

Hoonah Schools Newsletter

March 2022

Héentaanáx Dis



Elizabeth Peratrovich Day Observed

Hoonah 6th grade students presented a Readers' Theater to the 4th and 5th grade classes on February 16th, which is designated as Elizabeth Peratrovich Day in Alaska. This presentation re-enacts the hearing in the Alaska Territorial Legislature during which Elizabeth gave her famous speech in favor of passage of the Anti-Discrimination Act. The 6th graders all had parts to play. Jenna Jack played Elizabeth, and James Erickson had the role of her husband Roy Peratrovich. Others in the class took the parts of the different legislators, some in favor of passage of the Bill, others very much opposed.

After the presentation, the 4th & 5th graders sang the Elizabeth Peratrovich Rap, composed by Daaljini Mary

Folleti. The High School Tlingit Class watched the documentary film *For the Rights of All: Ending Jim Crow in Alaska*. In the lower elementary grades, we sang songs and read books about Elizabeth.



We Celebrate Reading at HCS

Guest Readers came to school for *Read Across America Week* the first week in March. Chief of Police Eric Hurtado, Officer Paul Comolli and EMS Team Member Jack Diamond and others read to the elementary classes. Older students came down and read with younger students as well. Classes made *oobleck*, wore pajamas to school, had special days for crazy socks and crazy hair, and participated in all kinds of fun activities to celebrate reading.



Superintendent's Message



Dear Parents and Community,

There are a couple of things I would like to call your attention to this month.

We have reached a turning point in the pandemic, thanks to all who took precautions to keep themselves and those around them safe. Right now, I am preparing to meet with our

Covid Response Team to reconsider our mitigation plan; specifically, our masking requirements and risk level. Although we expect to open things up a bit, we will maintain an open road back should Covid cases spike in Hoonah Schools.

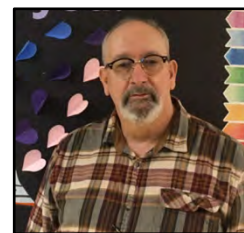
Because we don't want to go backward, it will be important for everyone to remember what they know about how Covid is transmitted and how to stay safe. Currently, the achievement levels of our students and their mental health are as important as staying healthy. Please stay diligent as we approach Spring Break and the many events coming up in Juneau.

Something else I would like to call your attention to is the need for year-round teacher housing. I received a resignation recently from a staff member needing to resign this spring because they have been asked to leave their residence and they have no place to live. It seems that the landlords want to rent to another entity for more money for several months. This is not an unusual situation and causes teachers to move on to somewhere that they can call home for the whole year. If you care about keeping quality teachers here in Hoonah and have a rental you will rent to a teacher for 12 months, please contact the School District Office so that we can pass your name along to incoming teachers. We are currently looking to rent beginning in August. Thank you very much for your support.

Norma Holmgaard

School Superintendent

Principal's Message



Dear Hoonah Parents and Community Members,

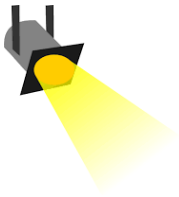
I can't believe that over half the school year has come and gone. I have been observing some wonderful happenings going on in the school. We just went through Spirit Week and we are now celebrating Dr. Seuss this week. We have wonderful teachers who give their whole heart and soul by providing excellent education for your children. Considering all that we have gone through in regards to the Covid 19 mandates, it is wonderful that we have been able to have an athletic program this year. Our students have been able to travel to different competitions and they are presently in Juneau to participate in basketball regionals. I want to thank all of our hard-working staff members, the parents for their endless support, and the School Board members for their faith and trust in us.

Best Regards,

Mr. Snow, Hoonah Schools Principal

Covid Mitigation Plan Update. *As of the week before Spring Break, the school Covid Response Team had revised the Plan at the school. A letter was sent out to all school families and shared with staff.*

1. Voluntary Masking: a. All students and staff will have the option of masking b. Parents may instruct their children to wear a mask. If the parent notifies the school of this, school staff will do their best to reinforce masking for these students. c. Masks will be provided for those wanting them. d. School staff will be diligent about monitoring students to address teasing regarding masking.
2. We will discontinue morning temperature checks.
3. Masking will be voluntary for spectators at public events.
4. If a student in a classroom tests positive for Covid he/she will be sent home and must isolate for 5 days, returning on day 6 if they have no symptoms.
5. All students in a classroom where a positive Covid Case was identified, and their teacher must "test-to-stay." (This means they will test daily at school for 5 days.) If their test is negative, they will remain in school. In addition, masking will be required for these 5 days.
6. If a student is regularly exposed to Covid in their home or anywhere they may frequent daily, they must quarantine for 5 days, returning on day 6 with no symptoms.
7. All students and coaches, advisors and travelers traveling outside of Hoonah must test on Day 3 and 5 of their return.
8. Whole school testing will be done after vacations and major events where students and/or staff will be in contact with many others who are likely to be unmasked. Testing will be announced.
9. Anyone, staff, or student, traveling out of Hoonah must test upon their return to Hoonah on Day 3 and on Day 5.
10. Athletes will continue to be tested weekly.



Spotlight on New Staff—Hoonah City Schools recently welcomed two new teachers.

Darcy Higgins

Hello! My name is Darcy Higgins, and I am the new Middle/High School Science teacher. I grew up in Baltimore, Maryland, but spent much of my adult life in Appalachian Ohio. I managed an environmental education program for a community non-profit there. It's very important to me that kids get to know the forests and waters of their home. I love going outside, gathering plants, and exploring!

