

Hoonah Schools Newsletter

March-April 2021

March: Heentaanax Dís

April: Katátgi Dís



speakers from Neal Schoenfelder, who is the Fisheries Biologist for the Forest Service in Hoonah, to Thomas Thorton, PhD, a Professor from UAS in Juneau, to Chuck Miller in Sitka who has been harvesting herring eggs for nearly 35 years. The day Mr. Miller spoke to the class he was fresh off his boat, having just gone to check if the herring were spawning yet and figuring out if it was time to drop his branches into the ocean around Sitka. He said it would still be a day or two...

On Friday, April 2nd, we celebrated Herring Day with a series of activities we ran in our classrooms. Each class from Kindergarten up through the 5th grade went to each of Mrs. Smith's Class, Mr. Mettling's Class, and Mr. Browning's Class, where they learned about Herring Life Cycles and played games teaching

students about life as a herring. Students painted "herring rocks" to take home or pass out around town and students made posters asking the public to *Protect Herring!*



Herring Month at Hoonah City Schools

The week of March 1st marked the start of Herring Month for at HCS. Over the last month, we have been busy in the 2nd---5th grades studying the effects of people on the herring populations across Southeast Alaska. We have discovered that the herring are not doing as well as they once did. When herring eggs were once collected up and down the coast of Alaska, now lay the remains of their once robust populations. Sitka is the last of dozens of great herring runs from up and down the Northwest Coast.

Students have been busy researching persuasive papers convincing anyone who will listen to help to preserve this amazing fish. We have had a series of guest

speakers from Neal Schoenfelder, who is the Fisheries Biologist for the Forest Service in Hoonah, to Thomas Thorton, PhD, a Professor from UAS in Juneau, to Chuck Miller in Sitka who has been harvesting herring eggs for nearly 35 years. The day Mr. Miller spoke to the class he was fresh off his boat, having just gone to check if the herring were spawning yet and figuring out if it was time to drop his branches into the ocean around Sitka. He said it would still be a day or two...

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The Kindergarten/Pre-K and First Grade went into the Tlingit classroom where they were instructed to "Ast'eix nagú!" (Go fishing!) by the 8th grade Tlingit class. Using poles with magnets on the ends of the fishing line, they fished for yaaw (herring) and with the help of the 8th graders, they spelled out words with the letters that were on each yaaw. All agreed it was great fun.



Continued on page 2



Principal/Superintendent's Message

It's hard to believe we are at this time of the year. Spring is here. Herring are in the bay, flowers are starting to bloom, bear tracks can be seen out the road, and students are getting that restless feeling as they

sense summer's fast approach. In spite of COVID-19, we have been able to remain in face to face instruction for the majority of the school year. COVID has definitely made me realize that patience, flexibility and understanding are vital characteristics to work our way through these unusual times.

I'm feeling so blessed to have a staff of professionals that have embraced the 2020-2021 school year with *optimism* and *hope* and to make sure that every student of HCS has a positive, productive and safe school

year. Your child's education and well-being are extremely important to the staff and administration; we will continue to focus on enhancing and strengthening meaningful learning activities for the students regardless of the implemented learning models due to COVID-19. It will take all of us working as a TEAM to further the learning of your child during this unprecedented and very unpredictable time.

While we may be close to the end, we are not there yet. We have another exciting course of elective phases coming up soon. Peaks Testing will take place in May, and graduation is right around the corner in June. We have so much to look forward to. So, Hoonah Braves, let's stay the course. Finish strong. We can do this.

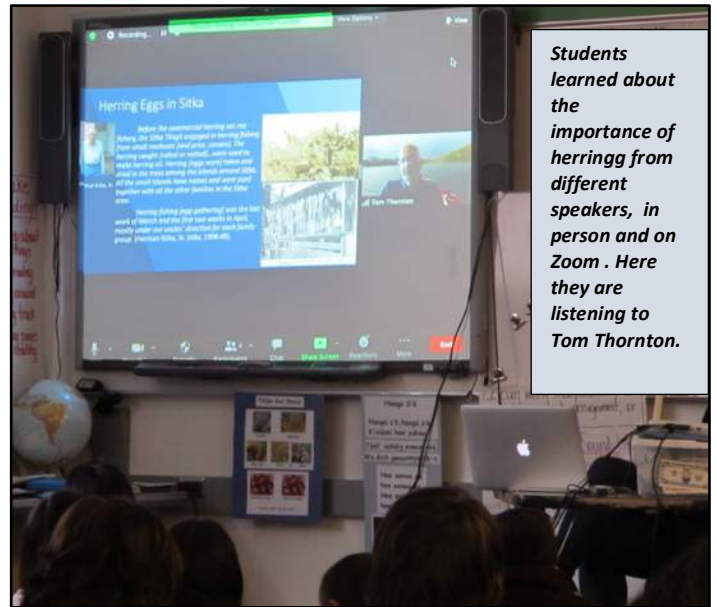
Humbly and with great appreciation,
Ralph M. Watkins
Principal/Superintendent

Herring Month continued from front page

We are tying up this Persuasive Writing Unit by writing persuasive papers trying to convince everyone to take part in our cause to Respect and Love the Herring by ending the malpractices of the herring sac roe fisheries across Southeast Alaska. It is a strong position, no doubt, but our research has shown us this path. After we complete these papers, we will be writing persuasive letters to send out across Alaska in the hopes that we can convince others to jump on board .

We have a long list of people and organizations who have helped us along the way, including all the students in the Hoonah City Schools from Ms. Steele's Kindergarten Pre-K class all the way up to Mrs. Tannehill's high school class. We would like to thank all the guest speakers and both the Herring Protectors of Sitka and Mary Beth Moss for helping to arrange our guest speakers. We would like to thank so many of the teachers here at the Hoonah City Schools for their hard work in making this great week happen.

