

Thorne Bay School



1010 Sandy Beach Road
Thorne Bay, AK 99919
(907) 828-3921

Home of the Wolverines!

10/19/2020

It is hard to believe that we're almost to the end of our first quarter! There are so many highlights, it's hard to choose just one!

Kindergarten: The students have been enjoying their "alphabet boot camp" and filled their kindness jar for a class party!

1-3: Recently, the students were able to sail their homemade sailboats as they studied the parts of boats, what materials float best, and how to engineer them to hold weight!

4-6: Students have been enjoying "Mystery Science" as they figure out another scientific puzzle every day!

7-8: Badminton during PE class has been a real "hit"! They are also enjoying their coding/computer club!

9-12: These students put out the first student-created newsletter we've had in a long time! They did an excellent job and we look forward to the next monthly newsletter!

The staff have been busily making classes engaging and stimulating for the students. Much thought has been put into electives this year in an effort to personalize the students' instruction to their interests. Though this takes an unbelievable amount of work and time invested by staff, the students have been so appreciative of the many choices and opportunities they have. Our electives this quarter include:

Culinary	Foreign Language	Computer Systems	Fitness
Yearbook	Journalism	Video Game Production	Arts/Crafts
Work Study			

The staff have also been engaged in staff building activities as we seek to find creative ways to come together in a season when it would be easy to feel isolated due to Covid restrictions.

- Employee of the Month: This distinction is passed from employee to employee! Amy Jennings was chosen as the first employee of the month due to her outstanding support as the district registrar. She passed the title on to Heather Mendonsa this month for her calm in the midst of so much change.

- Mugging Campaign: A mug filled with goodies has found its way into staff mailboxes! The recipient then chooses someone else to mug, and thus the mugging campaign goes from one to the next!
- Staff Trivia: Staff provide 4 interesting bits of trivia about themselves which are placed on a whiteboard in the school hall. Students provide slips of paper with their “guesses” about the identity of the staff member. The first correct answer drawn wins! This helps the students get to know faculty that they might not see in their classrooms.

We held our first ASC meeting where Superintendent Becker trained us on ASC protocol and responsibilities. It was eye opening to understand how important and integral this role is to the school culture.

We have continued our Character Counts theme as a school. Our first attribute we focused on was self-respect. This month, we are focusing on fairness/equity. It is one way the community can join with us as we post about the theme weekly on the school Facebook page.

The students still discuss how difficult last spring was when we were home distance learning, and how grateful they are to be back together in school. We are certainly grateful for them and for all they teach us as we grow together!

Joanna Schneider
for Thorne Bay School