My sister is a park ranger at Denali National Park, and she told me, "Darcy, if you like the outdoors, you'll love Alaska." So, I began to visit and work a few summer jobs, and she was right—Alaska is where I want to be! Luckily my partner, Julian, also loves Alaska, and was excited to move to Hoonah with me.



When I walked into the science classroom, the first thing to greet me was the giant hydroponics garden that Mr.

Derenoff and Ms. Powell started! I could tell right away that I would love it here if folks were growing plants in my room. I appreciate how committed everyone in the school is to creating good experiences for the kids, and it has been so much fun to get to know the thoughtful, interesting students here.

Before long, I had people offering to take me out gathering cockles and setting crab traps – all new experiences for me, since I haven't lived near the ocean in a long time! I can't wait to learn more from everyone about hunting and gathering responsibly here.

This year, I hope to build strong relationships with the students, and to plan some opportunities to do some outdoor learning.



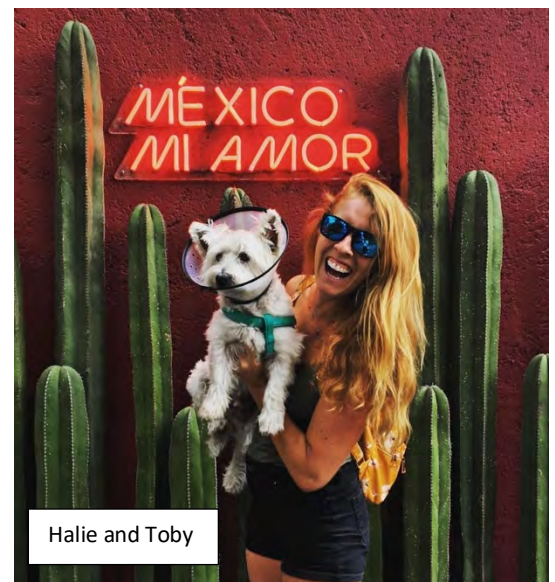
Photo: 7th and 8th graders in Science class make observations of "elephant toothpaste" to figure out if a chemical reaction has occurred. Carlos and Gerred look for bubbles to see if a new gas was created by the reaction.

Halie Mahoney is the Social

Studies teacher in the high school. She is from Colorado, but has lived all over. Most recently, she was living in Fairbanks and the surrounding area. She went to college in Michigan, and her family lives in the South now.

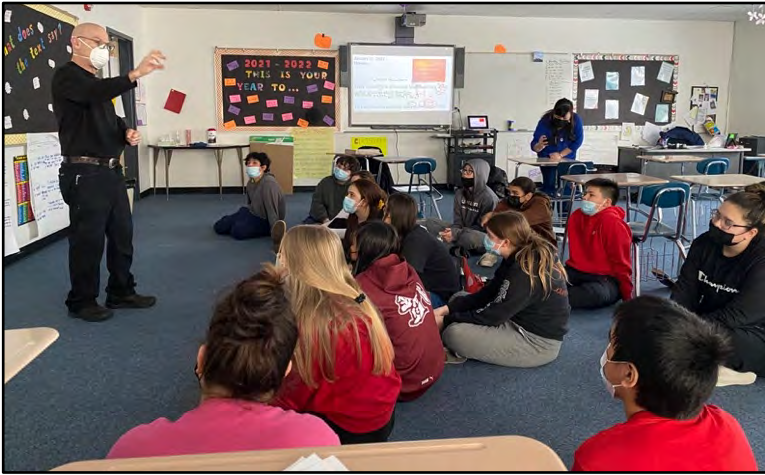
When asked about what she likes to do when not working, Halie responded: *I love to travel and adventure! I have traveled around all 50 states and all the continents. I love to read and write and learn about different cultures, countries, peoples, and animals. I love the simplicity of nature. I love exploring outside with my dog Toby, and I love winter sports.*

And her early impressions of Hoonah, our school and our kids? *Hoonah is wonderful. It is insanely beautiful everywhere I look, and I already saw a whale in the bay. I cannot wait to see the bears, too! I really like it here, and all of the students have been really sweet to me.*



Halie and Toby

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.



**Storytelling Workshop
Presented for Hoonah Students**
Hoonah City Schools' 4th through 8th grade students were blessed with the opportunity to learn from Brett Dillingham, thanks to funding from Huna Heritage Foundation. Brett, a renowned writer and storyteller, spent a week teaching students the art of writing a story and then using voice, movements, and volume to bring it to life.

In one week, the students brainstormed, wrote, practiced and

performed stories that were based off of photographic archives that are posted on the Huna Heritage website. The smiles and self-esteem boosts were so amazing after the performances. Thank you to everyone who was involved in making this happen!



Goodbye to Miguel

Miguel Contreras recently resigned from working at the school in order to take a new job. We asked him if he would tell about his years working here, and a little about his new position with Hoonah Indian Association.



I worked within the school for five years and had many different roles, from Special Ed para to a teaching position. My first job with the school was coaching middle school basketball for the boys and the girls. My second year I worked under Renee Gray as a classroom aide and supported students in all subjects that included, math, science, English, and some history courses. I followed up with being a certified referee for basketball, and then acquiring two different coaching positions within the same year: cross country running, and then the high school girls basketball coach. I am very thankful to be able to give back to my community in many different roles and enjoy working with the future leaders of our

community.

