



# January 2018 Outer Sites Board Report

## **Curriculum**

The curriculum webpage is fully up to date and staff is being encouraged to use this as a tool not only for instruction but also assessment. We continue to add elective class syllabi to the curriculum webpage. These are in Microsoft Word format so that teachers can modify them to fit their individual school and student's needs. As we move into budget meetings over the next three or four months, we will have to focus on securing funding for our on-line curriculum as well as some new math and social studies materials. Six traits of writing is on deck also.

## **Professional Development**

We will be sending two teachers to the annual ASTE conference in February, Julie Vasquez and Lisa Cates. The travel and lodging are made available through a math/science grant. Cheryl Bobo is managing this grant and has been very good about getting us the information about training opportunities for our staff. This is the last year of the grant, however, in the past three years we have been able to send many of our teachers to ASTE and other amazing professional development conferences. A big thanks to Cheryl Bobo and Ellen Hannah for offering and facilitating these opportunities!

## **Feb 9<sup>th</sup> Teacher Inservice**

Our certified staff will come together at Thorne Bay School at the Feb 9<sup>th</sup> teacher inservice for the last inservice day of the year. We will be focusing on teaching in the block and allowing teachers to express their thoughts, ideas, successes and failures of this past semester. We will also provide training on vehicle safety, changing a tire and reviewing our updated safety equipment for our buses and vehicle fleet.

## **Whale Pass School**



The month of January began with freezing temperatures, a kitchen under construction, construction on our boiler/greenhouse and the water frozen in our housing units and school. In spite of the chaos, we plunged ahead into the first week back at school carrying water to flush toilets. At present our kitchen now has a new floor and a large three-hole industrial sink. Within the next month, we hope to have the dishwasher and new refrigerator hooked up.

Outside our boiler/greenhouse is coming together nicely. We hope to have this project completed by March so we can start planting our spring starts. The Middle School Science class has been working on extended our chicken food. We have new feeders installed and have switched to fermented food. We hope this will help reduce how much food we are purchasing. This class has also installed our new weather station. This station will soon be connected to [weatherunderground.com](http://weatherunderground.com) for all to see.

Our 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders have been diligently practicing archery four times a week. Our 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders have been hard at work reading the Battle Books and practicing for the upcoming competition in February. Our Middle School students have been practicing sewing and cooking skills on Thursdays and our Elementary have been building wooden projects.

The week of January 22-25 is the Great Kindness Challenge Week. Our school has decided to sign up for enrollment in this national recognize week. We will be participating in various activities and random acts of kindness. We will also have a spirit week beginning with Monday as Crazy Hair/Hat day, Tuesday-Formal Day, Wednesday-Favorite Character Day, and Thursday-School Colors Day. We actually began the Kindness Challenge this past Thursday with the Middle School Class making soup and cake for a community member who has been ill.

As we wind down the month, we continue to work through our academic curriculum and hope for sunny, dry days.



Christine Cook  
Lead Teacher

## Hyder School

Hyder School is getting off to a great start for the new year! In science, the students have been learning about the body systems, particularly the skeleton and the muscles. They learned that babies have more bones than adults, who have 206! They even created songs to teach each other about some of the major bones in the body! In social studies, the elementary students have been learning about supply and demand and transportation. They were very creative with means of transportation, including a hand glider and ice-

skating! The middle school and upper elementary students have been doing a fabulous job working out equations with a variable in them. The elementary students finished up *Dragon Slippers* and presented projects about real-life kings and queens of the past. The secondary pupils completed *1984* and are currently working on projects based on that dystopian novel.

Next Friday, Hyder School will be having a Fun Friday filled with building snowmen and making glove friends from retired gloves. We are having an awesome time at Hyder School in January! We can't wait for February and Valentine's, since we will be hosting a French Valentine's Banquet to raise money for our ASC.

Virginia Pulley  
Lead Teacher

## Port Alexander School

Remember, remember the end of November? It brought a few days of dry weather; which happened to provide just enough time for Mr. Nick Higson and Mr. James Stevens to fly into Port Alexander and disassemble a ramp that opened up our playground for free running space. Then, they threw together a great set of stairs and also moved our climbing wall outside.

The students helped move old lumber to the burn pile and haul gravel from the beach to fill in some soft spots where rain likes to collect. The students have continued to enjoy the open space. Once the ground thaws, we will be adding monkey bars, a geodesic dome, more gravel, and parallel bars to our playground. We cannot wait until we can "dig in" and start building again.



The students received extensive training with Mr. Higson on the use of the climbing wall with spotters. It was a great success and all of the students are so excited to have some improvements to their playground. We want to send a huge THANK YOU to Nick Higson and James Stevens for coming and working so hard to get us a great playground.

December proved to be fairly eventful as well with our Winter Program proving to be a hit with the community. The students did a small skit of Charles Dickinson's *The Christmas Carol*. The ladies sang *I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas* while the gentleman sang *Grandma Got Ran Over by a Reindeer*. It was a humorous show and enjoyed by all.

