

Hoonah Schools Newsletter

September-October 2023

(Sept.) Distlein: the big month, time to gather everything, time to keep busy

(Oct.) Shanax Dís: the month to go to the mountains to get mountain goat

Journey to Homeland 2023

It was supposed to be stormy on August 27, 2023, but the weather cleared and the water between Hoonah and Bartlett Cove was calm. Three vessels carried Hoonah City School students to Glacier Bay Homeland for the 7th annual Tribal House celebration. For many students, it was a return they had experienced numerous times; these students knew to expect the ceremonial feeding of ancestors and mournful songs at the boundary crossing and led the way up the dock and along the Tlingit Trail to their Tribal House. For new teachers, the trip was an opportunity to see their students leading with drums and song.



The group watched a recently released film, *Healing Across the Waters*, that tells the story – sometimes painful, sometimes triumphant of the evolving relationship between the National Park Service and the people of Hoonah. “Who did you see and recognize in the film?” we asked them; “My grandmother,” “My uncle,” “Myself!” they answered. They seemed proud to have family that worked to effect change, and even more proud

when we told them they would be the next “stars” in future films.

After lunch, students had an opportunity to hike in Bartlett Cove, with NPS rangers pointing out birds, plants and berries. The



nagoon berries were initially hard to find, nestled into thick ground cover, but plastic baggies were eventually filled. Another Homeland visit ended with promises of return.

That afternoon, a small group of students - Cayenne and Israel Boe, Gerred Garrison, and Suzy and Emma Houston - waved goodbye to their peers departing from the Bartlett Cove dock to return to Hoonah. These five students, with teachers and mentors Heather Powell and Levi Mills (escorted by Matthew Mills) spent the evening in the Huna Tribal House.

Early the next morning, they joined Mary Beth Moss aboard the *Sea Wolf* for a long weekend adventure. The first stop was Lamplugh Glacier. While we had anticipated cooler weather so near the glacier, students were soon peeling off layers of outerwear as we hiked up a steep, rocky trail to discover ripe soapberries, a bevy of ptarmigan, and amazing views of the upper bay. Later, we wandered through a field of icebergs before heading back to the vessel. *continued on page 7*





A Message from School Superintendent Helen Cheek

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself and become a part of the history of Hoonah. I was born in St. Louis, Missouri, and was adopted at eight years old. My father died when I was 15, and my mother was left alone and could not drive. I became the family's sole breadwinner and worked at a truck stop bussing tables until I married my high school sweetheart. In November, we will have been married for 47 years.

After we were married, Danny joined the Navy, and I became a Navy wife. This meant many months without a spouse in the home. I/we raised three children and now have eight grandchildren. We have lived worldwide, and my children keep asking us when we are moving back to Missouri. I can never answer this question. Danny and I are having too much fun and still trying to decide what we want to be when we grow up.

I am very excited to be in Hoonah and guiding a team of professionals to educate your children. My door is always open, and I welcome parents to come for coffee and a chat.

And now for some news from the Superintendent's Desk:

What an exciting first quarter we have had! The elementary staff is busy implementing the new AK Reads requirements. The secondary staff has had fantastic participation in enrichment activities. We have held three Family Engagement nights with tremendous turnouts.

Family Engagement Events are scheduled for the second Tuesday of every month at 5:30. I invite everyone to attend to receive updates on all the happenings around the district.

A huge "Welcome" to our new teacher, Mr. Patrick Johnston. He will be the new 4th grade teacher. For the second quarter, the 6th graders will be relocated from the high school side of the house and be in their own self-contained classroom.

We have hired a new maintenance director who began his position on October 7th. Be on the lookout for improvements happening around the school.

The secondary teachers, administrative staff, and our counselor are working tirelessly to schedule classes for the remainder of the year to ensure our students have the best high school experience to prepare them for the world of work.

All the teachers anticipate the arrival of their new technology displays for their classrooms. The new displays will be replacing the old Smart Boards. I am searching for ways to recycle and repurpose these old displays. Bring your ideas on how to do this to the Family Engagement night.

We have received an "all-clear" for the air quality in the Erickson building. We had an expert visit our school and test the air quality in every room. We look forward to getting the building cleaned out and used once again.

We have discovered there is \$650,000 to start designing our playground. Your involvement is welcome if parents want to form a committee and assist with this process. We are hoping to begin construction next spring.

Also in the works are: a new gym floor, and an updated school website. Suggestions for these projects are welcome.

We have also ordered new curtains for our stage, and our music department is working with students to present a great Christmas program this year. Thank you to Bob Hutton, who has volunteered many hours to help with organizing the music department and stage area. With the ARTS grant, the music department has received numerous new instruments.

THANK YOU to the School Board for recognizing the importance of education and changing our graduation credits needed to assist in helping our students succeed.