With time I began to work with kids in Physical Education, and I taught the grades K-8 every day for about 60-90 minutes. depending on the age group all while holding these coaching positions. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic starting back in 2020, I was unable to continue my middle school sports position because of the severe risk factors that play into the contact sport. I then began to look for more opportunities outside of the school in order to serve my community youth in a different fashion. I recognized the lack of youth programs to educate students on real life skills and supporting them in life and not just focusing on their academics.

I am now working for the Hoonah Indian Association as a Youth Program Coordinator. This position entails creating healthy and safe spaces for youth to lead the conversations and advocate for the life skills they are interested in learning more about. Some examples include: relationships (friends, significant other, partners, family), educational support for homework, tutoring, drugs and alcohol education, and many more. The goal of the program is to meet students where they are, and to bring them closer to their own culture. Among other activities, we will be hosting dinners and sponsoring fun outdoor subsistence events. We will be supporting our local youth and helping them find their own identity by asking the following questions: *Who am I? Where am I? Where do I want to go? How do I get there?*

I am very excited to be helping support youth in navigating through life and the highs and lows that it will bring. My personal goal is to support the youths' voice, and teach them skills that they can carry with them for a lifetime.

We want to say a big Gunalchéesh to Miguel for all he has contributed to our school, and wish him all the best in his future position. Note: he does plan on continuing to coach the Varsity Girls Basketball Team. Photo: Girls Varsity Senior Night

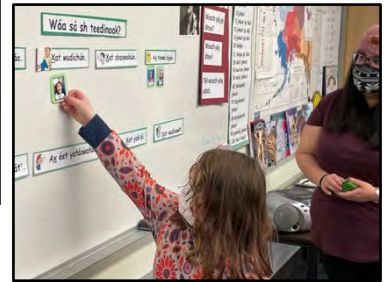
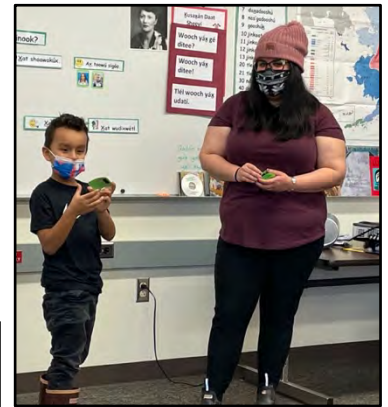




Tlingit Language and Culture Classes In the Elementary School

Taught by K'ashGé Daphne Wright and Shaa Deik Cristina Smith

Elementary classes meet for Tlingit four or five times a week. In the lower grades, we have worked on calendar, feelings, colors, animals, weather, winter clothes, food and simple verbs and phrases. We use games, songs, picture cards, sign language, choral speaking and lots of repetition to help in our language learning.



“Wáa sá sh teedinook” is an ↗ activity that we do in the PreK, K and 1st grades. Students come up and choose a phrase that describes how they are feeling, and put their picture under it. →

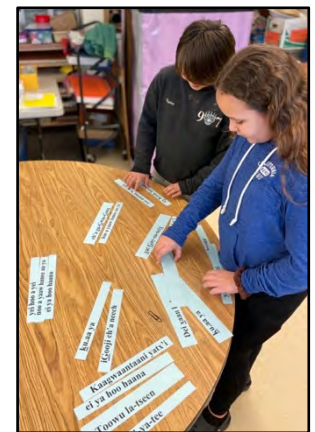


↑ Kindergartners and Ms. Steele sing “Kusaxán Daa Sheeyí” (The Song About Love) with hand motions. The students took home the song lyrics, with instructions to teach it to their family. (See lyrics below.)



← Third graders have started playing the card game *Ast'éix Nagú* (Go Fish.) ↑ In these pictures, they are using animal cards to play the game. The goal is for the students to stay in Tlingit as they play the game.

The fourth and fifth grade classes have started work on their traditional introduction speeches. They have added kinship terms to their vocabulary, and have practiced using simple phrases and verbs to talk about food and eating. A new card game that we have started to play is *Sh Kahaadí Kux'awóos'i* (Crazy Questions). This game was developed years ago by the first group of high



school students to take Tlingit Language as a class. Recently, teachers Daphne Wright and Cristina Smith have made two new card sets for the 4th-5th grades. We continue to work on traditional music; recently we began to study the lyrics to *Tsu Heidei Shugaḡtootaan* and *Geiyáḡ Éesh*.

Students worked in pairs to put the *Geiyáḡ Éesh* lyrics in the correct sequence.



← Jeff Skaflestad from Huna Heritage stopped by the Tlingit classroom to give us our own copies of the Huna Clan Lineage book, fresh from the printers. This book will help our students as they research their own lineage and learn about the different Hoonah clans. Gunalchéesh, Huna Heritage!

Kusaxán Daa Sheeyí
(The Song About Love)
Iḡsixaḡán, iḡsixaḡán (I love you)
Aadóo sá isixaḡán? (Who do you love?)
Ḳat isixaḡán gé, Ḳat isixaḡán gé?
(Do you love me?)
Wooch tudziḡán, wooch tudziḡán!
(We love each other!)

Middle and High School Tlingit Language and STEAM Classes Update Taught by Lgéik'i Heather Powell

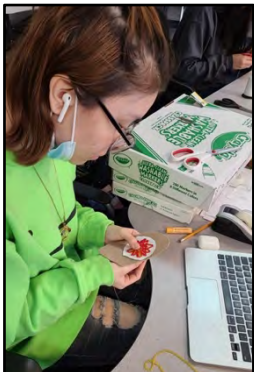
Students in grades 6-12 worked together to grow vegetables from a hydroponic tower. These veggies were used for salads and shared with younger students. The pictures at the right show the tower, and 9th & 10th graders sharing salads with elementary classes and Tlingit teacher Mrs. Wright.