Our last event is the Herring Derby, but we are waiting on the powerful herring to let us know when this



will be. Until then, keep an eye out on the docks down below to let us know when the biggest little fish have arrived.

Gunalchéesh to Fourth Grade teacher Mark Browning for being the mastermind behind the HCS Herring Month, and for writing this article.

FYI: This newsletter has been a component of the Hoonah City Schools Native Education Program for over twenty years. We strive to share the good news about school programs, staff, students and activities. We are 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 Newsletter Editor Daphne Wright at wrightd@hoonahschools.org with any questions, suggestions or comments about this project.

Staff Spotlight



Kudos to the Hoonah Special Education Team! They are valued staff members who support and advocate for our students with special education needs. A special thank you to the paraprofessionals who go above and beyond to meet the needs of our students. We couldn't do it without you!!! Gunalchéesh!

Pictured above, back row: Judy Bitz, Tesh Gray, Jenny Johnson, Justin Samuels, Veronica Dalton, Joan Martin. Front row: Heather Wheeler, Pearl Miller, Bob Barton, Truman Gray, Nicolle Egan

Welcome to New Staff Member Nicolle Egan

Nicolle Egan joined our staff mid-year as the secondary school special education teacher.

Nicolle grew up in Kodiak, went to college at Southern Oregon State College as well as UAA. She was a high school Special Education Teacher in Kodiak while also volunteering for Special Olympics throughout the year. When Alaska was awarded the 2001 Special Olympics World Winter Games in 1999, she left teaching and helped create the Special

Olympics School Program designed to focus on getting schools across the state involved in the international event. She continued to work for Special Olympics Alaska after the event in March of 2001 and was the Vice President/COO from

2001-2018, and then President/CEO for a year and a half.

In 2016 Nicolle took an Alaskan cruise with 10 Special Olympics athletes and their families. The cruise ship made a stop in Hoonah and she loved the location and people. It reminded her of life in Kodiak. Her fond memories of the community and the people she met made it an easy decision to apply for the Special Education position when it became available in January. During the short time she has spent on the island, Nicolle says she has been made to feel right at home by the amazing students and staff as well as the neighbors and community members who have gone out of their way to get her settled in.

Nicolle is an avid Seahawks fan (GO HAWKS!) and has been to both Super Bowls. She is often called a “workaholic” and loves a challenge. She likes organizing just

about anything, and will travel anywhere, anytime.

However, in the end, Nicolle is a “homebody” at heart and grateful for the opportunity to teach at Hoonah City Schools.

Library News:

Quick and Easy Access to World Book

World Book can easily be accessed through our school web site by following these simple steps.

1. Go to www.hoonahschools.org
2. Go to: HCSD Library
3. Go to: Online Resources
4. Go to: [World Book Online](#)
5. Username: hoonahcsd
6. Password: worldbook
7. Open the category of your choice and enjoy!

The Juneau Public Library will loan you books of your choice and send them to Hoonah. Their web page is also easily accessible from our school website.

1. Go to www.hoonahschools.org
2. Go to: HCSD Library
3. Go to: Online Resources
4. Go to: [Juneau Public Library](#)
5. Go to: Services
6. Go to: Alaska Mail services
7. View the catalog and follow the instructions to check out books!

Thank you, Mr. Watkins, for making it possible for us to access these wonderful sites from our school web page!



Nicolle Egan, with her friend Jen, a Special Olympics athlete.

Seniors in the Spotlight-- Graduation Day for our Senior Class is fast approaching. That means it's not too soon to start celebrating the HHS Class of 2021. Here are some pictures and a few thoughts from each of them as they get ready for the next chapter in their lives. Gunalchéesh to Alexandria Tannehill-Smith for her amazing photography skills and for collecting their responses for this newsletter.



ESIAS KOHLER
What are your plans for after high school?
 Attend college at UAS and then hopefully move out of state. I'm thinking about studying history or law.
What is your favorite memory of HCS?
 I will remember the awesome school trips and sports trips with all my friends. I also appreciate all the views of our beautiful town.
One piece of advice for freshmen?
 Don't slack off!
Favorite quote/saying to live by: Every 60 seconds, a minute passes....



COOPER ROSS
What are your plans for after high school?
 Attend college at UAS to study business finance.
What is your favorite memory of HCS?
 I will remember the basketball trips the most.
One piece of advice for freshmen?
 It's easier to do the work now than to try and catch up later.
Favorite quote/saying to live by:
 You miss 100% of the shots you don't take.



DUANE JACK, JR.
What are your plans for after high school?
 I want to go to college.
What is your favorite memory of HCS?
 Playing basketball for the Hoonah Braves
One piece of advice for freshmen?
 Don't miss class and work hard!
Favorite quote/saying to live by:
 Be nice to everybody. Remember my friends and teammates. Love all my teachers.



ETHAN RUERUP
What are your plans for after high school?
 Become a humble shepherd on the Icelandic Plains...or attend UAF and pursue a career in education. One of the two.
What is your favorite memory of HCS?
 I will remember all the sports trips I got to take with my friends. I have lots of memories of those trips that I will hold on to a very long time.
One piece of advice for freshmen?
 I've always said that if I could go back and give myself one piece of advice it would be to just calm down about everything. Most things do not have to be that big of a deal.
Favorite quote/saying to live by:
 Live, Laugh, Love! <3

High School Graduation: June 7, 2021



Elementary Tlingit Classes

Pre-K & Kindergarten students are busy learning Tlingit songs and basic vocabulary. We continue working on body parts, weather, feelings, animals



Goosú i gúk? (Where is your ear?) Pre-K and K students practice with their body parts cards.

and objects in the classroom. Our new song is *Gáaxw Sheeyí (Herring Egg Song)*; gunalchéesh to Baby Raven Reads for the English version, and to Kaakal.aat Florence Marks Sheakley and Xwaanlein Virginia Oliver for the Tlingit lyrics. Next on our list is *Kadli It'j'i (Twinkle, Twinkle)* from Beginning Tlingit. During the month of May, we will study Tlingit terms for things found on the beach.



