

Boxholder

Hoonah City Schools Newsletter November-December 2019

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Dates to Remember:

Home Basketball w/Klawock	Jan. 13-14
Home Basketball w/Hydaburg	Jan. 17-18
Wooch.een Wednesday	Jan. 22
Teacher Inservice	Jan. 23-24, 27
Home Basketball w/Kake	Jan. 27-28
State Robotics @ Anchorage	Feb. 7-8
Home Basketball w/Thorne Bay	Feb. 12-13
Basketball Tourney @ Ketchikan	Mar. 4-5
Teacher Workday	Mar. 13
Spring Break	Mar. 23-27
Teacher Inservice	April 23-24
Class of 2020 Graduation	May 11
Last Day of School	May 14

Book Fair Thanks

The Book Fair was held a little late due to shipping delays, but it was still a successful and fun event. I would like to thank Frontier Freight and Brian Lackey for getting the books from Juneau to the school. Thank you, Corbin Harris, for moving all of those boxes to the Band Room. I would like to give Bill, Frannie, William and Davina Dalton a big thank you for helping me set up. Your kindness made a big job fun and cut the set-up time in half.



I would also like to extend much appreciation to Glenda and Bob Hutton for helping me pack the unsold books and prepare the boxes for shipping. Thank you to Eli Derenoff and Joan Martin for lending me tables and to Veronica Dalton for manning the fair for awhile. Thank you also to Amy Stevenson

for preparing the cash box and counting the receipts. And to Abigail Stevenson for helping me set the Band Room in order after the sale, thank you for your help.

And finally, thank you to all the Book Fair shoppers for supporting the sale. You are helping to keep the love and importance of reading alive in Hoonah.

Marti Lee, Book Fair Organizer



Hoonah Schools Newsletter

November-December 2019

(Nov.) *Kukahaa Dísi: The Month in Which You Start to Shovel Snow*

(Dec.) *L-kiyeeke.u.eix: The Month When You Can't See the Four Corners of the House*

Icy Strait Point Hoonah Student Workers Help Deliver Unprecedented Donation to HCS

Working at Icy Strait Point can be rewarding personally on so many levels. One's job can be a source of pride, improves skills, brings a sense of team work along with a paycheck, and is important and valued work! Icy Strait Point is thankful for HCS students. We simply could not connect so sincerely with our guests without the enthusiasm of the Hoonah students employed in the Retail and Theater and Programs Departments. These students provided over 4,290 hours of smiles, help, hustle, powerful storytelling and sometimes giggles to our guests from all over the world.

These hard hours of work with early mornings or long days resulted in the HCS Bookstore earning **\$9,606** in direct donation to the School Activity Fund. This donation check, which is nearly double the donation of previous years, was recently delivered.

The five local students employed in Retail Department (Sierra, Hallie, Zada, Jonna, Alona) - all of whom actively worked in the Bookstore area - learned about the discipline **of participating in a successful business. It takes customer service, merchandising, cash handling, stocking, time management and teamwork and more!**

The two students employed with the sales team (Cooper and Christian) contributed to making our tours and sales appear effortless to our "little while" shipboard friends. They



often were the first "face" for guests and their personal connection with Hoonah.

The six students in the Theater program (Alejandro, Anthony, Gary, Nakima, Ashley, and Orion) also grew in many of these life skills. In addition to serving as unique cultural ambassadors to tens of thousands of guests from around the globe, they represented all of Hoonah with pride and confidence.

Icy Strait Point is grateful for the cooperation of the entire Hoonah City School Team in helping us execute the 2019 season while helping prepare young adults for bright futures. We offer our sincere congratulations to our student staff on a productive season and we hope everyone will thank them for their help in contributing to a significant donation from the Bookstore. *Thank you to ISP Retail Supervisor Eleanor Davenport for this article.*



Veterans Honored at School Program

Hoonah Schools students and staff continued our tradition of honoring local veterans with a special program on November 11th. Students from K-1 to Middle School had special recitations and songs to share. David and

Donna Austin performed a musical tribute. The special guest speaker was Glenn Johnson. Veterans and their families were invited to a special lunch after the program. Thank you to all the staff who helped put on this program, and thank you to all of our military veterans for your service.

Superintendent's Message



As we conclude 2019, and break for the winter holiday, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to all who help make Hoonah City School an amazing place to be. We are a community with many gifts and talents, which we share daily with one another and most

importantly, with our students. From the classroom, to our living room and all points in-between, our collective efforts to raise the whole child are filled with passion, commitment and a willingness to do whatever it takes to ensure that every child has a meaningful learning experience.

Parents, of course, are such a critical part of all we hope to accomplish on behalf of all of our students. I am grateful to you for masterfully doing what I know firsthand is the hardest, most rewarding and joyous job of all. Thank you for entrusting us with your most precious gift.

I am grateful to our wonderful, talented, creative, inquisitive, optimistic, resourceful and resilient students. Often, they make us laugh, sometimes they make us cry, but always they make us think. Most of all, they make us better. In the spirit of this holiday season, I want to extend my thanks to all of you for everything that you do for our school. As we enjoy the upcoming holidays, it is my fervent wish that each of you receives and returns the seasonal bounty of blessings and good tidings that make these days truly special.

It is also during this time that I am reminded of my own good fortune to serve as the proud principal and superintendent of the Hoonah City School District. Indeed, my career as a public-school educator has afforded me vast, varied and richly rewarding opportunities to teach and to learn from young people. Of course, I believe the faces of our children best express the true meaning of this holiday season. They radiate a sense of unbridled enthusiasm, untainted hope and unabashed joy for life and the opportunities that await them. To the parents and friends of the Hoonah community, whatever your beliefs or traditions are, I hope that you are able to spend some quality time with your loved ones. Please have a safe and joyous holiday season.