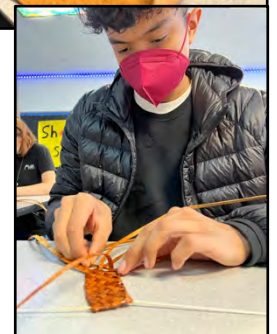
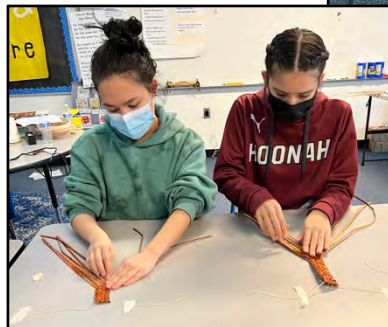
This project is part of a partnership with the SHI Steam (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) Program, Tlingit Language and Science classes. Lgéik'i and Mr. Derenoff are a part of a STEAM Cohort with Sealaska Heritage Institute, helping to bring Language, Culture, Science, Art, Math, and Technology together for our students at HCS.



Science teacher Darcy Higgins worked with students to learn about pH levels and the growth of plants, as well as looking in the microscopes to see the parts of the plants close up. The students also worked with Ms. Harold to draw and document plant growth through art. The Science class learned about the molecular makeup of s'ikshaldéen (Hudson Bay Tea) and then made bath bombs with it.



The high school STEAM students worked on beading and weaving projects with Lgéik'i Heather Powell. Auntie Sonya Johnson visited the class to share her weaving expertise. Uncle Ralph Wolfe from Yakutat also joined the class while he was in town with the basketball team. At right, Olivia made mocassins using beaded tops made by her great-grandmother Esther Kaze. Other photos: Susan Bradford working on her beading, Alona Howland, Rosanna Lackey, Abby Stevenson, Krista Howland and Tyrell Cromer work on cedar bark headbands.



News from Ms. Steele's Preschool and Kindergarten Class

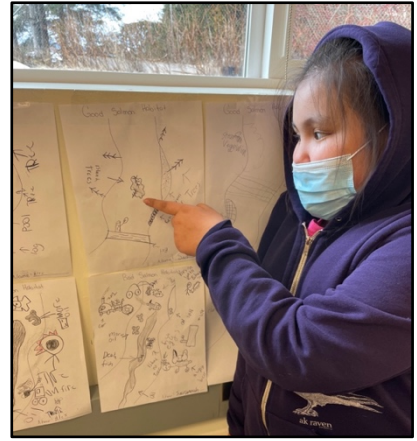
The Preschool and Kindergarten classroom has been a busy place the past few months! In English Language Arts, we have been working on blending and segmenting our letter sounds in order to read words, sentences, and even short stories. We have also been working on writing and understanding the basics on how sentences are formed. In Math, we have been focusing on being able to count to 100 fluently by tens and ones. The students have also been identifying shapes and sorting objects by size.

The class has also been taking part in various science experiments, such as making snow volcanoes and growing our own class plant. We had a great time during Read Across America Week and the dress up days and Dr. Seuss activities to go with it. The students are always eager and excited to keep on learning and to participate in the class! The students really enjoy being in the classroom with their friends and show extreme kindness in their friendships.



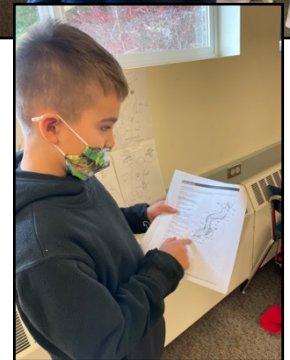
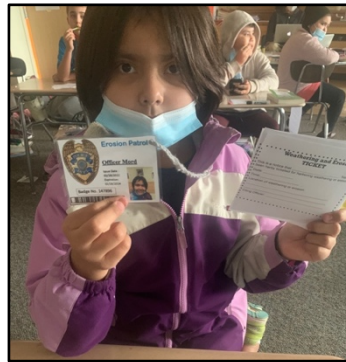
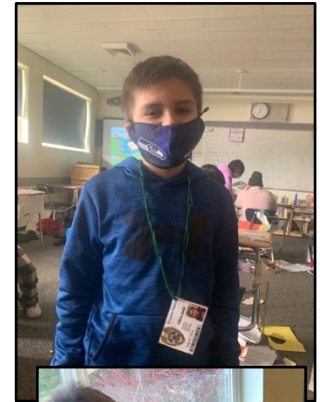
4th Grade Erosion Patrol

The 4th graders have been immersed in a unit about weathering and erosion. This unit focused on erosion and weathering while incorporating several different subjects: art, language arts, science and social studies. They started by first exploring what erosion and weathering is through science experiments, field trips and research. Students were at the same time discovering what good and bad salmon habitat looks like and how erosion and weathering can play a role in this. Throughout the unit students created an art project with Ms. Harold where they integrated information they learned to create an art piece representing good salmon habitat. Students are now ready to put their information to the test.



The 4th grade class has been working hard to graduate Weathering and Erosion Studies. Once graduated, students will become the Weathering and Erosion Patrol with the ability to ticket citizens for having weathering or erosion. This highly intelligent group of kids have put themselves through rigorous studies about weathering and erosion and can now use these skills to identify erosion and weathering in their community.