~Soar High~Port Alexander!~  
Laura Anania, Sylvia Lowery, Shanna Smith

## **Naukati School**

The secondary students have completed personal fitness plans and are using them in their workout in the gym, on the treadmill and on the ellipticals. Some of the students are also incorporating running, Zumba, and yoga. Since our students are still growing, they have limitations in the weight room in order to avoid joint and growth plate injuries. Dan Weaver, Chief Physical Therapist at Alicia Roberts Medical Center is coming next week to help us video a Nakauti School weight routine to help students remember the proper form of each exercise and the amount of weight to use.

We have a school field trip planned on February 1st. We will be traveling to Craig for a behind the scenes look at the Police Department, Papa's Pizza, the Post Office, and the EMS/Fire Department. From learning about community to learning about future careers, this field trip will be a good learning experience for all of our students.

Stacey Mank visited the school. She did a second round of immunizations, offered flu shots, and gave a talk on sugary drinks.

Students are getting involved in the ASC at Naukati. The middle school students have collaborated with input from the elementary students to write the last two student board reports. During the last student report, students requested a water fountain that would fill their water bottles. The ASC requested more information on prices and models for the next meeting.

Students have identified issues in the chicken coop, brainstormed and then implemented solutions. A donation of rare chickens has added to our population. A possible breeding program is being discussed as a possible genetics project or for 4H.

Dawn Jones  
Lead Teacher

## Hollis School

For updates and ongoing information please feel free to check out our Hollis School Facebook Learning Blog designed to keep our parents and community engaged in our learning. The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1483681851918203/>

The Hollis Crew on the first week of school celebrating their Froggs Toggs Rain Gear:



Thank you: After one month we have so many that we want to celebrate and send out some “thank yous” for some people who came together to help us have the resources we need to teach:

- *THANK YOU HOLLIS COMMUNITY MEMBER Annette Sharpe* for visiting our school this week. You always make the effort to check in with the kids and ensure they know you are there for and care for them. Your batch of homemade cooking was a lovey surprise enjoyed by all. Of course – thank you for entrusting our community with the form line puzzle your dad created many years ago to teach children the moiety and clans. The students are humbled and honored by your permission for one who steps up to repair the puzzles and restore them, as they were when they were made. We are honored.
- *THANK YOU Bud Williard* for responding over the break to fix the water testing instruments to ensure water safety and repair the water pump to restore water flow for everyone.
- *THANK YOU Jonathan Fitzpatrick!* It works! Our amazing up cycled wood fired boiler is up and running providing the school with toasty warm classrooms! We cannot wait until the building doors and windows are installed so we can get our put down roots in our up cycled greenhouse.

- *THANK YOU Sally Burch and John Bruns* for making your Martin Luther King Day off a “Day On” helping our students build on their music skills as all jammed and sang.
- *THANK YOU James and John Stevens* for making the effort to drive to Hollis and have a great archery day with our students’ before the winter break. Thank you also for ensuring we have enough equipment for all to practice.
- *THANK YOU Public Health Nurse Colleen Watson* for your important visits that show our students you are there for and care for them.
  - In December you energize the Junior High and High School students and helped them access background information to enable them to find success as they worked toward their goal to be involved with addressing the opioid crisis on this island.
  - In January shared an afternoon with our Pre-School though Intermediate students to ensure all had developmentally appropriate understanding of personal emergency preparedness. They loved their space blankets and we look forward to hearing more about their personal emergency bags!

### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

#### **Social Thinking and Universal Tools and Supports:**

- We are continuing to explore Social Thinking books and curriculum and now we will implement Milo the Robot as part of the program.
- We often use Go Noodle and breathing exercises we learn from our Physical Therapist to manage stress and help us learn. This week we are exploring the concept of Tapping. We gather to read a book and not we are examining films to help us use it with fidelity. We will let you know how it works.

#### **Authentic, Place-based Citizen Science Activities:**

- **Journey North** – We continue watching our test garden and documenting and seasonal wildlife, weather and daylight observations.
- **National Weather Service:** The National Weather Service representative visited before break to install more equipment. Sadly some glitches remain but we are hopeful everything will soon be up and running.
- **Trees:** We are excited that this month we will resume our participation with the yellow cedar project. Our Intermediate students will be taking the lead for caring for our seedlings to support this critical research.
- **Wolves:**
  - *Hair Boards:* We successfully completed our second year. We have reflected on this year’s work and have already made changes to improve our practice next year. All students were able to participate in a videoconference with Klawock, Craig Schools and one of the scientists that examines the wolf hair. We learned much more about the project, how the DNA is utilized and how the information is used to learn more about the wolf population on our island.
  - *Wolf Dissection:* A local trapper donated a wolf carcass and another local trapper assisted us in respectfully and properly dissecting a wolf that had been

harvested for his hide. This was timely as our Junior High and High School students were learning about the body systems are the say time. After their learning experiences the Junior High and High School students shared what they learned with the Primary and Intermediate students. WE cleaned and saved the skull and leg bones for further study and including on Science Island!

