

Port Alexander Board Report

September

We started off an excellent school year. Our ATTSA students all arrived safely after having the experience of getting stuck in Sitka due to unflyable weather.

Once they did arrive we started off with Kayak training and getting to know the community.

We have few elementary students, but have been keeping them strong in the core subjects in the morning, and have been integrating them into our ATTSA activities in the afternoon. We are all learning from each other on the importance of the ecology connection between the Tongass forest and the North Pacific Ocean.

Check out more photos on the Facebook posts on our Community Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/19264018073>

Week 1 - [Alaska Tides to Tongass Science and Arts Academy - A T T S A A](#)



Exploring the connection between the Tongass National Forest and the North Pacific Ocean. Thank you Matt Kirchhoff for the wealth of knowledge about Forest Ecology, seabirds, and history of PA prior to the 70's!

Week 2- [Alaska Tides to Tongass Science and Arts Academy - A T T S A A](#)

Forage to Finish- students became experts at identifying medicinal plants in the Tongass, and learned how to turn a plant into medicine!



Studied the understory of an Old Growth Forest and the lack of understory in a Second Growth Forest.



Week 3- Alaska Fishery Unit

[Alaska Tides to Tongass Science and Arts Academy - A T T S A A](#) students studied different fisheries of Alaska. Toured a tender boat, charter boat, troller

boat, long lining boat, and a seiner boat. We were also able to visit the hatchery and gained experience feeding the salmon, and the process of "Egg Take" for pink salmon! Thank you all for making it happen for these students!



We also have ongoing projects for the students this year. A species checklist of all the organisms in Port Alexander. Two history projects split into two different time frames. History of

Port Alexander from 1913-1950. Students have chosen to create a children's book from the perspective of a Tierce (a barrel that was used to preserve fish in the early fishing days). This book will explain how the Salmon fishery was impacted in the town through the early 1900's. They are also making a timeline at the end of the book where they will compare Port Alexander history to what was

happening in the rest of the United States.

The second history project is based from the 1950-present day. Students have been interviewing various community members to understand why Port Alexander was revived in the 1970's. This project has also been a great way for students to meet the community members in our town!