Update: The 4th graders have all now graduated from Weathering and Erosion Patrol School and have gained their Erosion Patrol Badges. You may get a notice that you are harboring weathering or erosion from our educated patrol team. Tickets may be out now.



Weathering and Erosion TICKET

This is a notice that _____
has been hereby ticketed for harboring
weathering or erosion.

- Date: _____
- Time: _____



Fourth graders and other elementary and middle school students traveled to Juneau to play basketball February 3-5. Pictured here with Coach Louie White, Sr. are the younger group, in grades 2 to 5.

Library News

From Librarian Marti Lee

You asked, so here it is! This poster shows how to access World Book and enjoy hundreds of articles, learning games, eBooks, and more. The contents are divided into levels from early learning to advanced. Use the Login: hoonahcsd and Password: worldbook. Then choose your level and explore!

Do you ever wish you had access to more books, eBooks, audiobooks and movies for your whole family here in Hoonah? I want you to know you can check out these items free of charge through the Juneau Public Library. Here is how you do it: Call Mail Services at **907 586-5379** to begin the process. They will walk you through the steps of checking out items and mail them to Hoonah with a return envelope and postage. It is that easy for you and your family to access these materials for your learning enjoyment. I encourage you to give it a try!



More Library News:

Middle School/High School **After School Study Hall**
Reading, Writing, Math Help or come and check out books and read.

Library

3:30 - 4:30

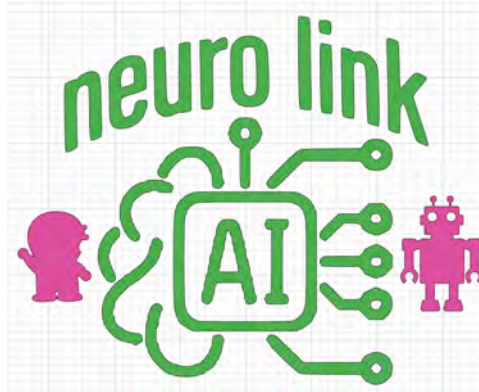
Monday – Tuesday – Wednesday - Thursday

Gunalchéesh to NC State Visitors

Students from North Carolina State came to Hoonah the week of March 14-18 to volunteer in our school and experience life in Hoonah. They spent time in various classrooms, teaching, helping out, and interacting with our students.

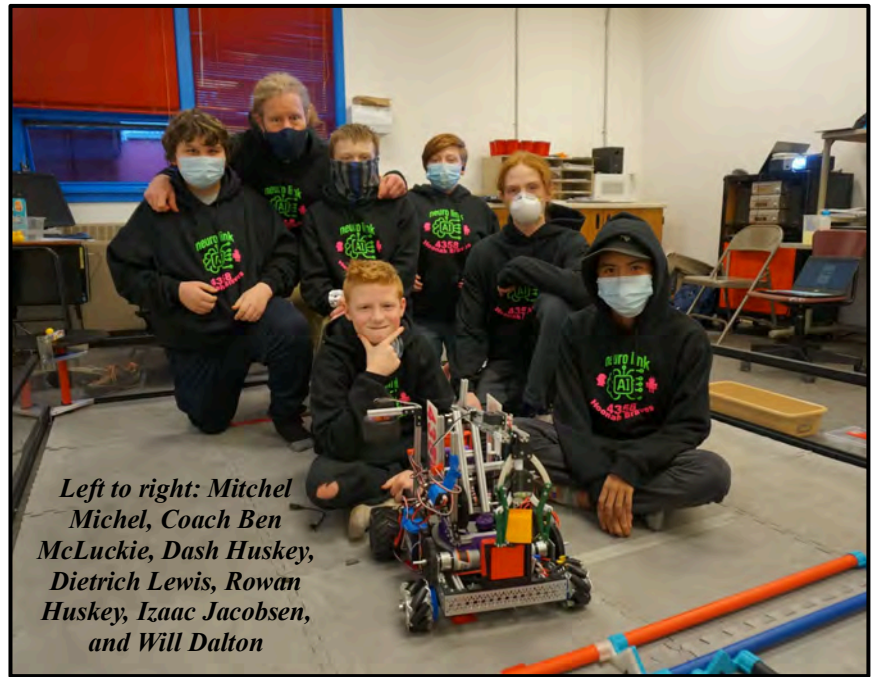
The Middle School STEAM class worked with NC State aerospace and engineering students to create bridges to carry loads. Perimeters had to be 20 inches long and carry at least 5 lbs. Bridges will be tested after Spring Break to see who made the strongest.





Robotics Team Report

Our Neuro-Link robotics team did Hoonah proud with six competitive matches and winning the coveted “Innovative Award” in a field of 10 teams at the Remote Robotics Qualifier February 10-12, 2022. All the teams shared the misfortune that they were canceled from their regular in-person Regional Qualifier due to Covid safety, so it was wonderful that a special version of this year’s game was created that could be played remotely, almost like a game of Solitaire. The other teams hailed from Juneau, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Cordova, Skagway, and Napaskiak, so it really was an all-Alaska competition representing both small and big schools.



