

# October 2016 Board Reports

## Principal's Report

### **Curriculum and Instruction:**

We are beginning our Social Studies curriculum committee meetings in November. Julie Vasquez is the committee chair for this content area. She has a great team of teachers with which to collaborate. Very interested to see what they come up with as we need to fill some grade level gaps in both the elementary and middle school. We look forward, as a body of educators, to see what resource recommendations they present to us to review, discuss and hopefully adopt.

### **Professional Development:**

The October 14<sup>th</sup> teacher inservice delivered more training on Star Reading and Star Math (a progress monitoring instrument that will allow teachers to monitor their student's progress in these subject areas throughout the school year. These tools also come with an accelerated reader package that gives teachers one more resource in which to teach literacy and comprehension skills.

Colter Barnes led a session on District Wide Goal Setting at this past inservice. Staff gave great input on which goals that we would like to pursue. We will continue this goal setting process at the upcoming inservice on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **The annual College Fair and Maritime Trip**

Oct 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> saw twenty-eight of our high school students from around the district attend this opportunity in Ketchikan. A big thanks to Amy McDonald for organizing it and for Jeff and Leslie Theurer, Keane Richards, Stephanie Zeman, and Jason, Wakefield for chaperoning the trip. The students seemed to get a lot out of it as well as getting some hands on experience down at the shipyards.

### **Battle of the Books**

It looks as though all of the district sites are going to participate in this year's annual Battle of the Books competition. Books are at sites and students are feverishly turning pages. The district competition will be scheduled in early February with the winners going on to compete in the State competition. Sandra Campbell, our new Thorne Bay School librarian, is leading the train on this completion. Thank you for all your hard work Sandra! By the way...if you have not had a chance to go into the TB School's library... please do. It looks very warm and inviting, not to mention highly organized. Same goes for the district resource center aka "The Dungeon".

Nick Higson

## Hyder School

It is hard to believe that it is already the end of October. The school year seems to be flying by. Halloween is right around the corner, and the students are excited for all the treats they will get, but also because of the great Halloween themed art projects we have been doing. Virginia Pulley has been teaching the students how to paper - mache, and they are finishing up they paper-mache Halloween treat baskets! Last week, Diana Simpson, a community member came in and taught the students how make ghosts!

The elementary students have been working hard a couple of projects. Today, they presented their "State Projects" and soon they will be presenting their "Jobs" project. They have also been busy learning about bears and their habitats, which is extremely relevant here in Hyder! The students are really excited to start the "Candy Experiments" in science.

The middle/high school students have been reading the "Epic of Gilgamesh," as part of learning about ancient Mesopotamia. At first, the reading was tough and the students were apprehensive, however, after dissecting each paragraph as a group, they are excited to continue the story.

The playground continues to be a huge success. Included are some pictures of the ghost making, paper-mache project, and the students playing on the play ground.



Respectfully,

Chad Dillman  
Lead Teacher

## Hollis School

The Hollis Crew on the first week of school:



### STARTING OFF THE SCHOOL YEAR:

We have a super crew at Hollis School and we are excited to share that we have twenty-five (25) new and returning students enrolled for the 2016-2017 school year. We have students ranging from Pre-K (3 & 4 yoa) through 12<sup>th</sup> grade in attendance.

Thank you: We want to send out some "thank you's" for some people who came together to help us have the resources we need to teach:

- *Thank you Airica Tripple* for all the continued tech support to help us deliver content and allow us to efficiently do our jobs.
- *Thank you to the POW Health Network and Gretchen Klein* for amazing support and opportunities this fall. Two of many events that have benefitted our students took place right here at Hollis School:
  - Thanks to the Health Network we have were able to spend an amazing day hosting Rudy Nix. His visit was powerful for all of our

students and for some, life changing, as evidenced in their note catchers, visit reflection and thank you notes.

