

Hoonah Schools Newsletter

November-December 2016

(Nov.) *Kukahaa Disi: The Month in Which You Start to Shovel Snow*

(Dec.) *L-kiyeekee.u.eix: The Month When You Can't See the Four Corners of the House*

Veterans Honored at Special Program

Hoonah City Schools held a special program to honor our nation's military veterans on November 11th. Students of all ages were involved, as well as several members of the community. All veterans were invited to the program, which included songs, instrumental music, poems, the presentation of the colors, a slide show and special speakers. The veterans and their families were invited to have lunch in the cafeteria afterwards. See page 7 for more pictures and a thank you list.



Wooch.een Wednesday Features Dinner and Lingo

The first *Wooch.een Wednesday*, a part of the *Haa Kusteeyí Áyá* program, was held November 16th, with dinner, singing and dancing, and a few games of Lingo (Tlingit Bingo.) The evening was hosted by the High School Tlingit classes; the students did the decorating, set-up, clean-up and acted as Lingo game callers. We had a great turnout of students, families and friends. *Gunalchéesh haat yeey.aadí* (thank you all for coming)!



During the evening, parents and guardians volunteered to serve on the Parent Advisory Committee for the *Haa Kusteeyí Áyá* Program. *Gunalchéesh* to the following who have agreed to serve on the PAC: Carrie Lindoff, Kim Campbell, Stu Mills, Carlie Brown, Mary Beth Moss, Keira Budke and Christine Williams. This group will meet quarterly; meetings will be open to the public. Watch for notices of our next *Wooch.een Wednesday* event, which will be in late January.

Photo: Leah Moss as Lucy, gives advice to Charlie Brown, played by Krista Howland, in A Charlie Brown Christmas presented by Hoonah Elementary as their holiday program December 13th. The students all did a wonderful job. More pictures inside this newsletter and on last page.





SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE FROM DR. PJ FORD SLACK

Wishing you a Happy,
Healthy and Fun Holiday
Season. We hope all our
students will be ready for

the fun Activity on January 10 and 11th when Spark
the Orange Frog brings the Happiness Project to
the students and adults of Hoonah City Schools.

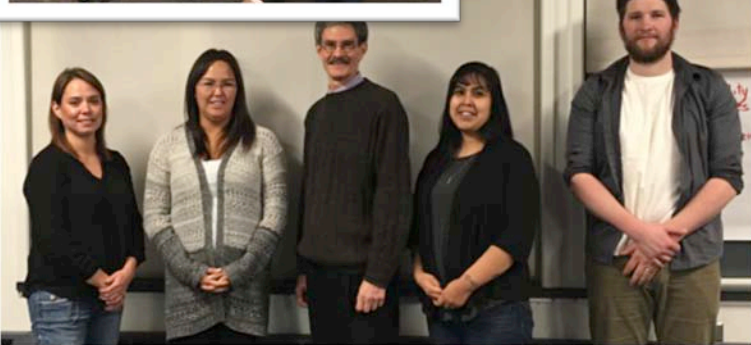
The first week of January will bring a Graphic Book
(Comic Book) to our students who will go through
the training. Students 5th grade- 12th grade will
have an all day event with Devon and Coach G. on
all the Orange Frog has to offer them. Our younger
students will get a comic book too and can pose
with Mini Spark in the elementary school. Miss
Tesh will make sure we get lots of photos.

SPARK is coming to Hoonah Schools!

*PJ Ford Slack, Ph.D.
Superintendent*



*Pictured at left:
Among other
Board members
from Hoonah who
attended the
Association of
Alaska School
Boards annual
conference;
Student Govt. Rep
Halle Budke, Board
President Bob
Hutton, Student
Government
Advisor Aimee*



Smith, School Superintendent PJ Ford Slack

School Board President's Letter

Season's Greetings from your School Board!

Heidi, Jamie, Dillon, and I attended the Alaska
School Board Association's Annual Conference in
early November. It is always beneficial to connect
with board members from other districts and find
out how they are addressing the challenges they
face, most of which are the same as ours are in
Hoonah. We attended sessions on subjects that
ranged from how to advocate for education with
State legislators to finding alternative ways to
approach student instruction.

On December 12th the board held a budget
workshop, and then we met in a joint session on
the 13th with the City Council in order to discuss the
district's financial situation. In both sessions, the
board looked at both this school year's budget
(FY17) and next year's (FY18).

Due to a range of circumstances, which include the
gradual erosion of State funding for education, the
school district faces a serious budget shortfall both
this year and next. We will be discussing ways to
reduce our expenses in order to balance our
budget. We will face some very difficult decisions
and we welcome cost-saving ideas from the public.
During all of our deliberations, please rest assured
that the board's primary goal is to avoid impacting
student instruction.

When speaking of cost-saving measures, it is
important to note that because of the 1% special
sales tax provided by the community, our student
activities will not be reduced. Thank you, Hoonah!

As always, I encourage anyone with concerns
about the school to email me at
huttonr@hoonahschools.org or call or text me
on my cell phone (907-209-0996).
Gunalchéesh!

Bob Hutton

The members of the Board of Education
pictured left to right: Jamie Erickson, Anasia
Neal, Bob Hutton, President, Heidi Jewell, Vice
President, Dillon Styers, Secretary/Clerk

Thanks for Bazaar Help

Thank you Hoonah! Hoonah City Schools is so grateful to everyone who came to the Christmas Bazaar on December 3rd. We raised \$1085 from table rentals, Mystery Gifts and the Silent Auction. All of this money will go towards funding a new playground for our elementary students. **A very special thank you to** Pearl Miller, Daphne Wright, Mary Beth Moss, Tina Fuller, Sally Dybdahl, Nicki Shelton, Carrie Lindoff and Tyrell Cromer, Hoonah Trading and Icy Strait Point for donating gift items to the Silent Auction and Mystery Gifts table. Thank you 4th, 5th and 6th Graders for your help in moving tables on Friday, and thank you, Junior Class, for making sure chairs and tables were returned to their proper homes. Happy Holidays to one and all!

