

# Hoonah Schools Newsletter

January-February 2023

Jan.--T'aawák Dísi: Geese Month

Feb.--S'ik Dísi: Black Bear Month

## Veterans Day at Hoonah Schools

Hoonah's Veterans were honored at a program held at the school on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Twelfth grader Alejandro Contreras was the Master of Ceremonies, with Jeff Skaflestad as the guest speaker.

Mr. Mark Browning's 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade class sang "You're a Grand Old Flag" and the Middle School/High School Choir class, led by Ms. Katie Medley, sang "The Star Spangled Banner."

Local veterans were recognized for their service. Huna Heritage Foundation presented a slide show with many of the Hoonah people who have served in the military through years.

Mr. Bob Hutton played "Taps" at the conclusion of the program. Veterans and their families were invited to have lunch in the cafeteria along with the students.

Thank you to all who participated in the program, and once again to all the Veterans, thank you for your service to our country.



## Holiday Concert Features All Ages

Families and other community members were treated to a Holiday Concert presented at the school on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Pre-K and Kindergarten all the way up to the High School Band and Choir classes performed, all under the direction of Music Teacher Katherine Medley.

Gunalchéesh to Mr. Bob Hutton for all of his assistance with the program. And gunalchéesh to everyone who attended. We hope it helped to get you into the Christmas spirit!



## Administrators' Message

The New Year brings a time of reflection, restart, and reset! You probably have a list of things you want to do this year for yourself, your child(ren), family or others. Spending time with your child in a meaningful way through engaging conversations about their day, school, and goal-setting is a great place to start or build upon. Your engagement in your child(ren)'s education is vital to their success here at school. As always your support at home is recognized, valued, and appreciated by not only us, but by your child(ren). Here are some ways you can continue to help them succeed:

\*Communicate the importance of education to your children.

\*Engage in dialogue about their school day by asking open-ended questions.

\*Remind your child every day to be kind. We are all capable of being kind, regardless of our individual differences. Promoting a kind environment is important throughout a child's day both at school and at home.

\*Focus your encouragement on the process of hard work and effort, rather than on the end result.

\*Establish good routines at home, including their sleep schedule. A well-rested child is a happier, more successful child.

\*We are a team and partners in your child's success here at school. Communicate with us often.

\*Contact your child's teacher or school administration at any time that you have proactive and constructive suggestions, concerns, or want to be more involved.

\*Consider volunteering at the school or joining the Parent Advisory Committee or Staff Retention and Recruitment Committee.

As you may be aware, Hoonah City School District is short-staffed. "Hire teachers who stay more than one year" is often heard when students are asked how we can improve our school. If you are interested in discussing strategies for ensuring that HCS staff (current and new) feel welcome, have a good experience at school and in the community, and have the resources they need to help our children thrive, please consider joining our Staff Retention and Recruitment Committee. Just as critical, if you are interested in working with the team on recruiting for ALL staff (teachers, paraprofessionals, admin, custodial, volunteers, etc.), please contact Principal Nicolle Egan at [egann@hoonahschools.org](mailto:egann@hoonahschools.org) or 907-444-4809 (texting welcome.)



*Nicolle Egan,*  
Principal

With respect and gratitude,



*Heather Wheeler,*  
Superintendent

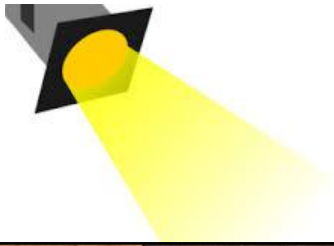


## Aatlein Gunalchéesh to Icy Strait Point

Hoonah City Schools would like to thank Icy Strait Point for the sizable donation of \$21,012.85, presented to our school in December by ISP Staff representative Shawna Howland. This sum represents the earnings from the ISP Bookstore during the summer cruise ship season. It will go into the Student Activities Fund.

Gunalchéesh Tlein Icy Strait Point!