Left to right: Mitchel Michel, Coach Ben McLuckie, Dash Huskey, Dietrich Lewis, Rowan Huskey, Izaac Jacobsen, and Will Dalton

Each match consists of two modes of play. In autonomous mode, the robot moves entirely on its own as it tries to complete a half-dozen tasks, using pre-programmed code that has to act on sensor input entirely on its own. Consider autonomous mode as a measure of how smart the team made their robot. Neuro-Link’s robot placed the 4th highest scores in autonomous. In driver controlled mode, the robot is controlled wirelessly by two drivers. The success of the robot is a combination of the robot’s abilities and the practiced skills of the two drivers. After six matches, Neuro-Links ranked in 7th place. See <https://www.firstinspires.org/robotics/ftc> for details of the game.

Along with gameplay, the robot teams and their robot engineering are evaluated by a panel of engineers from around the state. The “Innovative Award” presented to the Neurolinks “celebrates the team that thinks outside the box and has the ingenuity, creativity, and inventiveness to make their designs come to life.” For example, the Neuro-links modified an apple picker design, 3d printed the parts, and built it into the arm of their robot to efficiently pick up box and sphere shaped ‘cargo’ that was all about the size of an apple. Ingenious!

The Hoonah Robotics Club is always looking for new members at the beginning of the season in September, grades 7 – 12. No previous knowledge needed - we will get you up to speed! There are team roles for every interest – coding, building, 3d modeling, journaling with sketching, social outreach, fundraising, team management, and more! All you really need is a desire to create while having fun, and a commitment to the team.

Coach Ben McLuckie

Girls Varsity Basketball Season Wrap-up

The 2021-2022 Basketball Season was a very memorable one. We started off the season with the largest team I have coached since middle school, my very first year. The Hoonah Lady Braves had a roster of double digits; the team included seniors Hallie Wilson, Sierra McClement, and Olivia Morrison; juniors Alona Howland, Cheyanne Jack, and Teresa Lewis; freshmen Krista Howland and Kali Harris; and eighth graders Paige Woitte and Chloe Lane.

For our season opener we had the opportunity to play against Thunder Mountain JV/C team on their home floor during Christmas Break. We played hard and got better each game, but fell short in the end. It was an eye-opener for how much work we had to put into the season, and we got to work as soon as we could. As soon as we arrived home from the Juneau set of games, Hoonah had a terrible outbreak of Covid and we had to shut down not only school, but also practice. We lost three full weeks of January basketball and had to reschedule games because of the severe risk of transmitting the illness.

Thankfully the numbers fell to a safe risk level, and we got to play a few conference games down in Klawock at the end of January. Despite only having four days of practice before traveling to a competitive community, the Hoonah Lady Braves did not count themselves out. They managed to hold Klawock to only four points in the first quarter, battling to the end each night. Their determination was amazing to watch and they truly showed their competitive nature against the regional champion team.

Headed into February, we had five games in a row due to rescheduling. We opened the week of basketball against the Thunder Mountains JV team and came out with a great morale



boosting win on the first night. There is nothing better than opening your season games at home with a win on the home court. Unfortunately, we fell short on Night Two, but the loss humbled us to work harder the rest of the week. On Night Three, we had the opportunity to play against the alumni women. It was a

great experience and I am glad the alumni took advantage of the opportunity to help us learn on the court. Quite often



Paige Woitte, Kali Harris, Kaci Jewell, Cheyanne Jack, Sierra McClement, Cheyanne Jack, Chloe Lane, Teresa Lewis, Krista Howland, Olivia Morrison, Alona Howland, Hallie Wilson

during the game, I would hear them giving tips and suggestions to the team on where to be, what to look for, etc.

We rounded out the week with conference games against the Skagway Panthers. That is really when our best basketball was played together. Our defense was immaculate and we showed how badly we wanted to win. We played together and focused on defensive stops first, scoring second. We had a press that worked very well and lead us into winning both nights at home.

The following weekend was Senior Night for Sierra, Hallie and Olivia against a very competitive team, the Angoon Eagles. On Night One, our nerves were very high from the long week of basketball the weekend before, and unfortunately, the Braves fell short of a win. Re-evaluating the situation for Night Two, we came out with the goal of coming together as a team for our last home game of the season. At the end of the first half, the Braves were down, but did not count themselves out. We had to focus on getting stops in order to get back into the game, and that is exactly what we did. We put a press on the Eagles and under pressure, we were able to attain the ball and put it up to score, leading us to a win for our last game together on our home court.

The next weekend we traveled to Kake to play the T-Birds for their senior set of games. It was one of the craziest environments I personally have coached in, but I would say that it was one of the scrappiest and most fun set of games we have ever played in since the last normal year before the pandemic. The Lady Braves went to war with this T-Bird team and hustled until the last buzzer. The lead was switched with each shot that went in until the final minutes of the game each night, but unfortunately the Braves fell short of the wins and headed into Regionals seeded at #3.

Continued on page 14



Varsity Boys Basketball Season Wrap-Up

The high school boys basketball team just wrapped up their season the first week of March. We started off the regional tournament seeded 7th (out of 8) and played the #2 seed Kake. The boys played hard, but lost that game. We then moved to the losers bracket and played Thorne Bay. We beat them on Friday morning and earned the chance to play Skagway later that day. We got out to about a ten-point lead by half time. Skagway came back in the second half, but we were able to hold on and beat them by one point. It was a very exciting game!

With that win we moved on to play Yakutat to see who would play Klawock for second place and a trip to State. We played Yakutat very close, but came up short at the end of the game. Klawock ended up beating Yakutat by only one point in the second-place game. The boys had a great season and regional tournament. We came in seeded 7th and took 4th place. Izaak Jacobsen made the All-Academic Team, Izaak and Jermaine Johnson made the Good Sports Team, and Tyrell Cromer made All-Conference.