And a Big Holiday THANKS goes to Glenda Hutton and elf assistant Bob for organizing the Community Christmas Bazaar for another year!



The 2016 Book Fair Was a Huge Success

The Book Fair was wonderful on so many levels. First, it was heartwarming to witness so many students, teachers, parents and community members get excited about books, reading, journaling, crafting and creating art work.

Second, it was fulfilling to be part of our community who came together to raise money for Hoonah City Schools to continue to provide the latest and greatest books for our students.

Next, I was fortunate to work with an amazing group of hard working staff, students, and volunteers who made this important event possible. I would like to give a BIG THANK YOU to Jeremiah Byers, Corbin Harris, Jeremy Martin, Amy Stevenson, Kassie Johnson, Ian Johnson, Kelli Deitering, Nicholas Jacobsen, Jerry White, Vanessa Contreras, Jeffery Devlin, and Randy Roberts. It was a pleasure to work with each of you and I appreciate all you did to support our students' learning at Hoonah City Schools.



Marti, Kelli and Nicholas at the Bazaar Book Fair Table.

Finally, I was amazed by the participation, generosity and kindness of each of you who purchased anything at the Book Fair. THANK YOU SO MUCH for making this Book Fair a tremendous success.

Marti Lee, Library Assistant

1st Quarter Honor Roll

"A" Honor Roll for students with a Grade Point Average of 3.33 – 4.0

Middle School

Jermaine Johnson
Sierra McClement
Olivia Morrison
Bigelow
Dakota Garrison
Duane Jack
Cooper Ross
Ethan Ruerup
Xaviery Sharclane
Shayla Thaalesen

High School

Zada Michel
Leticia Skaflestad
Sacajawea
Alaska Skaflestad

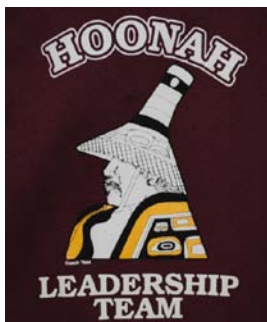
"B" Honor Roll for students with a Grade Point Average of 3.00 – 3.32

Gary Glover
Isaac Jacobsen
Esias Kohler

Dylan Johnson
Tyler Watkins
Jeffery Devlin
Jerry White, III
Cecelia George
Austin Martuscelli
Randy Roberts
Kelsey Thein

HCS Cultural Leadership Culture Camp Held in the Xunaa Shuká Hít

The Cultural Leadership Club envisioned a culture camp as a goal during their attendance at the 2015 Elders and Youth Conference, hosted by First Alaskans Institute and held along with the Annual Federation of Natives (AFN). Participants wanted an opportunity to gather with elders to learn Tlingit history and stories and a time to practice Tlingit crafts and language. During club meetings, students unanimously chose the Xunaa Shuká Hít as the perfect location to hold such a gathering.



With the agenda and location chosen by the youth, Club Advisor Amelia Wilson reached out to the Glacier Bay National Park Service and Hoonah Indian Association. Mary Beth Moss, NPS Cultural Anthropologist, Darlene See, HIA Tribal House Coordinator and Ralph Watkins, HCS Principal were instrumental

in the planning. With the support of Philip Hooe, GBNP Superintendent and generous financial support from Huna Heritage Foundation, the students' vision became a reality. On December 19, 2016, the HCS Cultural Leadership Club were the first to make use of the Tribal House in Glacier Bay since its dedication in August.

Student participants included Randy Roberts, Treston Lafferty, Eddie Williams, IV, Cecelia George, Alaska Skaflestad, Mary Jack, Valarie Williams and Sophie Henry. Invaluable time was spent with elders Ken Grant and Paul Marks, Sr. learning Tlingit protocols, history and traditions. Johanna Dybdahl taught the art of regalia making with each student able to make a small tapestry with a raven or eagle design. Darlene See showed the youth how to make roses of cedar bark. Each art piece the students created held lessons beyond the actual making of the item and presented opportunities for cultural lessons. Heather Powell enhanced the camp experience through the incorporation of Tlingit language, bringing our ancestors' voice to the homeland.

Glacier Bay National Park personnel were graciously accommodating and welcoming. Melissa Senac, Tribal House Coordinator, kindly ensured all logistics were covered and the group had all they needed. Park Planner Sara Doyle met with students to hear their thoughts and perspectives on what they envision for the Park in future years. Retired park personnel, Wayne Howell and Greg Streveler, came to visit the students and brought full



circle the understanding of past relationships, partnerships and advocacy that brought us to where we are today. Stories of Hoonah elders, who were instrumental in bringing us to where we are today, were part of the amazing historical accounts shared. Tlingit song and dance completed the visit with our guests and were part of our three-day gathering in Glacier Bay.

The Cultural Leadership Club is open to all HCS high school students and aims to provide students the opportunity to gather and celebrate their culture and traditions. A foundational club goal is to provide its members with opportunities to become better enlightened in Tlingit culture as well as opportunities to gather and learn with students of the same cultural interests. It is the desire of the club to host a culture camp every year, ultimately branching out to invite other communities to join us. Our first camp held in the Xunaa Shuká Hít has built a solid foundation to build upon for all future gatherings. Our youth are truly amazing.

