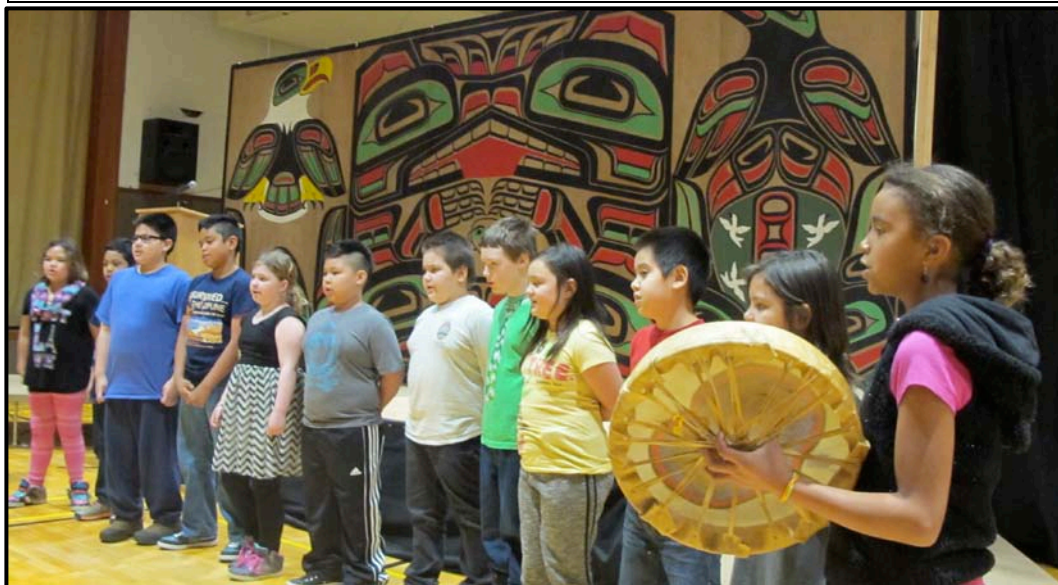


# Hoonah Schools Newsletter

March 2016

*Heentaanax Dís: The month when saltwater fish spawn.*



## *Elizabeth Peratrovich Day Celebration at Hoonah City Schools*

On February 16th, HCS observed Elizabeth Peratrovich Day with a special assembly featuring speakers and music, reminding us of the struggle for civil rights that took place in Alaska before statehood. ANS member and HCS Librarian Amelia Wilson served as the mistress of ceremonies for the event. A short video and several

speakers reviewed the history of the Anti-Discrimination Act, signed in the Alaska Territorial Legislature February 16, 1945. Thank you to ANB & ANS members Bill Wilson, Johanna Dybdahl and Catherine Bolton for speaking to the students. Mrs. Bidimans' third and fourth graders sang a special Elizabeth Peratrovich rap song for the audience. Gunalchéesh to Daaljíni –Mary Folletti – for giving us permission to sing the song that she composed. Principal Lorrie Scoles finished off the program with closing remarks.



## *Silkscreen Printing a Success in HS Art Class*

Students in Nhung Dinh's high school Art class have learned how to produce professional quality silkscreen t-shirts with their own unique designs. The Hoonah students taught the visiting North Carolina State students about silkscreen printing, which the college students had not experienced before.

*In the photo at the left, Treston Lafferty demonstrates the silkscreening process. Right, students Kelsey Thein, Qiang Liu, Treston and Brandon Flores, show their shirts and designs.*



*Coming Friday, April 29th*

## **The 26th Annual Hoonah School Heritage Celebration Ku.éex'**

*Hosted this year by the Eagle Students*

*Mark your calendars – everyone is invited! Call Carol Williams, Heather Powell or Daphne Wright at the school (945-3611) if you want to help. See page 6 for a list of donations needed and other ways to get involved.*



## Superintendent's Message

*From Superintendent of Schools P.J. Ford-Slack*

*Our Attitude toward Life determines Life's Attitude toward us. J. Mitchell*

Happy Spring, Families:

Spring brings the end of basketball and the beginning of state testing. This year state testing is a requirement but the test will be different next year. What has this year taught us about student learning and state testing? It is time for Hoonah City School teachers to add MAP assessment (measurement of academic progress) to our tools to improve student learning. We hope to begin training with MAP instructors at the beginning of next year.

Congratulations Kathy Harris, Judy Hankla, Ray Howard, and Carrie Lindoff. Well done on a great food and nutrition audit. Our food is excellent; parents, if you haven't stopped by for a delicious breakfast, please put it on your calendar. You might be sitting with a 6<sup>th</sup> grader or a canoe carver. All are welcome.

Heather Powell will be in Hoonah full-time as administrator of the ANEP grant and beginning to increase her work with students. Partners are important to the ANEP grant and Heather has worked hard to keep her advisory group focused. We have kicked off the *WE CAN* program for pre-K and kindergarten students. *We CAN* is an excellent early childhood program that teaches students in three languages: English, sign language, and we will add Lingit. This program gives students an early start to 21<sup>st</sup> learning skills like self-direction, flexibility, and collaboration with other students. Stop by and talk with Elena Leinberger or Heather Powell about this program.

I would like to take this time to ask all of you to support your Hoonah City Schools. I have worked closely with Mount Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) while in Sitka. However, I know it has very limited admission ability and is also not able to easily support students with Individual Education Needs. Your school here in Hoonah needs every student in order to remain a school district. We cannot get better without students attending our school. If you have questions about your student's program at HCS or whether MEHS would be a better choice, please come and talk to me. We are in a critical budget place at Hoonah City Schools. Your school board, teachers, and administrators work hard to keep our learning local and Hoonah-based. Please talk to a school board member about current school fiscal questions. We need your support. The activity ordinance support (the 1% sales tax) was huge, as it allows our students to continue to travel for sports, robotics, music, and leadership. You are a stand out community!

We thank every family for coming to parent teacher conferences. Those short meetings, twice a year, are very important for your student's success. Graduation will be held May 19th in the Alumni Gym.

Please come and support our successful seniors.

It has been a privilege to fight for your children. They are worth fighting for, as they are OUR GREATEST RESOURCE.

*Dr. PJ*



*PJ Ford Slack, Lt. Gov. Byron Mallot, School Board Member Anasia Neal and Gov. Bill Walker met during the Legislative Fly-In in February.*

## School Board President's Message

*From Bob Hutton*

First, the Good News...

The Hoonah City Schools Board of Education is pleased to announce that Dr. PJ Ford Slack, our part-time superintendent, has signed a contract to continue with our district through June of 2018. She will be working for us full-time beginning on March 16<sup>th</sup>. PJ will provide much-needed leadership and stability as we continue to improve how we serve our students.

By the time this newsletter is published, HCS will have a new Strategic Plan in place. Fourteen adults and two students volunteered to meet on March 3-5 under the leadership of Jerry Covey, educational consultant and former Commissioner of Education for Alaska in order to come up with the new plan. The Strategic Plan provides community-formulated goals for our school district to pursue for the next three years or so.

