

HAROLD KAVEOLOOK SCHOOL

HIGHLIGHTED SCHOOL

It has been another wonderful year at Harold Kaveolook School. We started off the year having to fill our counselor position with a long-term substitute, then in September our 3rd/4th grade teacher resigned and left. Cathe Rhodes was the long-term counselor through Thanksgiving, and Lorrie Scoles joined us after Christmas to finish out the year. Lorrie will be joining our team and returning as our full-time counselor next year. Filling the 3rd/4th position proved challenging and, at the very last-minute, Burt Neimeyer agreed to fill in through December. After being here for a short while, Burt agreed to return after the holiday break and finish out the school year. The staff, students, and community are very appreciative of him getting us through the year. Kathryn and Shane Lamar recently resigned at the end of the school year to return back to Texas to assist with aging parents. Jenny DeRosia will be filling this position and Sanna Wise the 3rd-4th position. We currently have one certified opening for high school math and science. Michael Lancaster has requested a transfer to Point Hope that will be granted only if we are able to find a suitable replacement. Our current classified openings include a half-time paraprofessional and a library aide. There will also be a special education aide position vacated by Shane Lamar open at the end of the school year. We want to

send a special thanks to Kathryn, Shane, Burt, and Cathe for all they have done for our school.

Activities this year started off with Cross Country, where we had 3 students participate. Additionally, we hosted the School District alternative race in Kaktovik. Fortunately, we had enough students this year for a mixed-six volleyball team, but had to utilize 8th grade students for boys' basketball, and co-op with Meade River for the girls' team. Over the next few years, we will continue to have challenges fielding both volleyball and basketball teams, due to our low number on girls in high school. Harold Kaveolook School had both a middle school and high school Lego Robotics team this year. We had one of only two teams who piloted high school robotics this year. Our middle school team did very well this year bringing home the Project and the Robot Performance awards, securing them a place a state. HKS sent 3 students to Anchorage, where they learned a great deal about performing at higher levels. In relation, HKS has recently secured a class pack of Sphero Bolt robotics where the students continue to work with and learn programming skills. HKS had another monumental year in Battle of the Books securing first place in kindergarten, first, second, and seventh-eighth grades. Finally, we sent five students to NYO in Anchorage, who performed with great skill and sportsmanship.

This past school year, HKS has put a renewed emphasis on a greater focus of including the Inupiat values in all aspects of the school. Additional posters were requested so that each classroom can have a set. The 5th-7th grade class works on reciting them daily and know them very well. This was much different than a year ago when Spencer Conley visited this classroom and they did not know any of them. HKS will continue this focus school wide next year and work to infuse them with PBIS and management issues. We will also be taking this to the next step after they learn to discuss and apply them on a daily basis.

The Renaissance/Accelerated Math and Edgenuity/Compass intervention math programs continue to indicate significant growth in our students. We will be administering the final Star math assessment in the next few weeks and we look forward to seeing our results in the PEAKS test results. HKS is very interested in looking for similar-type programs that we can identify and use to show comparable results in language arts. Some programs we have been exploring are Imagine Learning and Reading Mastery.

The second annual Kaktovik Culture Camp took place April 2nd-6th at First Fish Hole on the Hula Hula River. Nine students and seven adults from the staff and community went on the five-day expedition. Everyone was involved with everyday chores like cooking, cleaning, refueling machines and stoves, and getting ice. We went on sled rides, built shelters, fished, and spent a lot of time working as

a team. Again, a major focus was the Inupiat Values. Students identified the values used to complete various tasks and did journaling about how they were using them to guide their actions. I was very impressed with how well the students participated and behaved while on the camp. The students that attended are currently working on an iMovie that we hope to share with you soon. Each student has chosen two of the activities they were engaged in during the trip and are writing a descriptive essay using the Excellence in Writing format. They will then record their essay using GarageBand. These will be used as the narration in the movie as photographs from the trip are shown.

Students at the Harold Kaveolook School have engaged in several service-learning projects this year as well. Prior to the beginning of the fall whaling season, the middle school class walked down to the whaling shack and cleaned it. They wanted to ensure that it was prepared for the crews upon successfully catching a whale. Similarly, the eighth grade and high school students spent time each day for a week earlier this spring collecting ice for elders. They were able to learn the proper techniques from one of the elders in the village and then employed these techniques to collect ice. Once they had gathered a significant amount of the correct ice, they delivered it to several of the elders. We intend to grow this service-learning program next year when the high school students participate in a leadership class.

Finally, I would like to thank the North Slope Borough School District, the school board, and the North Slope Borough for your continued support and guidance as we strive to do our very best to educate the students of Kaktovik.