To complete the trip to the homeland, the Cultural Leadership Club returned to Hoonah by boat, aboard the Three Wolves Charter which made singing and dancing our way back the perfect ending to an amazing trip. The vision of these youth is supported by the Hoonah City Schools, Hoonah Indian Association, Huna Heritage Foundation and Glacier Bay National Park. It is through working together that opportunities like this camp are made possible. Aatlein Gunalchéesh to our youth and to all who support them.

*Photo:
students
display their
cedar roses:
back, Sophie,
Val, Mary,
Alaska,
Cecelia; front:
Treston,
Randy, Eddie*



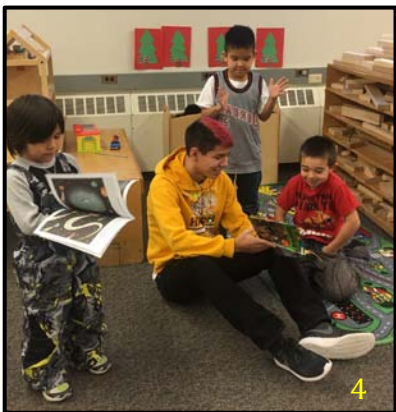
Haa Kusteeyí Áyá—This is Who We Are

Gunalchéesh to Larry Sanders

Recently, Native Artist Larry Sanders created and then donated this wonderful Raven dance blanket to the Gaawt'ak.aan Dancers to be used in our future performances. What an absolutely wonderful gift! The dancers are extremely grateful for this generous gift and we would like to express our sincere and heartfelt thanks! We are quite humbled by this tremendous show of support toward our efforts. Regalia is such an important possession. Our students are more apt to participate if they are wearing well-fitting and wonderful regalia. Additionally, Mr. Sanders asked what else he might do to contribute toward our efforts and all we can say is, "Your continued support and encouragement is always accepted. Aatlein Gunalchéesh, Mr. Sanders!"



A Reminder to Gaawt'ak.aan Dancers: It is time to please return the borrowed blankets, tunics, and headbands that were used during Celebration 2016. Please take some time to return the items to Carol. If you found a blanket or other piece of regalia that you know belongs to the school -- we will cheerfully accept it without question. Gunalcheesh!



Highlights from Tlingit Language Classes (see numbered photos): K-1 Classes have been having fun making short videos and taking photos as we learn more Tlingit words and phrases; two new topics have been eating utensils and winter clothes. (1) These students got to take home *Wáa Sá Kuwatee?* (How's the Weather?) coloring books over the vacation, with the instructions to teach the weather phrases to other family members.



Students in grades 2 through 6 have continued to add to their Tlingit vocabulary with drills, practice and games. A popular game this past quarter has been Balloon Volleyball; the main rule is that every time you hit the balloon, you have to say a Tlingit vocabulary word.



All of the Tlingit classes sang Christmas songs leading up to the holiday. Some went to the Senior Center to sing (2); the elementary



reviewed their standard Tlingit Christmas songs, including *Sindi Tlaas Yaa Aandéi Kwagoot*. while the high school students learned to sing *Silent Night* in Tlingit. All of the students sang together at the Community Tree Program on Christmas Eve.

The high school classes also made teabags with s'ikshaldéen (Hudson Bay Tea) that were given to elders as gifts (3); included with this gift were pieces of handmade paper. The older students got to pick out books at the Book Fair to present to the younger kids as Christmas gifts (4). They also went to Headstart and worked with them on singing and dancing (5).





Corbin Harris, Jeremiah Byers and Jeremy Martin, taking a short break from keeping our school clean, warm, safe and looking good!

Staff Spotlight On: School Dudes

In this issue, we would like to say a big Gunałchéesh to our three School Dudes: Jeremiah Byers, Maintenance Supervisor, and his two co-workers, Corbin Harris and Jeremy Martin.

Two of the guys are Hoonah grads – Jeremiah, from the class of 2009, and Corbin, class of 2013. Jeremy is a 1999 graduate of Angoon High School.

School Superintendent PJ Ford Slack knows first hand what a tough job these guys have. Her comments: *"Our three School Dudes keep everything at Hoonah City Schools in excellent shape. These three men hear more complaints than Thank you's, and yet their job is so very important. From the sidewalks to the outside lights to the (shhhh) toilets, Jeremiah, Jeremy, and Corbin do the hard work every day. Yes, even on weekends. As we enjoy all the benefits of a great school, let's all take the time to give them a coffee, a thank you, and a 'well done'."*

PJ Ford Slack

Also in the spotlight this issue are two other staff members.

Kassie Pesch-Johnson, is currently a long term substitute for High School Health and Correspondence courses.

Her last teaching position was in Minnesota, where she worked as an



Environmental Science and General Science Teacher. Kassie grew up in rural Minnesota and went to school at the University of North Dakota.

Her husband, Ian Johnson, has been working here in Hoonah for almost a year now with HIA and the Sustainable Southeast Partnership. She loves Hoonah; she says that "everyone I have met has been so welcoming, and of course the scenery is beyond inspiring." In her free time, she loves to read, hike, watch wildlife, fish, hunt, and make jewelry.

Heather Wheeler, Preschool Teacher, has been

working in Hoonah as a consultant in special education since 2012. She has worked in Alaska for 22 years in various positions including a high school principal and special education director. She grew up on the East Coast and moved to Alaska in 1983. Heather says that she likes Hoonah, which is why she keeps coming back!

Read the article below regarding the opening of the Preschool.



Preschool to Open in January

Hoonah City Schools is pleased to announce the opening of the Raven and Eagle Learning and Growing Strong Preschool. This is a preschool for 4 and early 5 year olds who will be attending Kindergarten in the fall of 2017. (Must have turned 4 by September 1, 2016.)