...and now the Bad News...

The board regrettably accepted Trevor Hill's resignation during our February meeting. We are looking for community members who are interested in taking Trevor's place. Per board policy, this is a temporary position. Community members interested in serving must submit a letter to the Board by March 28<sup>th</sup> expressing their willingness to serve until the next regular school board elections this fall. Letters may be submitted either to the school (PO Box 157) or directly to Bob Hutton, the Board President (PO Box 185). Those who have submitted letters will have a short public interview during the board's regular meeting on March 31<sup>st</sup>, after which the board will make an appointment and the successful candidate will be sworn in. Please direct any questions to Bob Hutton (907-209-0996).

## Principal's Message

Dear Families,

We need you. We have bullying happening in our community and we need everyone's help to make it stop.

Sometimes people think that bullying is just a part of growing up, but wouldn't it be great if it were not the norm? I'm sharing excerpts from [Healthline](#) titled, "How to Stop Bullying in Schools" and hope you will help support our efforts to stop bullying in Hoonah.

### "How to Stop Bullying in Schools" by Elijah Wolfson

Bullying is a problem that can derail a child's schooling, social life, and, most importantly, their emotional well being. It's also an issue that has been made even more pressing in recent years because of the increased use among children of the internet, cell phones, and other means of communication as tools to harass each other. Adults may have a tendency to ignore bullying, to write it off as a normal part of life that all kids have to go through. However, it's a real problem with dangerous consequences, and it should be dealt with accordingly.

#### **Identifying Bullying**

Bullying is a behavior that can include any one of a whole range of actions that cause physical or emotional pain, from spreading rumors to intentional exclusion to physical abuse. Bullying prevention expert Dr. Ken Rigby has a useful formulation:

**Bullying = a desire to hurt + hurtful action + a power imbalance + (typically) repetition + an unjust use of power + evident enjoyment by the aggressor and a sense of being oppressed on the part of the victim.**

Some warning signs that a child is being bullied include:

- Unexplained cuts or bruises
- Damaged or missing clothing, books, school supplies, or other belongings
- Takes unnecessarily long routes to school or back home
- Suddenly loses interest in school work or begins to perform poorly
- No longer wants to hang out with friends
- Frequently complains of headaches or stomach aches
- Loss of appetite



- Trouble sleeping
- Emotionally reticent
- Appears moody or depressed
- Any unexplained change in behavior

## Bullying Prevention Strategies

### **Engage Your Child**

The first thing to do if you notice something's wrong with your child is to talk to him/her. The most important thing you can do for a bullied child is to validate the situation. Pay attention to the child's feelings and let him or her know you care. You may not be able to solve all the problems for your child right away. It's essential that you let him/her know you're supportive.

### **Be a Role Model**

Bullying is learned behavior. Children pick up antisocial behaviors like bullying from adults and from media representation. A study done by Brigham Young University researchers found that there are an average of 52 acts of relational aggression an hour on reality TV and 33 an hour on regular TV shows. This type of general meanness rubs off on our kids.

Teach your child good social behavior from an early age. Being a positive role model can influence potential bullies, targets, and bystanders. Your child is less likely to enter damaging or hurtful relationships if their parent also avoids those types of negative associations.

### **Build a Consensus**

Bullying is a community problem and requires a community solution. Everybody has to be on board to successfully stamp out bullying. This includes:

- Parents
- Teachers
- Administrators
- Counselors
- Community members
- After-school supervisors
- The students themselves

Thank you for your support to empower the bystanders to stand up to the bullies and put an end to this mean spirited behavior. No one wants a member of their family bullied. Together we can make a change.

*Lorrie Scoles, K-12 Principal*

## Honor Roll—2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter/1<sup>st</sup> Semester 2015/16

### **"A" Honor Roll for students with a Grade Point Average of 3.33 – 4.00**

#### **Middle School**

Dakota Garrison – Sem.  
Duane Jack – Qt./Sem.  
Cooper Ross – Qt./Sem.  
Ethan Ruerup --Sem.  
Sofia Comolli – Sem.  
Zada Michel –Qt./Sem.  
McKayla Sheakley – Qt./Sem.  
Kaylahni Bidiman – Qt./Sem.

#### **High School**

Leticia Skaflestad – Qt./Sem.  
Johnny Hinchman – Qt./Sem.  
Randy Roberts - Sem.  
Alaska Skaflestad – Qt./Sem.  
Chung Liu – Qt./Sem.  
Jordan McLuckie – Qt./Sem.  
Morgan Stevenson Qt./Sem.

### **"B" Honor Roll for students with a Grade Point Average of 3.00 – 3.32**

Aja Marks – Sem.  
Orion Osborne - Sem.  
Dakota Garrison – Qt.  
Esias Kohler – Sem.  
Ethan Ruerup – Qt.  
Xaviery Sharclane – Sem.  
Halle Budke Qt./Sem.  
Arianna Hinchman – Sem.  
Liyah Jewell – Qt./Sem.

Jeff Devlin – Qt./Sem.  
Monique Glover – Qt./Sem.  
Ronie Roberts – Sem.  
Randy Roberts – Qt.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2015/16

### **"A" Honor Roll for students with a Grade Point Average of 3.33 – 4.00**

#### **Middle School**

Orion Osborne  
Dakota Garrison  
Duane Jack  
Cooper Ross  
Ethan Ruerup  
Kaylahni Bidiman  
Halle Budke  
Zada Michel  
McKayla Sheakley

#### **High School**

Leticia Skaflestad  
Johnny Hinchman  
Jerry White, III  
Alaska Skaflestad  
Kelsey Thein  
Chung Liu  
Jordan McLuckie  
Morgan Stevenson

### **"B" Honor Roll for students with a Grade Point Average of 3.00 – 3.32**

Jermaine Johnson  
Esias Kohler  
Xaviery Sharclane  
Sofia Comolli  
Arianna Hinchman  
Liyah Jewell

Ronie Roberts

## Student Government Update

The student government started off the semester with a very busy homecoming week. The week started with Alumni vs. Hoonah basketball games. Gunalchéesh for coming out to support our students. In the donations from this game, we raised nearly \$300 for the Playground Fund!

We kicked off the academic week with Traditional Wear Day and an opening homecoming assembly where the school danced in regalia together and kicked off a school wide scavenger hunt! The Cultural Leadership Club joined forces to do traditional face painting during breakfast. We were happy to have families come visit and share in this experience. Students also showed their Hoonah pride in Superhero Day, Blackout Day, and School Spirit Day.

The week ended with home basketball games, a movie night hosted by the Cultural Leadership Club, and a Winter Wonderland Homecoming Dance. Gunalchéesh to everyone who helped make this week possible for our students.

In the upcoming quarter, student government has a few things planned to round out the year, including: a conference in Kodiak, a possible community event, a joint meeting with the school board, and elections for the coming school year.