As you can see, we have been busy ensuring our students and staff have adequate resources to educate our children. My personal cell phone number is 907-612-1211 if you have questions or concerns.

Helen Cheek Superintendent, HCSD



PRINCIPAL'S Message

Welcome to the Fall Season and Quarter 2 of the 2023-2024 school year. We have many things to be proud of so far: student progress and achievements, student participation in community and cultural engagement throughout the day, returning staff, new staff, new and innovative strategies for teaching and learning, community member engagement in all aspects of Hoonah school life, and so much more!

One of the areas in which I strive to do better in my career and personal life is to make time every day to communicate appreciation and recognition of the students and adults who make children and education a priority in their lives. With all of our busy schedules, it can be difficult to do this (appreciate and recognize others regularly).

Please know, each of us is needed. Each of us is valued. Each of us is making a difference. Whether or not we have had time to be involved in the Hoonah education system, each of us is contributing by caring, supporting (directly or indirectly) and promoting the power of learning. Thank you for YOUR contribution!

Let's have a great year!

Nicolle Egan

News Notes from the Administration

Substitute Staff Needed

Hoonah City School is in need of substitutes for certified and classified positions (teachers, paraprofessionals, custodians, and more). Initial requirements and skills needed: complete the application, pass a background check, good communication skills, responsible. We will provide training and support.

The Next Fall Carnival will be next year, October, 2024

Watch for a request for volunteers (leadership and committee members) and booth commitments this spring!

WE NEED YOUR INPUT

- How can we promote and support daily school attendance for students?
- What are areas in which community members could volunteer in the school?
- What are ways in which students/classes can apply and extend what they are learning out in the community?
- Send your ideas to info@hoonahschools.org, contact the school office at 907-945-3613, or stop by the school between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm to speak with a staff member.

What is Dual Credit?

Dual enrollment refers to enrollment at the university by a student who is simultaneously enrolled in a K-12 (or homeschool) for which the student may receive credit at both the K-12 and postsecondary levels. Dual credit is an opportunity for students to take courses that may not be offered in the school building they attend. It also provides the opportunity to get a “jump start” on post secondary academic requirements.

What is Acellus?

Acellus is the online education program that many secondary students are using this year. They work on the web-based class(es) with the support of a staff member on-site. The student reports to an assigned room, they work from a school computer (or their own), and daily attendance is taken.

Acellus Academy is

- one method of academic subject delivery at Hoonah City School.
- a K-12 online private school that many Hoonah secondary students are utilizing.
- an online learning system that has been used to provide primary instruction to millions of students in thousands of schools throughout the United States.
- taught by master teachers from across the nation that have been recognized for their expertise in both content material and conveying knowledge through video instruction.
- an alternative to traditional school settings for a variety of reasons, such as limited offerings by teachers onsite, interest in more rigorous coursework, a more flexible learning environment, and independent studies for students who have credit recovery needs and a chance for success in a class.
- a program that prepares high school students for post secondary success in the path they choose.

For more information, visit
<https://www.acellusacademy.com>

Spotlight on New Staff



Sheryl Ross, HCS Special Education Director and Teacher

I would like to send a warm hello to each of you. After four years I am returning as the Special Education Director and Special Education teacher. I have missed Hoonah very much. During the last four years I have garnered experience at the Dillingham School District on Bristol

Bay as Special Education Director, and most recently, I spent the last two years at the Copper River School District in Glennallen, Alaska where I was Principal at Slana and Kenny Lake Schools, Title Grants Manager, and Special Services Director.

Family Background

My mother's grandfather came from Finland. My grandparents came over to the Upper Peninsula, Stambaugh, Michigan. My grandmother's family came from the Slovakia area of Eastern Europe. The grandfathers worked in the mines and had a very small farm. My father's family, the Oberthaler family, came from Northern Italy but the Oberthaler name is actually considered Austrian. My paternal great-grandmother Shields came from Germany, and settled in Central Wisconsin. My paternal grandfather married my grandmother who was in part Ojibwe (Chippewa), but she never spoke of her culture.

Education

Currently, I attend the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska a candidate in the Ph.D. Indigenous Studies Program. Those memes about getting dissertations written is so me, as it is a challenge to complete. Previously, I attended the University of Alaska, Anchorage, with an Alaska Professional Teacher License and a Type B Administrative Certification, Southern Oregon University, Ashland, Oregon where I received a Master of Science: Dual Masters in Education/Special Education, and a Bachelor of Science, with an Oregon Teacher/Admin Licensure. I completed an ESL Endorsement through Eastern Oregon University, LaGrande, Oregon.

