

Hoonah Schools Newsletter

March-April 2018

(March) Heentaanax Dís: The month when saltwater fish spawn.

(April) Kalatgi Dísi: The month when not much happens.



Hoonah Hosts Region V Qualifying Tournament and Sends Two Teams to the State Championship

It has been a busy year for robotics, first by hosting the Region V Qualifying Tournament in Hoonah with 13 robotics teams in contention and then sending two Hoonah teams to the State Robotics Championship in Anchorage!

At the Region V Qualifier in Hoonah: Our "Hoonah Tech" team earned their spot as "Host Qualifier" with their tough robot chassis, innovative scoring

attachment, and complete engineering notebook - a good all-around showing. Each qualification match pitted 4 teams paired into two competing alliances and after 17 matches, Hoonah's "Mighty Mega Marshmallows" team ranked 4th, making them Alliance Captains in the semi-finals, which they lost, but their standing earned them a spot at Championships. They also scored the 2nd highest qualification match of the day at 129 points! Despite Hoonah's "Verdure Golems" team having a robot lacking scoring attachments, they were able to rank 9th in the qualification matches due to their creative driving and strategizing. Other high schools represented included Thunder Mountain (5 teams), IDEA Homeschool - Juneau, Juneau-Douglas, Sitka and Kake (2 teams). *Robotics story continued on page 7.*



Robotics team picture, back row: Rose Williams, Tessa Williams, Nakima Budke, Eddie Williams, Treston Lafferty, Anthony Johnson, Robert Wilkin, Ethan Ruerup, Sarah Haube. Front row: Cooper Ross, Sierra McClement, Alejandro Contreras, Izaak Jacobsen, Coach Ben McLuckie. Robotics photos by Ian Johnson



Coming Friday, April 27th

The 28th Annual HCS Heritage Celebration *Ku.éex'*

Hosted this year by the Eagle Students

Mark your calendars --- everyone is invited! The program will begin at 10 a.m. and will be followed by lunch for all guests. Please come and enjoy the morning with us as we celebrate what we are learning about the Tlingit language and culture. Call Carol Williams (945-3611), Daphne Wright (723-1223) or Heather Powell (738-5555) if you want to help, either by volunteering, making donations, or both. See page 5 for more details.



Tesh Gray photo

Superintendent's Spring Message



I hope everyone enjoyed their Spring Break and was able to spend time with friends and family. I want to thank our staff and students for your continued hard work and dedication to Hoonah City

Schools.

This has been a busy time for all of us at HCS. I want to recognize all of the teachers, educational assistants, para-educators and administrators who work together to improve student achievement. I have seen your dedication first hand and I greatly commend you for it. I am highly optimistic we will see positive changes in our future.

Support staff members continue to pick up the PACE with their continued hard work and dedication by providing assistance to parents and staff, safely transporting students, assisting in the cafeteria, maintaining safe, comfortable and clean environments, and the numerous other aspects of support that are offered each and every day. The support you provide is invaluable. Your hard work is recognized and appreciated.

So many exciting things and successes are happening in Hoonah City School, providing opportunities for students, staff and parents. This year we had a record number of students taking advantage of our UAS dual enrollment courses. Our Robotics teams competing in the State Championships, and our varsity basketball teams competing at regionals were just some of the highlights recently. School administration and the Hoonah City School Board are working together to create more opportunities for our students.

All of this would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of all HCSD staff members and community support. Thank you for all you do for the students at Hoonah Schools. I appreciate your commitment and I am honored to be on your team! Thank you so much for your service.

Ralph Watkins, Superintendent/Principal

Greetings from your School Board!

On January 30, the board accepted Jamie Erickson's resignation. She resigned from the board in order to become an employee of the district as PAT Parent Educator. Thank you on behalf of the entire board to Jamie for her year of public service on behalf of our students.

Harold Houston was installed as an appointed member of our board after an interview during a special board meeting on February 8. Thanks to Harold for volunteering to fill Jamie's former seat until elections next fall.

The board is in the midst of the budgeting process for the 2018/2019 school year. We had the first of two readings of the FY19 budget during our regular meeting on March 13th. We welcome community members to our budget work sessions and to our board meetings.

The board negotiated a new 3-year contract with superintendent/principal Ralph Watkins that was approved during our regular March meeting. We look forward to continuing to work with Mr. Watkins on behalf of the students.

Also approved was a contract for Ms. Sheryl Ross for FY19. She continues to be a tremendous asset to our school and our students.

As always, I encourage anyone with concerns about the school to email me at huttonr@hoonahschools.org or call or text me on my cell phone (907-209-0996). Gunalchéesh!

*Bob Hutton
HCS Board President*

*Announcing:
Graduation Ceremonies
Hoonah High School Class of 2018
Friday, May 11 7:30 p.m. Alumni Gym*

About this newsletter: this is a project of the Native Education Program at Hoonah City Schools. It was started in 1986 as a means to increase parent involvement in the school by "getting the word out" about school activities and programs. If you have suggestions, questions or comments, you can contact Daphne Wright, newsletter editor by email at wrightd@hoonahschools.org or by calling 723-1223.