# Staff Spotlight

## Welcome to New Staff Member Ollee Kloeckner



Dear Friends and Community Members of Hoonah,

For those of you to whom I have not yet been introduced, my name is Ollee.

This is my third year in Hoonah. My partner, Mark Browning, and I moved here back in the summer of 2020. Prior to living in Hoonah, Mark and I spent 5 years in Powell, Wyoming. I worked as a paraprofessional in the ELL department (English Language Learners) working with K-12 multilingual learners from all over the world. This was where I found my passion for education and decided to go back to school. Since our move here, I have been remotely attending classes with UAS in pursuit of my BA in Elementary Education, and I am almost there!

In the meantime, I have been doing a lot of substitute teaching for our schools, and at the start of this year's second semester, I am honored to officially join the Hoonah City Schools team as an Associate Educator!

This year I have been working on the secondary side, mostly with our high schoolers, and it has been such a pleasure and tremendous learning experience for me. I am very passionate about working with young people, helping them find their strengths and learn how to build on those skills. I love to listen to our youth because I love learning their interests but also their opinions and their ideas about the things they are learning. Life happens quick, and I see that many of our juniors and seniors are more and more like adults each day. I empathize with this older group of students in a multitude of ways.

No matter where you grow up, being a teenager means being put under a lot of pressure and being challenged in ways that are trying and frustrating. It is for this reason that I love working with this age group. I remember feeling much the same way, having big hopes and dreams ahead of me, being so close to the "end" (of school), but yet so far away from the things I wanted. It is a beautiful time of life and it might be the most difficult time there is. I am so grateful to be here teaching and learning every day.

I look forward to meeting you all as I spend more time within the school and the community!

Sincerely,  
*Ollee Kloeckner*



### Gunalchéesh to Mr. Bob and Corbin Harris

Hoonah Schools students and staff gathered during the last week of school in December to say farewell and gunalchéesh to **Bob Barton**, who has worked at our school for not quite "100

years" as some of the students thought, but for many years. We all appreciate his time and service to our school, and wish him well in his retirement.

We also said farewell to our long-time maintenance staff member, **Corbin Harris**, one of the "School Dudes" who have kept our school up and running for many years. School Principal Nicolle Egan said, *"We want to recognize and thank Corbin for his 9 years of service to students, the school, and the community. His work keeping the facility safe, clean and in order ensured a positive learning environment for everyone."*

Gunalchéesh, Corbin, you will be greatly missed!





It was only their third day on the job and Hoonah School Student Council got to speak with Alaska's Senator Lisa Murkowski during her visit to Hoonah in October.



Gunalchéesh to Paul Comolli for bringing the fire truck to school and talking to the elementary students about Fire Safety. *Photo: Third Graders and Mr. Comolli. Gunalchéesh to Barbara Baysinger for the photo.*



Student Council Advisor Julian Narvaez, Dietrich Lewis, Emily Hurtado, Teresa Lewis, Senator Lisa Murkowski, School Superintendent Heather Wheeler, Paige Woitte, Jazzy Cranston-Sheakley, Ava Hinchman.



Donald Gregory working with Hadyn on a tinaa.

## Art and STEAM\* Activities Update

Our Art and STEAM activities this last quarter have been a great success. Art Night in October was drawing with Stephanie Harold, November was acting with Bob Hutton, and December was our Holiday Concert. We had Sketch Club every Tuesday night from 6-7 pm with Stephanie Harold. This will continue until the end of February. She has also been working with the 6th graders with STEAM and drawing personalized stickers.

Ben McLuckie has been in the school, teaching 3D design and working with our kids with 3D printing in 6th grade. They created cookie cutters and made cookies on our last day before the Winter Break! We will be giving the rest of the middle schoolers a chance third quarter.

We also had some guests sponsored by Sealaska Heritage Institute who came out for two days and worked in the secondary classrooms with sphero robots. We had several challenges and coding competitions. Kids loved it and learned coding. Sealaska Heritage Institute also sponsored Donald Gregory to come out and teach tinaa making. We are looking forward to bringing in more local artists to our school to work with our kids!