There was a parents-only meeting on December 6th in the preschool classroom (Room 101 of the Elementary School.) Parents were invited to come and learn about the program and see the classroom.

Doors will open for students on January 9th. Hours of the preschool will be 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm, Monday through Thursday. The preschool will end on May 10th.

If you plan on registering your child for the preschool, an enrollment form and shot records will be needed. The enrollment form can be downloaded from the website. If you have any questions, you can call Heather Wheeler at 945-3611, ext 289.

About this newsletter: This publication is a project of the Native Education Program at Hoonah City Schools. Its purpose is to inform families and the rest of the community about what is going on at school. Please contact Daphne Wright at school (945-3611) with questions or suggestions about this project. She can also be reached by email: wrightd@hoonahschools.org. You can find the online version of this newsletter on the school website www.hoonahschools.org.

Student Government Update

The Student Government has had a busy two months since elections! We have added an additional representative to our ranks; Cecelia George is now the Senior Representative.

A date has been set for homecoming week! **Homecoming Week will be February 12th - 18th.** Stay tuned for details.

Halle Budke, Student School Board Representative, recently traveled to the Alaska Association of School Boards Conference and Student Leadership Institute. Halle participated in leadership activities with student leaders from around the state. She wrote her first draft resolution and was given support from the SLI Participants to present it in finalized form to the student government. She also participated in a workshop with spoken word poetry and was selected by her peers to present a poem at the conference award banquet for all of the school board members and superintendents throughout the state! Congratulations Halle!



This spring, the Student Government is exploring options to learn about the legislature and travel to the state conference in Juneau. We are also working on fundraising and community service ideas, drafting a constitution, bylaws, and government handbook, as well as planning and implementing homecoming festivities. We look forward to a fantastic spring ahead!

Keep up with us on our Student Government page on the school website at www.hoonahschools.org.

Aimee Smith, Student Government Advisor

Yearbook Ads Available for Purchase

The yearbook staff would like to let everyone know that the advertising forms are on their way out to businesses in the community. If you do not receive one, and would like to place an ad, please contact us at yearbook@hoonahschools.org. We have several options this year:

Full Page Option | \$250 *Includes complimentary yearbook

Half Page Option | \$150 *Includes complimentary yearbook

Quarter Page Option | \$75

Page Sponsorship Option | \$50 - Sponsor a yearbook page of your choice (i.e. 4th grade page, Tlingit language page, Volleyball page, etc.)

General Sponsorship | \$25 - Lists your name as a sponsor with all other contributors

Ad purchases are due by February 1st. After that date, they are on a space available basis.

SENIORS! Please be watching for information about senior pages, senior pictures, and any other input needed for the yearbook.

Gunalchéesh for your support!

The Yearbook Staff: Mary Jack, Halle Budke, Zada Michel, Vanessa Contreras, Aimee Smith, advisor

Veterans Day Program, continued from front page

Thank you to the following for your help with the Veterans Day Program this year: Kathie Deitering, for helping with the Ranger Scouts and Sunbeams, David Austin, for playing the cello, Travis Lewis and Bill Dalton, Sr. for help with outreach, Kathy Harris, Glenda Hutton, Pearl Miller, school custodial staff, School Principal Ralph Watkins for the slide show, and to Dennis Gray, Jr. our guest speaker. And a very big thank you to all of our veterans for your service to our country!





Hoonah Robotics Achieves 6th place out of 11 Teams at the Region V Qualifying Tournament at Thunder Mountain High School.

An open letter to the Hoonah Robotics team "Error: 404",

Thinking back on the Region V Robotics Tournament, I am amazed. None of you had ever been to a high school robotics tournament, so all you had to work from were my wordy descriptions and pictures. Heck, all but two of you aren't even in high school yet, but you were matched against older, more experienced, and larger teams. Working entirely after school on your own time, you went up against the 11 toughest teams in Region V and earned 6th place, were chosen by Sitka High School as Alliance partners, made it into the semi-finals, and in your last game fell short by 5 points which would have earned you a spot at the State Championship.

The judges singled you out with an honorable mention for the Think Award – they loved how your engineering journal demonstrated a clear understanding of the engineering design process, recounted your team's journey, experience and lessons learned, and described the underlying science, math, and game strategies. But your journal also had a fatal flaw that disqualified you from the award (I'm trying to figure that one out now).

- Robert, you were the only veteran from last year's robotics class. You brought that experience into the team mix as you patiently described to others what needed to be done and how to do it.
- Treston, you started with programming because of your natural talent with math, but by the end of the season you wanted to do it all from building to driving – your appetite for new learning is inspiring.
- Ethan, as the team's chief 'out-of-the-box' thinker, you injected imagination and creativity into the logic of programming and the

mechanics of building, along with a helping of your special humor. Our robot would have been far more ordinary without you.

- Dakota, the team's journalist, I love how the journal reflected your awesome creativity and drawing abilities; it is through you that the judges gave us an honorable mention. (And at the end of practice how you would always pack a peanut butter and jelly sandwich for the road.)
- Xaviery, just when the rest of us were out of ideas needed to solve a problem, you came up with some new ones. Keep it up, the team needs you!
- Cooper, as the youngest person at the Tournament, you proved that age does not matter. You brought an 'I can do this' attitude to every building task.

I know the challenges you faced were at times intensely frustrating. The easiest path would simply have been to give up. But you stuck with it. I hope you feel good about what you accomplished, and you are full of ideas on how to do even better next year. I, for one, am full of them, starting with a whole new set of connection cables to make our robot more reliable!

I'm proud to be your coach. I think we all had great fun (I certainly did), and I hope to see you next year when we make it to the State Championship (and further). We will, won't we?

