

## **March 2020 Board Report** **Assistant Principal/Coordinator**

### Emergency Operations Planning Committee

Since mid-February, Andy Cook (Secondary Teacher, Whale Pass) has been keeping the administrative staff informed about the risks, development, and spread of the Covid-19 virus. As the national, state, and district response has grown to meet the challenge, I have been involved with this committee to develop personal safety as well as instructional guidelines for addressing the hazards and challenges brought about by this pandemic.

### K-8 Reading and Writing Curriculum Review

Per Board Policy, the district reviews each of its instructional areas every four years on a staggered basis. This year the areas up for review are K-8 Reading, K-8 Writing, and Service Learning. The K-8 Reading and Writing committee has met and decided that the books and other materials are effective when used properly, and therefore no updates or alterations need to be made to them, but that little guidance exists for teachers new to the district on how to properly use them. That committee is currently working on pacing guides and course outlines for staff to use when needed. Those will be completed by the end of the month. The Service Learning committee will be meeting, via distance, on April 11th.

### **School Site Reports**

#### Howard Valentine

Prepare students for post secondary life:

-We are finding unique ways to integrate “real life” experiences into this exceptional learning opportunity that we have been presented with.

-We are teaching students to be flexible to achieve their goals and adapt to an ever-changing world.

Provide sufficient/effective staff support:

-With this special set of circumstances, we have kept the entire staff informed of the ongoing changes using frequent and open communication.

-We are supporting their needs by encouraging them to self isolate and work from home if they have traveled or been in contact with people from affected areas.

Improve communication district and community wide:

-While maintaining social distancing, we have been actively communicating with parents via email, Facebook, and phones to ensure they are kept up-to-date with the ever changing landscape of this unprecedented period.

Increase visibility to share lifestyle and increase enrollment:

-In accordance with social distancing guidelines as recommended by the CDC, we are currently not accepting students into the building at this time. However, if parents would like to enroll your children into the Howard Valentine School, we are continuously offering educational services!

### Hyder

Hyder School activities continue to revolve around lots of snow and a little blue sky. Students are still getting out on snow shoes and cross country skis on a regular basis. The playground, although buried under 8 feet of snow, continues to amuse students digging snow forts and making sledding hills. During a recent snow storm, students enjoyed making their own snow cones. We have also enjoyed 2 visits to the Stewart, BC ice rink, free of charge thanks to the District of Stewart and the Stewart homeschooling group.

Our February potluck was a big success. Bringing the community together benefits the whole town and it's exciting to see students enthusiastically sharing and public speaking. Elementary students read their A-Z books, sang Treehugger and had fun explaining their agamographs that fill the hallways.

Thursday's at Hyder School continue to offer core classes combined with more group activities like Book Buddies, all-school PE classes, muffin making (for the school breakfast program), and a visit to the Stewart Historical Museum. High school art students also join the elementary for activities a few times a week.

Elementary students continue to expand their music education. Our last jam session included students playing piano, guitar, ukulele, recorders, Tamborine and singing. We have incorporated both poetry and art into our music time and with the help of a few community members, hope to record a music video next month.

Elementary students are continuing their weekly visits to the Stewart Public Library where the 6th graders are taking coding class (VidCode) and the 2-4th graders join a group of local homeschool students for library studies, games, puzzles and reading lots of brand new books.

Several students have reached their Accelerated Reader 360° goals and continue to earn more points. One 4th grade student is leading the pack with close to 200 points! The AeroGarden has been a huge success! After only four weeks we were able to make our first lettuce harvest, which the whole school enjoyed for lunch. We also enjoyed samplings of dill, chives and basil. Hopefully, we will enjoy a bumper crop of cherry tomatoes before school is out for the summer. Elementary students are studying how plants grow, the benefits of hydroponics and graphing progress weekly.

The high school students continue to work very hard on their core academics, stepping things up a notch since last semester. The health class and personal finance class are

favorites of the high school students, and every day they note the real-life applications each of these classes convey. The high school students also continue to develop valuable writing and research skills.

Homework continues to be a priority for K-12th students at Hyder School and we are pleased to commend our students for a nearly 100% homework completion rate! We thank the parents for their support with this responsibility building task.

### Port Alexander

It was our week to Host Dancing with the Spirit Check out our FB page for some clips. We installed a flight simulator for our budding pilots and we celebrated our Senior winning the state Archery Championship!

As spring quickly approached, Port Alexander was making headway in many subjects! In science, we put on our paleontologist cap on and extracted “artifacts” from cookies. For Dr. Seuss week, we dressed wacky everyday and read a book after lunch with an activity to follow. One of the days, we completed an egg drop activity. The kids loved the wacky Dr. Seuss week! Also, we embraced our time with Dancing with the Spirits! Just because the school has shut down, that doesn’t mean we aren’t still making headway! Kids are still doing their daily math lessons as well as reading an on-level novel/story with comprehension questions. We are making the best of the situation, and will keep working our hardest to keep chugging along!

### Whale Pass

The School Greenhouse By Kelsey Brown

This year in the greenhouse, we will plant lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, broccoli, jalapenos, potatoes and cucumbers. Over the winter, we have had many things growing in the greenhouse, including kale and lettuce greens. Here is a list of the students and staff and their favorite vegetables to plant in the greenhouse: Brennen-beets, Mr. Cook-pumpkins, Ms. Caren-cherry tomatoes, Meadow-colorful corn, John-cauliflower and corn, Jackson-kiwis, Ms. Tamara-artichokes, Joe-salad greens, Ms. Sarah-mint, Tom-corn, Ashlen-chives, Alayna-flowers, Kiya-onions, Alex-carrots, Kelsey-potatoes, Ms. Christine-kale, Jeremy-carrots

### Naukati

The month of February ended with having Jason and Stella from Dancing with the Spirit spend two weeks with the Naukati students. The students and adults were having a great time learning and singing away the rainy winter blues. We were sad to see them leave but we would love to welcome them back next year.

During Thursday electives, the K-6 groups were making up some goodies like lemon

bars, lemon cake, brownies, cookies and yeast breads. The students were having a great time cooking but an even better time sampling their "goods". I am sure we have some budding chefs in our school.

Many students during electives had sewn their own little teddy bear. Students were sent home with their bears to continue working on them over Spring Break.

Looking forward to what April has in store for us as the current weather report is calling for snow. My hope, since we are approaching April 1<sup>st</sup>, is that the weathermen are joking. We have seen the sun and now we wish to keep it.