#### Community Involvement and Change Agent Activities:

- **Pesticides:** The Intermediate and High School Students' books, documenting their efforts, are in final edit and ready to head to the printer. In tandem with this the student's Juneau trip to share their book in in the planning stages. We are thankful to Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins for his assistance scheduling meetings with the Governor Walker, the House Transportation Committee and the Transportation Commissioner. We also thank Rick Peterson and Amy McDonald for their efforts assisting us in our planning. Thank you to Cathy Peavey who signed on as a chaperone and has enthusiastically shared her willingness to help us dive into all that can be found in Juneau documenting the history of our state.
- **Opioid Issue:** For the past four years our Hawks have been studying and working on issues related to the use of pesticides on our island. Last fall as they prepared to hand off their work to a bigger audience, they asked, "What issue are we going to work on next?" We reminded them that the in-depth issues they study are up to them. When they drive their learning it can become amazingly complex, as they go farther than anyone would expect. It was not long before they chose the issues of suicide and the opioid crisis as targets for both their learning as well as for their passionate energy to make a difference on our Island and our state. This crew dove right in and got to work. They met with Colleen Watkins to catch up and then they joined the POW Opioid Task Force. In addition to meeting participation, they build a tree to represent the levels of response and actively participated in our POW Opioid Crisis Town Meeting.

#### ***Bird Expeditions:***

On November 13, 2017 we launched a school wide e bird expedition – Primary learning targets address the tools to learn developmentally appropriate research skills and requirements and nonfiction report writing. Last week Junior High and High School turned in their completed research papers. Intermediate and Primary students will continue their work for another month as they have decided to go deeper in their learning as they are determined to create a bird book documenting their studies.

This week everyone in the school will use found items to create an up cycled bird sculpture where they will utilize that they learned about adaptations to create their own bird. They will then write a short story about their sculpted bird and the purpose of the adaptations selected.

## ***DIVE:***

We know that when a wave comes at us, Hawks “go deep” - we dive into the problem. Thus our student aptly named their Directed Learning time “DIVE TIME” – Diverse, Independent, Vital, Exploration Time. This Week we are launching our 2017-2018 Junior High and High School DIVE time – students will begin writing their applications as they reflect upon their goals and narrow their focus. Project



proposals will be presented to the DIVE Team who will provide intentional feedback. Proposals are revised until accepted and then the real work begins.

## **TESTING AND GOALS:**

Winter AIMS benchmark testing is complete. This week Junior High and High school students will be examining their AIMS, MAPS and PEAKS data on hand, data to help them inform their academic and character goals.



## **ACTIVITIES:**

***Archery:*** Archery season is upon us and our students are enjoying practicing and building their skills.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

January 19, 2017: Lisa and Tammy attended special education training at Thorne Bay to support continued improvement.

Julie Vasquez & Lisa Cates  
Hollis School, Partners in Education

## **Kasaan School**

We are having a fun time out here in Kasaan.

We have 8 students doing archery with Mike Congdon as the coach. We are going to get new archery bow. We do archery on Monday and Wednesday in Kasaan and Tuesday and Thursday Mike takes the kids to archery in Thorne Bay.

We have 7 students participating in elementary/middle school wrestling with Shane Scamahorn as the coach. We are working on the one leg take down. The kids are all looking forwards to the meets.



Our chickens have turned out to be mostly roosters, and we have not received any eggs from them yet, so we are getting ready to have a chicken dinner. We are going to butcher the chickens next week. Then we will provide a chicken to anyone one that would like to make a chicken dish and enter it in to a chicken cook-off competition. It is going to be a community potluck on February 3, 2018 at David Peele Community hall 6:00pm.

Students are continuing to work on wood furniture in our woodshop. We hope that these projects will be great fundraisers.

We had a lot of fun at our Christmas dinner and performance. The students sang some songs and then we played games with the community members.



Shane Scamahorn  
Lead Teacher

## Howard Valentine School

Howard Valentine is happy to introduce our newest teacher Chad Dillman from Hyder. Chad teacher History, Science, Math, and P.E.

In December, we had our Christmas Play and Family Night to make Gingerbread Houses. In our Greenhouse, mushrooms are being grown. It is not a functioning greenhouse yet. Fans will be installed next month. The Community would like to purchase produce from the greenhouse in the spring and summer. Hanging baskets have been ordered and students will plant them and sell for school funds. We also have a goldfish breeding program starting.

New electives at our school for this semester include: Coding, Robotics, Quilting, 3D Printing, Circuitry, Art, Recreation, Newsletter, and Ukulele program. Current after school clubs include: Music Mondays, Archery, Helping Hands, Newsletter, Gaming Club, and an upcoming 4-h Club.

Our school will be hosting a Valentines Day Dinner event as a Fundraiser for Dancing With The Spirit for next year. We will be selling flowers, food, and crocheted roses. This is to be held the 17th of February at the Howard Valentine, it is still in the planning stages.



Alyssa Howell  
Lead Teacher  
Howard Valentine School