*Ralph Watkins
Superintendent/Principal
Hoonah City Schools*

School Board President's Message

Since our last Hoonah Schools Newsletter, we have had some exciting events, including the Fall Carnival, High School volleyball, Jr. High and High School basketball games, Christmas Bazaar, and Christmas Break. We started our Christmas Break with the annual elementary Christmas Program and it was well attended with grandparents, aunts, uncles and other family members. Thank you to all the coaches and volunteers that help make our programs a success.

The School Board would like to welcome Amy Courtney as a new Board member and also Liyah Jewell as the Student Representative. We want to say a big thank you to Heidi Jewell for all her years of service on the School Board.

School Board members, staff and students were able to participate in the annual Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) training in Anchorage. This is a valuable resource for the School Board and especially for new School Board members. AASB is also a resource that we use during the school year to help with policies and procedures.

I would like to thank the City of Hoonah for all their support to help make our School District a success. Lastly, I would like to thank all the School District staff for pitching in during some hard times and for their willingness to help where needed. It hasn't gone unnoticed. We have a great staff and look forward to more great things to happen in the coming months.

If you have my questions or concerns with the School District you can send an email to houstonh@hoonahschools.org or you can call or text me on my cell phone (907-612-1182). I have an open door policy so feel free to approach me at any time with your ideas or concerns.

*Harold L Houston Sr.
School Board President*



School Board members Dillon Styers, Amy Courtney, Liyah Jewell (Student Representative), Grace Villarreal, Bob Hutton, Harold Houston



Staff Spotlight

In the last issue, we featured several new members of our staff here at Hoonah City Schools. Here are more new staff profiles:



Sylvia Lowery is a Special Education Teacher in the middle school and high school. She most recently worked at Slana School, which is part of the Copper River School District. They had 14 students in the school there, and she

was the only teacher for both General Ed and Special Ed.

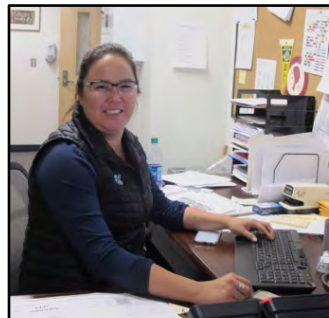
Sylvia is originally from Texas. She earned her Associates degree at Weatherford College in Computer Science. She then went to the University of North Texas, where she earned a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences from the College of Education in Applied Technology and Performance Improvement as well as a Master of Education Degree in Special Education with an emphasis on Autism. She also earned a Graduate Academic Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis and one in Autism Interventions.

She has two adult children and two who are in school here: Star is in 9th grade and Eddie is in 7th grade. They have a Maltipoo named Nina. She and Star have a little business selling Paparazzi \$5 Jewelry to fund Star's college education. She wants to go into the medical field and they know that it is going to be expensive.

Sylvia is a certified archery coach and has started an archery program at the school. She loves archery and what it can do for our students. It can teach them how to focus, gives them confidence and helps their self-esteem. She hopes to take the newly formed archery team to national competitions at some time in the future.

When asked how it is that she ended up working in Hoonah, Sylvia shared that she had spent time in Southeast Alaska when she first came to the state, and had fallen in love with the area. So, when she saw the opportunity to work in this part of the state, she went for it. Since coming here, she has enjoyed getting to know the community and the people, and hopes to be here for many years.

Anasia Neal is our new school secretary. Anasia has lived in Hoonah for close to twelve years. She grew up in Angoon and graduated from Juneau-Douglas High School in 2006. Her most recent job was as a Patient Access Representative for the SEARHC Medical & Dental Clinic in Hoonah.



Anasia is married to Ryan Neal, who is from Hoonah. They have two boys: Anthony, in 9th grade, and Riley, in 4th grade. This year, her sister Minnie has moved to Hoonah with her two kids, Chloe, in 6th grade, and Landon in 2nd grade. They are of the Kaagwaantaan clan.

When asked how she is liking her new job, Anasia said that, after having worked in the medical/dental field for so many years, there was quite a learning curve at the start of the year. She is no longer dealing with patients' medical or dental needs; now she is working with children's educational needs. Now that she is half a school year in, she loves working here. Her favorite part of the job so far is being able to see her kids, as well as nieces and nephews, on a daily basis. And she already knew a majority of the staff and students from her previous job, so that part has been great.

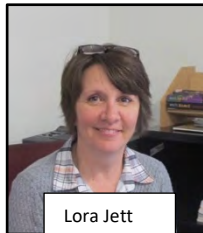
Anasia said that the most challenging aspect of the job is learning the many roles that she plays, as they come along. There are many events that go on here throughout the year, and she feels like she needs to be in the know, and help things go smoothly.

Anasia wants to say "*Gunalchéesh*" to the families, parents, and school staff for being so patient during her transition to Hoonah City Schools. She appreciates all the great support she has received from everyone so far this school year.

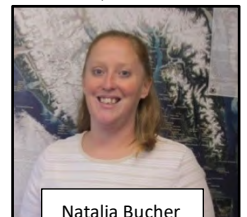


Mary Jack has recently started working fulltime as a Special Ed. aide. She is a 2018 Hoonah High School graduate, and finds it a nice change of pace being an educator. In sharing about her other employment experiences, Mary said that after graduation, she moved to Glacier Bay (the homeland) and worked on cruise ships, sharing with visitors about the Huna people's ties to Glacier Bay. She would tell visitors about how the kids here at HCS are still very close to the culture and learn about the homeland. Mary is of the Shangukeidí clan.

Mary says that she enjoys spending her work day at the school, with all the kids that brighten the day with their smiling faces and a "Good morning, Auntie Mary!" She is sure that would make anyone's day!



We recently said goodbye to two staff members: Lora Jett, high school English teacher, and Natalia Bucher, School Counselor, have both had to leave Hoonah mid-year. Ms. Jett has gone home to Arkansas, and Ms. Bucher has gone to Anchorage. We wish both of them well, and thank them for their contributions to our school.



Spotlight on New Staff, continued



Miguel Contreras has worked at our school in other positions, and is back this year as part of the support staff. In his own words, his job here is “to create and establish a healthy relationship with the staff and students, to add support in areas

needed such as math, English, science, and Tlingit, and most importantly, to keep the students safe at all times. I am here to provide students with a safe space to do homework in an afterschool setting for 30 to 45 minutes every day of the week.”