Sincerely yours,

Coach Ben McLuckie

P.S. Two special thanks: First to Amelia Ruerup for her special blend of nurturing and inspiration as our team chaperone and second, to the voters of Hoonah who fund Hoonah Robotics through the 1% student activities tax (as well as all the other extracurricular student activities).



Greetings from Mrs. Fuller's 2nd and 3rd Grade Class

This quarter has just zoomed by. We have been pretty busy in the months of October, November and December. It is amazing the amount of learning that takes place everyday. Our class has slipped into a routine of independence and academic focus.

In science, we began a unit on systems from our *Roots of Reading Seeds of Science*. We did not realize it, but pretty much everything is a system. We learned the inner makings of a system and how it relates to our everyday life. Even our body is composed of many systems. We started with an emphasis on the skeletal system and then ended learning about our digestive system. Lots of fun and exploring took place in our little scientists.

We had a very blessed time honoring the veterans of Hoonah on Veterans Day this year. Our class learned the history of a very well known poem written by Katherine Lee Bates: *America the Beautiful*. We dedicated one of the verses of this poem that was later turned in to a beloved song, to our veterans:

O Beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife.

Who more than self their
country loved

And mercy more than life!
We found this verse very true to our brave veterans who sacrificed for us to live in freedom. Thank you again veterans. If you did not make it this year, mark your calendars for next year.

Our class has been doing some time traveling this year. Our historians are visiting other countries and learning how important history is to the making of our country. In November, we read some historical fiction; we went back in time, learning about the history of America with a visit to the first Thanksgiving. We learned how important it was to work hard and persevere through difficult situations.

In the month of December, we traveled back in time to the era of Victorian England at Christmastime. We have been reading an historical fiction about a famous novelist, Charles Dickens. He is famous for writing stories that have a theme of generosity and kindness. You may know him for his story *A Christmas Carol*. To culminate our traveling theme to Christmas time in the past, we had a Victorian Christmas with all the bells and whistles. We ate mince pies, drank Wassail, wrote a letter to Father Christmas, opened



Christmas crackers, went caroling to the Senior Center, played the hand bells for our carols and wrote a Christmas card to our loved ones. All of these are traditions of families in England and many are



At the Veterans Day Program

ones we celebrate here in the USA.

Lastly, I hope you were able to come and see our production of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. The performers did a wonderful job and the singers were so awesome. Thank you to all of you who came and a huge thank you to Bob Hutton for his expertise in music and staging for our play. Also, I would like to give a big thank you to Diane Bean's sister, Janet Taylor, who made the beautiful hats and scarves we wore at our performance. She also made Christmas ornaments that we were able to share with our elders.

Until next time, I hope you had a very Merry Christmas.

Tina Fuller

Fourth Grade Class News

Happy Holidays! As the holidays begin, our second quarter of school is quickly coming to a close! So much has happened the past nine weeks. Our class gained new friends as we became pen pals with a fourth grade class at Auke Bay Elementary in Juneau. We are excited to continue this new friendship throughout the school year! Besides letter writing, the students learned how to write opinion papers, and created biographical poems about a soldier for Veterans Day.



This poetry writing was just the beginning of a fun poetry unit. We learned the difference between stanzas, lines and sentences in poems, and how poets use similes and metaphors to bring life and meaning to their writing.

As a culminating project, each student had to choose a fall poem to present at our Poetry Slam. The poem had to be memorized, and students were critiqued on



their posture, volume, pacing and how well they used appropriate gestures. We had a wonderful turnout at our poetry reading event, and many adults joined us in getting up to share one of their favorite poems.

In Science, we learned about

structures and adaptations of birds. Robin Hasselquist from the Forest Service spent time with our class, teaching us about these adaptations and structures. The focus was on wings, feet and beaks. A guiding question for this project was *"How do internal and external structures support the survival, growth, and behavior of animals? (birds in particular)"* As a final project, we learned some painting techniques and painted specific adaptations of the Red-breasted Sapsucker. Some of these adaptations included the



moustache (little feathers covering the nostril), the white wing bar, and the feet.

We would like to give a sincere "Thank You!" to Robin for the time and knowledge she gave our class.

A few weeks before the holiday break, our class along with the whole elementary, began preparing a play, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, to present for the annual winter program. The kids worked very hard to memorize parts and prepare songs to be sung. We want to thank Mr. Hutton for his help in making sure the lighting and sound system worked. We appreciate you, Bob!

I'm hoping your holidays are filled with enjoyment and relaxation! Merry Christmas!

Until next time,
Jen Bidiman

A Letter to Hoonah about Thankful Thursday

Each Thursday this year we here at school stop for a moment and think about what we are thankful for and on this particular Thursday I sent this to our Superintendent...

"I have been thinking about this and today I am most thankful for living in a community that supports their school and children thru the 1% tax.

I am in charge of student travel for activities and I know what it costs to travel. To have that little extra means the world to students and their travel for sports, cultural activities, student government. etc. Thank you, Hoonah!"

Ladonna Dybdahl



Fifth-Sixth Grade News, written by three of the sixth grade students.

Preparing for College

By: Teresa Lewis

Recently, we have been studying about universal themes in literature. The 6th graders have been completing a theme project related to *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief*. We also recently started a new unit related to heritage and culture. For this unit, we read *Call it Courage*. We have been comparing the themes we found in *The Lightning Thief* to those present within *Call it Courage*. Just last week, we read several stories of immigration and discussed common themes in immigration stories.

The 5th graders have also been studying themes in literature, using the book *Time Warp Trio: Da Wild, Da Crazy, Da Vinci*. They also read many articles about the Renaissance and Leonardo Da Vinci.