Family & Work

We have a multi-ethnic, culturally, and language diverse family who live across the country from the East Coast to Hawaii at this time. Our eight sons and three daughters, with twelve grandchildren, and four great-children provide unending joy to my husband David and myself. We enjoy spending time with each family, helping where the need is, or vacationing. Our family has shared many times that Hoonah is their favorite place in Alaska and they understand our pull here. Our family loves to fish and hunt, and enjoys the waters of Southeast very much. After working at Ketchikan School District and gaining my administrative license, I was mentored by the special education director in Sitka, before accepting a position at Hoonah seven

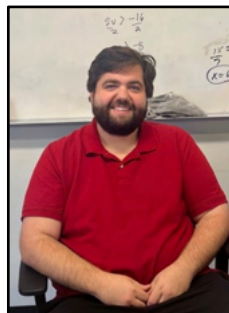
years ago. In hindsight, we wish we would have stayed in Hoonah.

Vision

Now we are here, working hard, and hoping to somehow and some way make a lasting and positive impact here in this lovely community. Hoonah City School is a community school, with a wealth of historical knowledge, culturally authentic, with ongoing present-day growth; all which create an opportunity to teach character relevancy as we train and educate our children. My vision is for all our students to respect core values of honesty, loyalty, perseverance, and compassion so that our children can experience success for today and be prepared for tomorrow. But first we need to instill the love of learning so that they will enjoy their school community, and find their vision and purpose here in Hoonah, or anywhere in the world as they choose. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to return.

Gunalchéesh, Sheryl Ross

Patrick O'Toole is the new Middle School and High School Math Teacher. He is from the Poconos in Pennsylvania. He has been a teacher for 3 years, as well as worked in the drywall industry as a hanger, finisher, patch guy, and salesman.



Patrick went to Shippensburg University for his Bachelors in Mathematics, and then Drexel University for a Masters in Education and Mathematics.

He is from a large family; he is the 3rd child out of 8 total, all from the same parents. He has a girlfriend who is in her third year of medical school to become a family doctor. He has a black lab named Rocky who is going to be 8 in December.

Patrick in his words is "a huge outdoorsman, hunting, fishing, and hiking. It was one of the main reasons I picked Alaska was for the wilderness and the adventure!" He picked Hoonah because he decided it was the perfect amount of wilderness and town life, not too far North, and because the Tlingit culture was something he wanted to learn about and experience.

Patrick said that Hoonah has been more than welcoming so far. "Everyone has been so nice and helpful in answering any questions I have, showing me around, and taking me on adventures."



Joan Martin is back teaching First Grade after being gone for a year. She said that she is excited to be back, and dearly missed the Hoonah students and staff.

More New Staff to Welcome



Mae Higgins is our new Music Teacher. She has spent the past 4 years living north of Seattle in Lake Stevens. Prior to that she lived on the far eastern shore of Maryland for 30 years---almost all the way to the Atlantic Ocean! She taught music in Wicomico County Schools. She was also

a choir/music director at a church for 20 years. Ms. Higgins used to play oboe professionally, in Michigan, Georgia and Germany where she lived for 3 years. She also taught for the Department of Defense in Nellingen, Germany.

Mae grew up in Michigan and majored in music at the University of Michigan. She has three grown children: one in the Seattle area, one in Philadelphia and one near Atlanta, Georgia. She has four grandchildren.

When asked about her interests outside of school, Mae said, "I love to kayak, and would LOVE to get out on the water here. My skills are basic, so I definitely want to go out with experienced kayakers. Believe it or not, I loved taking an MMA striking class and would love to do some boxing workouts."

As far as how she ended up here, this is Mae's response: "I visited here on a cruise 3 years ago. I was very taken with Hoonah, as Casey McConnell shared all kinds of interesting facts. I came back a year ago and spent the day wandering around on my own. Again, it just felt very comfortable. This past May I visited just before school got out. I heard about an open position in music and it all just seemed to click. Nine weeks later, I drove onto the ferry in Bellingham and here I am."



Some things Mae would like to do in the near future: "I would like to get out on the water in a kayak. and I would like to actually finish unpacking. Most of all I want to continue to get to know the children and families of Hoonah as well as learning about the culture here. I like it here very much. I look

around and cannot believe I get to live in such a beautiful place. Thank you to all who have helped me to feel so welcome."

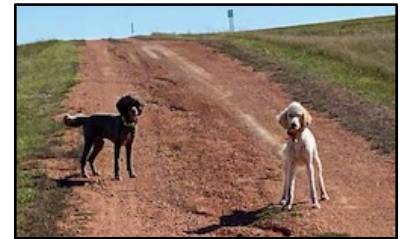
Mary Swanson is our new Kindergarten/PreK teacher. Last year, she was the special education teacher for the Iditarod School District in both Grayling, Anvik and Holy Cross, located along the mighty Yukon River. Other places in Alaska she has taught are Kotzebue, Kodiak, and Tanana. Although the culture and weather are very diverse, she has discovered all of her students and their families to be amazingly similar.