Miguel graduated from Hoonah High School in 2014, and graduated from college in 2018 with an Associates Degree in Applied Science. He plans on continuing his college education in the fall of 2020.

When asked about his family and cultural background, Miguel shared: “My Tlingit name is Geisteen, I am L’uknax̄ádi from the Platform House. I have a daughter with a wonderful woman named Rebekah from Hooper Bay, Alaska. Our daughter’s name is Sofia; she’s 2 years old, and she is Yupik and Tlingit. She has a Yupik name that means Ptarmigan, and her other name means Precious Thunderbird in Tlingit.”

Miguel has worked at many different jobs, from a bike guide and ziprider chief at Icy Strait Point, a Custom Suit Sales Associate, to a welder. He says that he tries not to limit himself on learning skills that interest him.

Miguel was asked about what he sees as the best parts of his job here at the school. His response: “Some of the perks of this job include, seeing bright smiling faces every day, using math and English skills daily, being able to shoot a basketball daily, and being able to have so many children that show their true love and affection towards me. I believe investing in our youth with time is one of the most rewarding pieces of this thing we call life.”

As far as challenges, Miguel sees the biggest one as having to sacrifice family time in order to fulfill his job commitments, as well as coaching high school and middle school sports.

Elana Cranston is another new member of the school staff, working as a Special Ed aide. Elana and her two daughters moved to Hoonah from Anchorage last May. They are of the L’uknax̄ádi (Coho) clan. Her grandparents, aunts, uncles and mother lived in Hoonah a long time ago. Elana grew up in Anchorage and graduated from East Anchorage High School. She spent summers in Haines, Klukwan and Oregon. Her past employment includes working for the State of Alaska Departments of Commerce and Revenue, as well as the Juneau Empire.



Elana says that she enjoys her job, in particular getting to work with such caring individuals and being closer to her culture than ever. She has tried her best to learn the correct names for everyone, and is getting better at it. She would like to thank the supportive staff for welcoming her family, and the students for keeping her focused in this busy world.

Lead On! for Peace and Equality

This fall, three Hoonah students attended a training called **Lead On! For Peace and Equality**.

Lead On represents youth and adults from across Alaska who are committed to positively impacting their

communities. The **Lead On** summit is an annual event that brings youth and adults together in Anchorage for three days; during this time, they work to build leadership skills to promote healthy relationships.

Lead On! For Peace and Equality is a youth engagement strategy based on a model that identifies, trains and enlists the help of key opinion leaders to change social norms and behaviors.

Hoonah High school students Kaida Irvin, Teresa Lewis and Star Martinez, as part of this experience, set out to design a community project that focuses on integrating Tlingit literature and spoken language into each and every classroom K-12. Their hope is to revive the Tlingit culture in our schools by encouraging Tlingit immersion into the curriculum. Stay tuned for more information on their project.

For students who would like the opportunity to participate in **Lead On 2020!** --- see Mrs. Tannehill-Smith at school or email tannehilla@hoonahschools.org.





Haa Kusteeeyí Áyá

Highlights from Tlingit Language and Culture Classes

Students in grades 4 and 5 heard the story of the Hoonah Fire of 1944 from staff member Carol Williams. Later, they practiced re-telling and writing the story.



Photo from Huna Heritage Foundation Archives



Trick or Treat Practice—in preparation for Halloween trick-or-treating, elementary students practiced using Tlingit language to ask for treats as they went around town that night.

Fourth graders sang the Tlingit Lullabye *Haagú S'é* as part of their Christmas Program performance. Along with the 5th graders, they also performed *Sindi Tlaas Yaa Aandeel Kgwagoot* (*Santa Claus is Coming to Town.*)



Fourth graders sang the Tlingit Lullabye *Haagú S'é* as part of their Christmas Program performance.



Fourth and Fifth graders worked on a beginning weaving project, learning how to make Guwakaan (deer) out of paper strips. The next step would be to use cedar bark for this project. Gunalchéesh to Carol Williams for teaching these lessons.

Moose Bone Marrow Broth was gifted by Lingit Language students to community elders. This was made from the moose that was donated to the school earlier this year. This broth is rich in vitamins and minerals and can be added to stew, increasing its nutritional value.



T'ákdeintaan elder **Ken Grant** came to share stories about migration with the Middle School/High School Tlingit classes. These stories will be told within the Gáas House Post being carved by the middle school Northwest Coast Art Class, led by instructor **Herb Sheakley** and mentor **Gordon Greenwald**.

HCS students traveled to AFN Youth and Elders in Fairbanks. Tyrell Cromer, Zada Michel, RJ Didrickson and Anthony Johnson attended with a leadership cohort of students from Angoon, Prince of Wales Island, Hoonah and Juneau.

Wooch.een Wednesday January 22—We are planning to have our first 2020 *Wooch.een Wednesday* event on January 22nd. This will be an opportunity for family and friends to get together to enjoy a meal and some cultural activities. This date is tentative; watch for more details on signs and Facebook posts.