Darlene See was a special visitor in the 2-3 Class.

First Graders have several routines that we follow: we keep track of the days of the month with our *Dis Ya Wooxéiy* (calendar), and we talk about how we are feeling that day with *Wáa Sá Sh Teedinook?* (How Are You Feeling?) Along with those regular parts of our class, we are learning new vocabulary and short sentence patterns. A focus for this month is food and eating (a popular topic!); next month we will talk about beach critters and plants.

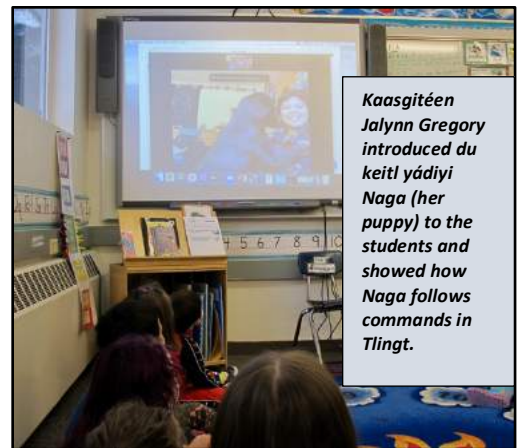


Second-Third graders dancing to the Unagax Seabird Song.

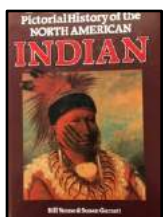
The Second-Third Grade Class had a visit from Darlene See, HIA Cultural Specialist and NPS Tribal House Coordinator. Darlene came and taught the class to sing the Unangax (Aleut) Seabird Song called *Jei Uwei Xaa*. She also taught them how to dance to the song.

The Fourth and Fifth Grades are learning Tlingit Kinship terms. Fifth graders are starting to put together their traditional Tlingit introduction speeches. These have been presented to the whole community as part of our Celebration *Ku.éex'*, usually held towards the end of the school year. This year's event is on hold, but we will still work on the students' speeches and be prepared to share them in some way.

UAS Practicum Student Kaasgitéen Jalynn Gregory is visiting and observing HCS Tlingit classes at all levels this semester. She is using Zoom for most of her observations and visits, but was able to spend a few days at our school in late March. The students were excited for the in-person visits; she played card games with the students in grades 4, 5 and 8, and did a special counting lesson with the younger grades. Gunalchéesh haat yigoodí, Kaasgitéen!



Kaasgitéen Jalynn Gregory introduced du keitl yáiyi Naga (her puppy) to the students and showed how Naga follows commands in Tlingit.



Gunalchéesh for donations:

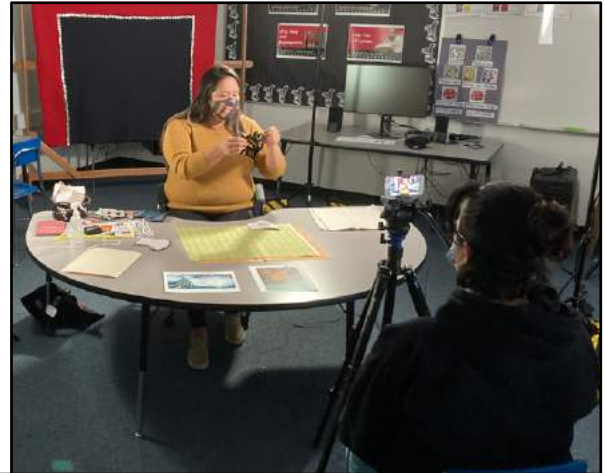
~~**Marian Kingsland** sent us a beautiful hard-bound book *Pictorial History of the North American Indian*; this book has been added to our Cultural Resource Library.

~~**Alice Haldane** donated a large bag of yarn, which we will use for future projects.

Middle School/High School/Tlingit Class



The students in the 8th grade Tlingit class delivered Valentine gift bags to 30 community elders. Each gift bag had a valentine card handmade by the 6th grade PE class. Included in each bag were two tea bags of s'ikshaldéen (Hudson Bay tea). Special chocolate bars went in the bags as well. These were made with NW Coast formline candy molds, a result of the partnership of the Hoonah Robotics group and NW Coast Formline class.



Carrie Lindoff came in as a guest teacher to show how to make cloth face masks. Students in grades 6-8 were all able to make their own masks with kits provided by Sealaska Heritage.



Regalia Making is an Elective class for Second Semester. Students are making their own vests. Pictures: Will working on a design for his vest, Krista and RJ starting on their beadwork, Anthony showing his Wolf crest. We are happy to have Carol Williams co-teaching this class with Heather Powell.



UAS student Kaasgitéen Jalynn Gregory played card games with the class during her in-person visit. She visits on a regular basis using Zoom.

Focus on Elective Classes

First Semester Art, taught by Rachel Priser

Electives have been a wonderful time to explore art and access a little creativity. We had a Graphic Design class where students used Canva to create posters, recipe cards, menus, advertisements and announcements. Students learned the Elements of Graphic design and then put those skills into practice.