Besides Alaska, Mrs. Swanson has lived in many different states: Minnesota, Wisconsin, New York, Kansas, and Wyoming. She raised her family in Eastern Montana along the Yellowstone River where they spent many hours camping, fishing, hunting, and taking care of their small ranch. Before she began teaching in Alaska, she and her family raised cows, chickens and horses. She says, "Yes, I have been to many rodeos and competed in barrels when in high school." When she is not in Alaska, you will most likely be found in Montana, where most of her family lives.

Dickinson State University, Dickinson, North Dakota is where she received her degree in Elementary Education, while Montana State University in Billings is where she received her degree in Special Education.

When asked about her family, Mary said, "*Even though my family is grown, I still have two 'kids' at home: my standard poodles, Cooper and Maddie, who stay with friends when I'm away. My older poodle, Cooper, is an amazing, intuitive emotional support dog for veterans. Currently, the younger poodle is acclimating to all of the wheelchairs and walkers. We visit the veterans daily when I am home. Both go hiking with me while the oldest - and the calmest! - is the only one I take kayaking.*"



Regarding this part of Alaska and Hoonah, Mary said, "I have missed Southeast Alaska and have fallen in love with Hoonah. How could I not?! It is not only beautiful, I teach kindergarten! Plus, I work at an amazing school with excellent teachers, where the culture is immersed into education. The children have quickly won my heart!"



Danny Cheek is the Social Studies teacher in the Middle and High School. For this article, he wrote: "I grew up on a farm in Southwest Missouri, and graduated from Buffalo High School, in Buffalo, Missouri, in 1975. I then joined the U.S. Navy in 1976. I am proud that I

served my country for twenty years before retiring and moving on to civilian life.

After retirement, I chose to serve my community by becoming a teacher. I have had the privilege of teaching in Washington State, Missouri, Hawaii, and Alaska. My wife and I owned a business in Hawaii for about ten years between teaching positions.

I have visited 32 countries and two territories, but have never seen anything more beautiful than Alaska. I aim to serve as a teacher for a few more years and then retire near my family. Until that day, I will continue to serve my students to the best of my ability and try to impact their lives positively."

*As of late September, our newest member of the HCS teaching staff is **Patrick Johnston**. In his words:*

"I would like to introduce myself. I am a retired Infantry and special operations soldier, having served 23 years in the US Army. I began my teaching career eighteen years ago as a 4th and 5th grade teacher in a low-income California Title I school district. In those 6 years teaching of grades 4 and 5, I

was exposed a great deal to teaching 2nd language learners as well as students who typically were not on grade level in language, reading, or math.

I am extremely familiar with using strategies and techniques every day that engage students and connect them with learning these skills through the use of visuals and scaffolding throughout every lesson. I am someone who supports any student who tries and does not ever let a hard working student fall behind. Differentiating lessons to at least three ability levels is something I have applied to every lesson since I began my first year in education as a 4th grade teacher.

What I most want to convey to everyone is that I care a great deal about students and equally about teaching and learning effectiveness. I also care about the way a school is run and that every student is part of a highly effective system that provides them with everything they come to school to get. I don't believe in the concept that some students who try hard may learn and achieve less because they arrived at a lower level of ability than others. I believe in the concept of every child, every day, no matter what it takes!



I have spent a few days teaching students at our school now and I am excited about their attitudes and willingness to work very, very hard to learn and succeed in life. I am most excited to be here and plan to stay for a very long time."

YEARBOOK CLASS

By Kali and Krista

During this school year so far, we have observed new aspects of photography. While gathering pictures of the fun activities, we have learned about composition, rule of thirds, foreground & background, and an array of other photography techniques. With learning good photography, we will have a better yearbook.

If you are interested in last year's yearbook, they are available by reaching out to zemanekd@hoonahschools.org. Grab one while supplies last--- \$30.



The next day, students launched kayaks for an hour and a half paddle to Chookanhéeni (Berg Bay) where they relaxed on the beach listening to Shirley Kendall's stories of growing up in a cabin just beyond where we sat. NPS staff Wes Bacon-Schulte



and Craig Murdoch had ferried Shirley in to meet us the evening before. Shirley, Shaax'saani kéek', Kaagwaantaan Elder, is an educator, a historian, and a treasured story keeper.



For years she has shared her knowledge of the Tlingit language and traditional stories in classrooms, lecture halls, and these days on the internet. One of few living Tlingit to have homesteaded within what is now Glacier Bay National Park, Shirley's tales were poignant and often filled with joy and longing. We were all enthralled to hear her tales of eating meals off skunk cabbage leaves, smoking fish on the edge of the bay, hearing the wolves howling at night and the perils of mountain goat hunting near Gloomy Knob. In the late afternoon, Wes led us into the brush to search for the remnants of the St. Clair cabin where Shirley grew up. Wielding metal detectors, we eventually found some metal remains.