Staff Spotlight on Ms. Mimi

Dmitrieva Antal, known affectionately by her nickname Ms. Mimi, is currently the 4/5 Teacher. Her last teaching position was as the 2/3 Teacher in Gustavus. She originally came to Alaska in 1995 after having moved from her home in the San Francisco Bay Area. She lived in Fairbanks and the surrounding area for almost twenty years. While in the interior she primarily lived in the small, dog mushing community of Two Rivers. For more than eight years she lived off the grid without electricity, indoor plumbing, or most modern conveniences. What she loved most about her time there was just that - time. She would most often be found spending her time reading historical fiction, knitting and weaving, and taking care of the family's livestock. Their family raised chickens, rabbits, hogs, and milk goats. While there, she also often volunteered in her children's school. She soon recognized her calling to become a teacher and returned to college and received a BAE in Elementary Education from UAF in 2012.

Congratulations, Coach

Jessie!

Hoonah HS

Grad, Class of 2006, and Volleyball/Basketball Coach

Jessie Dybdahl was presented with the Lion's Club **Dr. Walter A. Soboleff Award** at the Gold

Medal Tournament in March. This is an honor for an "individual who displays sportsmanship, leadership, spirit, motivation, and pride in their teams, village, and community." **You make Hoonah proud, Jessie!**



IN THEIR GRANDMOTHERS' FOOTSTEPS

Recently, two people joined the Hoonah City Schools staff, hired under the ANEP grant. This grant is designed to strengthen the cultural teachings in the classroom, and in the process, improve students' academic achievement. In taking a look at these two new employees, we can see that they are carrying on the work their Grandmothers did in our community.



Levi Mills, the grandson of Katherine Brown Mills, will be working mostly with students in the upper grades. He will assist in classrooms to provide help as needed, and to provide a positive "Uncle" influence for our students. Levi is Wooshkeetaan from the Noow Hít (Fort House) and T'akdeintaan yádi. As many of you may remember, his grandmother Katherine was our first Tlingit Language Educator working with Hoonah City Schools.

Adrien Lee is also a new employee at our school. She is the great-granddaughter of Winnafred Smith. Winnie was not only a teacher at the Hoonah Head Start, she was also a frequent visitor to our classrooms talking with staff and students regarding Hoonah History. Adrien is helping prep for classes, assisting with Tlingit language instruction, and helping as needed in the various language and culture classes.



Adrien is Chookaneidí from the Xáatl Hít (Iceberg House) and T'akdeintaan yádi. Adrien went to elementary school in Juneau, and graduated from high school in Day's Creek, Oregon in 2006.

We are fortunate to have both Levi and Adrien join our cultural education team.

Thank you, Hoonah!

You have made the following possible through the 1% sales tax for student activities.

5-8 Grade Sports

- ◆ Volleyball
- ◆ Wrestling
- ◆ Girls' Basketball
- ◆ Boys' Basketball

High School Sports

- ◆ Boys' Basketball
- ◆ Girls' Basketball
- ◆ Cross-Country
- ◆ Wrestling
- ◆ Volleyball

Other Activities

- ◆ AFN Convention
- ◆ Elders and Youth Leadership Conference
- ◆ AASA Art Fair
- ◆ Elementary STEM Club (robotics)
- ◆ M.S./H.S. Robotics



Haa Kusteeyí Áyá

Haa Kusteeyí Áyá, is the name of our language and culture program here at Hoonah City Schools. It translates to: *This is Who We Are*. Here are some

highlights:

Ku.eex' 2018 Set for April 27th

Hoonah City Schools students and staff will be celebrating our 28th annual Heritage Celebration *Ku.eex'* on Friday, April 27th. Our program will include several songs that have been composed in the last few years by our students, one at Glacier Bay, and another song at *Haa Too Yéi Yatee Culture Camp* last summer.

Other songs will be on the program as well. The 4th and 5th graders are working on their Tlingit introduction speeches, the 2nd and 3rd graders are preparing a song and a skit, and the K-1 are working on a few songs. There will be participation by older students as well.

The community is invited to come and join us for the program, followed by lunch, served by the Eagle students, who are this year's hosts. We could use help in the way of volunteers and donations of berries, trail mix ingredients, jarred smoked fish, seaweed, or other prepared food that we can give as gifts. Contact Carol at 945-3611, Daphne at 723-1223 or Heather at 738-5555 with questions about how you can help.

Damen Bell-Holter Visit

Damen Bell-Holter, former NBA pro and star of Gold Medal, is coming to Hoonah April 16-18. The Hydaburg basketball star will be working with all the students at Hoonah City Schools, in gym classes and during an afterschool basketball clinic. He works to motivate students by teaching life-coping skills that help on and off the court. For further info contact Heather Powell @ (907)738-5555 or watch the daily school messenger for details.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU

We recently had two special guest speakers in the middle school classes.