Keep an eye out for more Art and STEAM activities at HCS.

*\*STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math  
Gunalchéesh to Arts Director Dianne Zemanek for this update.*



Kevin & Thayr show their Lego dinosaurs made during a lesson on following directions.





# Elementary Tlingit Class News—

In the Elementary Tlingit classes, we continue to work on developing the students' skills in Tlingit language. In Pre-K & Kindergarten, we play listening games, use pictures and cards, and sing songs to help us learn Tlingit. Sometimes we get out the Sha K'únts (Potato Heads) to play and practice talking about body parts. The First-Second Grade class and Third Grade do a daily *dis wooxéiyi* (calendar) activity where we practice counting and learn new vocabulary. In January, the vocabulary pictures were places, such as neil (home), sgóon (school) and hoon daakahídi (store.)



Third graders worked with Pre-K and Kindergarten students during Tlingit class. Memory is a favorite game.



Back in December, the vocabulary words were taakw naa.ádi (winter clothes.) The vocabulary focus in February will be birds.



↑ 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> graders playing the Grab Game while learning Tlingit words for winter clothes. They have to listen for the Tlingit word and be the first to grab the correct item.



Shaadeik Cristina Smith brought her L'ukna.ádi robe to show the 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Class prior to their clan's memorial *ku.éex'* in October.



Also in October, students practiced how to use Tlingit language while going out to Trick or Treat. (See photo at left.)



Students in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grades learned to use weaving techniques to make guwakaan (deer) out of colored paper strips. The next step will be to use cedar bark for this project. These classes are also practicing how to introduce themselves in Tlingit. In 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, we have started playing a new game: Tlingit Jeopardy!

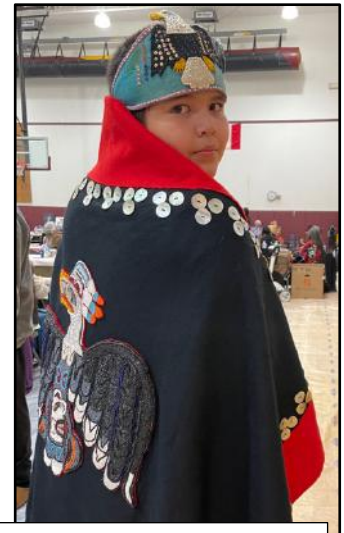


↑ Kindergarten and Preschool students colored Native art ornaments for Christmas.





**Middle School and High School Tlingit  
Language & Culture Classes**



Many of our students participated in one or both of the traditional *ku.éex'* events held in Hoonah this past October. Students sang and danced, participated in the ceremonies, and helped with various other parts, such as handing out fire dishes and fruit bowls.



Gunalchéesh to Donald Héendei Gregory for working with our students on tinaa making. Above: Tanner Howland and Jorge Sandoval hard at work. Below: Easton Ross and Aryah Dybdahl showed their tinaa pendant to First Grade visitor Dominic Martin.

Above: Kaci Jewell shows the progress she has made on her moccasins during STEAM class. Right: Ava & Sophie Didrickson working on tinaas. Below: Alona shows the copper tinaa earrings she made.





# Gunalchéesh for Carnival Help!

*Our Fall Carnival held October 29<sup>th</sup>, was a great success. Here are some of the many folks who helped.*

## Carnival Food Booth Thanks:

\*\*Major thanks go to Head Cook Kathy (Kaz) Harris for her hard work planning, preparing, cooking, serving, and cleaning up for this big event! The Food Booth earned \$2383.50 for the Carnival Fund.

\*\*Other workers were: Xiu Farley, George Westman, Natalie Elias, Jen Bidiman, Tina Martin, Aaron St. Clair, Mary Comolli, Olivia Guthrie, Bobby Hughes, Ronin Ruerup, Sofia Comolli, Zada Michel, and Sally Dybdahl.