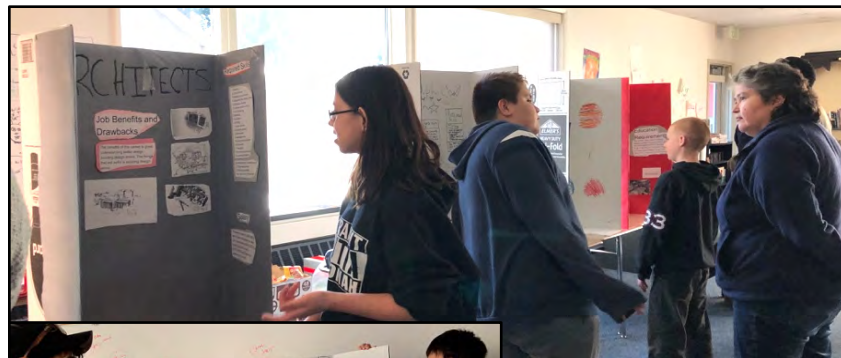




Haa Kusteeyí Áyá, continued

Tlingit Study Group will resume after the winter break. During the fall, we had eight group meetings, and will aim to hold even more during the second semester. The purpose of this group is to support Tlingit language learners. We meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Elementary Tlingit classroom (Room 102.) **Everyone is welcome, regardless of language ability.** We spend the time practicing Tlingit in various ways, by doing activities and games similar to what the children

are doing in school. Call or text Daphne Wright at 907-723-1223 if you would like to be notified when Study Group will meet. You can also send an email to wrightd@hoonahschools.org. Gunalchéesh to those folks who have attended Study Group, and a special gunalchéesh to Deiwjee, Genevieve Cook; *Gunalchéesh, Deiwjee, haa éet yidasheeyí!* Gunalchéesh tsú to Tlagóonk, Amelia Wilson, for the photos taken at one of our group meetings this fall.

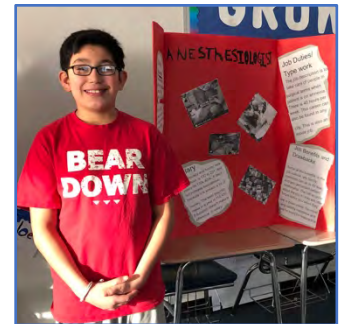
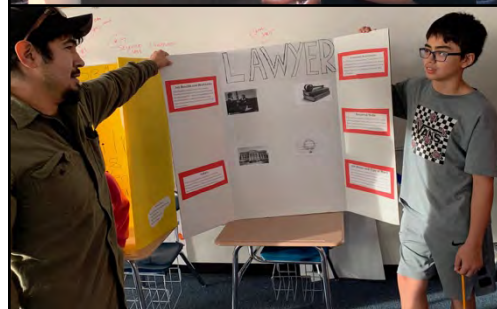


Middle School AVID

AVID is a middle school class where students learn college and career readiness skills. Some of the skills the students learn are organization, note taking and processing, public speaking, and cooperative skills.

The AVID class held a Career Fair in their classroom

during second quarter. For this Fair, the students took an interest survey and then researched a career they may be interested in. After completing the research, they created a tri-fold board with the information and then presented to the parents who participated.



AASB (Association of Alaska School Boards) Meeting Report

In November, I traveled with Hoonah School Board members and three other students to Anchorage for a meeting of the AASB. There were board members and students from all over the state of Alaska. Most of the time the board members and the students, or young leaders as they called us, were separated into different groups.

First, the young leaders were put into introductions, which resulted in a lot of fun. We played a bunch of different games to help us get to know each other and remember each other's names.

There were multiple group activities we could choose from. Each group was part of an activity that was performed for the school board members on the night of the banquet. Other activities for us were getting into groups with or without our district to think of issues in our school and coming up with ways to solve them.



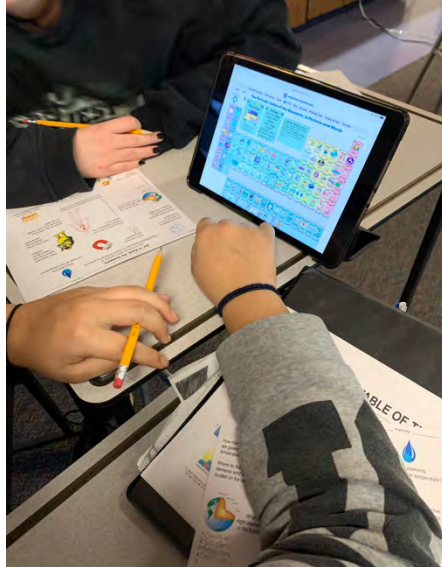
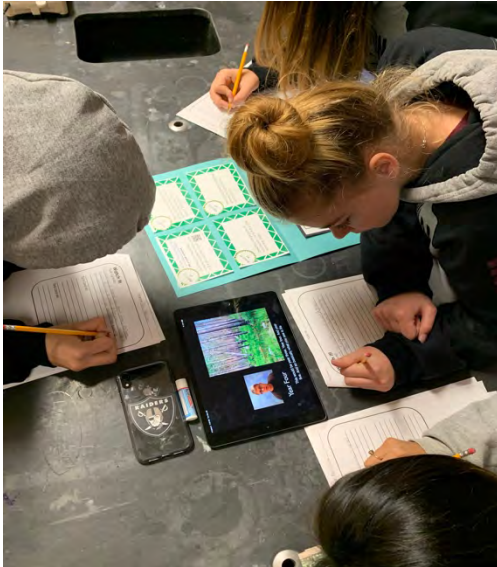
It was so much fun and an amazing experience to have. I love that I had the opportunity to go and hopeful that I can help make the changes we need in our school.

Report submitted by Zada Michel, Student Government President

Photo: Christian Austin, Liyah Jewell, Zada Michel, Teresa Lewis

What's Been Happening in High School/Middle Science Classes

From Mrs. Tannehill-Smith



Our students were recently gifted a class set of 5 iPads through an anonymous donor! Here they are using interactive web resources to explore different concepts at each station. These iPads have helped our classroom come to life by opening an interactive window to content they would never be able to experience otherwise! *(Two photos at left.)*



These biology students *(photos left and right)* are playing an epic “Salmon Spawn” game that was designed by HIA’s own Arianna Lapke! She taught them an extraordinary lesson on the socio-ecological impacts humans have on their environments. This was a great hands-on way for students to simulate the struggles that animals go through just to survive. Here they roll dice and decide the fate of their salmon and its eggs.



(Above) Tatianna took an old cardboard box and decorated with quotes using old scrabble pieces. She then melted old crayons in a glue gun and created a galaxy-type splatter paint backdrop pattern. Lastly, she took a bunch of important personal photos and created her very own shadow-memory box!