Update: Due to unavoidable circumstances, the Kake Thunderbirds, Region V Champs, and third place Yakutat Eagles were not able to attend the State Tournament in Anchorage March 17-19. As a result, the Hoonah Braves went to the State Tourney as representatives of Southeast. They played two games at State, but were unable to come out with a win. To honor the Region Champs, Kake Thunderbirds, the Braves wore special shirts for warm-ups, which showed the Kake Thunderbird design inside the Braves feathers, with "Southeast Strong" underneath the design. This show of sportsmanship received a lot of positive attention state-wide.



Hoonah Braves: Carlos Sandoval, Alejandro Contreras, Jermaine Johnson, Izaak Jacobsen, Coach Ben Mettling, Tyrell Cromer, Anthony Johnson, Edward Austin, Gerred Garrison



Place-based Art Projects in Science and Tlingit Language Classes

Taught by Stephanie Harold

Using art skills to learn about Hoonah's environment continues in grades K through 9. My goal is always process over product, and experience instead of perfection. Despite many interruptions due to COVID, the students' skills continue to develop. Along the way, we've practiced our focusing skills with mindfulness breathing and rhythm repetition.

First semester, in the 6th and 7/8 Tlingit classes, students used found objects from beach and forest to create still lifes. We learned about arranging the objects so that they overlapped and shadows fell across them in interesting ways. Students then created simple drawings focusing on edges and main shapes. After adding value contrast and flat ground shadows, they added the Tlingit words for the objects using a creative text. Finally, they filled in the background with a texture related in some way to the objects.



Fifth graders have spent several months drawing the growth — and resuscitation — of their corn and bean plants. The plants faced life-threatening obstacles: the planters were dropped and the contents spewed all over the floor; water siphons disintegrated

which meant no water reached the plants; and finally, several plants became severely dehydrated when they drank up far more water than expected from their water reservoirs. Students documented the phenomenal resilience of corn and beans in their unfolding accordion books, from sprout to full fledged leafy plant as well as root patterns for those plants that didn't survive.

We also explored how photosynthesis and cellular respiration work by documenting what happens when leaves are covered with brown paper or vaseline. Finally, students learned about the fundamental difference between corn and beans; they belong to the different subclasses of monocots and dicots. This will allow them to succeed at our next project, to recognize and draw indigenous plants in these subclasses. They are now applying their drawing skills to documenting the inside of a flower — which will lead to why so many plants even have flowers!



Fourth graders are focused on salmon habitat. During classroom drawing activities followed by a freezing cold field trip, they learned to identify Western Hemlock (*yán*), Sitka Spruce (*shéiyi*), and Yellow Cedar (*xáay*). Next, student teacher Cassia Coutlee taught them the fundamentals of healthy salmon stream structure. Meanwhile, the art lessons focused on drawing salmon streams as landscapes. We've practiced how to identify simple shapes in a photo and how to transfer the shapes to the paper, using size and texture to show what is near and what is far. Finally, we're learning about primary and secondary colors and how to mix them to create the muted tones of nature, both close up and in the distance.

Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades have all been developing their duplication skills as well as the fine motor skills of cutting and gluing and origami folding. They are also incorporating pattern-making into their projects. In the 2/3 classroom, we've also learned about using the growth mindset to take advantage of our brains' ability to change if challenged, a quality known as neuroplasticity. The goal is to succeed at drawing a challenging bear graphic.



Art is also being incorporated into Darcy Higgins' science classes. The 6th graders are improving their observation skills by documenting the leaves developing in the hydroponic towers. Since some of the leafy vegetables in the towers are now flowering, Ms. Darcy is also teaching about pollination. Meanwhile, the art project is to dissect and draw tulips, from the outside all the way in, identifying all the parts essential to plant reproduction. Ninth grade students will also be using observational drawing and the associated thinking to document a sea urchin dissection and the process, under the microscope, of sea urchin fertilization.

Hoonah Parks & Rec Basketball Program

Hoonah kids in grades K to 8 have been involved in a basketball program presented by the City of Hoonah Parks and Recreation Department. Coach Louie White, Sr. reports that he had a great turnout of students participating in the program. There were 25 from the elementary grades, and 20 students from grades 6 to 8. The younger students' program started around Thanksgiving, and the older group started practicing the second week of December.



The young hoopsters got to play in front of the home crowd in preliminary games during several high school home series. A group of 32 went to Juneau February 3-5. They played one night at Floyd Dryden (they had a power outage, and games had to be canceled partway through.) The next day they played at Auke Bay Elementary. During that trip they played against the Juneau Hoop Rats Basketball Club and the Yakutat Eagles. Funding for that trip came from a variety of sources. Thank you to the following for helping towards this project: Sealaska Corporation, Hoonah Indian Association, Howard Sherman, Monica & Stan Savland, Andy Savland, Stephanie Brenner & Andy Stoner, Amber & Duain White, Megan Wagstaff & Lady Yum, Bob & Dodie Lunda, Russell Dick, Darlene Saxby, Harry Sharclane, Deb Picken, Duane and Bambi Jack, Gladys Skeek, Tlingit and Haida, Brown Bear Tours, Wooskeetaan Tours and many Square Board Fundraiser Donations, organized by Shawna Howland. Many snacks were donated by Michele Martin as well. Gunalchéesh to Jessie Martin and Heather Powell for heading up the fundraising for that trip, and to the parents who went along as chaperones.