Photo by Rebekah Contreras

\*\*All food and beverages items were donated by generous community members and businesses. \*\*Salads were

donated by Valerie Gamble-Houston, Ladonna Dybdahl, Anna Fay Jewell, Mary Erickson, and Sally Dybdahl.

\*\*Overwhelmingly generous donations were received from: Icy Strait Point, Hoonah Trading Company, Colette's Cupboard, Jen Bidiman, Fisherman's Daughter, Paul Dybdahl, and Glacier Winds Charters.

\*\*Papa Murphy's gave us a special deal on 20 pizzas. Pizzas were purchased by F/V Vagabond Queen (Daphne & Capt. Frank Wright, Jr.), Hoonah Recyclers, and Paul & Sally Dybdahl.



Photo by Rebekah Contreras

## Additional Carnival Thank You's

Coffee cans & lids for tickets at booths: Sharon Hill, Ladonna Dybdahl, Marj Peterson, Chris Greenwald, Daphne Wright, Shelly Yandell, Ken Deitering

Shopping and freight transporting from Juneau, to school, and from airport: Paul Dybdahl

**Alaska Seaplanes** provided FREE Freight for Auction items.

## Ticket Sellers:

Jen Bidiman, Karen Hinchman, Lisa Andersson, Stephanie Harold, Marti Lee, Shelly Yandell, Harold Houston, Anne Sharclane, and Jamie Erickson

**Money counters** included Karen S. Mills, Daphne Wright, Tesh Gray, Kathie Deitering, and Sally Dybdahl. Thank you to Business Manager Amy Stevenson for all her help.

## Auction Donations:

Hoonah Cold Storage	Bill and Pearl Miller
Icy Strait Lodge	Harbor Tea & Spice
Costco, Juneau	Rie Munoz Gallery
Levi Mills and Family	Tony & Jordyn Perletti
Jerry's Meats & Seafoods	Nugget Alaskan Outfitters
Hoonah Trading Company	2022 Carnival Committee
Hilltop Services, Sharon & Al Hill	Sunny & Hope Gretsinger
Raven Imagery, Chris Greenwald	Mack & Dax Coutlee
Smokey's Fish Co. & Coffee Shop, Rob & Yvette Darrington	
The Office Bar, Jim & Mary Erickson	
Port Frederick Lodge, Georgina Hall	
Coutlee Construction, Tim & Jayme Coutlee	
Huna Propane, Grant & Tina Coutlee	
Icy Strait Birding Tour, Amy Courtney	
Hoonah Presbyterian Church, Youth Missions	
Shane & Rhonda Blough and Family	
Hoonah Thrift Store, Ruth and Bill Brown	
Alaska's Capital Inn	

Thanks to Auctioneer Luke Meyer and Assistant Jamie Erickson



Photo by Jessie Martin

## Gunalchéesh to bakers who donated goodies for the Tlingit Class Bake Sale:

Debbie Picken	Phyllis Tischer
Sally Dybdahl	Cristina Smith
Chris Greenwald	Sheryl Contreras
Nicki Shelton	Wanda Wright
Dodie Lunda	Daphne Wright
Judy Brown	
Karen Mills	
Marti Lee	
Pearl Miller	
Kristi Styers	
Jen Bidiman	

We also received cash donations from Glenda Hutton and Aaron St. Clair.



Photo by Nicolle Egan

**Gunalchéesh to the Bingo Volunteers:** Carrie Lindoff, Dodie Lunda, Judy Brown, Minnie Dalton, Glen Glover, Julian Narvaez, Ollee Kloeckner, Amy Courtney, Aleesia Martuscelli

We sincerely apologize if we have left anyone off this list.