Kenneth Grant, T'akdeintaan and Kaagwaantaan yádi, visited our middle school class to talk with students about how at.óow is created. Mr. Grant talked about the design of the screen on the newly created Clan House at the Glacier Bay National Park. He explained what the artwork represents and what

lead to the creation of this cultural treasure.

As you may remember, the front screen depicts the Eagle and Raven with the Raven opening the box of knowledge and the Eagle holding our Tináa. The inside screen represents the Tlingit people and the anchor indicating that "we are here to stay." This reminds us that the Glacier Bay area is our original homeland.

Our goal with this event was to teach our future leaders the process in creating at.óow and to relate this important history for generations to come. These wonderful pieces of art were created by Gordon Greenwald, Owen James, and Herb Sheakley. Students were quite attentive to this important presentation and we appreciate Mr. Grant's taking time from his busy schedule to talk with the children.

Additionally, Herb Sheakley; Shaangukeidí and T'akdeintaan yádi, came and talked with our students about how family at.óow is created. Mr. Sheakley presented a crest from his family and talked about what it represents. This crest will one day be placed on robes for Shaangukeidí children; Treston Lafferty, Cheyanne Jack, Duane Jack, Mary Jack, and Kamari Lafferty, who are all descendants of Anita Lafferty and Ida Kadashan.

These were wonderfully timed presentations from both Mr. Grant and Mr. Sheakley, as these two men repeated words we tell our students all the time – the importance of culture, the importance of knowing who we are, the importance of respect and following our cultural values, and the importance of being a strong cultural leader one day.

Aatlein Gunalchéesh for giving us your time!



*Students play **Tlingit Jeopardy** in middle school and high school Tlingit classes. They compete to see who is first to ring the buzzer and answer a question in Tlingit.*

REGALIA THANKS

The Hoonah City School Native Education Program staff would like to extend a hearty Gunalchéesh to Wilma Davis for her recent donation of a Raven blanket and Raven vest that she had created for our students to use during cultural events.

What a thoughtful gift; if you should see Wilma, please take a moment to thank her for her generosity.



↑**Aadoo Sá? (In English: Guess Who?)** Sixth graders have been playing this game, asking questions in Tlingit to figure out their opponent's mystery person. Above: Kenny and Josh, playing *Aadoo Sá?*

Donation request: if anyone has an old *Guess Who* game that they no longer have use for, we can add it to our supplies, so that more students can play. You can drop it off with Ladonna at the high school office, or call Daphne at 723-1223, and we can pick it up.

Sixth graders also practice their Tlingit on iPads using Quizlet, a study program that allows them to study vocabulary, take short tests, and compete against each other. If you know a sixth grader, ask them about *Quizlet Live* or how they are doing on "Match." The students in this class are also in charge of putting up Tlingit Phrases of the Week signs around the school.

Hoonah Fire History Lesson

Students in the middle school and high school classes learned about the Hoonah Fire that occurred in 1944. The lesson includes the context of Hoonah in 1944, the impact of the fire on the community, and information about "Hoonah Heroes" who did extraordinary things to help people survive.

Quilt Raffle

Elementary students in the 2/3 grade class held a raffle; the prize was a Dr. Seuss quilt handmade by Kris Skaflestad. They raised close to \$300 which will be donated to the Playground Fund. Ms. Diane Bean was the lucky winner of this quilt. Thank you, Kris Skaflestad, for donating the quilt to the school!

Jump Rope for Heart

The first Friday of March was the day that we held our annual Jump Rope for Heart event. So many of the elementary students got out and raised money for the American Heart Association. Altogether, we raised a little over \$2100.00. Way to go, Hoonah Elementary!

Second/Third Grade News

Our third quarter came and went before we knew it! We began the third quarter celebrating the lives of Martin Luther King Jr. and Elizabeth Peratrovich. We are so grateful for the work they've done.

The beginning of March was the start of the annual Iditarod race. Every child in our class chose a musher and tracked their progress on the trail. We learned the history behind "The Last Great Race," and watched daily video clips of the mushers as they traversed the Iditarod trail. The daily update of the mushers was the highlight of every day! We even made homemade dog biscuits as a culminating project, and had to work with fractions to double our recipe. During this activity, we enlisted the help of the North Carolina college students. We enjoyed the time they spent in our classroom.



Mrs. Hutton came in to our class and shared her

adventures, getting to ride in Page Drobny's sled as a guest at the start of the Yukon Quest (an international dogsled race). She shared a very informative slideshow of this experience, going over the prep to get dogs hitched to the sled, checked by the Vets, the gear they wear, and the excitement that was in the air as the dogs were preparing to take off on this race. Thank you, Mrs. Hutton, for sharing this information.



In writing, the students learned about Procedural

Writing, and learned how to use transition words when writing directions for a "How To" or "Procedural" piece. They made tie-dyed coffee filters, and worked hard to give very precise directions for how to make one. They are quite colorful, so if you happen to be in the hallway, come down by our classroom and take a look!

Currently, we are preparing for the upcoming *Ku.éex'*. With the guidance of Mrs. Wright and Ms. Adrien, we will be singing a song and performing a short skit. I think you will enjoy their performance.