This Journey to Homeland trip, co-sponsored by the National Park Service, Hoonah City Schools, and Hoonah Indian Association, was also an opportunity to connect with each other, eat amazing food, and relax in individual staterooms. We all love the *Sea Wolf* staff who helped to make our adventure perfect.

Gunalchéesh to Mary Beth Moss of the National Park Service for this article. Photos from NPS

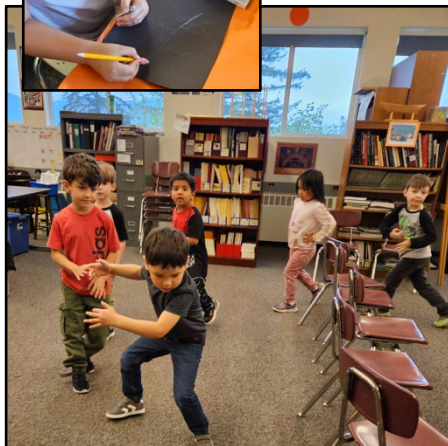
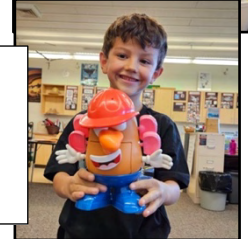
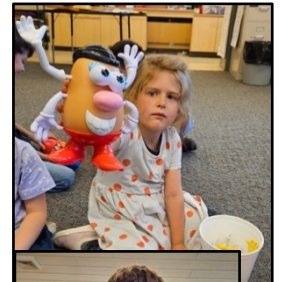
Elementary Tlingit Class, taught by ShaaDeik, Cristina Smith



Second & Third Graders used oil pastels to create Tléikw (Berry) Art. Their creations are on display in the elementary hallway.

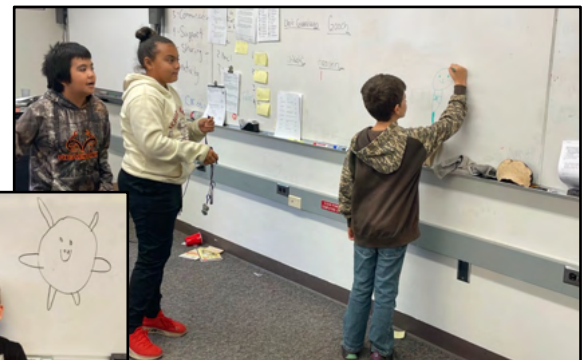


Always a favorite activity in the kindergarten class is working with *Shá K'únts'* (Potato Heads) to practice using Tlingit words for body parts.



Students in the Pre-K and Kindergarten class practice traditional Tlingit singing and dancing.

Games are a good way to practice language while having fun at the same time. *Pictionary* is a new game in the Elementary Tlingit classes. Students in grades 2-3, 4 and 5 all got a chance to draw pictures of animals so that their classmates could guess the right animals. Answers had to be given in Tlingit, so this turned out to be a good way to review animal names as well as drawing.



Art for Alaska Grant Opportunities During First Quarter

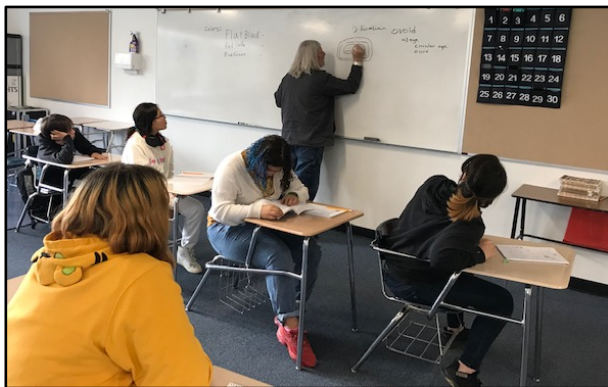
This year we are so excited to have the opportunity to continue our work by sharing our art integrated lessons with other districts as well as continuing the work of getting art in every classroom for every child.

Our 2-3 class worked with Ms. Smith and Ms. Coutlee on a collaborative lesson to make Picasso's Berries.



Ten Middle School students made a trip to Palmer to attend a STEAM Academy, sponsored by the Knik Tribe. They learned from other artists, working with 3D design and creating, as well as other activities. (STEAM=Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math)

Charlie Jack said this about STEAM Academy trip, "Thursday we did the simulations and went on a hike. When we did the simulators, we learned how to drive airplanes and we learned how to drive those CAT thingies. After that we went hiking at this old gold mine up in the mountains. It was way up in the clouds and it made



my ears pop, but it was really fun. It was pretty cold up there, but I lived and it was really fun hiking around. We got to see a whole bunch of cool stuff."

This fall we also welcome several artists who are teaching several secondary classes: Jeff Skaflestad is teaching Formline, Stephanie Harold is teaching Art, and Ben McLuckie is teaching Inventors Workshop (AKA Robotics.)