## News From Mrs. Martuscelli's Preschool and Kindergarten Class

During the second quarter, the Preschool and Kindergarten class and 1<sup>st</sup>- 2nd grade class had the opportunity to explore various animals found in our region. The students were able to touch and look at different antlers and animal pelts. They really enjoyed seeing the bear skulls and hide and being able to compare the pelts of various small animals found on the island. Thank you to Julian from HIA and Daniel from the Forest Service for giving these students this amazing experience!



Our class got to enjoy a special pizza party in December, won by Sofia Contreras in a coloring contest sponsored by Tlingit & Haida.



Shak'únts' Gaawú Áyá! (It's Potato Head Time!) In Tlingit class, we get out the shak'únts' and practice talking about Tlingit names for body parts while we work and play.



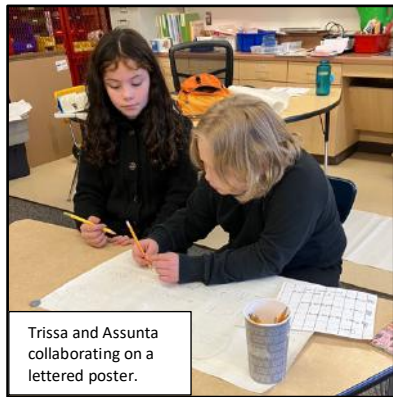
**Art Classes at Hoonah City Schools**  
**Taught by Stephanie Harold**

I have been having a great time teaching observational art in the 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades this fall. In the Elementary grades specials classes, students have been developing their drawing skills, including how to hold their tools most effectively. In some cases, we have also been learning the Tlingit names for the plants and creatures being drawn.



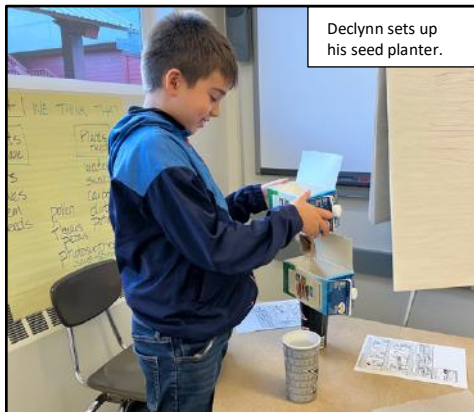
Ariah drawing shells

The fifth graders have been growing corn and beans from seed and documenting the growth cycle. In the process, they are learning about what plants need in order to grow and how to show the curvature of an object (ie. the stem of a plant.)



Trissa and Assunta collaborating on a lettered poster.

I have also been teaching a daily STEAM class for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Building on their plant study in the fifth grade, we began with field sketching seed pods. We then learned about lettering styles and the difference between serif, sans serif, and script hand lettering. My



Declynn sets up his seed planter.

goal was for each student to develop their own font style which they are now using to create personalized stickers.

Our big project has been landscape

drawing. I chose this based on a class brainstorm of what they wanted to learn to draw. We did several field trips to different locations to sketch landscapes, learning in the process about selecting a center of interest and using the rule of thirds for an interesting composition. Back in the

classroom, the students created different pen textures to represent landscape elements.



Tank outside for landscape sketching

We talked about the importance of value (using lights and darks.) We also learned techniques for showing distance using color, temperature, contrast, and detail. The project required the students to persevere through their pieces even if they didn't like them at the early stages. They also had to work with the challenge of designing shapes and textures to represent what they saw in an abstract fashion.



Ava final landscape

Several students learned about effective collaboration by designing a poster showing their process and products.

Finally, I am offering a *Community Sketch Club for Relaxation and Joy*. This occurs every Tuesday evening until the end of February from 6 to 7 pm in the Elementary STEAM classroom. This is intended to encourage anyone in the community to learn observational sketching as a way to relax and appreciate the details around us. The club is open to everyone — my mantra is “no pressure, no guilt, no talent needed.” Text me at 907-988-9104 if you would like to join us.