- Thanks to the Health Network we have been able to enjoy working with an on site artist, Jeri Rosenthal who has helped us to integrate her talents with clay into our life science and an Colonial US History studies. We are inspired and are exploring making a homemade kiln for continued opportunities with clay.
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- *Thank you Stacey Mank* for the generous gift of your time to bring the Red Cross “Pillowcase Project” program to our school. (And thank you to the Hollis parent how helped us to make this connection.) Stacey’s visit was enjoyed by all grades levels and students and staff alike benefitted from her emergency prepared knowledge. *Thank you* also for the personal pillow case “Go Bags” with resources you brought for our students and for the two “Go Buckets” with emergency resources that greatly enhanced our school “Go Bag”.
- *Thank you Alaska State Trooper Ben Mank* for stopping by our school, connecting with our students and generously spending time with while answering their plethora of questions without hesitation. We hope you come again. There is always fresh coffee or tea or a glass of water for Troopers when they are visiting Hollis.
- *Thank you Cheryl Bobo and Ellen Hannan* for your continued tireless efforts to bring authentic real world state of the art learning opportunities and resources for our students and teachers. With their mentorship our junior high and high school students are participating in a wolf study and all of our students continue to expand their work monitoring the health of our streams and water. With their work this fall we will also be able offer coding and robotics and hands on electricity.
- *Thank you Rudy Nix* for the generous gift of your time, your care listening and guidance and willingness to spend such meaningful with our students.
- *Thank you Jeri Rosenthal* for the generous gift of your time and talent and your patience as you brought the gift of art to all ages, from Pre-School to High School, at Hollis School. Our students are looking forward to your return and we are especially excited that you have included a reflection component into our process.
- *Thank you to two generous women who visited our school over the summer* who made a significant donation for art supplies and tools. Thanks to your generosity students have personal tool and art sets and are learning about tool responsibility and accountability while they also enjoy the opportunity to build skills and enjoy art at a whole new level.

- *Thank you to Michael Ashe* for arranging a visit with a teacher from Thailand. Our students certainly enjoyed learning about customs and trying on traditional clothes a student might wear to school. What a great opportunity to connect with another continent and another culture.

### Curriculum Highlights:

We are enjoying seeing all of our progress with the Visualizing and Verbalizing and Story Grammar Marker across curriculum in our 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms to support their writing and reading comprehension skill development and enhancement.

Junior High and High School students are participating in an island wide wolf study and our elementary students are enjoying participating in real hands on life science with Journey North. Last week we mailed our Symbolic Monarch Butterfly Migration and today we planted the Red Tulip Bulbs that will be one of our first signs of spring. We will let you know when they come up.

We are excited that Battle Books have come in and out students are eagerly reading and enjoying the new books. We are exploring and looking forward to doing some literature circles with other SISD schools using Battle Books

### Testing and Goal Setting

We completed our fall AIMS benchmark assessments, MAPS testing and We are analyzing the students' long-term data in tandem with interviews and other information to better inform data trends to identify instructional interventions to support student progress and guide student goal setting.

### ACTIVITIES:

***Hope Fundraiser:*** As part of our Hollis School commitment to service in our community the student build and donated an up-cycled bench to than annual Hope auction. We were excited to learn the bench brought \$350.00 in donations for HOPE.

***Cross Country:*** We had a great Cross Country season as students continued to strive fore their personal best. Thank you Naukati and Thorne Bay for hosting the final two wonderful events. Our crew really enjoyed going out to lunch at the Thorne Bay Café. Thank you also to Coach Kyler Looper for your good work.

***“Healthy Futures”:*** We have another season of 100% qualified student involvement in the State of Alaska’s Healthy Futures Get Outside campaign. The students enjoy tracing their data and watch for the packages.

**“Basketball”**: Middle School basketball began on October 3 and we have two young men participating on the District Middle School Basketball team. They love it. Thank you to a dedicated Hollis parent who drives them to their practices and Coach Gunkel for your guidance and support of our students. We so appreciate everyone’s work to give our students this opportunity.

**“Kayaking”**: We had another great kayak day in October - this time with Principal Nick. It can’t get any better than hanging out with the principal and making meaningful connections out on the water. Thank you Principal Nick.

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Current Training:**

In September and October Lisa completed:

1. Wolf study training
2. Dash and Dot Robotics training.

Both trainings included classroom resources to share with the students.

#### **Scheduled Current Training:**

Julie and Lisa are enrolled in a November OSMOS Genius Kit training and \a December 2016 Gizmos and Gadgets training. Both classes include valuable classroom resources and will enhance already scheduled courses of study.