While all our students had the opportunity to experience a bit of story telling with Brett Dillingham with Huna Heritage Foundation, we have had many other opportunities to connect with Hoonah's culture.

This just touches on some of our opportunities this first quarter and we are looking forward to many others to come this year, thanks to the Art for Alaska Grant.



The secondary students had the opportunity to go on the Disney Cruise ship and see how other artists perform on a cruise ship.



Haa Too Yéi Yatee Culture Camp 2023

This summer's **Haa Too Yéi Yatee Culture Camp** was held June 24—29, at Hoonah City Schools and Freshwater Bay, ending with a trip to the Xunaa Shuká Hit (Hoonah Ancestors' House) at Glacier Bay.

A total of 90 kids of all ages participated in a variety of activities celebrating our local area and Native culture. Some learned thigh spinning with master weaver Marsha Hotch and weaving instructor RaeAnne Mills. Shgen George helped students to learn about traditional arts, ancient at.óow and the way the art reflects the surroundings. An example of that is the beaded seaweed designs that can be seen on octopus bags.



Out at Freshwater Bay, campers harvested beach asparagus and did some fishing.

Some of the campers learned how to butcher rockfish, while learning about the biology of the fish.

Culture Camp this year also brought all campers and several family members to Glacier Bay Xunaa Shuká Hit, to share time with the National Park Service and Hoonah Indian Association staffs. These are wonderful times for our



community to come together and share their stories and experiences.

Gunalchéesh to all the camp staff, volunteers and visitors to the camp this year.



Seal Necropsy* and Processing

Tlingit Language students worked with Sealaska Heritage staff and uncles Levi Mills and Bill Veler to flesh and process a seal, as well as learn about the necropsy of the *tśaa* (seal). Elder Owen James, and teachers Darcy Higgins and Julian Narvaez, joined to help teach about the seal from different perspectives, from cultural to western science. The butchering of the seal was done on the docks and the rendering of the fat was done at Bill and Val Veler's house. Gunalchéesh to the Velers for hosting the activity. The meat has been frozen and will be used at a cultural event later in the year.



**Necropsy: an examination of an animal after death.*



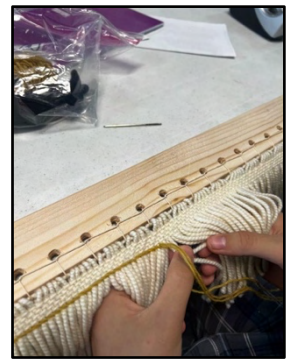
**Middle School and High School Tlingit Classes
Taught by Lgéik'i Heather Powell**



Middle School students worked to program Spheros and learned to move them around using coding. Left, Justin works on a sphero. Below, Tank and Ashley hard at work.



Sixth graders visited the local carvers and learned about the history being shared on the latest kootéyaa being carved.



Left, Israel Boe works on graphing his one-of-a-kind Ravenstail bag. Right, sister Cayenne Boe works on her Ravenstail headband she is weaving in EthnoMath class.



First Grade Crew.... ARGGG!
Mrs. Joan Martin's First Graders celebrated National Talk Like a Pirate Day to help break up all the hard work they have been doing in class. Testing is finally completed for the fall benchmarks, so what better way to break up our hard work than to learn some pirate lingo? First graders are busy establishing weekly and daily routines, including some fun moments mixed in with a lot of work learning critical reading skills.

Cross Country 2023

We had 12 runners turn out this season, 6 boys and 6 girls. On the boys team were: Eddie Austin, Gerred Garrison, Dietrich Lewis, Dash Huskey, Tanner Howland and Royal Huskey. The girls team: Krista Howland, Rowan Huskey, Chloe Lane, Easton Ross, Jora Savland and Nevaeh Campbell. Unfortunately, Chloe had an injury from the summer that followed her into the season and she was unable to run in any of the meets. We participated in two meets plus Regionals this year.

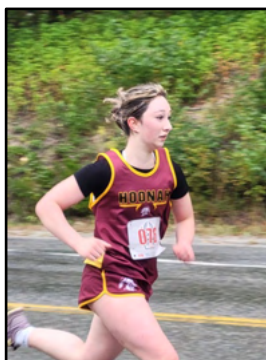


We traveled to Skagway Sept. 2nd for our first meet. Running for the boys were Eddie, Gerred, Dietrich, and Dash. Running for the girls were Rowan, Jora, and Easton. All runners had a great meet and PR'd at the 3.2 mile distance. (P.R.= Personal Record)

On Sept. 16th, the team ran in Sitka. Running for the boys: Eddie, Gerred, Dash and Tanner. For the girls, it was Krista, Rowan, and Easton; Jora scratched before the meet because of an injury. The Sitka meet was a great run for the team; several of the runners pulled PRs.