The Mixed Media Art class had lot of different things going on. Students experimented with oil pastels, soft pastels, torn paper, collage, watercolor, and acrylic paints. This turned out to be both a relaxing and creative time where students not only learned the elements of art, but also got the chance to freely dabble in multiple types of art.

Aubree Hinchman did a beautiful watercolor of a sunset and trees reflecting in water. Sierra McClement created a wonderful piece that is made completely from torn paper pieces. Leah Moss turned what started as a mistake, into what we call in art "A Happy Accident" and made this amazing watercolor jellyfish.



Second Semester Art, taught by Renée Gray

Art has been fun to teach this semester. The first two weeks the students created paper mache animals, beach mobiles, recycled newspaper containers, and a tree of life. These students love the hands-on creativity that art gives them. They have guided directions but fluidity to develop unique and individual final products.



Creative Writing Elective, taught by Renée Gray

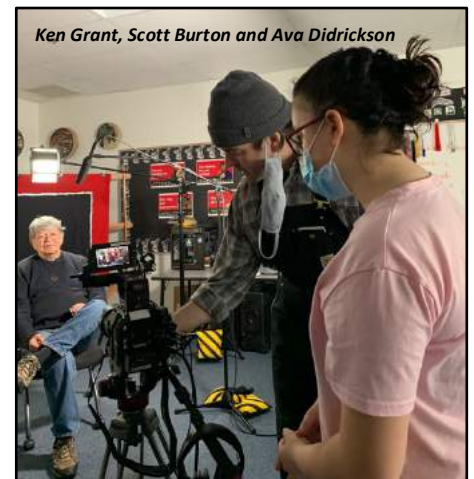
The Creative Writing class started with writing a children's book. We learned to read as writers, which is different from reading as readers. The students analyzed children's books to see how famous authors developed characters, included dialogue, and progressed the plot. Their books had to contain both narrative and dialogue, as well as an important childhood lesson. During the next Elective phase, the students will be sharing their books with some of the elementary students.



Northwest Coast Broadcasting

My name is Ava Didrickson. I am 12 years old, I'm in 6th grade, and I am Chookaneidí. I am in NW Coast Broadcasting and really enjoy it because I got to interview Miguel Contreras, Veronica Dalton, Ralph Watkins, and Heather Powell. I also got to learn how to work iMovie and how to edit. Another thing I got to work on is my Youtube channel. I got to share my knowledge on harvesting and document my language and culture.

I think this work is important because you have to have a lot of patience and can learn a lot about technology. My favorite thing so far is my Hudson Bay Tea video that I got to create. I also got to watch my grandpa Kenny Grant get interviewed. In Broadcasting you can learn so many valuable lessons and learn how to work big cameras. I think NWC Broadcasting is the right fit for me because I love learning new things about technology.



News from Ms. Steele's Preschool & Kindergarten

The Preschool and Kindergarten classroom has been a busy place the past few months! In ELA (English Language Arts), we have been working on blending our letter sounds in order to read words and being able to identify basic high frequency words. We have also been working on writing basic sentences and understanding basic concepts of print.

In math, we have been learning basic addition and subtraction skills. The students have also been working on being able to fluently count to 100. They have been taking part in many sensory activities,

such as making Oobleck, writing with different media, and sensory walks.



Making Oobleck during Read Across America Week

The class has also been learning about our community in relation to the rest of the world. We enjoyed many Dr. Seuss themed activities and dress up days during Read Across America Week. The students really love playing with their friends in the snow during recess, and listening to many, many stories. They are always eager and excited to keep learning and to participate in the class.



Cat in the Hat with her friends, Thing One and Thing Two

King Kong vs. Godzilla-- and the Benefits of Hard Work

If you were in the first grade classroom this year at Hoonah City Schools, you'd believe in two things: 1. King Kong is going to beat Godzilla in the new movie, and 2. Hard work pays off!

Let's start with the latter, hard work. By introducing cooperative learning structures into our daily mix, along with learning centers, our students work incredibly hard academically, but believe they are just playing with their friends. Our kids really seem to enjoy the engagement which has made the classroom a lot more fun for me. ***Please don't tell them this--they might catch on!*** The academic growth we are seeing is amazing and some students are even doing second grade work! In fact, our first graders read so well that we visit with our kindergarten "book-buddies" on Friday mornings to read to them the weekly stories from our text.

Unfortunately, I can't take any credit for this incredible academic achievement; it's all them, the students, daily grinding and putting in the time that is needed, doing the things that are

important for growth. That, along with some help from Mrs. Glenda Hutton, Mrs. Teresa McConnell, and Mrs. Sascha Smith in providing interventions for some of our incredible learners.

Now back to the first point, King Kong vs. Godzilla. Hey First Grade, if we keep this up, Godzilla will not stand a chance against us either! I could not be more proud of our kids! They are showing-up every single day, ready to learn something new and ready to work hard, and because of that, we are growing by leaps and bounds.



First grade got to have an in-person Tlingit lesson with guest teacher Kaasgitéen Jalyynn Gregory.

Second-Third Grade Class News

The 2nd and 3rd graders have had a very busy 3rd quarter. We have teamed up with Heather Powell's 8th graders to read traditional Tlingit stories and to perform some reader's theater fairy tales. Our 8th grade buddies helped the students to give each of their characters a voice and to make props that went along with their stories. On top of that, our class has spent several weeks learning about different habitats and the animals that live in them. Students have been working in class on animal research projects and on making dioramas that show their animal in its natural habitat.



We had a special visitor during our Tlingit lessons, Darlene See, who came and our taught our class the Aleut Seabird Song and dance. The students really enjoyed learning the song and the dance steps.