Soon we will be studying colleges. Each of us will write a letter to a college of our choice. We will ask for information about the college and programs to complete a college study. We also ask for pennants to add to our college wall!

Models, Models, and More Models

By: Kaida Irvin

In math, the 6th graders have been learning to divide with multi-digit numbers, including decimals. We have been using several models including the area model, ration tables, long division, and partial

quotients. Partial quotients is a lot like long division, but you solve for partial products and subtract these from the dividend.

We have also been working on negative and positive integers, absolute value, graphing on a coordinate plane, and we have also been finding equivalent ratios.

The 5th graders have been adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators, multiplying fractions, graphing coordinate points and classifying quadrilaterals. They have also worked with us on using the different division models to solve multi-digit division problems.

Discovering Engineering Design

By: Kaci Jewell

In our class we have been learning all about science. The first thing we started to study was the scientific method and inquiry process. We learned how to write a testable question, hypothesis

statement, and procedures to test our hypothesis. We found that science always starts with observation, the discovery of a problem, and then you test possible solutions. This led us to learn about engineering design, where we got to build and test different models to solve a problem. Right now we are studying mass, matter, and gravity. Our signal word is atom, the smallest type of matter.

A Charlie Brown Christmas

By: Kaci Jewell

Our Charlie Brown play was amazing because of all of us that worked together and practiced for the final show. Here is a list of all of the students who had roles in the play.



- Krista Howland: Charlie Brown
- Leah Moss: Lucy
- Tyrell Cromer: Linus
- Alona Howland: Violet
- Theodore Elliott: Snoopy
- Kali Harris: Sally
- Johan Nichols: Frieda
- Dietrich Lewis: Pig Pen
- Evan Fuller: Shmirey
- Nakima Budke: Prop Master
- Aurora Church: Prop Master
- Kaci Jewell: Curtain Master

We would like to say thank you to everyone that came to our Christmas Play!

Photo, right: Kaida and Kaci hard at work writing their newsletter articles.



Hoonah Braves Sports

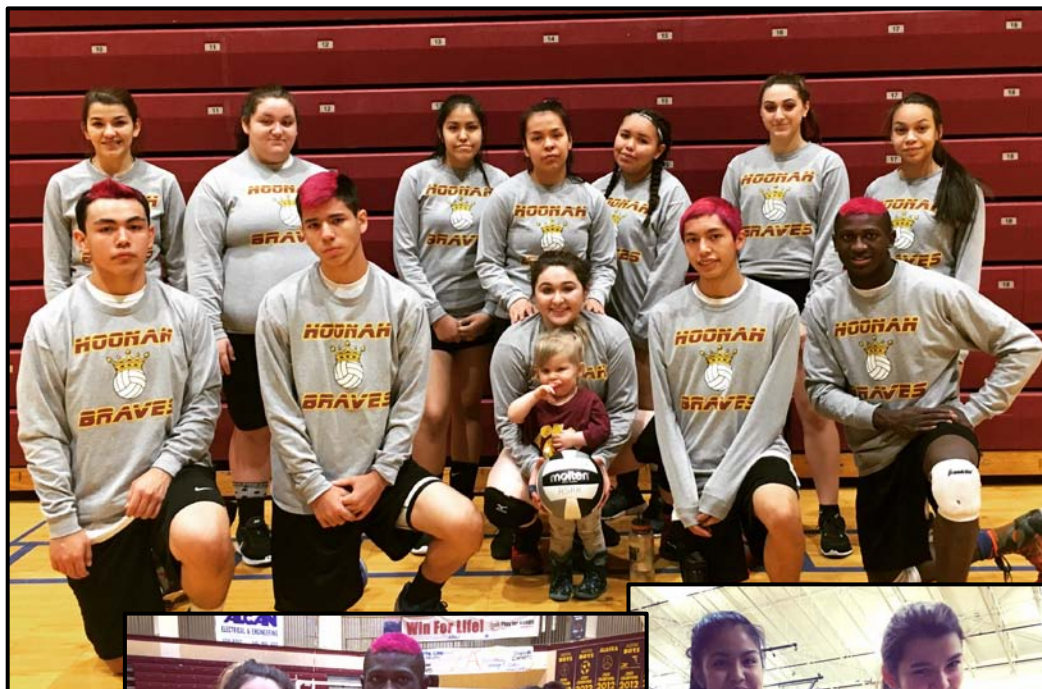
Varsity Volleyball

The Hoonah Braves Mixed Six Volleyball team ended their season on a great note! We entered into Region V play seeded 2nd. The Braves defeated 1st seed Gustavus to move into the Championship and earned a berth to State. Although Gustavus defeated us in the Championship, we were very excited to be heading to Anchorage as the first ever co-ed team from Hoonah! Alaska Skaflestad received All Academic honors and was the Passing Competition winner at Regionals. Liyah Jewell and Ronie Roberts made the Good Sport Team. Alaska, Manny Budke, and Jerry White III were each selected to the All Conference Team! Hoonah represented well in Angoon.

On to State! With a jittery first day, we moved on to play consolation matches on Saturday. We split with Joann Alexie, Tanalian, and we swept Aniak to end the day! Manny Budke

was Player of the Day for the first day and Alaska Skaflestad was Player of the Day for day two. Cecelia George and Monique Glover were selected to the Good Sport Team at State. We had a great season and will miss the four departing seniors as they venture off into the real world next year! Thank you to all student athletes, families, HCS staff, and community members who supported our team and the fundraising efforts we made this year!

Coach Jessie Dybdahl



Left: 3 of our Seniors: Alaska, Manny & Cecelia (not pictured: Randy Roberts.) Above: Good Sport Team selections at Regions: Liyah and Ronie.