Photo at right: Sketch Club met at the ballgame January 17<sup>th</sup>



## Hoonah Students Get Travel Opportunities with HIA

Over the past couple of months, the HIA Environmental Office has facilitated two trips to help students explore career options for after graduation—one to sunny Palm Springs for the annual meeting of American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) and another to blustery Sitka for WhaleFest.

### AISES

Thanks to funding and coordination from Sealaska, Julian Narvaez was able to take two crew



members from this summer's AYS (Alaska Youth Stewards) crew to the 2022 AISES conference in Palm Springs, California. Susan Bradford and Theodore Elliott joined a cohort of AYS crew members from Kake, Angoon, and Prince of Wales, along with over 2,000 Indigenous high school and college students, educators, and professionals. The three-day conference focused on educational, professional, and workforce development for Indigenous peoples in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) studies and careers. Participants were able to join a variety of talks, exhibits, and activities put on by a diverse range of educational institutions, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, Tribes, corporations, and Indigenous-owned businesses.

The trip was a great opportunity for the Hoonah crew to meet and connect with peers in Southeast that they may see again if they pursue a career in STEM. It was also valuable for them to know they have the support of not only local tribal entities like HIA and Sealaska, but also the larger AISES community for scholarships, internships, advice, and networking opportunities.

### WhaleFest

The beginning of November was marked by WhaleFest, a long weekend of biology talks, lab tours and engineering workshops in Sitka. Before the conference began, the students spent a day with environmental staff from the Sitka Tribe of Alaska Environmental Research Lab (STA-ERL) learning about all the different projects to keep Southeast residents safe. They shucked shellfish, learned how to test them for the toxins that cause Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning,

harvested Hudson Bay Tea with an STA Elder and tested out the protocols for a marine debris survey.

The theme for WhaleFest this year was *How it's Made: Courting, Reproduction and Babies*, and included everything from seaweed to



jellyfish to humpback whales. The students were all particularly impressed by the talk by Desiree Jackson, a registered Dietitian based in Juneau who talked about the benefits of eating traditional foods and how eating salmon, herring eggs, seaweed and seal oil can drastically reduce the risk of diabetes and other chronic health issues. They were also all rather amused by the talk by Matt Wilson, who's in charge of Sitka Sound Science Center aquarium, on the jellyfish reproductive cycle. After each day's talks, the students participated in break-out sessions with the scientists to ask them for more information about their research and career paths. While Teresa wasn't sure whether that part, or learning about dolphins was her favorite part, she said it helped make the science feel more personal.



In the spring, HIA will be collaborating with Hoonah City Schools to welcome the inaugural class of the Rural Alaskan Students in One-Health Research (RASOR), a program designed by UAS in collaboration with tribes across the region to help students design and implement their own environmental science research projects. It's founded on a principle that Hoonah residents should all be familiar with—the idea that the oceans, the land and the people are all connected and if one branch is struggling, it will effect all three. While the team is still considering their options for projects, they're looking forward to hitting the snowy beaches and starting to get some field experience as they monitor Hoonah's natural resources and prove that science is for everyone.

*Gunalchéesh to Julian Narvaez for this article and photos.*





## Varsity Volleyball Season Report

Hoonah Braves High School Mix Six Volleyball had a fun season! We were able to travel to Kake and Yakutat for seeding tournaments prior to hosting the Region V Tournament here in Hoonah.

Our two Good Sport Award recipients were Emily Hurtado and William Dalton Jr. We had three All Conference recipients: Alona Howland, Krista Howland, and Cheyanne Jack. We also had two All Academic recipients, Alona Howland and Teresa Lewis.

Thank you to all who supported our team throughout the year. We are sad to see our four seniors go, but excited for their bright futures --- thank you Alona, Cheyanne, Teresa, and Kaci for your hard work over the years and representing our Braves volleyball team so well!