Darlene See

Our class is also beginning to work on a very special "Save the Herring" project. We have had several guest speakers coming to talk with us about the importance of herring and herring eggs to the local community, as well as the important role that herring play in our ocean. Our students are going to take their learning and turn it into a writing project and letter writing campaign. Their goal is to help everyone understand the importance of the herring and traditional egg gathering practices and to keep them both protected. Our students are very excited and encouraged that even though they are young, they can make a positive impact.



Practicing the Aleut Sea Bird song and dance.

I am very proud of how hard the students have been working and how much they have learned and grown. I am looking forward to another great quarter with this amazing group of learners!

Family Engagement Activities on Zoom



The Hoonah City Schools Family Engagement group had their first-ever Zoom meeting on March 12th, with another one planned for April 16th.

This group has not had an in-person gathering since October 16th of this school year. Since then, informational and activity packets have been sent home each month. In March, we decided to try a Zoom meeting, with a variety of speakers and topics.

We started the Zoom by watching a short video of the first Sealaska Heritage Celebration, held in Juneau in 1982. We were able to see a performance by the Hoonah Mt. Fairweather Dancers. That was followed by a jam session with songs and drumming by Lgéik'i Heather Powell.



Other activities that evening: a short discussion on gender norms and expectations, a Tlingit language game called Disappearing Pictures, a discussion of special activities happening in March, such as "Marching Through March", and a time for families to tell about programs and

classes they would like to see offered at our school. The evening ended with drawing for door prizes. Gunalchéesh for all who attended our first Family Engagement Zoom.



Our zoom meeting included a jam session.

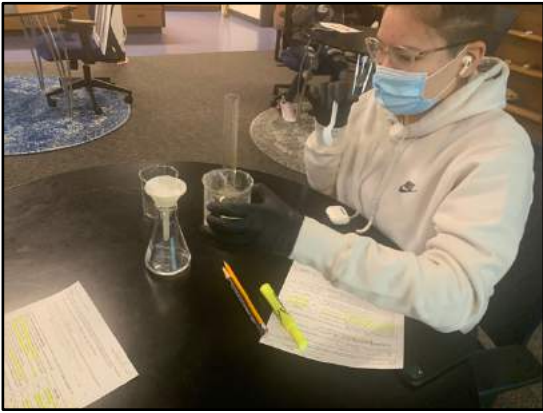
For April 16th, we will have a special guest to talk about her college experience. Candy Keown, a Class of 2005 Hoonah High School graduate, went on to earn a degree from Stanford University, and is now working for the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center. Candy will be with us on the Zoom to answer questions and give some advice to those thinking about college. This meeting will be from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. The school will send out a zoom link for those who wish to attend. We will again have a drawing for door prizes at the end of the meeting.



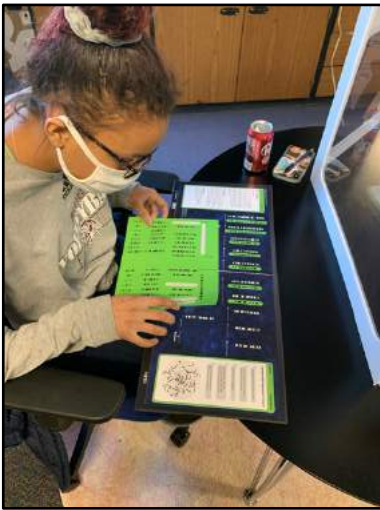
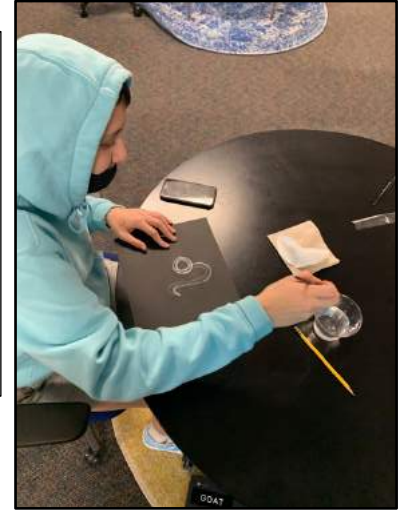
Spinning the wheel for door prizes.

What's Been Happening in High School and Middle School Science

News and Pictures from Ms. Tannehill-Smith



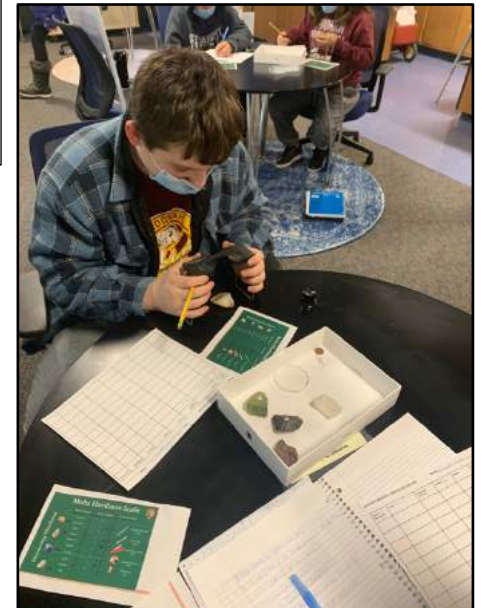
Chemistry students calculated the limiting and excess reagents in the amazing chemical reaction of calcium chloride and sodium carbonate in order to produce chalk! Left, Alona can be seen performing a gravity filtration to isolate the chalk product. Right, Olivia is painting with the chalk product because art and science are best friends! STEAM learning for the win!



← Leah can be seen matching autosomal chromosomes to their homologues in order to complete a human karyotype (picture of our chromosomes) to identify which genetic disorder is affecting this individual in our amazing genetics case study lab!