HOONAH BRAVES MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL

The Middle School Braves completed the 2016 Basketball season in Skagway at the Boyd Worley Tournament. The other teams scored more points than we did, HOWEVER, we met our goal of *improving every time we played*. We did not have time to work on our offense as much as our

defense this year. Our defense was our strength! I thoroughly enjoyed coaching Esias, Dakota, Cooper, Xaviery, Shayla, Jermaine, Olivia, Gary, Sierra, Nakima, Ian, Kaci, Anthony, Teresa, Cheyanne, Alona, Abigail Rose, Leona and Alejandro. They are the FUTURE!

Coach Pete Schneeberger



Hoonah Fun & Fit Partnership News

Thanks to all who supported our Playground Fund Food Sale at the Christmas Bazaar. We earned \$166.50 with help from Bryce & Tank



Tyler, Owena James & Johan Nichols, Jenny & Ashley & Jermaine Johnson, Stu & Makia Mills.

Thanks also to those who donated towards the food served:

Jamie Erickson, Daphne Wright, Thursday Troopers, and Sally Dybdahl.

Helpers with Christmas Bazaar Set-up and Clean-up included Owen James, Owena James,

Will Dalton, Corbin Budke, Nakima Budke, Tatiana Jacobsen, Leah Moss, Kali Harris, Atkaheen Budke, Johan Nichols, Israel Boe, Shawn Mills, Abby Stevenson, Jeffery Devlin and Ashley Johnson. Other unnamed elves helped, as well. Our playground fund was enriched by the proceeds from the table rentals, Mystery Gifts and Silent Auction (\$1085.)

Money earned from the Kids with Cameras sales (\$435) also went into the playground fund.

Believe Kids giftwrap and gift orders (sorted by Candy Keown and Sally Dybdahl) should now be in the hands of our generous customers. Thank you to everyone for your support of this project.

Mary's Restaurant continues to save cans for our playground fund. We so appreciate their generosity. We also received an additional \$1000 from the Hoonah Liquor Board in November. Our total now toward our goal of \$113,000+ is **\$32,626.49!**

Watch out for our Hoonah Elementary School **Penny-Nickel-Dime Drive in 2017** to raise additional money for our playground.



Remember, playground donation jars are located at Colette's Cupboard, Hoonah Liquor Store, and Hoonah Trading Company. BoxTop\$ for Education can be deposited at those locations plus at Hoonah Harbor, and in several school locations.

A **Community Ping Pong Tournament** will take place in January for grades 4 through adults. Look for signs about the **Raven Eagle Walking Challenge** coming in February. In the spring, there will be a **Hoonah Health Fair** sponsored by Hoonah Fun & Fit Partnership.

Community Theater Production Opens Jan 12th

Hoonah Community Theatre will be presenting the musical play *All I Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* on January 12th, 13th, and 14th at the Abundant Life Church. HCT also produced this show back in 2002, and four of the original cast members have returned. (Compare the photos!)

Profits from the show will be donated to the HCS Playground Fund. The show will begin at 7 pm and it runs about 1 hour 30 minutes with intermission. Admission is \$5.00, with special rates for families. This play is enjoyable for all ages.



A special thanks goes to the fine folks at the Abundant Life Church for providing a space for rehearsals and performances and supporting our fund-raising efforts.

Above: 2002 Cast

Below: 2017 Cast (Not pictured: Candy Keown)



Parents as Teachers



The giggles and songs echoing through the new gym on Wednesday mornings are the PAT playgroups held in the classroom of the pool building. All Hoonah families with children from birth to age 3 are invited to join in playful activities together. Come join the fun!

Individual personal visits are held with families twice a month. Jamie Erickson, PAT Parent Educator, discusses children's development and offers new activities to encourage emerging skills. PAT emphasizes using common household materials as learning materials and to create games.

PAT is seeking "trashable" materials for use in family activities. Donations can be left in the PAT office in the HCS Elementary building. Please call if you would like your trashables to be picked up. Materials needed:

- Sturdy wrapping paper tubes, vacuum sealing tubes, paper towel tubes
- Calendars which have colored pictures
- Cardboard food boxes from cereal, cake mixes, etc.
- Ribbon scraps; recycled from gifts is fine!

Group connections are offered at least once a month to allow parents to hear new information and to discuss parenting issues. Watch for the January flyers announcing the dates of the Infant Massage session.

Gunalchéesh to the Hoonah Liquor Board for the donation to buy food for group connection; City of Hoonah for the classroom in the new gym/pool building; and to Hoonah City Schools for office facilities. We couldn't do it without you!

Call Jamie Erickson at (907) 465-7882 for information or for enrollment.



City of Hoonah Parks and Recreation

If you've gone by Kéidladee Park lately, you've probably noticed some new structures. The backstop and dugouts for our new ball field are up and ready for this summer's softball season. City of Hoonah Parks and Rec Manager Kris Skaflestad is planning to get folks of all ages involved this year. She will be going to the Hoonah Liquor Board for funds to purchase equipment, and by early spring, the field should be leveled and planted with grass.

In the meantime, Parks and Rec is running the pool and new gym building as well as the William and Mary Johnson Youth Center. The Youth Center was the location for this year's Halloween Costume Walk and a Christmas party, both sponsored by Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Kris wants to thank everyone who supported the Youth Center doll raffle at the Christmas Bazaar; congrats to Postmaster Mark Smith, who won the raffle. Kris plans on getting another doll for next year's raffle; look for notices about work parties for people who want to help make doll clothes.

Schedules for Parks & Rec Facilities

Open Gym: Saturday 1-3 **Free for Kids** MWF 7-9 p.m. for Adults (\$3.00 user fee) Saturday 5-7 Women; 7-9 Men.