The 8th graders have been learning all about how to re-purpose old items and give them a fresh new purpose. They have been calculating their personal carbon footprints and researching ways to reduce the amount of waste and pollution they produce. Rosanna created a movie projector with a shoe box and an old magnifying glass lens. It enlarges the picture on her phone and it really works! *(photo, left)*



News from the Preschool Class

Many exciting things are happening in our Preschool and here are just a few:

Our preschool class has changed in a good way this quarter. I am so happy to announce the preschool has a new classroom aide to help with our students. Her name is Elana Cranston, and she has proven to be a talented and compassionate helper in our class. Welcome to Hoonah City Schools, Elana!



Mrs. Wright comes to our class daily and is teaching us how to express our feelings in Tlingit. She asks the students, "Wáá sá sh teedinook?" (How are you feeling?) The students reply with one of the following answers: "A_x toowú sigóo," (I am happy), "A_x éet yaan uwaháa," (I am hungry), or "A_x éet yataawaháa." (I am sleepy) The students, Elana and I are learning how to respond, and with more practice we will be able to do this on our own.

Our students listened to the story of the *Little Red Hen* and discussed the importance of hard work. The story also teaches where flour

comes from. A few days later, we got our hands busy, used some flour and other ingredients, and made pancakes for our snack. The hard work paid off and we enjoyed our special snack. Well, Heather Wheeler was in the room when we were eating and she said, "That's not a snack. That's a meal!" The pancakes tasted so good that we had a hard time saving any for Mrs. Carrick. She got a few bites and said they were really good. This was a fun exercise of reading words and numbers together to follow the recipe and taking turns to put ingredients in the bowl and stir. Then we Read Eric Carle's book *Pancakes, Pancakes*. We had fun reviewing where flour comes from as well as milk and butter. It was also fun comparing their recipe to ours.



In math, the class is counting by rote beyond ten and are beginning to recognize numerals. The students used leaves in a pattern to make a colorful Thanksgiving wreath and we used a pattern of three colored Christmas lights as a backdrop for the letters of their name. We have played a variety of math games and practiced counting and recognizing our numerals. The students also occasionally spend time on the computer during math working on *Lexia*.



↑ Thank you, Kaz Harris, for helping us bake again this year. We appreciate your help so much.

I would like to thank Elleana Elliott for her generous donation of crayons to the preschool. I would also like to thank Christina Carrick for donating snacks. And I would like to thank the parents of our preschoolers for entering your child in the program, and for sometimes juggling the schedules of Head Start and the preschool to get your children here.

Mrs. Lee

Fourth Graders, Lost on Number Island!

Every month, Hoonah fourth graders are given a “breakout box mission.” They work in teams to escape by breaking codes and cyphers. Breakout boxes require careful teamwork and logic skills to unlock four to six coded padlocks. If they break into the final bag, they will claim the treasure within.



November’s mission was the most difficult to date. The mission was to escape Number Island. Sad to say, on this rare occasion, our resourceful students were unable to solve the final puzzle, grab the treasure, and escape the Island. They are most eager to get another crack at this breakout box.



We all wish them luck on Number Island. We gave Santa Claus the coordinates so they will have presents under the palm trees. We are confident that they will build those teamwork skills and complete their next mission.

PAT (Parents as Teachers) NEWS



We are sad to report that the Hoonah Parents as Teachers program is ending as of the end of December. Efforts are being made to continue with pool time and gym time, both shown in the pictures on this page. Nothing is definite right now as far as continuing those two activities. A big thank you to all the families who have participated in the program through the years.



We will still be having **Baby Raven Reads** events on the following dates: January 11, February 8, and March 7. **Baby Raven Reads** is a program that promotes language development and kindergarten readiness for Alaska Native families with children up to five years old or who are not yet enrolled in kindergarten. To enroll, go to sealaskaheritage.org/institute/education/programs.

BINGO Thank You from Hoonah Head Start

Over \$1300 was raised by the parents, families, and staff of our Hoonah Head Start Program this fall with PRIZE BINGO at the Fall Carnival and at a Spaghetti Feed on November 23rd. Our apologies if we’ve forgotten anyone; we appreciate everyone’s generosity. Thanks to parents Julia Gregory & Jayme Coutlee for spearheading this effort. Carnival BINGO callers were Dillon Styers and Glenn Glover.

Many thanks to the friends and relatives of the students for their generous donations of time and prizes: Huna Propane, Gus’s Marine, City of Hoonah, Hoonah Lodging, Brenner’s Fine Clothing, Icy Strait Point, Trickster Company, Sealaska Heritage, Juneau Lion’s Club, George

Carteeti, Renee Gray, Hoonah Recyclers, Kristi Styers, Christina & Nathan Carrick, Jeremy Martin & Jessie Dybdahl, Karen A. Mills, Judith Clark, Alaska Seaplanes, Hoonah Cold Storage, Koenig Gifts, Abundant Life Christian Fellowship, RIVERS Alaska, Jayme & Timmy Coutlee, Rachel White, Paul & Sally Dybdahl, Hoonah Travel Adventures, Harriet Silva, Carol Martin, Eloise Kanosh, Joyce Skaflestad, H2O at Home, Candy Keown, Linda Belarde, ANS Camp #12, Daphne & Frank Wright, Jr., Lisa’s Art Store, Heather Powell, Charlene & Louie White, Sr., Odom Corporation, and Icy Strait Aviation.



Robotics Club Report

The Hoonah Robotics Club sent two teams, “Da Squad” and “Mighty Mega Marshmallows”, to the Southeast Qualifier Robotics Tournament held at Thunder Mountain High School December 6 – 7. They went up against ten other teams, and finished with an invite to the Alaska State Championship in Anchorage February 7 - 8.

Our robotics season did not go as planned this year. By Qualifier, the Club had imploded into 2 teams of 2 students each (normally a team is 4 – 10 students). Students in key team positions quit the Club for half a dozen reasons, but it was the students that stuck with each team throughout the season that truly embodied the Core Values espoused by the FIRST Robotics Organization and here at Hoonah City Schools. In the words of the State-wide Robotics coordinator Rebecca Parks, “Your [Hoonah robotics] students are exactly what we are looking for in Core Values.”