↑ Esias is testing the pH of mystery samples of liquid. He tests them using indicator paper and correctly correlates the color to the pH scale numerical value where he places them.



↑ Collin is using his knowledge of properties of rocks and minerals to identify a mystery set of samples. He tests each sample for hardness, cleavage patterns, acid reactivity, luster and color. Collin was able to correctly ID many of the rock and mineral samples because his data collection was so accurate!



↑ Aubree, Mia and Kali are the epitome of "teamwork makes the dream work!" They are designing a structure that can withstand the powerful shakes that earthquakes cause. They are designing this structure to hold an egg at the very top. They are building on a "shake quake" box that contains ping pong balls between two ipad cases and is held together by rubber bands. These ladies won the design challenge!

Fisheries Technology Dual Credit Class Offered for HCS Students

The Fisheries Technology dual enrollment course kicked off this March during the first elective phase of the semester. After meeting their UAS professor Lauren Wild, the students were introduced to fisheries in Alaska and got a more in-depth look at salmon, crab, and halibut fisheries.

The course is taught through pre-recorded video lectures online and cover a diverse array of topics including fish biology and life cycles, fishing vessels and seasons, fisheries management practices and agencies, conservation topics, and more. The HCS teacher in charge is Rachel Priser, who is working with HIA Environmental to present the class. To make it more engaging and relevant to Hoonah students, HIA Environmental has been helping coordinate field trips, guest speakers, and hands-on activities.

Students have expanded their recently acquired fisheries knowledge through a vessel tour and discussion with local commercial fisherman Stan Savland, salmon dissection and Hoonah



Harbor field trip with USFS fish biologist Neal Shoenfelder, Tlingit story sharing and respect discussion with HIA Cultural Specialist Darlene See, fisheries management and policy discussion with UAF PhD researcher Elizabeth Figus, and other supplemental activities such as a salmon hatchery movie and games on course material.

Not only can this unique and interdisciplinary opportunity help students in pursuit of higher education, it can guide them to new and exciting careers around topics they are passionate about. Thank you to everyone who's made this course possible so far!

Article and photos by Arianna Lapke, HIA Environmental's Youth Engagement Coordinator



Warrior Walk

Hoonah City Schools would like to proudly announce that the first annual Warrior Walk was a success! To celebrate International Women's Day* on March 8th, families, faculty, and students walked from the school to The Tunnel in honor of the strong women who have had a hand in shaping our experiences. Though the group was small in number, they were mighty in spirit! The wind howled and the sun hid behind the clouds, but still they persisted, taking strides to ensure the brave women of Hoonah were not forgotten.

Participants, young and old, excitedly shared stories about the woman they wished to honor during that walk. The enthusiasm was contagious! To hear each story of a Hoonah Warrior Woman was to briefly touch the heart of a strong nation. Without these heroes, without their stories—who are we?

Starting today, challenge yourself daily to commit one act of kindness for a special woman in your life!



**International Women's Day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.*



**Varsity Volleyball
Season Wrap-up**

The 2020-2021 Mix Six High School Volleyball season was far from “normal,” but as always – our Braves made the most of it. We had 18 student athletes complete the season and I couldn’t be more proud of their ability to adjust to new requirements, masking,

Hoonah Braves Mix Six Volleyball Team---Back: Edward Austin, Alejandro Contreras, Cooper Ross, Ethan Ruerup, Tyrell Cromer, RJ Didrickson. Anthony Johnson, Collin McClement; Kneeling: Sierra McClement, Alona Howland, Hallie Wilson, Leah Moss, Krista Howland, Kali Harris-Membreno, Kaci Jewell, Teresa Lewis; Front: Olivia Morrison

additional sanitizing, etc. We attempted to start our season in September, restarted in January, and finished in March.

Thank you to the alumni who willingly agreed to scrimmage with our Braves so that we could play in front of our family and friends. The kids were happy to showcase their skills on our home court for the first time in over a year. We have two seniors moving on at the end of the school year and we’d like to wish Ethan Ruerup & Cooper Ross the best in their future endeavors. Go Braves!

Coach Jessie Martin



Basketball Update

Hello Hoonah,

Coach Miguel here, giving an update on basketball. We currently do not have any games scheduled, but we are pushing to have games with Skagway at home

and possibly traveling to their community to play a couple of games. The Hoonah Braves are now in their full time season, meaning that practice is more than just 1-2 times a week like during preseason; instead we are trying our best to get in five practices a week. Within our Region 5, there are only a few teams that are participating, including Angoon, Skagway, Hoonah, and possibly Yakutat. Unfortunately, Kake did not have enough girls turn out for the team.

I am hoping that with this VERY different season, we are going to have at least some games at home. The only thing right now on the radar for Hoonah is a small regional tournament in Sitka near the end of May. Of course, everything is subject to change due to the situation with

Covid. We will be sure and notify the community when we have games scheduled.

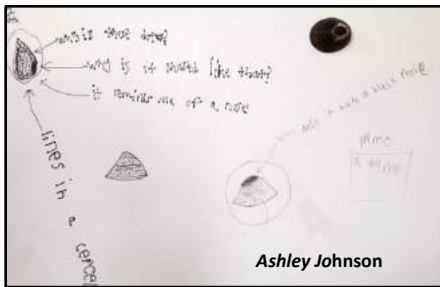
Photo from last year's season →



Art/Science Integration in the 2/3, 4th and 5th Grades

Second and third grade students have been practicing how to control their drawing tool to make the curving shapes of various ocean creatures. We have drawn cockle shells from observation, fish, and humpback whales. We have been adding new vocabulary and developing skills of duplication.