Pool: MWF 6:30-7:30 a.m. Lap Swim for Adults; MWFS Open Swim 5-7 p.m.; Lap Swim for Adults 7-9 p.m. Pool User Fees: \$2.00 Kids, \$4.00 Adults

Youth Center: M-Th 3-9 p.m. (ages 11 and under go home at 7)

Fri. 2:30-11 p.m. (We have a dance every other Friday night—young ones go home at 9:30 on dance nights.)

Sat. 1-11 (young ones go home at 7) Sun. Closed



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hoonah News

We are so pleased to announce three new site-based matches. The High School Bigs may meet with their Littles at school, at the William & Mary Johnson Youth Center, at BBBS activities, or at the City of Hoonah Open Swims or Saturday Open Gyms. Giving back to a younger person and being a positive role model are important motivators for these three students.

January is Mentoring Month in Hoonah, the State of Alaska, and the United States of America. Please consider joining our program by becoming a Big, donating time, prizes, or cash resources, or referring a child who needs or wants a Big Brother or a Big Sister. Contact Sally Dybdahl at (907)209-9326 or visit the office housed in the youth center.

Many thanks to Karen the Great for donating \$100 of her Permanent Fund Dividend to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska using Pick.Click.Give, and to Angie Lunda for a year-end/holiday donation of \$500. Thanks to Pearl Miller and family for donations of treasures and hand-me-downs, as well.



*Little Brother Leif and
Big Brother Treston*

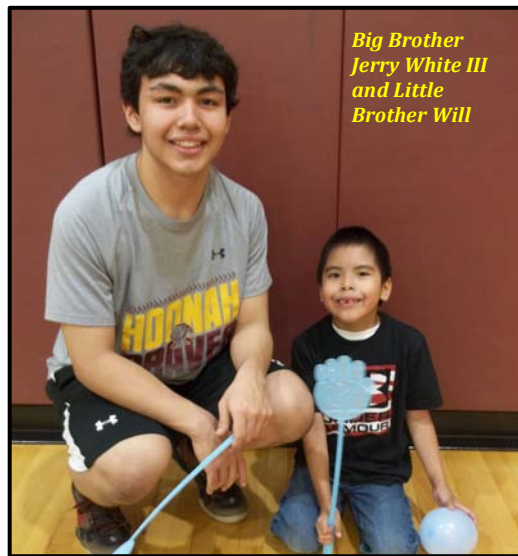


*Little Sister Krista
and Big Sister
Halle Budke*

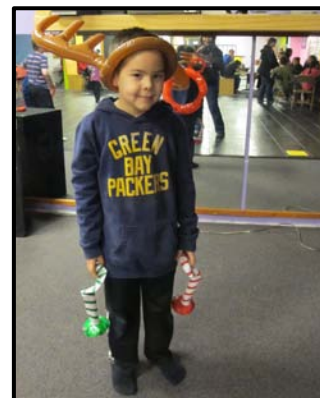
At our November 19th BBBS OPEN GYM, 43 came and took advantage of all the space to have some active fun. Some took home a jump rope donated by Allison Matter Bartlett of the Far North Jumpers of North Pole. Want a jump rope? Length can be adjusted for wee beginning jumpers to tall veteran jumpers. Please contact Sally.

A holly, jolly time was had by over 40 folks of all ages at our BBBS Christmas Party on December 21st. We enjoyed water & ice from the North Pole, cupcakes, fruit bread, oranges, candies and popcorn. Thanks for providing treats:

Daphne Wright, Chris Greenwald, Judy Brown and Glenda Hutton. Other adult helpers besides Daphne, Judy and Glenda were Robin Hasselquist, Tina Bottjen and Janice Towry. Students who helped with setting up and decorating cupcakes were Anthony, Riley, Collin, Krista and Tanner. *The pictures below show some of the fun from the Christmas party.*



*Big Brother
Jerry White III
and Little
Brother Will*



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

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Hoonah

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Hoonah City Schools Newsletter **November-December 2016**

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Dates to Remember

Winter Holiday Break	Dec. 19—Jan. 2
Students Return to School	Tuesday, Jan. 3
Varsity Basketball @ Kake	Jan. 3-4
End of 2nd Qt./1st Semester	Jan. 5
Teacher Workday –No School	Friday, Jan. 6
Orange Frog for Students	Jan. 10-13
Community Theater Production	Jan. 12,14,15
HS Boys Basketball @ Klawock	Jan. 18-19
HS Boys Basketball @ Hydaburg	Jan. 20-21
HS Boys Basketball @ Thorne Bay	Jan. 23-24
HS Basketball Home Games v Angoon	Feb. 2-3
HS Girls @ Klawock	Feb. 8-9
HS Girls @ Thorne Bay	Feb. 10-11
Parent-Teacher Conf.-Early Dismissal	Feb. 13-16
HS Basketball Home Games v Skagway	Feb. 13-14
No School	Feb. 17
Teacher In-Service Days	Feb. 20-21
HS Girls B-ball Home Games v Yakutat	Feb. 20-21
HS Boys B-ball Home Games v. Sitka JV	Feb. 24-25
Region V 1A B-ball Tourney/Ketchikan	Mar. 1-4
State 1A B-ball Tournament/Anchorage	Mar. 15-18
Third Quarter Ends	Mar. 10
Teacher Workday – No School	Mar. 13
Spring Break	Mar. 20-24
HCS <u>Ku.éex'</u>	April 28
High School Graduation	May 17
Last Day of School	May 19

Basketball Game Schedule is subject to change. Watch the school reader board and messenger for updates.

Photos below: A Charlie Brown Christmas

