseverance, creativity and a positive outlook. While February marks the one-year anniversary of the destruction of our building, it also marks a year of generosity from others and the determination of Kaktovik to continue serving our students. It is difficult to judge our academic progress as measured by PEAKS, MAP, AIMSweb as we have had a very unusual school year. Our new interim building has experienced numerous problems, some of which are ongoing. This has caused multiple disruptions in the delivery of instruction in a year that COVID has already interrupted so many times. However, because of proper implementation of our COVID mitigation efforts, our school has experienced more normal in-school instruction days than most other locations.

We have struggled this year in extra-curricular activities. Between the pandemic and the fact that we no longer have a gym or sports equipment, volleyball and basketball have been effectively cancelled. We are excited to see our middle school LEGO robotics team, the Robo Rams, continue to meet and prepare for the upcoming virtual meet. Additionally, Battle of the Books is going strong this year. The fate the Senior NYO games are still in limbo, but students here have already expressed interest in participating. Other extra-curricular activities that are currently being explored for our students are Cross Country Skiing/Biathlon, Fencing and Archery.

In the past, it has been challenging to get our high school students involved in student council, running the student store, and being involved in activities outside of sports. Leadership and service were two significant factors that students need for college applications, scholarships, and to grow as compassionate human beings. This year all students in 8th grade through 12th grade continued taking a leadership class, where they are learning these much-needed skills. The students helped to plan and set up for the Halloween carnival, but it was cancelled at the last moment due the pandemic. Our Christmas celebrations were virtual and posted on Facebook. These leadership skills can also be seen in our students, when we share and discuss core values. Many are also an integral part of a successful whaling season. We recently had some success with a new student store and they look forward to opening regularly soon. Our middle school students are taking a Coding class this year and are enjoying it greatly. They are learning important STEM skills like computer programming.

There was a successful culture camp two years ago and most of the camping gear was saved from the fire. While the pandemic and maintenance issues have cancelled our camping plans for this year, we hope to start up again next year. We have worked closely with the SAC, informing them that without community support the trips cannot take place.

With the vaccine already being administered to many of our village, we look forward to a stronger second semester and a gradual return to normalcy. We have a great staff, who are providing excellent learning opportunities for our wonderful students.