The team traveled to Juneau to compete in Regionals on Sept.30th. Running in regionals were Eddie, Gerred, Dietrich, Dash and Tanner; for the girls it was Krista, Rowan, Easton and Jora. The team had a great run; we had two runners pull PRs and three runners qualify for State. Our State qualifiers are Krista (5th), Jora (9th) and Easton (14th). They competed on Oct. 7th up in Palmer at the Division III (1/2A) State XC Meet. Go Braves!

Coach Akasha Moulton



Heading to State: Jora, Krista, Easton



The X-C Team wants to thank the Hoonah Indian Association for the travel jackets.

Update from the State Tournament---There were 86 total runners in the Division III Girls State XC Meet. Krista (22nd), Jora (28th) and Easton (46th) each represented Hoonah well in their first State appearances! Can't wait to see where the team stands next season. *Coach Moulton*

News from Huna Heritage Foundation

PBS Kids Camp

Alaska Public Media, our state PBS organization, hosted a family workshop and day camp in collaboration with Huna Heritage Foundation June 5th and 6th. The family workshop was geared towards sharing with families how they can use PBS characters to help their children learn and grow. Camp participants served as agents with activities that engaged children in solving mysteries using math and science, partnering with friends, and problem solving. The camp was themed around the PBS Kids show, ODD Squad, a high-tech agency run by kids utilizing the world's most advanced and unpredictable gadgets. In the show Odd Squad, agents investigate weird and unusual phenomena around them and use math to put things right.



Molly of Denali Community Science Program and Kids Camp

On July 25 – 27, 2023 Huna Heritage Foundation co-hosted a camp for local children to explore their environment and bring out their inner scientist. Molly of Denali is a hit PBS Kids television series featuring a 10-year-old Athabascan girl, Molly Mabray who lives in the fictional village of Qyah in Interior Alaska. In day one of the camp participants dove into investigating habitats with the help of local environmental expert Ian Johnson with the Hoonah Indian Association Environmental program. Children recorded

their discoveries using field notebooks, iPads and sharing their experiences with their friends. The second day of camp saw children exploring local birds with the assistance of local birding expert, Amy Courtney. Camp attendees used their field notebooks, a field guide, binoculars, and a telescope to document birds they saw. The camp wrapped up with a visit from Molly and community members were invited to meet her and get their picture taken. The camp is part of a collaborative project in which the show works with three local Alaskan communities to develop place-based, relevant, community science learning materials for all to use to help communities engage children in science, environment, and stewardship.



Storytelling Workshop with Brett Dillingham

Hoonah City Schools welcomed Huna Heritage Foundation's Brett Dillingham to work with staff and students the week of September 18 – 22. HCS Director of Arts, Dianne Zemanek, coordinated with HHF Executive Director Amelia Wilson to schedule Brett, a nationally recognized expert on literacy, to work with grades 4 and 5 in the elementary plus the entire middle school, grades 6, 7 and 8.





Storytelling brings language learning alive and creates a participatory and immersive experience, allowing students to enjoy hearing language in a dynamic and entertaining way. It is also an integral part of traditional Tlingit culture. The students used HHF's digital archives for inspiration to write and tell their own stories; they were encouraged to write fiction, non-fiction, or a combination of the two. After learning the importance of integrating the use of sound (sound effects, voices, timing, and rhythm), facial expression and body movement into their storytelling performances, the students helped each other become real storytellers.

On Friday the 22nd, the students told their stories to an audience of younger children and family members. Some examples of their stories include a raven spirit leaving, then returning to a drum, the creation of a magic totem pole, a torn robe that was repaired by a grandmother for an upcoming dance. The elementary students had an audience of 80 people, middle schoolers told their stories to an audience of 75. After the storytelling, the students had a party with lemonade and cookies to send them into the weekend, knowing they had ALL written and performed their stories stimulated by their culture, ancestors and home... and that they had done a great job. Their parents, peers and teachers were all proud of the students' accomplishments.

Traditional Food Fair

Hoonah Indian Association and the Huna Heritage Foundation hosted this year's Traditional Food Fair on September 9th. Gunalchéesh to all that attended. The excellent turnout made our hearts happy! It was an excellent day to share a warm meal of cháatl (halibut) chowder, fry bread, crab, gumboots, pies, and more. Part of the day of celebration was dancing by our youth. Gaawt'ak.aan Dancers lined the pavilion and danced for our elders and community.



Gunalchéesh to our cooks and donors: Debbie Picken, Jessica Wright, Tina Martin, Niccole Williams, Tina Johnson, Alaska Seaplanes, Sally Dybdahl, Julie Jackson, Icy Strait Lodge, Sagu Studios, Kittiwake Cafe, Tongass Federal Credit Union, Sealaska Corp.



Potato Pickers: After the Traditional Food Fair, a troop of folks made their way up to the Community Garden to harvest potatoes. HCS students Tayla and Dom were among the workers.