Fourth graders have used art as an impetus to discovery and questioning. The guiding phrase is INIRMO-Wo — which stands for *I notice, It reminds me of, I wonder*. We have



Ashley Johnson

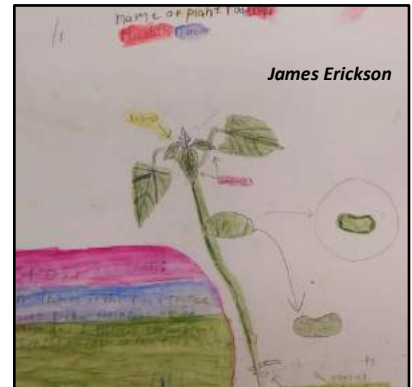
particularly focused on “it reminds me of”, developing the ability to think and articulate metaphors. They drew various objects from nature, both the entire object and a

close up view as seen through a jeweler’s loupe (a magnifying lens that fits right into the eye socket so that the artist can look and draw simultaneously while completely blocking out distractions.) They then applied that investigative approach to the color wheel, experimenting with color mixing across the color wheel, and identifying how to create muted browns and grays. Having learned the

impact of analogous (neighbor) colors versus complementary (across the street) colors, they are now creating dramatic representations of moving water, discovering how to use repeating lines and shapes to imply movement.

Fifth graders grew corn and beans to learn about seeds, sprouting and photosynthesis. They documented their “children” from the initial bean or kernel to mature plants. Jeweler’s loupes allowed them to study the fine details of their sprouting plants under magnification. They practiced their skills at drawing from observation and experimented with page design. All investigated how covering the leaves

with various shields impacted the plants. They also applied their skills with fractions and measuring to track their plants’ growth. Thanks to Glacier Bay National Park First Bloom program for providing extra materials so that all students could have individual art kits.



James Erickson

Art Elective in MS/HS: Sketch Explorations is Visual Communication of Daily Discoveries



Hadyn Gallagher

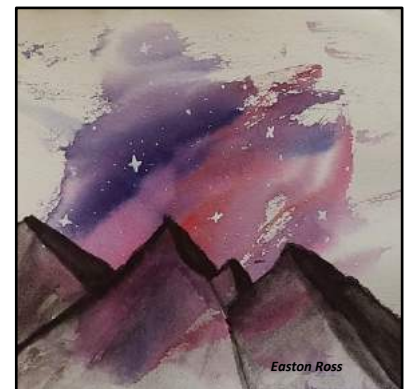
The third phase of this elective emphasized creative risk-taking in order to show the artistic process of discovery. Each class session began with a short physical warm-up and then a three-minute quick sketch. Many of the subjects of the quick sketches were instantly recognizable and showed real skill development. We then followed with the Phase focus: landscapes. We practiced both loose and more detailed watercolor landscape painting in a variety of settings: outside in the wind (remember how cold it was in January!), sitting in the school van (until the day it broke down while we were at the airport!), and using photographs back in the cozy classroom. We

also explored making images in watercolor and color pencil that conveyed particular emotions. We finished the phase by designing and creating personalized covers for the completed sketchbooks. The covers used lettering, texture and patterns, and intentional color choices.

Gunalchéesh to Art Instructor Stephanie Harold for these articles and pictures.



Sophie Didrickson



Easton Ross



HUNA HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Huna Heritage Foundation Supports our Students

Huna Heritage Foundation would like to commend all students for their commitment to education. We are grateful for schoolteachers and staff for the many things they do to ensure our youth receive a quality education. The graduating class of 2021 is also to be congratulated on their resilience and for reaching this momentous occasion through their hard work and dedication.

Huna Heritage Foundation supports students in all educational endeavors; scholarships are available for vocational training, college, university attendance, and to support cultural training and workshop participation. College scholarship deadlines are on May 1 for the summer and fall semesters and December 1 for students with a spring semester start. Vocational and cultural education scholarship applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Applications are easy to complete, and we are happy to help should you need it.

Huna Heritage Foundation has helped students with their educational goals for numerous vocational pursuits, including those seeking to earn their captain's license or commercial driver's license. Miguel Contreras works for Hoonah City Schools; one of his roles is the assistant teacher for the welding class. Miguel shares, "Attending the University of Alaska Anchorage to earn my degree in Welding wouldn't have been possible without the scholarships I received, including a full ride scholarship from UAA. I encourage anyone and everyone who wants to earn certifications, degrees, and advanced education to seek scholarship support from organizations like Huna Heritage Foundation and directly from the school you wish to attend. Your educational goals are attainable and within reach."

We also offer scholarships to support participation in instructional programs, workshops, and activities that enhance knowledge, appreciation and use of traditional cultural practices and artforms. Levi Mills is a former cultural education scholarship recipient who shared, "Gunalchéesh to Huna Heritage Foundation for helping me to attend the HO'OILINA: Empowering our Traditions of Exploration gathering. This was an amazing experience. It helped those

of us from Alaska to join our relatives in Hawai'i to stand on the foundation of those that came before us, and help to reaffirm our connections and shared responsibilities in caring for our world."

Levi is one of many recipients of our cultural education scholarship. Other recent awards include weaving and skin sewing classes, and formline workshops. Huna Heritage Foundation recognizes that advanced education takes many forms, and we encourage those pursuing ways to strengthen their cultural knowledge base.

We are also proud to support college students on their educational paths. Ethan Gray is a recent graduate of Hoonah and now attends Bellevue College, working towards a degree in Computer Science. Ethan is a Huna Heritage scholarship recipient and said, "The Huna Heritage Scholarship helps to provide Hoonah graduates with an opportunity to attend a college or a university. There are not many local scholarships for Hoonah students, so their dedication towards our student's post-high school education is extremely important. We are so thankful for their commitment to students."