Gunalchéesh!

Aimee Smith (Atk'aheeni), Student Government Advisor

Students in K-12 danced during the kickoff to Homecoming Week.



**The yearbook** is coming along! We anticipate it being available the week of graduation. There will be a page honoring the 2015 seniors, due to not having a yearbook last year, and it will feature a cover design by Mary Jack! Each yearbook will be \$25. Please watch for order forms and place your order early! You may also sponsor a yearbook for a student who may require financial support. Contact me at [smitha@hoonahschools.org](mailto:smitha@hoonahschools.org) with any questions.

Gunalchéesh to Halle Budke, Mary Jack and Kayla Wolfe for their help on this year's yearbook. Gunalchéesh to Daphne Wright, Terri Budke, and Lorrie Scoles for the photography support.

Aimee Smith (Atk'aheeni), Yearbook Advisor



Leadership Club members: Treston Lafferty, Sam Sheakley, Sophia Henry, Mary Jack, Jeff Devlin, Advisor Amelia Wilson, Val Williams, Randy Roberts and Eddie Williams. Club members missing from photo: Cecelia George and Raymond Osborne.

## Leadership Club

The Hoonah High School Leadership Club students continue to step up and step forward. They have been actively participating in club meetings, community events and cultural gatherings. The Club has continued to partner with and participate in Hoonah Indian Association events, including outings in the dugout canoe. The Leadership Club also partnered with the Student Government Club during Homecoming Week; club members painted faces, sang and danced on culture day to kick off the week and hosted a movie night at the end of the week for Hoonah and Kake high school students.

During the Halloween Carnival, students operated two booths and with the funds raised were able to purchase some stylin' club hoodies. The design is a true work of art by Gordon Greenwald, former club advisor who allowed our Leadership Club the honor of using his design. Gunalchéesh, Gordon! These awesome youth represent dedication and commitment to their culture and community. We are excited about being involved in the upcoming school *ku.éex'* this spring. If you see any of the Leadership Club students please let them know how great it is that they are practicing leadership, celebrating their culture and maintaining community involvement.

**About this newsletter:** this publication is a project of the Hoonah City Schools Title VII Native Education Program. Its purpose is to inform families and the rest of the community about what is happening at school. Please contact Daphne Wright at 723-1223 (email [wrightd@hoonahschools.org](mailto:wrightd@hoonahschools.org)) with questions or suggestions about this project.

## Library News

The library continues to be a safe, welcoming and friendly place for our students to gather. It is open to middle and high school before school and during lunch and open to all students after school until 4:00 p.m. If students are interested in checking out books or movies to take home, they are able to do so during these times.

High School students are able to choose to be a Library assistant as an elective option. Students learn how to operate a library, shelve books using the Dewey Decimal system, help with projects, manage the bulletin board and assist with tasks as they arise. Students Raymond Osborne, Nina Sanders and Brandon Flores were stellar assistants!

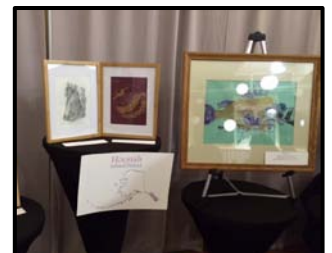
We are getting new books in every month: award winning and bestseller books, teacher recommended books and student requested books! Students can find books of interest with fresh options coming in regularly. If they don't see what they want, all they need to do is make a suggestion to the librarian and it can be ordered for the library or borrowed through the Inter Library Loan (ILL) service.

Elementary students were able to participate in a recent book swap where they each brought in books to trade for books new-to-them! A lot of fun was had by all and each child left with at least two books. High school students are able to come to the library to conduct research, take tests and study. We even have a student taking a class from AVTEC using our Videoconference equipment – Way to go Sam Sheakley!

The library continues to provide snacks to students through the snack program provided by the Food Bank of Alaska. The snacks have been much appreciated by students who find themselves hungry and in need of something to eat. Any student, regardless of age or income, is welcome to come get something, either before or after school.

### Hoonah Student Art in Show

HCS sent a wonderful selection of art to the Student Legislative Art Show held at the JACC in Juneau Feb 20. Many thanks to their Art teacher Nhung Dinh who made this happen! Gunalchéesh to Supt. PJ Ford Slack for the photo.



## Native Education News

**Our annual Heritage Celebration *Ku.éex'*** is scheduled for Friday, April 29th. The year marks the 26th year that Hoonah Schools has held this event. Everyone is invited!

Eagle students are this year's hosts. The students will be performing songs, dances and skits to entertain the audience. The students in 5th grade are getting their traditional introduction speeches ready.

As usual, we are asking the community to help us with this event. We are asking for donations of food or cash to help us with the lunch that is served after the program. Food items that are requested are: salmon & halibut, fresh or frozen; berries, from the store or the forest (fresh, frozen or jarred); jarred or dried traditional foods such as smoked salmon, seaweed, jams and jellies (these are used as gifts for special guests.) We also have our own tradition of making trail mix to give as gifts to the guests. Donations of trail mix fixings are very welcome: nuts, dried fruit, chocolate chips, etc. Helpers would be most welcome also. We can use help on the day of the event, with preparing lunch, helping the students serve their guests, taking pictures or video-taping, cleaning up, etc. Please contact Carol Williams, Heather Powell or Daphne Wright at the school if you have questions or would like to help this year.



### Kids with Cameras

Hoonah City Schools and the National Park Service are partnering on a new Tlingit language project called *Kids with Cameras*. Each student in grades 1 to 8 received a disposable camera and was instructed to "go take pictures." They were encouraged to take photos of things in their life that might be used to create Tlingit language materials, such as flashcards, card games, posters, puzzles and maybe even little books. A small number of photographs will be selected to enlarge and frame for display in the school. The cameras have already been sent for processing. We are excited to see the results of the students' work.

Bingo) Night. Watch for signs about the date. The group meets Wednesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Tlingit classroom (Room 102 in the Elementary School.) Everyone who is interested in the Tlingit language is welcome to attend, regardless of prior experience. Gunalchéesh TLEIN to Deiwjee, Genevieve Cook, for her help and encouragement.

**What is the Huna Tribal House** and why is it being built? Hoonah Indian Association Cultural Programs Specialist Darlene See and National Park Service Cultural Anthropologist Mary Beth Moss have teamed up to do presentations in all the HCS classes to answer that question. With large photographs, they give a brief history of the relationship of the Hoonah people to the area known today as Glacier Bay, and the steps leading up to the construction of the house. After their talk, they give the students the opportunity to make small gifts which will be given to the people who attend the Grand Opening of the Tribal House next August.