At Qualifier, Da Squad went into semi-finals as Alliance Captains with a sensor-smart robot that could score during autonomous, stack skystones and capstones up to four levels high, and move the foundation during driver-controlled. Izaak was the lead builder and driver, Teresa the lead coder and journaler, and Collin (who couldn't make it to Qualifier) the lead 3d modeler and 2nd builder. After losing their lead builder, lead programmer and lead driver, Mighty Mega Marshmallows also put in a strong effort at Qualifier. Throughout the season Leif was the 3d modeler, 2nd driver and 2nd builder, but at Qualifier he took a crash course in coding! Kaida continued as the lead journaler, and at Qualifier added coding and strategizing.

For the upcoming Alaska State Championship, we are reconstituting our two half teams into a single complete Da Squad team of all 5 students who completed the robotics season. Wish us luck! *-Coach Ben McLuckie*



Above: Da Squad team members Teresa Lewis, Izaak Jacobsen-- Not pictured, Collin McClement
Below: Mighty Mega Marshmallows team members Leif Gray, Kaida Irvin



Thank You for Christmas Bazaar Help

Hoonah City Schools is so grateful to everyone who came to the Christmas Bazaar on December 7th. We netted \$1558 from table rentals, Mystery Gifts and the Silent Auction. All the money raised will go towards funding elementary playground equipment and the Boys' Varsity Basketball team.

We appreciate the donations of Silent Auction items from local businesses: Monica Savland at Fish Bone Gifts, Lisa Andersson at Dei L'e.aan, Bonnie Brenner and Stephanie and Andy Stoner at Brenners, and Eleanor Davenport at Icy Strait Point. We also want to thank community members Chris Greenwald, Marge Peterson and Grace Villarreal for donating items for the Silent Auction. We want to send a special thank you to Marian Kingsland, who sent us donation items from her home in Oregon.

A big thank you to Kris Skaflestad at the Youth Center for loaning us 11 tables and to Moises Contreras, Sr. and Sally Dybdahl for moving those tables to the school and back again. Thank you to Adam Gretsinger and the Boys'

Basketball team for moving tables on Friday and making sure those tables returned to their proper homes on Saturday.

And a big shout out of thanks to Bob Hutton, Arely Wright, Christina and Gracie Carrick, Sally Dybdahl, Daphne Wright, Pearl Miller, Miriam Francis, Heather Wheeler, Mary Beth Moss and Owen James. Without all of your help, this fun and wonderful event would never have happened. Happy New Year to Everyone!

--Glenda Hutton, Bazaar Organizer

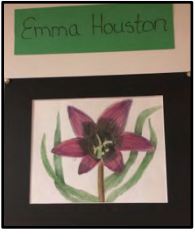


Gunalchéesh to Janet Taylor (sister of Diane Bean), who once again made winter hats for all of the students in the 2-3 class. These hats should help them stay warm and cozy during our cold winter days.

Art Classes Offered in Elementary and Secondary Schools

Representational art instruction has continued this fall, both during the Elective Phases (Creative Writing/Art) and in the elementary. All the classes stress process over product, using drawing to develop brain connections.

The Sketch Explorations segment of the Creative Writing/Art Elective began with landscape drawing. In the first week, students learned to see vistas in terms of shapes. We spent much of the second week on field



trips, sketching scenery while sprawled across the grass fringes of back roads and later the beach at Long Island.

Phases 2 and 3 of Sketch Explorations focused on developing skills to produce final projects. In Phase 2, we used color pencil to create a sense of three dimensions and Phase 3 introduced collage to do the same. Color pencils are an easy way to control color while showing light and shadow; collage allows the artist to create a 3-D image using tiny pieces of other images. By the end of the course, all the students had created a color pencil illustration of a fruit or vegetable as well as a landscape or Alaskan fish or flower illustration in collage or watercolor pencil. These projects are on display in the high school hallway. A few of them are shown on this page.

The fifth grade has been using art to explore botany. As William Dalton, Jr. said on one of his final projects, we have been “leaf scientists.” We have



practiced a lot of new vocabulary, both artistic and botanical and developed an eye for important details. Meanwhile the 2/3 class and the 4th grade have developed their basic drawing skills, learning pencil and pen control as well as the elements of all drawings and how to use overlapping to create a sense of space in a picture.

Once a week, an Adult Sketch Group has welcomed the community’s “absolute and utter beginners.” My goal has been to show the participants that anyone can learn to draw and find personal fulfillment in the slow, meditative process of observing and transferring new images to a blank — but friendly— page.

Art classes are taught by Stephanie Harold.

Old Brown Shoes

I've been worn
So much that I'm now torn
Many years old
Certainly I've already seen my golden times

I remember when I was every school boy's dream
How I walked past all the streams
Now I'm left on the tile til 'morrow
The school boys have outgrown me
I'll miss them

There are clones of me
I will always be the original though
The first one to watch mother roll dough
Walked through winter first snow
Downgraded to something you bring for show and tell

Now I'm called ancient
Sold to the merchant down the street
To be fixed up and sold out
The old brown shoes I've been labeled by the youth
It's okay, they will never know my story
Like you do

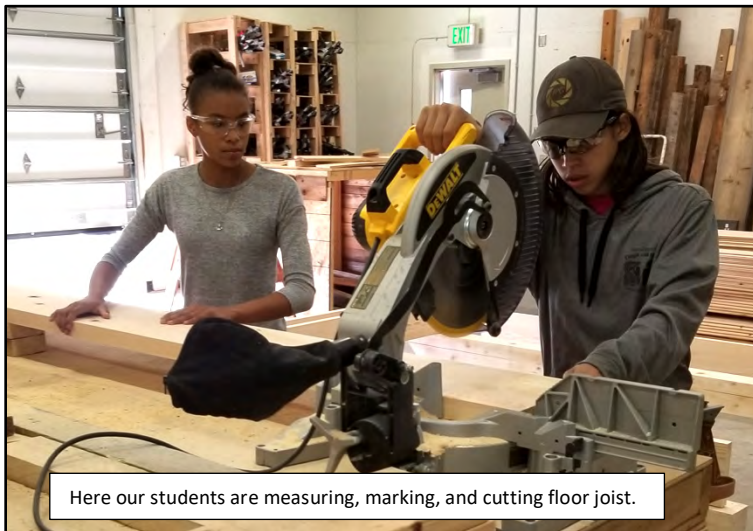
*Poem by: Kali Harris, 7th grade
November 13, 2019*