We just completed the state PEAKS test, which assessed students in Reading, Writing, and Math. I'm very proud of how hard this class has worked!

Keep up the great work, kids! The end of the year is just around the corner!

~~~Mrs. Bidiman~~~



## Robotics, continued from p 1

The community of Hoonah really came forward to host our 90 visitors for most of a week (due in part to the weekly ferry schedule.) Listed below are the local volunteers for the Tournament, but there were so many others who supported the Hoonah teams and came to the matches at the Alumni gym. Thank you to all!

Game Announcer/Emcee: John Vlaun  
Field Resetters: Bambi James, Aleesia Martuscelli  
Lead Scorekeeper: Marlene Duvall  
Pit Admin & Queuer: Kathie Deitering  
Judge Advisor: Rebekah Sawers  
Judges: John Murray, Jeff Skaflestad, Shawn McConnell  
Field Technical Advisor: Ian Johnson  
Robot Inspector – Software: Sean Williams  
Robot Inspector – Hardware: Jeremy Grant  
Head Referee: Seth Ross  
Referees: Candy Keown, Pete Schneeberger, Rebekah Sawers  
Event Coordinator: Ben McLuckie  
Hospitality Room (and chaperone for State): Amelia Wilson  
Wednesday Welcome Dinner: Sally Dybdahl, Glenda Hutton  
Copy Machine Operator: Teresa McConnell  
Fix-it! And Make-it! Guy: Bob Hutton  
Hoonah Teams support: Kassie Pesch-Johnson  
Visiting Team Housing: Hoonah Presbyterian Church, Abundant Life Christian Fellowship



Hoonah Team Mighty Mega Marshmallows #4357 poses with their robot. Members: Nakima, Sarah, Alejandro. Missing: Anthony

## At the State Robotics Championship in

**Anchorage:** Our Mighty Mega Marshmallows and Brave Tech teams gave Hoonah the best showing yet at a State Robotics Tournament, seeded 10th and 16th, respectfully, against 32 of the top high school teams across the state! (The top team from Southeast is Croc'em Soc'em Robots from Thunder Mountain HS, and they seeded 7th.). Both our teams built highly effective original robots that were capable of even higher scores with more driving practice and program tweaking (lessons for next year). As coach, I'm so proud of them - they did well in all aspects, they just got better and better as the tournament wore on, and they know what they need to work on for next season.

- Coach Ben McLuckie



Hoonah Team Verdure Golems #14119 poses with their robot. Members: Tessa, Rose, Izaac



Hoonah Team Brave Tech #4358 poses with their robot. Members: Ethan, Treston, Robert, Cooper. Missing: Sierra, Edward.

Thank you to Ian Johnson for the photos on this page.



## Max The Robot Takes 1<sup>st</sup> Place at the Jr. Robotics Sumo Wrestling Tournament

*Max The Robot* took 1<sup>st</sup> place at the sumo robot wrestling tournament in a final battle with M.T.R.4 that was decided in double overtime! M.T.R.4 led the way with extensively tested coding and tricky strategies that we all thought would earn them the top prize. But in the final days Max was completely rebuilt and re-coded to do one thing well – wrestle! (PS. Max is NOT a cat anymore!)

What am I talking about? For the first time in Hoonah, 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> graders met after school every day from Feb. 21 to Mar. 15 to imagine (design), build, code and play (test) robots made from Lego bricks and programmed using either Boost! Blocks or Scratch (<http://scratch.mit.edu>). The robots were autonomous (no driver), but changes to coding could be made between trials and matches.

Club members (in alphabetic order): Atkaheen Budke, Tyrell Cromer, Gerred Garrison, Leif Gray, Krista Howland, Krista Howland, Sage Kuhn, Dietrich Lewis, Leah Moss. In the final tournament, Max was built and coded by Atkaheen and Krista while M.T.R.4 was built and coded by Gerred and Dietrich.



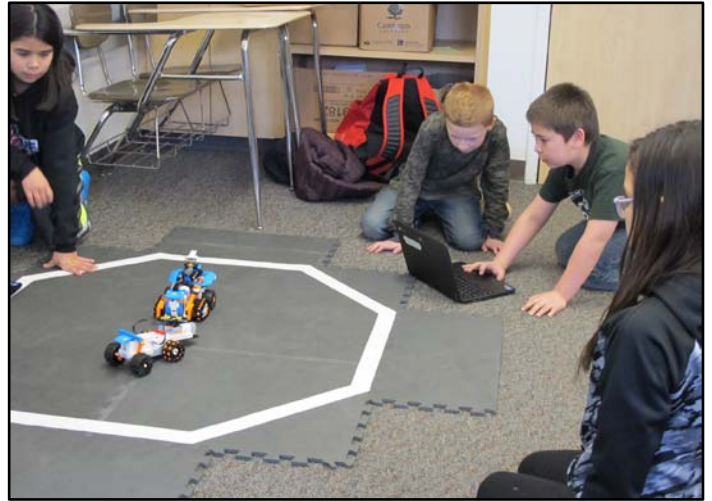
Special thanks goes to Shawn McConnell for being my assistant coach, Mimi Antal for the endless student support and the voters of Hoonah who continue to support afterschool programs such as robotics through the 1% City sales tax.

Jr. Robotics has proved that there is interest and enthusiasm for Hoonah to field a FIRST Lego League team this fall for grades 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup>. (<http://firstinspires.org/fll>). We need one or two adults to coach this after-school program with abundant support from me and members of my high school robotics team. It's just that my time is already taken up with coaching Hoonah's high school teams. Interested adults can contact me for more information.  
*Ben McLuckie*

### Playground Fundraising Thanks

Many thanks to perpetual volunteers Glenda and Bob Hutton. The profits (\$565) from the Hoonah Community Theater Play went to Playground fundraising.

Thanks, Billy & Pearl Miller, for rummage saving and delivery.



Thank you, Hoonah, for cutting and turning in BoxTop\$ for Education! November 1st bundle = \$63.90, March 1st bundle = \$38.30 and Lifetime for Hoonah Elementary = \$1560.78. Each coupon brings a dime to our fundraising effort! Collection spots: Hoonah Trading Company, Colette's Cupboard, Hoonah High School Office, and at each elementary school classroom. A special thank you to Irene Knudson for sending a ziplock bagful from Juneau.