*Dongqiang Liu, a senior at HCS, interviewed one of the school staff for an English class assignment. Photo: Nhung Dinh, the interview subject, is shown on the left; Dongqiang Liu on the right.*

(Nhung Dinh)

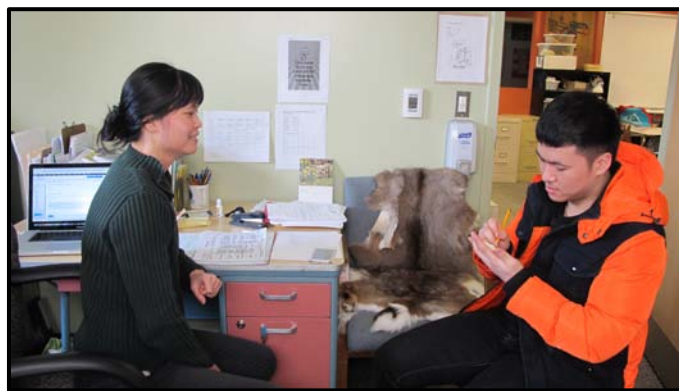
As a foreigner in the United States, I came to Hoonah, Alaska from China and went to high school here for approximately two and a half years. Ever since I arrived, I had been wondering what it is like to be bicultural. Driven by curiosity, I interviewed Nhung Dinh, the Hoonah High School Counselor and Art teacher.

In 1979, Ms. Nhung's father fled the country when the communists took control of Vietnam. Arrival in America was the beginning of three-year-old Nhung's bicultural journey. Nhung's father, a traditional Vietnamese Roman Catholic, went to school to learn mechanics, and opened up his own auto shop. Being raised in two different cultures, the Vietnamese culture and American culture, Ms. Nhung identity is defined as bicultural.

Growing up within a Vietnamese family, Ms. Nhung was indoctrinated in Vietnamese culture, traditions and beliefs. Nhung went to Vietnamese language school when she was little, so she can speak Vietnamese fluently, and she knows all the traditions. "Of course there are differences, in the way female should be like and male should be like in the Vietnamese culture. For example, the Vietnamese culture is very strict, you know... there are strict female roles, a female doesn't do mechanics. Cultures, in my opinion, are values and your beliefs, and that's really different too in the way you think," says Nhung.

She also used the local students as an example: "I think for a lot of people who are bicultural like the Native students here, this is a huge question, because what is your identity? And who are you? It's a very important question to answer for everyone. I search all the time. Being bicultural you have a double lens of the world. For me, ethnicity wise, it's your race. So by ethnicity, I'm Vietnamese, so there is no black and white about that other than what it is. If you were talking about nationality, then nationality would be different. My nationality is American, whether I like it or not, this (The United States) is the place I was raised for most of my life.

Yet, despite the fact that Ms. Nhung was raised in this land, she says she's not necessarily going to spend the rest of her life in the United States. "I may leave this country one day because after my undergraduate degree, I left the University of California Santa Cruz. I actually left the country for ten years, I lived overseas; I lived in France for a couple years; in Asia for couple years, particularly in Taiwan for two years and Micronesia for three



years, then I traveled all around Asia."

Through this spectacular lens, she talked about how western countries and eastern countries are different. "There are commonalities and differences, and there are differences in individualistic societies compared to collective societies. Similarly, everyone is a human being and there are basic human traits that are part of everybody, like we experience the same emotions, we all have children, so basic human needs are very similar. But of course in cultures it varies in each place according to the beliefs and the traditions, but we are all human. We all need to eat but we eat different things according to what is available a lot of times, and where you are."

She gave me an example of collectivism and individualism: "For instance, in Taiwan, when I drove my motorcycle around, my motorcycle broke down, and instantly, four or five people came to assist me, whereas I was driving around one time in California up to Mammoth Mountain, and I broke down there, out in the middle of nowhere, and there were cars driving past by me, and no one stopped. That's a huge difference."

Apparently, Ms. Nhung's bicultural identity and her traveling experiences have sharpened and molded the unique perspective she has today. At the end, she talked about how traveling can broaden one's perspective. "Traveling, in my opinion, is an education that you can only achieve by doing it. It's kind of like a fish in the water. It's swimming in the water but it doesn't really know it's in the water until it jumps out of it. So traveling around really is broadening your perspectives, but more importantly, it helps you see yourself in who you are and what you do. And for people who have not traveled around in terms of the broadening perspectives, they are kind of contained and confined, it's not necessarily better or worse in my opinion, some people are very comfortable that way. However, their perspectives would be narrower because they just haven't experienced or seen, and there is no way to describe that without experiencing it."

## ***Our Voices Will Be Heard***

*A review by Morgan Stevenson*

Vera Starbard's play "*Our Voices Will Be Heard*" will have you on the edge of your seats weeping due to the pain the story conveys. Tlingit writer Vera Starbard was born in Craig, Alaska. Starbard's Tlingit name is Tset' Kwei and she is Tlingit and Dena'ina Athabascan. "*Our Voices Will Be Heard*" was developed from a short story Starbard wrote when she was 18. The story shows how secrets of a family's sexual abuse can tear them apart.

The play is written around the story's protagonist, Kataan. Kataan lives in a small Tlingit village with her mother Litaa, her father Ta, her cousin Sagu, his mother Wanadoo, their grandmother Shanaa, and Kataan's uncle Jinahaa. All coming from the same clan, Kataan's family was very close to one another. However, this causes them to break apart even more when the unthinkable happens. In a second, Kataan's family goes from tight as thieves to a broken family with a secret.

The staging of the play had many aspects that were good, but also some that could use a little bit of work. The acting in the play was overall pretty good. However, there were places that could have been more realistic. For example, the crying definitely was fake and you could tell. Other than this small thing, the actors portrayed the emotional elements of the play very well.

The music for the play was composed and recorded by Ed Littlefield, a Tlingit Native from Sitka, Alaska. The musical aspect of this play helps you to understand the emotionality of the scene or the play as a whole. It aids in better understanding the emotion that Starbard was trying to depict during that scene. If sadness was what should be felt, the music felt gloomy and depressing. Overall the music fit well into the play. Also, the props and costumes used gave depth to the play. Both brought Starbard's Tlingit culture out. It was wonderful to see that traditional backdrops, boxes, hats, and regalia were used. The regalia that the actors and actresses wore were traditional button robes made by Starbard's mother.

Starbard's play was full of symbolism. The robes worn underneath the traditional regalia symbolized who the person truly was and all the secrets they had been hiding. Another example, was the dolls Litaa found that Kataan had torn up. This symbolized a cry for help from a scared girl who didn't know how to show her feelings. Another symbol Starbard uses is the Wolverine story in the play. Wolverine woman symbolizes Kataan and her mother.

This play definitely played with my emotions. A few tears were shed, as I began to understand better what it is like for someone to be sexually

abused. I would recommend not bringing your youngsters to the play. Not that they would understand the concepts of it, but I feel that the play is written for an audience ranging from about thirteen and older.