:) Coach Jessie Martin



**Seniors: Teresa, Cheyanne, Alona, Kaci**



**Mix 6 Team at the Regional Tournament here in Hoonah:**  
**Back:** Will Dalton, Jorge Sandoval, Aryah Dybdahl, Emily Hurtado, Kaci Jewell, Cheyanne Jack, Alona Howland, Teresa Lewis, Coach Jessie Martin.  
**Front:** Krista Howland, Jora Savland, Easton Ross, Chloe Lane, Tanner Howland, Gerred Garrison, Paige Waitte, Kyah Martin.



## Varsity Wrestling Season Report

Hoonah Wrestling made a comeback this year kicking off with a successful high school season!

Two 8th Grade managers, Jorge Sandoval and Tanner Howland, assisted us in practice all season and we want to highlight them for their dedication to the team.

Two seniors and first year wrestlers, Teresa Lewis & Kelly St. Clair, had a fun season and were vital to the success of their teammates - practicing and competing alongside the two athletes who qualified for State.



*Coach Levi Mills, Kelly St. Clair, Jorge Sandoval, Tanner Howland, Teresa Lewis, Krista Howland, Alona Howland, Coach Joe Coronell*

Alona Howland (1st Place, Region V) & Krista Howland (2nd Place, Region V), both represented Hoonah well at the State Tournament. Alona went 1-2 on the mat, while Krista went 3-2 and placed 4th overall.

We look forward to the continued growth of this program and would like to thank everyone who supported us to help make this season happen.

### *Coaches Joseph Coronell & Levi Mills*



**Career Technical Education (CTE)** provides students of all ages with the academic and technical skills, knowledge and training necessary to succeed in future careers and to become lifelong learners. Eli Derenoff is teaching a Construction Class this year for Middle School and High School.



## Middle School Basketball Coach's Message

Hey, Coach Rebekah Contreras here. The Middle School Girls Basketball team was a hardworking team this year! We had practice every day and worked on free throws, layups and passing. These are the foundations in basketball, and when we get these skills down, we're able to grow and learn new skills faster.

Being coachable, trying your best, and believing in yourself are also important in basketball. And most important: HAVING FUN!

These Middle School students are full of character! They make me smile when I think back to practices, and traveling to Gustavus!



*Photo clockwise from top: on the beach at Gustavus, boys in action at their home game, in the huddle with Coach James Jack, Jr., waiting to board the ferry to Gustavus, girls at their home game.*







Neurolink #4358 robot (in the back center) scoring a high goal. Yes, that really is Dash and Dietrich (back right side) wearing tutus!

At the Southeast Alaska Robotics Qualifier last December 9 – 10, *Neurolink*, Hoonah’s robotics team, faced severe robot failures but with perseverance played their way into the semi-final matches, were awarded the Robot Design Award, and earned an invitation to the Robotics Championship Tournament in Palmer this January 20 – 21.

Every robotics season comes with an all-new game the team must strategize around, design, build and code a scoring robot, and practice driving for the winning gameplay. This season’s game consists of 29 separate goals from the floor to 34 inches high and spread out over a 12 foot by 12 foot playing field! To be competitive our robot needed to be fast, highly maneuverable, and able to reach high from tight places.

Some unique features of our robot this year included:

- Mecanum wheels means our robot can drive in any direction including sideways like a crab. Bike chains and sprockets transmit the power from four 12 volt motors. Mecanum wheels were invented by the US Navy to move supplies around in the tight places found on aircraft carriers – kind of like this year’s robot game!
- A linear slide that extends from 15 inches (ca. 38 cm) to 40 inches (ca. 1 m) in seconds. It is powered by two 12v motors and two opposing spools to wind up the pulling strings.
- A 3d printed gripper that fits the scoring cones like a glove.
- Color and distance sensors for smart navigation and decoding the signal sleeves