We are looking forward to seeing substantial progress on the playground renovation this spring and summer in fair weather.

### Christmas Bazaar Thanks

**Thank you Hoonah!** Hoonah City Schools is so grateful to everyone who came to the Christmas Bazaar last December. We raised \$1391 from table rentals, Mystery gifts and the Silent Auction. The money will go towards funding special projects in the Elementary School. A very special thank you to Pearl Miller, Chris Greenwald, Mary Beth Moss, Daphne Wright, Sally Dybdahl, Nicki Shelton, Christina Carrick, Glenda Hutton and Icy Strait Point for donating gift items to the Silent Auction and Mystery Gifts tables.

Thank you to Adam Gretsinger and the Boys' Basketball team for moving bleachers and tables on Friday and for making sure chairs and tables were returned to their proper homes on Saturday. And special thanks to Pearl Miller, Wilma Davis, Sally and Paul Dybdahl, Kris Skaflestad, Daphne Wright, Jennifer Bidiman, Christina Carrick, Bob Hutton, Mary Beth Moss and Owen James who physically put the Bazaar together on Friday, and then took it down on Saturday. Without all your help, this wonderful event would never have happened.



## We Can Preschool

The Preschool class is having so much fun as we continue to grow and learn. In Language and Science, we are studying the seasons and



*Leelind & Marcie using footprint stamps.*



*Sandra & Ethan playing with the beaver dam.*

how they affect the way we dress and what we get to do outside. In winter we learned to recognize a

variety of footprints one might find in the snow. We studied people prints, bear, bird, beaver, deer, moose, and mice prints.

We even used footprint stamps and illustrations to create our own wildlife stories. The stories included ideas such as: a guy shooting a bear, parents finding animals, and a bear finding a deer.

In Literacy, we heard stories that reinforced our monthly themes of Bears, Dinosaurs, Transportation, and Seeds and Plants. We are trying to remember the job of the author and illustrator. We are learning many new vocabulary words and notice how words and illustrations tell the story. We have been introduced to the names and sounds of eighteen letters of the alphabet. We are trying to remember them all.

In Science, we also studied beavers and their homes and we were introduced to eggs and birds. We planted bean seeds a few days ago and plan to dig one up every few days to find out how they have changed and notice what is growing out of them.

In Math, we continue to think about numbers, counting, shapes, colors and patterns. Ask your preschooler how far they can count by memory and how far they can match items one-to-one while they count. See if they notice patterns in the world around us.

We don't have much time left in the school year and there is still so much to explore and practice. We will work hard every day so we can not only be ready for kindergarten, but also to become all we are meant to be.

Thank you, parents, for having such a positive

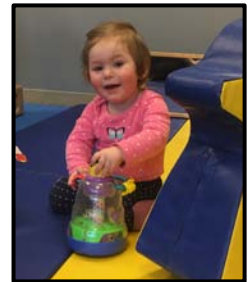
attitude toward the Preschool, and for encouraging your children to do their best while they are here. I notice your loving care in their lives each time we are together. We have a great class and we have already learned so much!

*Marti Lee*

## Greetings from PAT – Parents as Teachers!

Hoonah City Schools has PAT going again! Let's hear it for Nicki Shelton's efforts to help make this possible; HCS received a grant from DEED. PAT is an international nonprofit organization whose vision is **that all children will develop, learn, and grow to realize their full potential.** We're here to provide information that **supports parents' role as their child's first and most important teachers and advocates.**

Jamie Erickson is the PAT Parent Educator; she attended the PAT Foundational Training in Washington and she also worked for PAT last year. On a personal note, Jamie was willing to do all she could for her son, by fully participating in the PAT Program when he was eligible. Both Jamie and Darlene See, PAT's Manager, recently attended the S.E Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children (AEYC) Conference in Juneau. The theme was Attachment, Responsive Relationships and Resilience; it also focused on trauma (stress) and how it affects infants, young children and families, and provided tools to help make a difference.



PAT mainly focuses on personal visits. Your parent educator will provide information and an activity that is specific to one or more of the developmental domains or will focus on what the family may have concerns about. There are also group play times scheduled as well as "Baby Raven Reads".

We still have some spots open for families to enroll in PAT. We need your participation, to ensure PAT may continue to be available to Hoonah families in the future. If you have a child that is 0-3 years old or know someone that could benefit from the PAT Program, please don't hesitate to call Jamie at (907) 957-2076, or Darlene at (907) 957-2757.