As I walked out after the play was over, my brain was running a thousand thoughts a minute. I began to wonder how much of this happens all over the world. I even wondered if it had happened in my own little town, without me knowing it. Starbard is a very strong woman for going through this experience and being able to share it through the play. I also admire her for helping others who have been sexually abused.

It is very nice to see a play that displays our Tlingit culture, especially one with an all-indigenous cast. Even though not all of the cast are Tlingit, the culture definitely shines through and I give props to Vera Starbard for that. I would definitely recommend, "*Our Voices Will Be Heard*".

## **News Notes**

### **Jump Rope for Heart:**

Congratulations elementary students! All of you together helped raise nearly \$3000 for the American Heart Assoc. You surpassed the goal of \$1200! Congratulations goes to Leah Moss, who brought in the most money. Her total amount raised was \$281. *Photo: Leah jumping, Makia waiting her turn.*



Huna Totem Corporation/Icy Strait Point purchased 20 tickets to *Our Voices Will Be Heard* for middle and high school students.

### **Thanks from Fran Dalton**

Did you hear that my son William won an iPad mini 2 from a company from CASANA (Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association of North America)? It's to help him with his speech. Thank you to the school employees who helped us with our application: *Pearl Miller, Crezell Wilburn (Speech Language Pathologist), Tesh Gray and Heather Wheeler.*





## Elementary & Middle School Music

It's been a busy 3rd quarter in the music room! The preschool has joined us and the PreK-1st grade class has been working on teaching the preschoolers music room expectations, and learning about steady beat. We've been working on fast/slow, loud/soft, and high/low concepts.



Students have been learning some pre-handwriting and cross-body exercises with a steady beat that help engage and develop their brain. These are important for their development in the primary ages. We brought a model brain into class and students had an opportunity to hold it and ask questions. Be sure to ask your student about how these exercises help their brain! Students have also been learning body part songs in Lingít. You can ask them: *Goosú i shá?* You can replace *shá* with *xeeek*, *kéey*, *x'oos'*, *waak*, *gúk*, *x'e* or *lú*.

The 2nd-5th grade class has been alternating between stations with various music concepts and working with the teacher. The 2nd and 3rd grade is working on musical notation and copying/writing rhythms, while 4th and 5th grade has begun participating in the Recorder Karate program. Many students have passed their white belt test. You can see their belt accomplishments during our next concert! This class has also learned some Lingít lullabies that they will be sharing.

I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the Festival of Native Arts in March and bring back many ideas and inspiration for our program. Students in PreK-5 have been learning a Yupik chant that was shared with me at the festival. I am excited to have them share it with you.

The middle school music class has been developing their theory knowledge this quarter and have been working on scale studies. They have been learning beginning jazz concepts as well as concert band music. They will have a jazz set and a concert set at our next concert. Students also have been learning how to lead their own rehearsals and have risen to the challenge. *In the photo, Orion is leading the band.*

March was also Music in Our Schools Month. Since we did not have a concert during March, be sure to check out the display created by the elementary students when you come for our next concert! Our upcoming concert dates: April

5th & May 11th.

Gunalchéesh!

*Aimee Smith (Atk'aheent), PreK-8 Music Director*

## News from Third Fourth Grade

These past two months have proven to be very productive. Our class welcomed the addition of Melissa Thaalesen, who was doing her student teaching. We loved having her and already miss her enthusiasm and great ideas!

Social Studies was a major focus during the month of February and beginning of March. We looked at the similarities and differences of two very important civil rights leaders: Martin Luther King Jr. and Elizabeth Peratrovich. Mrs. Wright taught us a fun rap about Elizabeth Peratrovich, which was composed by Mary Foletti. We enjoyed it so much and shared it at the Elizabeth Peratrovich assembly! Another Social Studies topic we covered this month that integrated Math, Reading and Alaskan Geography, was the Iditarod race. At the beginning of March every student chose a musher to follow. We tracked that musher's progress daily, looking at live coverage on the computer, the musher profiles and video clips about the Iditarod. It is always inspiring to see the perseverance the mushers and sled dogs have for completing this great feat!

**Operation Warm** came to Hoonah in the form of 102 winter jackets to be distributed FREE to the children of Hoonah. These were sent by the Cruise Lines International Alaska Association, and flown over freight free by Alaska Seaplanes. ISP's Tyler Hickman was a big help with this project as well. Some of the jackets were given out during the Chichagof Classic Basketball Tournament.

More are available: contact Sally at the BBBS Office or call 209-9326 to arrange a fitting.

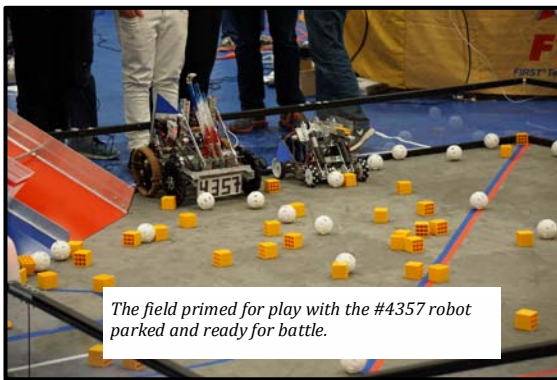


## The Huna Skunkworks Battles Their 'Bot!

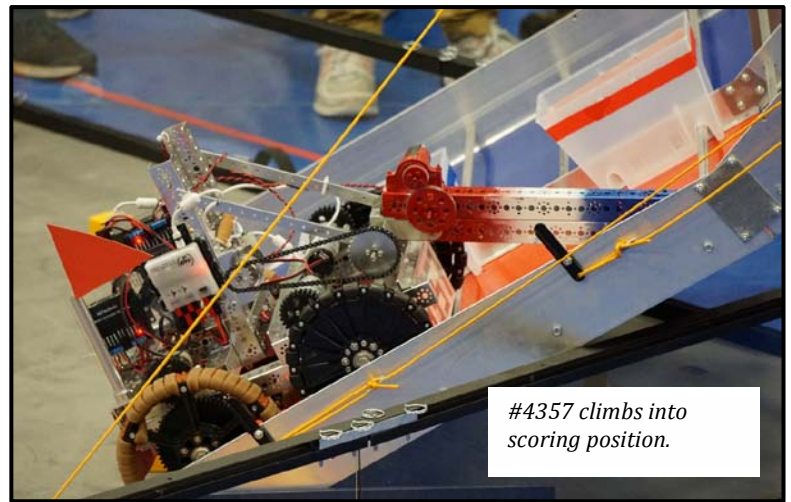
Our Huna Skunkworks team consisting of Austin Martuscelli, Raymond Osborne and Tony Phillips was one of eight teams from Southeast that competed at the Region V Robotics Tournament hosted by Sitka High School on January 26, 2016. This year's game had the robots climbing a slippery 'mountain' 3 feet high, putting blocks and balls into various goals, and 'rescuing' climbers in a 12 foot by 12 foot playing field. This year also introduced new electronics controlled by Android smartphones. With all new technology, the app programming and driving was glitchy. It's been a couple of years since Hoonah last participated, but everyone agreed we greatly improved this season in spite of it being the most challenging game ever.