Lisa and Julie  
Hollis School

## **Naukati School**

We have been very busy here in Naukati. In the month of October we were able to accomplish the following things:

1. Our Goats arrived. Billy and Bobby 2 Nigerian dwarf goats joined our school community on 10/13. The staff and the students have really enjoyed getting to feed them, walk them and spend time with them
2. We got a generous donation of 8 hens from Margie in the district office. They are giving us eggs that we can use in our food program.
3. Ms. Cooper was able to take the middle and high school students from here and Whale Pass out to Coffman Cove to get kayak certified
4. We held a cross country meet here in Naukati on 10/1
5. We were able to finish the cross country season with a awards ceremony at the Thorne Bay Café
6. On 10/18 the civics class held its election. About 50 people came from Nauakti to vote for the school jobs. The students each had a campaign budget

- to purchase things like lawn signs and bumper stickers. They gave speeches and learned about absentee ballots
7. We had our annual Halloween Carnival on 10/22. It had excellent turnout with kids from all over the island
  8. Our wood fire boiler is up and running successfully

Our greenhouse is not able to grow and produce food at the moment due to a substance that was in the water, this unknown substance has killed all of the fish and turned all of the water black. This process is under investigation with the state troopers.

Jessica Goldman  
Lead Teacher

## **Whale Pass School**

Whale Pass School continues to hold our count of 16 through the month of October. Currently we are working on several projects. We are working on our chicken coop in order to have a place to hold our chicks. We had one batch of eleven born on October 9, which are moving in this week. We have another batch in the incubator ready to hatch around November 1<sup>st</sup>. We plan to be selling these at the December 12<sup>th</sup> Holiday Bazaar in Coffman Cove, along with some hand-made crafts.

Our ASC dinner on October 20 was a great success. We had a pumpkin carving contest and a chili/soup cook-off. The winners of the pumpkin carving contest were Megan Wakefield and JD Alford. Our chili/soup winners were the Toman family. Congratulations to all and thanks for all the delicious soups and chilis.

This month finished up our cross-country races. Our middle school group traveled to Ketchikan on October 1<sup>st</sup> while our elementary raced in Naukati. We all finished up in Thorne Bay on October 8<sup>th</sup> with every racer exceeding their personal best.

We are planning a little Halloween party on October 28<sup>th</sup> with a movie and mini pizzas for all the students and community kids.

Christine Cook  
Lead Teacher

## **Kasaan School**

Life in Kasaan is great. The sun is always shining and the wind never blows around here. We have 12 students that are terrific and great to be around.

Our high school students attended the Maritime/College Fair Trip to Ketchikan this month. They loved the trip and felt it was a great opportunity to learn about the maritime trades and the skills that are needed in that industry. The students are appreciative to Mr. Barnes for taking them. The college fair was also very informative to the students and they came back talking about the different colleges that they are interested in attending.

Rudy Nix was able to come out to Kasaan and speak with the students from Coffman Cove and Kasaan. This was a awesome experience for the students, and they enjoyed spending time with him and listening to his message.



The WOOFers spent some time with the younger students this month and help to harvest our potato garden in a torrential down pour. It was a lot of fun and very messy. We harvested about 12-15 pounds of potatoes of different varieties.

MAPS testing went well and the students were glad to have it

completed.



We also have 6 students participating in sports with Thorne Bay School. The students are grateful for the chance to play and participate in basketball, volleyball, and wrestling.



Shane Scamahorn  
Lead Teacher

## Port Alexander School

Welcome to Autumn! Since the last report, Port Alexander has had a few cool activities that we want to share. The first activity was a Friday exercise in S.T.E.M.

The students had three timed challenges in which they had to build a paper table to support a dictionary and two different towers that could hold a tennis ball! The students had a great time with these challenges and some parents even got in on the fun too.







The next activity was a field trip to the Port Alexander Museum. The Curator of the local museum contacted the school over the summer and put a bug in our ear to bring the students down for a personal tour and special presentation. The students that were able to attend had a great time learning about the history of Port Alexander. We have a few plans in the works with the information gleaned from this excursion like thoughts of a land lovers pamphlet to be placed in our local phone booth, inclusive of a map of P.A and possible designs for “road signs” for the community.





We are also looking forward to the end of November when the community of Port Alexander will showcase their homemade wares at the Holiday Bizarre. The school is also starting to prepare for the Winter Program since the holidays are right around the corner. Do you know what is on your Christmas list?

Happy Trails from the Staff at Port Alexander!