Gunalchéesh/Thank you!

## Kindergarten/First Grade

The kindergarten/first grade classroom has been keeping busy this spring. The week before Spring Break, the North Carolina students came. The class had a great time interacting with them. They helped with daily activities and at the end of the week they even helped plant lima bean plants.



In Language Arts, students are taking off and doing a great job with their writing. I cannot believe the amazing growth that has happened in both reading and writing since the beginning of the year. Kindergarteners and first graders that came in just knowing some or all of their letters and sounds are now reading words, sentences and paragraphs. They are also writing words, sentences and paragraphs and doing an amazing job.

In Math, students are adding and subtracting. They know their two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes. They also know how to count in many different ways including by 1's, 2's, 5's, and 10's, all the way to 100. Some of them can even count beyond 100. They are also learning about time and money.

In Science, students are learning to survive. Soon they will plant



about what plants and animals need their own indoor classroom garden by using what they have already learned.

The end of the school year is coming fast and we still have a lot more learning to do before it is over. Thank you to everyone who has donated, snacks, Kleenex, and Lysol/Clorox wipes this year. I am amazed at the generosity that has

been shown in this area. We have not run out of snacks all year, and most of the time we have had wipes and Kleenex. Thank you also to Sally Dybdahl, Glenda Hutton, and Billy Mills who have helped with reading, writing, and assessment. Thank you to Marti Lee and Judy Bitz, who do an awesome job with the students and are a great team to work with. This has been a great year! ~Chrisina Carrick~







### Fourth-Fifth Grade Class News

It's hard to believe that we are already beginning the fourth quarter of school. Where does the time go? This year, our class will, once again, be participating in the First Bloom/ First Plume Program with Glacier Bay National Park Service. Students are learning all about birds. They have been engaged in all sorts of activities this past quarter with Ranger Emma and Ranger Steve. Some of the highlights include carrying out a research project, bird walks, and dissecting owl pellets. Students will present their learning in Glacier Bay to visitors into the park. Stay tuned for more information concerning dates and travel details.

*Pictures on this page show the 4-5 class putting on their Christmas play, enjoying the outdoors, dissecting owl pellets, and doing their weaving projects.*





## Varsity Girls Basketball Season Wrap-up

The High School basketball season came to an end for our girls at the Region V Tournament in Sitka. We had a long season full of both highs and lows, but in the end the girls played hard and represented well. Liyah Jewell and Sierra McClement received the Good Sport Award, and Ronie Roberts was selected to the All Conference Team. Our Hoonah Braves, girls and boys, were chosen to receive the Region V 1A Sportsmanship Award. I'm proud of our girls and their determination to improve, both as individuals and as a team.

*Coach Jessie Dybdahl*



## Boys High School Basketball

The 2018 basketball season has come to an end. The guys had a great year. We finished the season with an overall record of 16-4. Highlights along the way included winning the Don Hather Tournament in Skagway during Christmas Break. Josh Wright, Treston Lafferty and Jerry White all were nominated to the All Tournament Team in Skagway.

At the Region V Tournament, Brandon Guthrie and Rusty Williams received the Great Sport Award, and Jerry White and Treston Lafferty were nominated to the All Conference Team. Hoonah City Schools also received the Sportsmanship Award for the Region V Tournament.

Although we didn't achieve our ultimate goal of qualifying for the State Tournament, the boys had an amazing year. I could not be prouder of the way these fine young men represented the school and the community of Hoonah. They displayed class and pride, on and off the floor. I would like to say thank you to the community for coming to all our games and showing us support throughout the year.

*Coach Adam Gretsinger*





### Varsity Volleyball at State Tournament

The Hoonah Braves HS Volleyball team competed in the 1A Mix Six State Tournament this season and we are very proud of their accomplishments overall. We were initially knocked out of the tournament by Tikigaq, who went on to win the State Championship. But we bounced back and ended the tournament with two wins against Akiuk and Kodiak ESSS (2-0 against each).

We were honored to receive the 1A Sportsmanship Award, selected by ASAA Executive Staff and Officials as the team with the highest level of team sportsmanship in the State for 1A! The Braves won and lost with dignity, shaking the hands of the opposing team, coaches, and officials following each match all season - without my instruction to do so. I am very proud of these student athletes, on and off of the court.