The Huna Skunkworks team in combat: Austin, Tony and Raymond.



The field primed for play with the #4357 robot parked and ready for battle.

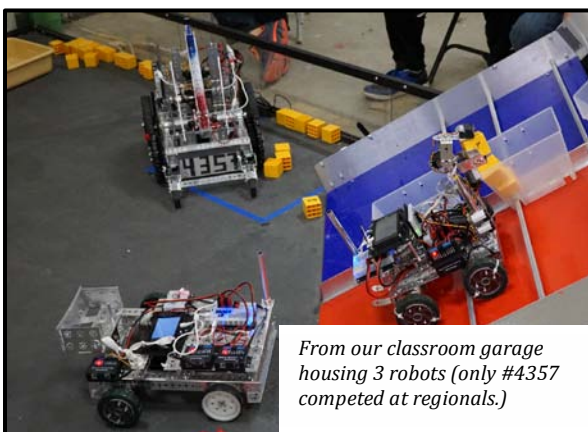


#4357 climbs into scoring position.

The most challenging aspect of every robotics season is to succeed at engineering design while working closely as a team, where almost nothing works the first time, and everything needs to be tested and tweaked over and over again. Just to be competitive requires the design be continuously optimized with trial and error and even design restarts. Figuring out how to get up the 'mountain' took months of trying out different wheels, tracks, motor and gear combinations, and more before we even started to experience success. Turning failure and frustration into stepping stones for success is a true-to-life lesson so hard to recreate in the classroom.



Making it work---yet again!



From our classroom garage housing 3 robots (only #4357 competed at regionals.)

Check out the article at

<http://www.kcaw.org/2016/01/28/high-schoolers-battle-with-bots/>

where you can hear Raymond Osborne speaking about our team's experience this season, starting at 2:45 into the recording. We hope to showcase our robots at this spring's District Science & Engineering Fair or at next year's Fall Carnival, so look for us!

# Hoonah Braves Basketball News



## Varsity Boys Coach's Report

The high school basketball season has come to an end. The Hoonah Boys finish the year with an over-all record of 12-9. They placed 4<sup>th</sup> at the Region V Tournament in Juneau. All year they played their hearts out and played as a team. They displayed sportsmanship on and off the court, and represented the town of Hoonah well. Manny Budke and Jerry White both received all conference awards. Brandon Guthrie and Raymond Osborne both received good sport awards. Even though we fell short of our ultimate goal of qualifying for the state tournament, the season was a huge success. Thank you to everyone that came out to support us this year.

*Coach Gretsinger*

*Boys Varsity Team: back, Tony Phillips, Jerry White, Josh Wright; front, Manny Budke, Raymond Osborne, Jeff Devlin, Brandon Guthrie*

## Varsity Girls Coach's Report

As all of you know, this is my first year coaching and that I am a young coach, but I wouldn't trade this experience for any other. I am exceptionally proud of what my girls have accomplished throughout this season. Yes we came up a little short, but I don't plan on that for next year. With that said, the one thing I loved about this team was their need to learn-- they were very coachable kids. For the girls coming into the program next year, I am hopeful that we will continue to grow mentally and skill wise, but I am so excited to see what they have to offer.



*Girls Varsity Team: back, Val Williams, Alaska Skaflestad, Morgan Stevenson, Ronie Roberts, Leticia Skaflestad; front: Cecelia George, Monique Glover, Vanessa Contreras, Mary Jack*

This year my only senior was Morgan Stevenson. This girl, my player and captain, was a leader on and off the floor. She played hard every second of every game and pulled through when her team needed her to, and that right there is all a coach can ask for. I wish her all the best in the rest of her high school days and in her future. I know she will go a long way in life and be successful at whatever she does.

The awards given out at the Region V Tournament: All Conference: Morgan Stevenson and Alaska Skaflestad; Good Sport Team: Morgan Stevenson and Cecelia George; All Academic: Morgan Stevenson.  
*Coach Mariah Martin*



*Thanks to Stevenson family for the action shots and picture of the Senior Braves: Tony, Morgan and Raymond.*

## Hoonah Indian Association Cultural News

### *From Darlene See, HIA Cultural Programs Specialist*

During HIA's cultural events these past couple of months, we were able to uplift our youth and others through immersion in our cultural ways of life. It has all been made possible with the collaborative efforts of the National Park Service (NPS), Rural Cap's Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Grant, SEARHC – Wise Families, The Hoonah Liquor Board, Tlingit and Haida Central Council, Hoonah City Schools, and community culture bearers. Many activities have been carried out in partnership with the Hoonah City Schools Leadership and Culture Club, led by Amelia Wilson.

On February 11th, there was a dinner in honor of the cast and writer (Vera Starbard) of the play "Our Voices Will Be Heard." She is a courageous woman to bring such a sensitive subject as sexual abuse to light. Ms. Starbard held a workshop "Healing Through Storytelling" after the dinner. Gunalchéesh to the following who made the meal possible: Keith Skaflestad donated deer and halibut, HIA provided king salmon, Bob Starbard and Clara Gray donated herring eggs, Sally Dybdahl and Daphne Wright brought berries, and Kathy and David John Marvin cooked deer stew and fry bread. Others who contributed to the effort were Jerry Rose and Sophie Henry, Bonnie Harris, Steven Price, HCS's Culture and Leadership Club, and SEARHC Wise Families. At this same dinner, gift cards were given to our volunteer carvers Zack James, Steven Price and James Hart for their dedication to "our" spruce dugout canoes. The Gaawt'ak.aan dance group also performed, adding to an already special evening. Aatlein Gunalchéesh to all!

You may have noticed our youth out in Wayne Prices' spruce dugout "Jiba" celebrating Elizabeth Peratrovich Day February 16th. They were rewarded for taking interest in their culture by making spruce paddles either during school at Yaakw Kahidi (canoe house) or at HIA's Art Institute (old HIA). The spruce paddle classes started January 8th, were open to everyone, and are ongoing Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays from 6-9 p.m. This is a wellness project and is all about working together and healing. **These classes are going to start winding down, so those of you who have started one, please come finish your paddle!** Icy Strait Lumber donated a short log for the paddles



and HIA purchased more wood to make sure we have enough paddles to complete the journey to *Celebration 2016* in Juneau and return to Glacier Bay for the Tribal House Dedication on August 25th. Outings and practices will take place very soon.

On March 14th, the Leadership Club and others participated in another dugout and seal camp outing. There was no school that day and the youth showed up at 9 a.m. and paddled out to Long Island where a picnic and seal demonstration took place. We appreciate the carvers taking time away from the dugout they are so diligently working on, to allow our students to gain more experience as pullers on a spruce dugout. One student's response on their return to town after paddling from Long Island was "It's not as easy as it looks!" Wayne Price always says "There's nothing easy about a dugout."