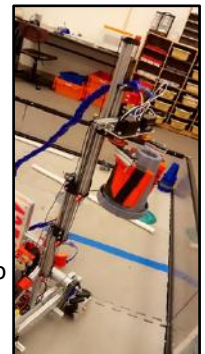
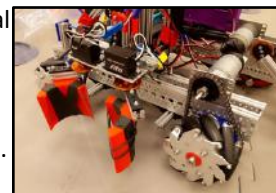
Every team member contributes in multiple ways to make the NeuroLink the competitive team it has become. Dash is the main driver and co-builder of the robot. Will and Royal both are field setters, 3d designers of custom robot parts, human players, and robot base drivers. Rowan is the main programmer and engineering journalist and sketcher, and also designed and made all the team hoodies. Dietrich is the veteran of the team who is expert at all the roles of building, coding, 3d designing, and driving. Ava is the newest member of the team and is working her way into being a co-programmer with Rowan. Everyone helps out with team management and fundraising.

The Hoonah Robotics Club is always looking for new members at the beginning of each season in September, grades 7 – 12. No previous knowledge needed! Anyone can be a valuable member of the team: bring your interests and we will teach you the essentials. All you really need is a desire to create while having fun, and a commitment to the team.

*Coach Ben McLuckie*



Left to right: Dietrich Lewis, Dash Huskey, Royal Huskey, Ava Didrickson, Rowan Huskey, William Dalton, Coach Ben McLuckie





## HS Science Class News

From HIA Environmental: Thank you, Hoonah City School, for letting Ms. Darcy organize a trip with her class to our 2017 Hoonah Native Forest Partnership stream restoration site. We measured the water's pH, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity. We also found mayfly larva, a worm, and an adult coho. All signs of a healthy stream!

We talked about deer food and forest management and finished by identifying local plants. We hope to keep having opportunities like this to share the work we've been doing, especially with youth!



**Save the Date:  
April 28, 2023  
For Hoonah City Schools  
30<sup>th</sup> Heritage Celebration Ƙu.ééx'**

We are excited to be bringing back our Ƙu.ééx', after a few years without it. The Community is invited to join us as we celebrate our year of learning about our Tlingit language and culture. Stay tuned for more information and how you can help as the time grows closer. In the meantime, mark your calendars and save the date!

**This Newsletter** is a project of the Native Education Program at Hoonah City Schools. It was started in 1986 as a way to increase parent involvement in the school by "getting the word out" about school activities and programs. You can find this and past issues on our school website at [www.hoonahschools.org](http://www.hoonahschools.org).

If you have suggestions, questions or comments, you can contact Daphne Wright, newsletter editor, by email at [wrightd@hoonahschools.org](mailto:wrightd@hoonahschools.org) or by calling (907)723-1223.



## Boxholder

# Hoonah City Schools Newsletter January-February 2023

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### In this issue:

Veterans Day	1
Winter Holiday Concert	1
Administrators' Message	2
Gunalchéesh to Icy Strait Point	2
Spotlight on Staff	3
Student Council Meets Senator Murkowski	4
Fire Safety Visit	4
Art & STEAM Activities	4
Elementary Tlingit Classes	5
MS/HS Tlingit Classes	6
Carnival Thanks	7
Preschool-Kindergarten Class	8
Art Classes	9
AISES & WhaleFest	10
Varsity Volleyball Season Report	11
Varsity Wrestling	12
Career Technical Education	12
Middle School Basketball	13
Robotics Report	14
HS Science	15
Save the Date for Our Ƙu.éex'	15

### Dates to Remember:

Elizabeth Peratrovich Day	Feb. 16
End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qt.	Mar. 10
Teacher Inservice	Mar. 13
Reading Event	Mar. 16
Spring Break	Mar. 20-24
Earth Day Clean Up	April 22
30 <sup>th</sup> School Ƙu.éex'	April 28
High School Graduation	May 12
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Ceremony	May 15
Last Day of School	May 17

**Let's Hear it for the Pep Band!** It's been a long time since we have had a Pep Band at basketball games, so the home fans have been happy to once again have live entertainment during halftimes of home games. Gunalchéesh, band students and their director, Music Teacher Katie Medley!