*Coach Jessie Dybdahl*



*HS Volleyball Team pictured above, back: Coach Jessie Dybdahl, Jerry White, Zada Michel, Rusty Williams, Liyah Jewell, Ashlyn Gray, Brandon Guthrie, Treston Lafferty; front: Wea Bigelow, Aiyanna Williams, Ronie Roberts, Tessa Williams, Monique Glover*

### Middle School Basketball

The middle school basketball team had a short season in the fall of 2017; they had one opportunity to play against other teams and opponents over in Juneau at the Ice Breakers Basketball Tournament. Altogether we had 18 participants who played and represented the Hoonah Braves well.

The Hoonah Middle School Boys team played multiple back-to-back games and fell short of qualifying for a strong seed in the bracket. The boys played hard, fought until the last second, and battled against competitors from other communities such as Haines, Angoon, Yakutat and Hooptime (Juneau). Jermaine Johnson (8th Grade) was selected for the boys All-Tournament Team. Although our season was short, we are all looking forward and talking about next season as the time shortens.

The Middle School Girls team had 11 who participated and played at the Ice Breakers Tournament. The girls played against



*MS Girls Basketball Team, Back row: Coach Miguel, Kaida Irvin, Kaci Jewell, Nakima Budke, Alona Howland, Sarah Haube; middle: Sierra McClement, Rose Williams, Leah Moss, Abby Stevenson, Cheyanne Jack; front: Teresa Lewis*



*MS Boys Basketball Team, Back Row: Coach Miguel, Tyrell Cromer, Jermaine Johnson, Gary Glover, Anthony Johnson; Front: Ian Sharclane, Alejandro Contreras, Kenny Skaflestad*

multiple southeast teams such as, Angoon, Haines, and Hooptime (Juneau) and fell short in the tournament for a win. Leah Moss (6th Grade) was selected for the All Tournament Team. The girls team is already motivated and looking forward to next season.

“This was a developing year for both teams, we had a lot of young players with little exposure or experience. We are rebuilding a foundation for the basketball community of Hoonah. We want to give these kids any opportunity possible to develop their skillset. In Mid-April, we will be hosting a basketball clinic for K-12 with a former Alaska-Native professional basketball player, and my hope is that the students take advantage of the opportunity. I am thankful for the opportunity of coaching these kids and enjoy my time with them on the basketball court and in school. I have a lot of kids asking me if I’ll be their coach next year, and my answer is, if the opportunity is there, I’ll be the first to jump on it.” - Coach Miguel Contreras



## Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hoonah

Our local mentoring program, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hoonah, is so loved and supported by many. Thank you to the following for holiday donations: \$100 each from Nadine & Mike Morrison, Judy & Bob Brown, Thomas Newins, Roger Wingfield, Janet Taylor, and \$300 from Diane Bean.

This fall, Bigs, Littles, and Leadership Council Members attended an evening at the Hoonah Community Theater Play free as a perk for belonging to our program.

Our BBBS Christmas Party was fun galore with games, art projects, gift making, and wonderful goodies. A record number of adult elves were on hand to help upstairs at the Youth Center on December 16<sup>th</sup>: Kathie Deitering, Kim Campbell, Carrie Lindoff, Jamie Erickson, Judy Brown, Dodie Lunda, Billy Mills, Glenda Hutton, Daphne Wright, Fran Dalton, Robin Hasselquist, Esther Heath, Sonya Gray, and Kelli Gretsinger. A special donation came from ANS Camp #12 - peppermint cocoa and whipped cream; and thanks to Carrie Lindoff, Sonya Smith, and Danielle DiNovelli-Lang for the delicious orange slices. Many thanks to advance decorators Anthony, Nakima, Alona, Gary and Sarah. Thanks also to Icy Strait Point for the donation of whale and seal soaps.

Vice Mayor Amelia Wilson proclaimed January as Mentoring Month in Hoonah at the City Council Meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup>. The official plaque is housed outside our office door downstairs at the Youth Center along with photos of all our matches and other memorabilia.



*Sophia, Sophie & Nevaeh at the Christmas party*

Our Valentine's Day Party was LOVELY!!! Thank you to Kris Skaflestad for sewing beanbags,

Shelly Yandell & Foundation for flour & powdered sugar, frosted heart-shaped sugar cookies from Dodie Lunda and Abby, and red apple slices from Glenda Hutton and Kim Campbell. Among the activity choices were Puzzles, Valentines in Tlingit, English, and American Sign language, TicTacToe, love songs, beanbag toss, and more. Thanks to the following for help with set-up, serving, helping, and clean up: Marti Lee, Daphne Wright, Fran Dalton, Jodi Barros, Teresa McConnell, Kathie Deitering, Carrie Lindoff, Kim Campbell, Glenda Hutton, and Dodie Lunda.

Our 14th annual Bowl for Kids' Sake was held on March 31st. We had lots of fun, lots of bowlers, and lots of help! Look in the next newsletter for our long thank you list and find out who got great scores!