*Left: students cooking cockles and clams by the fire on the Long Island outing: Olivia, Patrick, Treston and Sam.*

Mary Beth Moss and I have been speaking to the classes at school, explaining the Tribal House at Glacier Bay and a brief history of how this project came about. Gunalchéesh to Mary Beth and to Melissa

Senac of NPS for helping put the photos and presentation together.

All students K-12 have the opportunity to help make gifts that will be distributed during the Tribal House grand opening on August 25, 2016. Tlingit & Haida Central Council donated money to the gifting project. Gunalchéesh to T&H.

The dugout carvers helped me stretch sea otter hides that will be used to help sustain the sea otter project. Thank you, Andy Wolfe, for loaning us an electric staple gun. *Continued on page 13*

## Playground Improvement Update

Fundraising for the Playground Improvement Project is ongoing. The Hoonah Liquor Board awarded \$1000 for the project at each of their meetings for the last four months, for a total of \$4,000 thus far.

We raised hundreds of dollars for the cause at the Concession Stand during home varsity basketball games. Many thanks to adult and student volunteer workers and to those who made donations. The spearheads included Wilma Davis, Marti Lee, Lorrie Scoles, Carrie Lindoff, Mary Beth Moss, and many others unnamed in this article.

We recently submitted \$58.70 worth of *BoxTop\$ 4 Education*, which will go towards the playground fund. Thank you to all who take the time to clip and save them for our school! Every dime adds up! Collection cans/envelopes are at the grocery stores, Hoonah Harbor Building, one in the middle/high school, and several in the elementary school wing. Thank you to Deb Picken who sent some over from Juneau. We even received a bundle from the Juneau Lions Club!

The Community Theater donated the profits from their performance earlier this winter: another \$360 for the cause!

Our tables at the Salvation Army Community Garage Sale earned \$317 for the Playground Fund. Thank you to those who donated gently used items and who helped at the event: Lorrie Scoles, Jessie Fred, Angie Voeller, Olivia Larsen, Nicki Shelton, Mystery Person, Daphne Wright, Icy Strait Point, Paul Dybdahl, Hoonah City Schools, Elena & Donovan Leinberger, Teresa & Shawn McConnell, Easton Ross, Marlene Duvall, Jen Bidiman, Jenny Johnson, Pearl Miller, Leah and Mary Beth Moss, Owen James, Mary Ellen Martin, and Sally Dybdahl.

Watch for signs and notices about our **BIG Playground Fundraiser Flea Market on May 14th**. It will be held in the Alumni Gym. Tables will be available for rental: \$15 if paid in advance, \$20 on the day of the sale. The school will be accepting donations of gently-used items to be sold. We also plan on selling baked goods and lunch items. This will be a good opportunity for many folks to help in some way to make our Playground Improvement Fund grow substantially!

## Hoonah Fun & Fit Partnership

Hoonah Fun and Fit Partnership is now featured on our Rural Health Models & Innovations!

<https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/community-health/project-examples/891>

We are so proud of our group's efforts. Please feel free to join in; meetings occur every second Friday at the school administrative conference room. Times vary; contact Judy Hankla 945-3611, Candy Keown 945-3545, or Sally Dybdahl 945-3600 for more information.



Our Fun & Fit Ping Pong Tourney on December 28 was well attended. Competition took place at two tables with 15 participants 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up. Spectators were welcome and Cornhole beanbag toss was available, as well. When

the dust settled, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Finisher was Jen Bidiman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Ryan Neal, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Dillon Styers. Jen & Ryan are pictured below. Thanks to our partners at the City of Hoonah Parks & Recreation Department's William & Mary Johnson Youth Center.

February was Raven Eagle Walking Challenge Month. There were 25 Ravens and 16 Eagles who turned in their step totals. The Eagles won this year's challenge, with an average of 59,188 steps in the month; the Ravens averaged 50,735 steps.

Individual awards were presented at a luncheon held at the William & Mary Johnson Youth Center on March 6.

Most Steps Eagle Faith Grant w/671,912; Most Steps Raven Wilma Davis w/841,785; Most Improved Week 1 to Week 4: Chauncey White; Most Improved Over Last Year: Faith Grant; Youngest Walker: Kali Harris; Most Experienced Walker: Bonnie Skaflestad

Gift certificates for pizza were donated by Bullwinkle's and Icy Strait Lodge. We also received cash donations from IPEC and Alaska Glacier Seafoods.

We are pleased to be the Hoonah City School District Wellness Policy Advisory Group; tidbits from our February Hoonah School Board Meeting included:

- students receive consistent nutrition messages
- students are encouraged to eat healthy and nutritious meals at school and be involved in meal planning
- students will receive at least the minimum number of minutes of PE per week as recommended by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education
- when practicable, recess shall be scheduled before lunch periods outdoors with equipment that's safe, age-appropriate, and available in sufficient quantities for all to be active
- using physical activity as punishment or withholding PE as discipline is prohibited

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**HIA News, continued** The Senior Center has been invited to help sew sea otter items for sale. The profits will be split to help sustain the sea otter project and offset the Senior Center costs.

There have been teleconferences with the clan leaders and advisors as well as a meeting held in Juneau on February 27th, to discuss the Xunaa Shuká Hít dedication. A trip was made by elders to visit the site in Bartlett Cove on March 10th to get a better idea of the space limitations and to check on progress. During our upcoming Clan Conference April 13-16, there will be more planning discussions as well as other cultural opportunities to take part in.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Tribal House dedication preparation. I am also starting a list of people who want to participate in the Ravenstail class that I will be teaching. Please fill out an application at the main HIA office and let us know why you would like to take the class. The cost for participants is \$20, space is limited, class date to be announced. If you have any questions, contact Darlene See, HIA's Cultural Programs Specialist (907) 945-3545.

# City of Hoonah Parks & Recreation Spring Report

from Director Kris Skaflestad

## William and Mary Johnson Youth Center

We had the students from North Carolina State spend time at the Youth Center during their visit in early March, and the kids really love having them each year. This year was no different; thank you to the NC State students for your visit!

Thank you to Dodie Lunda, who donated decorations and doodads for the Youth Center. Roberta Wolfe donated a quilt top for the local youth, as well.

We would like to ask parents to talk to their kids about how to treat each other. Also I'd like to ask parents if they want their children to stay inside the Center to please let me know, as I can't always follow them around outside. I have cameras but can't see everything, especially in the creek across the street or on the airplane float. But if parents will let me know, I will see that they stay inside.

### Youth Center Hours

Monday-Thursday --- after school to 9:30.

Friday---after school to 11:00 p.m.

Saturday---From 1:00 to 3:00 we hold Open Gym

Center is open 3:00 to 11:00 p.m.

(6 to 11 year-olds go home at 7:00 Fri. & Sat.)