FYI: This newsletter has been a component of our Native Education Program for over twenty years. We aim to share the good news about school activities and programs. --We are currently in the process of archiving past newsletters on the school website. Go to www.hoonahschools.org and click on News, then Newsletters. --Gunalchéesh to all of our contributors and readers. --You can contact Daphne Wright, Newsletter Editor at wrightd@hoonahschools.org with any questions, suggestions or comments about this publication.

Introduction to the Construction Trades

Purpose: To explore and build interest in the building trades as a viable career choice. Instructor: Eli Derenoff



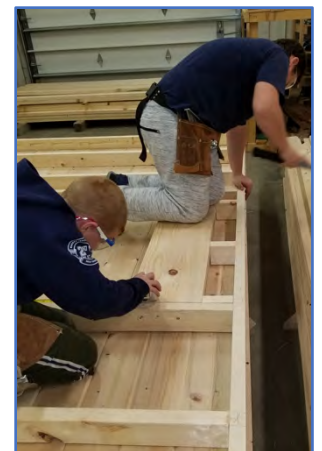
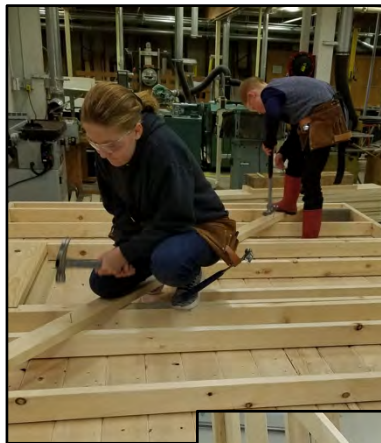
Here our students are measuring, marking, and cutting floor joist.

The Hoonah City Schools Construction Technology classes are building an 8' x 10' shed with a gable roof. The building itself will just be a shell, ready for roofing, windows, and finish siding. This building project, once complete, will go out for bid. Stop by and check out their work. The sale of this first project will fund the next project, so that we can continue to provide our students the opportunity to further their carpentry skills.

We had begun our project with instilling safety into our students. They have been learning how to read a tape measure. They have learned the importance of measuring twice and to cut once. Another part of our program we work on is developing "Soft Skills" for employability.

Thanks to Adam Gretsinger for the door donation, and B & R Construction of Juneau for material support. All of the lumber was purchased from Icy Strait Lumber.

The pictures show the students involved in the various stages of the project, from measuring and cutting, installing the subfloor, building the walls, nailing the siding, and so on until they have an almost-completed project. According to Mr. Derenoff, they are feeling pretty good about their accomplishment, so encouraging words are in order if you happen to see any of these students.



Here the framing crew is setting the walls up on the deck.





The photos on this page show the students putting the finishing touches on the siding, and enjoying that feeling of accomplishment. The last picture shows the finished project and the start of the next one.



Close Up Fundraising Update

The Community of Hoonah never ceases to amaze me! Over the last few months, the Close Up students have had many successful fundraising events, and have received many donations as well. The Hoonah Liquor Board continues to support this amazing program. They have donated almost \$3000 towards this trip; the members of the board understand the importance of this program!

We had a successful pie sale around Thanksgiving. Thank you to everyone who baked the almost 60 pies. We were sold out in almost three hours! The pie sale earned us almost \$920.00.

Thank you to Julie Jackson and Denise Gray who donated a basket of subsistence food for us to raffle! We sold tickets at the Christmas Bazaar and made \$415. The kids continued to sell tickets up until December 20th, when the drawing was held during the first home basketball games. Congratulations to Pearl Miller, who was the lucky winner.

Thank you to Bob Hutton and the Community Theater group who donated their proceeds from the play to our fundraising efforts. We also had a bake sale during intermission. We earned \$500.00 from both of these two events! Thank you to everyone who contributed to our bake sale!



The students will be having a salmon dinner fundraiser in January; thank you to Harold Houston for the donation of the salmon! They will also be running the concession stand at the high school basketball games. We will be selling Ian Johnson's 2020 calendar at the concession stand and throughout the rest of the months of fundraising.

Close Up Fundraising will continue through March, when our final payment has to be made.

Our Close Up group: Liyah Jewell, Ethan Ruerup, Cooper Ross, Esias Kohler, Sierra McClement, Abigail Stevenson, Anthony Johnson, and Alejandro Contreras THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

Close Up Advisor Renee Gray



**Varsity Volleyball Season
Wrap-up Report**

We had a lot of new faces this volleyball season! Although both exciting and challenging at times, the Braves made the best of their 2019-2020 season. We participated in the Kake seeding tournament first, where we came up empty-handed. The Braves knew they were going to have to work hard at home in the two weeks before the Gustavus seeding tournament - and they did. We split our record in Gustavus and pulled out some awesome wins against Angoon and Yakutat. We also hosted Gustavus at home, where we were able to showcase all of our student athletes for their families and friends. Last up was Regionals in Thorne Bay, and even though we didn't come home with a trophy this year, they competed well and didn't come home completely empty-handed. Sierra McClement and Cheyanne Jack were both selected to the Good Sport Team. Liyah Jewell and Zada Michel were both selected to the All Academic and All Conference Teams. We'll surely miss our seniors, Liyah, Zada, Jonna, and Christian next season - but I'm excited to have so many student athletes returning. Best of luck in basketball season, Braves! *Coach Dybdahl*



Back: Alona Howland, Liyah Jewell, Christian Austin, Esias Kohler, Anthony Johnson, Cooper Ross, Zada Michel, Hallie Wilson. Front: Dakota Garrison, Jonna George, Sierra McClement, Cheyanne Jack, Kaci Jewell, Olivia Morrison

Middle School Braves Basketball Take Home Some Wins

The Hoonah Braves Middle School Basketball began our season in the middle of September. We played two home games on Nov. 1st and 2nd against the Kake Lions, coached by Matt Cross. The first night had the entire gym rumbling. The boys played first and were down in the first quarter by a few points, but with persistence and teamwork, they managed to come back and pull off the first win for the Middle School Braves in years. The girls' game followed and was exciting and fun for the crowd, a battle until the final minutes of the game with both the Braves teams ending the night with a win.