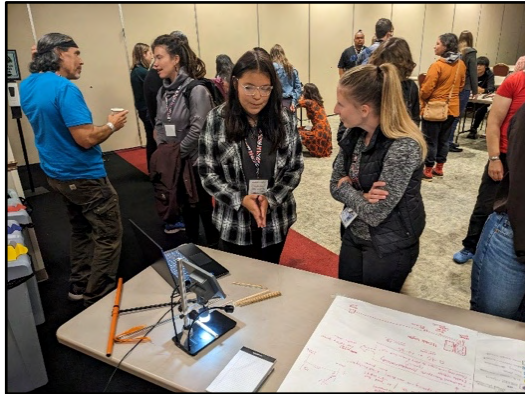
Work From/For Home

While the AYS crew spent most of the summer “out the road,” we also stayed in town or nearby to work on our community potato garden, and to help prepare for Hoonah’s July 4th celebration. The potato garden was harvested with community members on September 9th and yielded 25 gallons of potatoes. Five gallons were kept for next year’s seed and the rest was given away to the community.

We also had the honor of participating in Hoonah’s *Haa Tóo Yéi Yatee* culture camp. It was powerful being able to support such an important event and was a favorite for a couple of the crew. They enjoyed working with a team that ranged in age from young children to elders, and was all about celebrating and sharing traditional knowledge.

Tree Coring & Forest Inventory Plots

The team cored trees with the College of Wooster to see how climate and other factors have affected tree growth in the region. The crew hiked up Ear Mountain and cored several dozen trees in hope of finding data to support oral history, such as pinpointing the “year of two winters” when Hoonah was settled. They also surveyed forest plots for a study being done by the Forest Service to record the characteristics of different areas in relation to the presence of edible berries.

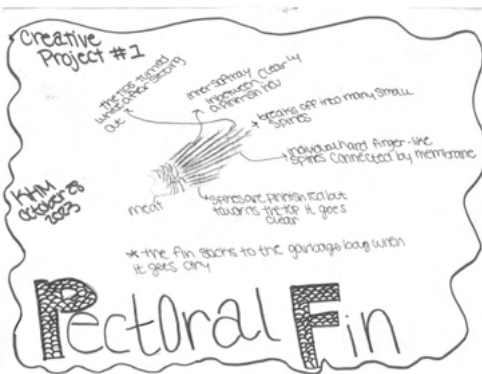


Conferences and Beyond

Thanks to CCTHITA and Sealaska, the AYS crew were able to take advantage of a couple of post-season opportunities. Hayden and Leif were invited to present at CCTHITA’s Southeast Tribal Environmental Forum at the end of August and shared about the work they accomplished over the summer. Forum participants were impressed with their knowledge, and it was a great way to network for future opportunities for themselves. Susie and Israel will be able to travel to Spokane, WA for the national AISES (American Indian Science and Engineering Society) conference in October.

Fish Biology Dual Credit Class

Fish Dissection - As part of our Fish Biology dual enrollment class, we were joined by Neal Schoenfelder and Sarah Schwan from the Forest Service (as well as Paige and Tatiana) and taught about the anatomy of Banded Rockfish. Students (Susan, Kali, and Krista) had been learning about the respiration and circulation systems in fish this week, so it was a great hands-on way to cement material covered in our lectures. They were then joined by art teacher Stephanie Harold, who advised them on the best ways to make scientific sketches.



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

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Hoonah City Schools Newsletter **September-October 2023**

In this issue:

Journey to Homeland	1&7
Superintendent's News	2
Principal's Message	3
Spotlight on New Staff	4-5-6
Yearbook	6
Elementary Tlingit Classes	7
Arts Grant Update	8
Culture Camp	9
Seal Necropsy	9
MS/HS Culture Classes	10
First Grade	10
Cross Country	11
Huna Heritage Report	12-13
Traditional Food Fair	13
AYS Program Report	14-15
Fish Biology Dual Credit Class	15

Dates to Remember:

End of 1st Quarter	Oct. 12
Teacher Inservice	Oct. 13
Parent/Teacher Conferences	Nov. 8, 9
Teacher In-service	Nov. 17
Volleyball Regionals at Yakutat	Nov. 17-19
Thanksgiving Break	Nov. 22-24
Region V Robotics Qualifier at Sitka	Dec. 8-9
Wrestling Regionals at Juneau	Dec. 8-9
Christmas Bazaar	Dec. 9
End of Semester I	Dec. 19
Teacher Inservice	Dec. 20
Winter Break	Dec. 21-Jan. 8
Teacher Inservice	Jan. 5
Students back to school	Jan. 8
End of 3rd Quarter	Mar. 7
Spring Break	Mar. 18-22
Last Day of School	May 15



Christmas Bazaar
Saturday, December 9th
Alumni Gym

Call Glenda Hutton to reserve a table—907-957-3915