Thank you to all others who donated and were left off the above list. Coach Louie said that the teams will travel to Juneau during the Spring Break for their final games of the season. This trip will be funded by the City of Hoonah. After basketball, the Parks & Rec will move to a volleyball program, followed by softball in the late spring and summer.

Girls Varsity Basketball, continued from page 11

Despite all the challenges we faced as a team, the girls showed their grit, determination and trust in each other on the floor during Regionals. We played the relentless T-Bird team for our first game and did not come out with a win: next we played against the Skagway Panthers. The environment was fun and competitive, and we tried our best to compete until the last buzzer.



Unfortunately, the Panthers defeated the Braves to put them out of the tournament.



At the Awards Ceremony, the Braves had some great recognition. Olivia, Hallie, and Sierra received the All Academic award for having a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher during their high school career; Sierra and Teresa received the Good Sport Award, which is given to athletes who show great sportsmanship, leadership, and support to their teammates throughout the entire basketball season. Hallie and Alona received the All Conference award, which is given to athletes who showed leadership, sportsmanship, and great athletic ability to lead their team throughout the basketball season. These awards are voted on by all Southeast Region V basketball coaches, and the hometown coach does not get to vote for our own players. GREAT JOB LADIES!

I am very proud of their performance and many leaders from other communities recognized how much we had grown as a team, not only on the court but also off the court. My goal is to teach the Lady Braves more than just basketball; I want them to make the best of any situation, and they did just that at the Region V Tournament. I want to say thank you to them specifically for giving me the opportunity to coach them this season. I am already looking forward to the next one because of how much fun we had together!

~Coach Miguel Contreras

Huna Heritage Foundation Hosts Storytelling Workshops

Research shows that public speaking is selected more often as a common fear than any other fear. Recently, however, our Hoonah students performed live storytelling with such poise, dignity, respect, and self-confidence that they looked like professionals!

Huna Heritage Foundation’s archivist and professional storyteller Brett Dillingham spent the week of January 31 to February 4 at Hoonah City Schools, teaching performance literacy to students in grades 4 to 11. The students created, then told their own stories, inspired by materials of cultural and historic value held in the Huna Heritage Digital Archives <http://archives.hunaheritage.org/>.

Student storytelling included topics of Fishing, People and



Places, Art and Artists, and the Hoonah Fire of 1944. It was a testament to the strength of traditional ways of knowing in Hoonah that all the students wrote and told their stories to real audiences of their classmates, other students and other teachers. Many of the stories were told with humor, a few were sad, and some had a bit of a scare in them!



A similar storytelling class was taught in the Tlingit Culture, Literacy and Language (TCLL) class with Michelle Dalton-Martin’s students at Harborview

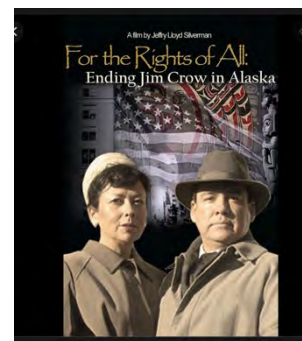
Elementary School in Juneau. TCLL students created and told their stories inspired by the Huna Heritage Digital Archives to an audience including their families. Primary source materials available on the digital archives include photographs, audio and video

interviews and documents. Learning from and sharing about our local place-based history is an enriching experience for both storyteller and audience. At both schools, performance days included refreshments, celebration of stories, and wild applause for the amazing storytelling delivered.

Culturally speaking, oratory skills are vital for a variety of public speaking venues, of most importance at a ƙu.éex’ or other traditional ceremony. In addition to engaging in important cultural and language arts skills and learning more Hoonah history, it was a lot of fun. The students developed the confidence to take their own ideas, write them down, and present them before a mixed audience. Huna Heritage is excited to work with Hoonah City Schools and the TCLL program to continue teaching storytelling to both Hoonah and Juneau students.

Elizabeth Peratrovich Day Event

Elders, youth, and community members gathered on Elizabeth Peratrovich Day, February 16, 2022, to celebrate and to honor Elizabeth Peratrovich’s advocacy and instrumental role in the passage of the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945. Alaska Native Voices Educational Institute and Huna Heritage Foundation hosted a deer stew and fry bread dinner while attendees enjoyed two films, “For the Rights of All: Ending Jim Crow in Alaska,” and the 1991 KTOO Rain Country episode covering the Hoonah student’s play on Elizabeth Peratrovich. Door prizes were provided by Alaska Native Voices and a great time was had by all in attendance.



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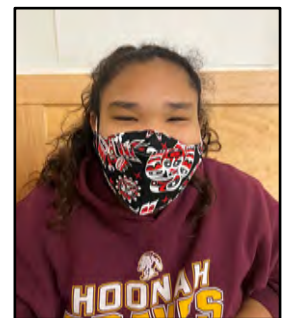
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Dates to Remember:

Spring Break	Mar. 21-25
End of 3 rd Quarter	April 7
No School—Teacher Workday	April 8
Earth Day Clean Up	April 23
No School—Teacher Inservice	May 6
Prom	May 14
No School—Memorial Day	May 30
Sealaska Celebration	June 8-11
Graduation	June 13
Last Day of School	June 15
Teacher Workday	June 16



Culture Day during Spirit Week brought out some awesome headbands, masks and hats.

Be on the watch for announcements about the second annual **Hoonah Herring Derby**, to be held sometime soon. It will depend on when the herring get here! We are looking at having it on a Saturday or Sunday this year, and are hoping for even more participation than last year. Contact Mark Browning at browningm@hoonahschools.org to see how you can get involved.