Our commitment to helping and encouraging students extends beyond financial support and includes help with your application and even applications for other scholarships. Above all, we want to encourage anyone seeking college, vocational, or cultural training to reach out to us for assistance. We are honored and ready to help you achieve your educational goals.

Visit our website at www.hunaheritage.org for more information and to access applications. You can also reach us by phone at 907-789-8582 or email Amelia Wilson at amelia.wilson@hunaheritage.com



Photo taken at the HO'OILINA: Empowering our Traditions of Exploration gathering in Hawaii, May 2019. Conference participants James Hart, Levi Mills holding his son Matthew, and Konrad Frank.

HCS Partners with HIA on Volunteer Honors Program

A community service program for Hoonah High School students has been launched by the HCS Student Government and Hoonah Indian Association. The Volunteer Honors Program coordinates existing volunteer opportunities with new interactive events and identifying and responding to community need.

In addition to being fun and exciting, the Volunteer Honors Program:

1. Improves a college or university application
2. Strengthens a job application
3. Makes you an agent for positive change in your community

A network of great partners is collaborating to engage student volunteers in fulfilling community action that results in acquisition of new skills and realization of the positive impact they can make in their community.

Hoonah Recyclers News: Thank you to Alaska Marine Lines for transporting our container to & from Seattle. Thank you to the City of Hoonah for allowing storage of our container on the tongue of the blue warehouse dock. Thanks to these folks and additional persons unacknowledged for donations of metals: Elena and Howard Diamond, Jessie & Jeremy Martin, Paul & Sally Dybdahl, Karen S Mills, Miryam Frances, Nicki & John Shelton, Frank Wright, Jr.

The Recyclers will be partnering with HIA and other local groups on this year's Earth Day Cleanup on April 24th. See poster → →

Watch for possible elementary school playground improvements now that Covid-19 restrictions are being relaxed. \$83 was deposited from donation cans at Colette's and Hoonah Liquor. Gunalchéesh to everyone for your support.

Nature Photography Class

With Ian Johnson



- For Middle & High School Students
- May 1st, 10:30 a.m., Airport Trail
- Meet at the airport parking lot at 10:30
- Bring any camera or smartphone
- Sponsored by HIA Environmental Dept.
- To RSVP or ask questions, email jillian.schuyler@hiatribe.org



Photo from HIA: berry-picking and helping prepare for the Traditional Food Fair is just one of many volunteer opportunities in Hoonah. Pictured above, Michael Cheslock, Jeremy Johnson, Ian Johnson, Ariana Lapke, Amelia Wilson, Dylan Johnson, Sean Williams

If you are a high school student or parent who is interested or have questions about the Volunteer Honors Program, you can contact Deborah Badertscher at

badertscherd@hoonahschools.org or Jillian Schuyler Jillian.Schuyler@hiatribe.org. If you have volunteer ideas, please reach out and get in touch!

William & Mary Johnson
Youth Center

EARTH DAY CLEANUP!

**Saturday April 24th
10am-2pm**

Come join us at the William & Mary Johnson Youth Center to get your Litter Clean Up bag and pick up trash around Hoonah! There will be exciting youth prizes & more!

Due to COVID-19, there will be no lunch and social distancing with masks will be required.

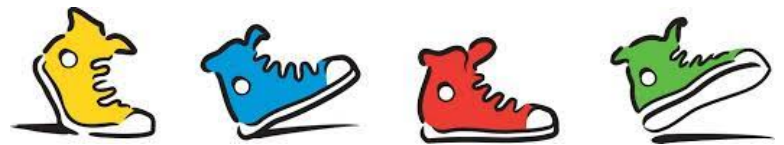
Hoonah Recyclers, Hoonah Indian Association,
City of Hoonah, Forest Service

Boxholder

Hoonah City Schools Newsletter
March-April 2021

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Marching Through March

And just like that, students and staff of Hoonah Schools have crossed the finish line! Way to go, walkers! For those just tuning in, our district has had the opportunity to take part in a virtual walk-a-thon as we marched our way from the Juneau International Airport all the way to the Seattle Space Needle. Our dogs were barking by the time we crossed the finish line, but it was totally worth it! The 1,118-mile journey started on March 1st and ended on the 31st, just in time for spring. The classes with the greatest number of steps earned a well-deserved pizza and ice cream party.

Without further delay, let's see how we did!

- 4th Grade: 511 miles
- 2nd/3rd Grade: 499 miles
- 5th Grade: 360 miles
- 1st Grade: 323 miles
- K: 317 miles

We hope to see you all in 2022 for our next annual virtual walk. Pack some sunscreen and a beach towel, because we're going to walk all the way to Florida!

Dates to Remember

Family Engagement Zoom Event	April 16
Earth Day Clean-Up	April 24
Elective Phase	Apr 26-May 7
Nature Photography Class	May 1
Family Engagement Event	May 14
Memorial Day Holiday	May 31
Elective Phase	June 1-10
Last Day for Seniors	June 4
Graduation	June 7
Last Day of School	June 10

The Northwest Coast Broadcasting Team recently had the honor of filming Darlene See teaching the Unangax Seabird Song to the 2-3 class, and Auntie Carol Williams telling a story to Mr. Browning's class. The students, who were at full attention, loved having the culture bearers in their classes, asked questions and made poignant observations. The broadcasting team also dropped in on the regalia, yoga, wood, small engine and welding classes for a video project that will feature some of HCS's many cool learning opportunities. Please like and subscribe to Hoonah City Schools' YouTube page for these upcoming videos.