*Teresa & Harlee at the Valentine party*



*Big Sis Mary & Little Sis Makia baking cupcakes*



*Leelind, Will and Sally playing Bean Bag Toss*



*Ladonna goes for a strike at Bowl for Kids' Sake*



## Hoonah Recyclers Update

**Mark your Calendars for April 21st** –we will be having our annual **Earth Day Clean Up**, sponsored by Hoonah Recyclers in partnership with other local entities. Clean Up will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. followed by lunch for all who pitch in to help. There will also be a drawing for prizes.

Anyone who would like to help by donating lunch items or prizes can contact Sally Dybdahl (209-9326) or Daphne Wright (723-1223.)



The Recycling Van has been open twice so far this winter. Many thanks go to our favorite elf, Paul Dybdahl, for efficiently stashing away all the metals to make room for more in our shipping container.

Donating to youth-friendly community projects are these generous metal donators:

|                                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Marj & Floyd Peterson               | Red Wynn               |
| Debbie & Mike Picken                | Minnie & Jimmy Dalton, |
| Paul & Sally Dybdahl                | Chris & Terri Budke    |
| Jessie Dybdahl & Jeremy Martin      | Diane Bean             |
| Arely & Sam Wright                  | Dave & Jen McKillican  |
| Daphne & Frank Wright, Jr.          | Icy Strait Point       |
| William & Mary Johnson Youth Center |                        |
| Elena & Howard Diamond              | Anonymous donors       |

**Much appreciation goes to Alaska Marine Lines for free freight on turnarounds to Seattle Iron & Metal.**

## Hoonah Fun & Fit Partnership Raven-Eagle Walking Challenge

**Congratulations** to the Raven Moiety for having the most average steps during our Hoonah Fun & Fit



Partnership Raven Eagle Walking Challenge 2018. Soon, the Golden Shoe Plaque will be on display at the City Gym/Natatorium. Individual winners include: Most Steps Ravens,

Kathy Harris; Most Steps Eagles, Sharon Grant; Most Bonus Steps, Yan Meserve; Most Improved Week 1 to Week 4, Sheryl Contreras; Youngest Walker, Dominic Voeller IV; Most Experienced Walker, Sharon Grant.

Thank you to making donations to our luncheon: Deb Picken, Daphne Wright, and Wilma Davis. Thank you for prize donations: Hoonah Indian Association Tobacco Cessation Program and Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring Program. Thanks to Statistician Jessica Voeller and Organizer Sally Dybdahl.

The Hoonah Fun & Fit Partnership has held the Raven Eagle Walking Challenge since 2012. Thanks to all Hoonah citizens who participated, and to all those who aim for 10,000 steps worth of activity daily.

## News Notes from City of Hoonah Parks & Recreation

### William & Mary Johnson Youth Center Hours & Days Open

**Tues.-Thurs.** after school to 9:00 (children younger than age 12, go home at 7:00)

**Friday**—after school to 11:00

We have a dance every other Friday night; younger kids can stay at dances until 9:30.

**During the summer**, we will open at 1:00 Tues.-Fri.

**Saturday:** Open Gym for kids 1:00 to 3:00 at the New Gym; Youth Center opens afterwards and stays open until 11:00 for older kids, 7:00 for younger kids.

### Swimming Pool Hours

**MWF** 6:00 - 7:30 a.m.; Lap Swim 7-9 p.m.

**MWFS** Open Swim 5 – 7 p.m.; Lap Swim 7-9 p.m.

No morning Lap Swim on Saturday

Due to budget issues, the pool will close for the summer. Our last open day will be Saturday, May 12th.

**A special thank you to Chris Budke** for going through and updating all the First Aide supplies at the pool.

**T-Ball and Softball** will be starting soon. Parents, please contact Kris Skaflestad (321-1323) if you want to get involved with either T-ball or Softball. **Thank you** to the Liquor Board for funding equipment for these activities.



*Marti, Josh, Marcy and Isaiah playing Foosball at the Youth Center during the BBBS Valentine Party.*

**Boxholder**

**Hoonah City Schools Newsletter**  
**March – April 2018**

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**Dates to Remember**

|                                        |             |
|----------------------------------------|-------------|
| Basketball Clinics w/Damen Bell-Holter | April 16-18 |
| Earth Day Clean Up                     | April 21    |
| Teacher In-Service—No School           | April 23-24 |
| Activities Banquet                     | April 26    |
| School Ku.éex'                         | April 27    |
| Junior/Senior Prom                     | May 5       |
| High School Graduation                 | May 11      |
| Last Day Before Pool Closes for Summer | May 12      |
| Last Day of School                     | May 16      |



*MS & 5th Grade Wrestlers traveled to Juneau for a meet at Floyd Dryden in February. Pictured: Back, Coach DJ Lindstrom, Alona Howland, Sage Kuhn, Tyrell Cromer, Shawn Mills, Coach Levi Mills. Front: Krista Howland, Atkaheen Budke, Gracie Carrick, RJ Didrickson, Collin McClement*