Some of the Youth Center evening hours were affected by the gym opening during the lead-up time to Gold Medal, but not too often. Thank you to everyone for your patience.

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## Pool & Gym

Parks & Rec took over the Gym/Pool complex in December. We have had Jack Annis here to assess the issues and what we need to do in order to move forward. He will be here again in late March and help us get new parts installed. Then we will attempt to fill the pool and see what we find in the process of doing that. Hopefully all goes well!

We have opened the weight room in the gym to try to get as much use of the building as we can at this point. Many more repairs are needed but we are gaining on it. We are looking to hire an Operations and Pool Manager soon, and lifeguards as well. We are so thankful for everyone's patience.

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### Nutrition Nook—*from Fun & Fit Partnership*

Your child's weight may fluctuate as she grows. That's normal. But if her weight suddenly jumps, you may want to consider these questions:

***Is she eating more because of stress?*** Maybe she's been studying for an important test at school or her best friend decided she didn't want to be friends anymore. A



Dietrich, Kenny and James play foosball at the Youth Center during a BBBS event.



Pool photo taken in 2011.

variety of things might trigger your teen to start eating to make herself feel better. Talk to her about other ways to boost her mood, like listening to upbeat music or getting exercise, which helps her body release "feel good" chemicals called endorphins.

***Is your teen rewarding himself with food?*** If he celebrates doing well on a test with a few cupcakes or other calorie-laden treat, you might want to suggest another way to recognize this work. Perhaps you could go to the gym together for a workout or he could meet friends for a game of basketball. Try to help your teen see activity, not food, as a reward.

***Is she putting herself down?*** Along with overeating, watch for your teenager saying things like, "I always look fat in these jeans" or "I wish I were skinny like Jenny." An occasional comment can be okay, but too many may mean she needs to talk to someone other than a parent. Consider talking to the counselor at school or your child's healthcare provider for advice. Also, remind her to be patient – losing weight in a healthy way can take time.

## Big Brothers Big Sisters News

At the meeting of the Hoonah City Council on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Kenny Karl Skaflestad proclaimed January 2016 Mentoring Month in Hoonah. New volunteers and youth are in process, but we always need more BIGS and LITTLES!

To celebrate Mentoring Month, BBBS of Hoonah purchased 65 tickets for Perseverance Theatre's local performance of *Our Voices Will Be Heard*. Many thanks to support from the Hoonah Liquor Board and Juneau Lions Club for making attendance at this powerful play possible for program participants, former and future participants, and supporters.

Thank you for recent donations from the following: Daphne Wright-thank you notes; Susan Gonzalez-flower pots, soil, containers; Janet Taylor-\$250 belated Christmas donation.

We're so happy to announce that Major Tina Bottjen has joined our BBBS of Hoonah Leadership Council. These volunteers advise Community Director Sally, donate time, ideas, funds, and materials to our program, and treasure the children of Hoonah. She joins volunteers Jack Lee, Jackie Dick, Diane Bean, Nadine Morrison, Kathie Deitering, and Karen S. Mills.

Our Leadership Council authorized purchase of a \$50 book of fare coupons from Hometown Cab. These will be offered to children with a long walk home after the bi-weekly dances at the William and Mary Johnson Youth Center.



*Liyah, Jenny, Pearl, Mary, Tesh, Hannah, BFKS 2008*



*Vanessa, BFKS 2005*



*Jordan, BFKS 2008*

Our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Bowl for Kids' Sake is Saturday, April 2. Our biggest fundraiser of the year is a bowling party for those who help raise funds by getting pledges. There are many other ways to get involved besides forming a team and collecting pledges. You can: assist with set-up or clean-up, keep score, assist during event (set pins, etc.), donate prizes, donate cash for \$20 pizzas, or just come cheer on our bowlers. Please contact Sally to get involved: 945-3600, 209-9326, BBBS Office at William & Mary Johnson Youth Center, or email [sally.dybdahl@bbbsak.org](mailto:sally.dybdahl@bbbsak.org).

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### Hoonah Recyclers Update

We had our first opening of the spring on March 12th, with a big turnout of folks selling and donating metals. Thank you to the following for donations during the winter and this spring: Paul Dybdahl, HIA, William & Mary Johnson Youth Center, Frank Wright, Jr., Lorrie Scoles, Diane Bean, Tom & Chris Jack, Marj Peterson, Chris Budke, Mary Peterson, Elena & Howard Diamond, Hoonah Harbor Department, and anonymous donors.

Our van is filled up, and will be going south on the next AML barge. **Thank you to AML** for taking it to Seattle freight free. Watch for our next opening advertised on

bulletin boards and on Facebook. Keep on collecting those metals for a little extra cash or to donate. Hoonah Recyclers' profits benefit BBBS and other youth-friendly causes in our town.

We will be sponsoring an **Earth Day City Clean Up** on Saturday, April 16th. Everyone is invited to join in our efforts to keep Hoonah looking clean and beautiful. We can use donations of snacks to feed our clean up crew. Contact Sally at the BBBS office 945-3600 with questions or if you want to help.



**Hoonah City Schools**  
**P.O. Box 157**  
**Hoonah, Alaska 99829**

**Bulk Mail**  
**Permit #2**  
**Hoonah**

## Boxholder

# Hoonah City Schools Newsletter

## March 2016

### *In this issue:*

Peratrovich Day Event	1
<u>Ku.éex'</u> in April	1
Silk-screen Printing in HS Art Class	1
Superintendent's Message	2
Board President's Letter	2
Principal's Message	3
Honor Roll	4
Student Government	4
Yearbook	4
Cultural Leadership Group	5
Library News	5
Student Artwork in Show	5
Native Education News	6
Tlingit Study Group	6
Student Interviews Staff Member	7
Play Review	8
Jump for Heart	8
Dalton Thanks	8
Elementary & Middle School Music	9
3-4 Class	9
Operation Warm	9
High School Robotics	10
Varsity Basketball	11
HIA Cultural Projects	12-13
Playground Fund News	13
Fun & Fit Partnership	13
City Parks & Rec Update	14
Nutrition Nook	14
Big Brothers Big Sisters	15
Hoonah Recyclers	15

### *Dates to Remember:*

BBBS Bowl for Kids' Sake	April 2
Spring Concert	April 5
Student Government Conference @ Kodiak	April 7-9
HIA Clan Workshop	April 13-16
Southeast Music Festival in Ketchikan	April 14-16
Earth Day Clean Up	April 16
Heritage Celebration <u>Ku.éex'</u>	April 29
High School Glacier Bay Trip	May 2-4
End of Year Concert	May 11
Seniors' Last Day	May 13
Playground Fundraiser Flea Market	May 14
Graduation	May 19
Last Day of School	May 20



*Hoonah City Schools Board of Education, L to R: Jordan McLuckie, Student Representative, Bob Hutton, Sally Dybdahl, Anasia Neal and Sandy Howard. Missing from photo is Board Member Trevor Hill.*