The second night of the home games, the crowd became thunderously loud, watching the girls' teams battle for the win. The game was decided in the final seconds, with the Braves falling short by a single basket. Heartbreak filled the gym, as the Kake girls gave us our first loss. The boys' game followed, and the energy carried over from the first game. The Hoonah boys fought and played their hardest at all the keys points of the game, which resulted in another win for them.

That same weekend the Braves traveled to the Kake Lions' home court and played for two nights. Unfortunately, during the boys' game, a few players from the Lions team were either injured and/or could not play the entire game. The boys' game was two quarters long and ended up with the Braves coming out on top. The girls' game followed, and we had another hard-fought battle until the final seconds of the game. It sounded like a regional championship game in that gym, and the Braves came out with a win by just two points.



Back: Gracie Carrick, Tatiana Jacobsen, Susie Houston, Leah Moss, Emma Houston, Atkaheen Budke, Coach Miguel. Front: Chloe Lane, Krista Howland, Aubree Hinchman, Paige Woitte, Rowan Huskey.



Back: Shawn Mills, RJ Didrickson, Tyrell Cromer, Eddie Martinez, Coach Miguel. Front: Carlos Sandoval, Dash Huskey, Dietrich Lewis, Gerred Garrison

The next night, the Kake boys' team was back in full force with all their players. It was going to be a battle until the end again; both the boys' and girls' games were close for most of the game. The boys pulled ahead in the final minutes with ease, while the girls' game was a battle until the final seconds again. The Kake Lions girls' team sunk a bank 3-pointer with just over a minute left to finish off with a win! What an awesome, fun set of games and season! Thank you to Matt Cross and the Lions for coming to Hoonah and for hosting our Braves in Kake. *Coach Miguel Contreras*

Thanks for Helping!

Thank you to all the kind folks who helped with our annual Fall Carnival on October 26th. An event this big could not happen without many people pitching in to help. Aatlein gunalchéesh! (Many thanks!)

Donations to the Auction came from: Icy Strait Point, Hoonah Trading Co., Icy Strait Lodge, Best Western, Huna Propane, Kelli Young, Lisa Andersson, Icy Strait Aviation, Brenners, Fishbone Gifts, Hoonah Recyclers, Icy Strait Brewing Co., Fisherman's Daughter, Hoonah Cold Storage, Tideland Tackle, Harbor Marine, David and Pam Bogda, Rie Munoz Gallery, Linda Belarde, Hoonah Thrift Store, Kris Skaflestad, Hair Today (Ruby Hughes), Frank Wright, Jr., Melvin Williams, Carol Williams. Profits from the Auction will go to support our annual Ku.éex' this spring.

Auctioneer: Luke Meyer

Auction Assistants: Jen Bidiman, Renee Gray

We received cash donations from: Hoonah Thrift Store, Tina and Grant Coutlee

Free freight deliveries from Juneau were donated by Alaska Seaplanes.

Ticket Sellers:
Ladonna Dybdahl, Sally Dybdahl, Jen Bidiman

Accounting: Amy Stevenson

The Carnival Food

Booth raised \$1900 for the elementary playground project. Many thanks to the spearheads, Kathy (Kaz) Harris and Mary Beth Moss. Owen James and Paul Dybdahl hauled freight and Daphne Wright did some Juneau shopping. Generous donations came from these businesses: Hoonah Trading Co., Colette's Cupboard, Hoonah Liquor Store, Costco, and Hoonah Travel Adventures.

Food donations came from Glenda & Bob Hutton, Harriet Leblanc, Daphne & Frank Wright, Mary Beth Moss & Owen James, Jen Bidiman, Mark & Sarah Smith, Debbie Wright, Ladonna & Jim Dybdahl, and Renee & Dennis Gray, Jr.

Many hands made light work in the kitchen during the event. **Thank you to these volunteers:** Sarah Smith, Mark Smith, Kaz Harris, Mary Beth Moss, Sally Dybdahl, Tina



Martin, Jolene King, Debbie Wright, Karen Hinchman, George Westman, Bobby Hughes, Ladonna Dybdahl, Dwight Osheim, Truman Gray, and Dennis Gray, Jr.

Thanks for clerical help soliciting carnival donations: Bob Hutton, Karen S. Mills, Arely Wright, Daphne Wright, Glenda Hutton, Sally Dybdahl



Baked Good for the Bake Sale were

provided by: Sally Dybdahl, Debbie Wright, Kathy Marvin, Karen S. Mills, Daphne Wright, Phyllis Tischer, Nicki Shelton, Mark Smith, Sarah Lampe, Adrien Lee, Marti Lee, Christina Carrick, Jen Bidiman, Mary Beth Moss, Leah Moss, Marilyn Hillman. We received a cash donation from Aaron St. Clair. Volunteers who worked at the Bake Sale table were Karen S. Mills, Marti Lee and Val Veler. Gunalchéesh, Idakát yeewháan! (Thank you, everyone!) Bake Sale proceeds will be used to support the Tlingit Language Program.

See page 9 for a **Headstart Bingo Thank You List.**

From the Carnival Organizing

Committee: Renée Gray (Chairperson), Jen Bidiman, Sally Dybdahl, Ladonna Dybdahl, Daphne Wright---Thank you all! Our apologies if we have left anyone off this list.

