

Hoonah Schools Newsletter

March 2024

Héentaanáx Dis

Elizabeth Peratrovich Day Celebration Held at Hoonah Schools

Several classes spent weeks gearing up for Elizabeth Peratrovich Day. After reading books, learning the Elizabeth Peratrovich Day song and rap, grades 2nd and 3rd created a timeline to be displayed in the gym for our annual event. Several classes drew a half portrait of Elizabeth Peratrovich, adding things that cannot be seen or

known from her iconic portrait, things like her ANS cap, or a cedar bark hat, regalia or some auntie earrings. On February 16th, we held a school-wide assembly and were joined by various ANB/ANS members: ANB Camp #12 President, Fred Bennett, ANS Camp #12 President, Amelia Wilson, Former Grand Camp President Johanna Dybdahl, Former Grand Camp 1st Vice Presidents, Ernest Jack & Heather Powell as well as Former Camp #12 president, Jack Lee. All gave inspiring speeches, sharing words of wisdom with our students.

The 5th Grade & 8th Grade joined together to perform a re-enactment of the Alaska Territorial Legislature hearing on the Anti-Discrimination Bill. They performed the Reader's Theater created by Sealaska Heritage Institute. These students not only were tasked with memorizing lines, but researching to find out more about the person they were portraying. They did a wonderful job.

Pre-K through 3rd grade performed the Elizabeth Peratrovich Song and grades 3 through 6 performed the Elizabeth Peratrovich rap song created by Daaljini Mary Foletti.

We at Hoonah Schools would like to thank ANS Camp #12 for all your help with this event and for sponsoring the reception held after the assembly. Aatlein Gunalchéesh!



School Board Appreciation

The Association of Alaska School Boards Board of Directors declared February to be **School Board Appreciation Month**. The goal is to build awareness and understanding in your community and schools of the crucial function an elected school board plays in a representative democracy.

AASB stated: *As citizen advocates, individual board members face a complex, and often demanding job; yet few people fully understand the scope and far-reaching implications of board members' responsibilities. All Alaska citizens should recognize the important contributions of these men and women and focus attention on the vital role these public officials play in the education of our children.*

We appreciate our local School Board members:

Harold Houston Sr., President
Bryce Tyler, Vice President
Heidi Jewell, Secretary/ Treasurer
Geraldine Cheslock, Board Member
Pearl Miller, Board Member



Art Grant Report by Grant Coordinator Dianne Zemanek

We have been off to a great start to Year Three of our Art Grant by providing several classes tied to art, culture and design. We have found success in starting our staff mentor project and have partnered with many local groups/organizations to provide great experiences for our kids. You will see the following classes highlighted in this newsletter: Inventors Workshop, Sketch, DigiPho, Music & Formline.

We had the opportunity to partner with SHI (Sealaska Heritage Institute) and Huna Heritage Foundation to get training in the Glowforge (laser cutter) to create beautifully designed salmon trout heads that our kids designed and produced. (photo below) We submitted five pieces of art completed by our students to the Heart for Art display at the Capitol Building again this year. Congratulations to each of our artists! Their work will be hung in the hall on the way to the cafeteria.



We are looking forward to a May concert tied to the Juneau Jazz and Classics (dates and artists to come). Our Music teacher, Mae Higgins, has been providing guitar lessons to the community as well as her classes with students. Stephanie Harold opened up Sketch to the community as well. We have so much to be proud of as we let art bring us all together for the kids and future of our community. Gunalchéesh to all who have joined us in the endeavor to bring arts education to our kids.



Right: High School Band performed at the Christmas concert in December.

Left: a completed watercolor "Chilkat Range Sunset" by Jenna Jack.



Jenny Miller named Paraeducator of the Year for the State of Alaska



Congratulations to Jenny Miller on being honored as **Paraeducator of the Year** at the State Special Education Conference. This award is in recognition of providing quality education to students of diverse abilities.

Several members of the Special Education team made the trip to Anchorage in February for the Alaska State Special Education Conference. Sped. Director Sheryl Ross wants to thank the staff who stayed behind to provide services to students while the rest of the staff attended the conference: Jessie LeBlanc, Mary Erickson, Truman Gray and Danielle Quinn.

The team would like to thank the district staff and families for giving them this time to learn more about autism, behavioral health, neuro-

development strategies, transitional services, vision and motor skills, strength-based approaches, regulation, AdHd as a superpower, as well as many other topics.

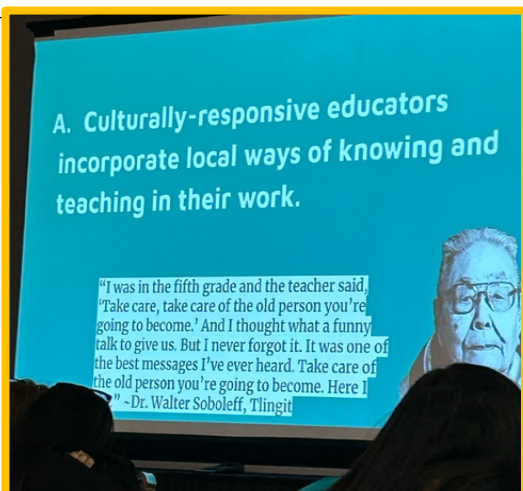


HCS staff at the Special Education Conference in Anchorage, clockwise from top: Doug Wesson, Zada Michel, Judy Bitz, Jamie Erickson, Melissa Thaalesen, Tesh Gray, Sheryl Ross. School Board member Pearl Miller, Veronica Dalton, Jenny Miller



Growing Our Own Teachers!

We want to celebrate Zada Michel for her success as a member of the National Honor Society as she navigates her classes to work towards a teaching degree through Grand Canyon University. This is Zada's second year as a para-educator. She is steadfast, patient, and demonstrates teaching skills within the special education realm far beyond her years. She is busy doing her homework in any spare time she has. We are so proud of her!



Left: a slide from one of the presentations at the Special Education Conference showed a quote from Dr. Walter Soboleff.

Spotlight on New Staff



Tamika Galvin is the Middle School and High School Language Arts teacher, currently teaching via Zoom. Here is what she shared with us:

I am from St. Louis, Missouri. I currently reside in Memphis, Tennessee. Growing up in St. Louis, I attended schools with

an emphasis on foreign language. I studied German and Spanish from amongst the choices offered. As an adult, I studied and learned the Arabic language and culture. I have held several positions in the arena of education, such as Cafeteria Manager/Custodian, Substitute Teacher, Parent Volunteer, Certified Teacher (all subjects including ESL), and several years in administration (Dean, Assistant Principal, Principal, Director of CTE, Interim Superintendent, etc.)

I come from a large family. Both sets of grandparents had 14-16 children. I currently love and care for my only living parent, my dad. My mother was murdered years ago, but her beautiful legacy lives on. I have four amazing children and one beautiful grandgirl who is the boss of everyone.

When I am not working, I enjoy reading, fellowshiping and bike riding. I am always exploring ways to help make education better for students, so attending conferences and sharing ideas with like-minded educators is a bonus. Hoonah is a beautiful place, much like the movies. The land is full of nature, and my students are the apple of my eye. It is a joy to learn from and with them.



Welcome to our New Head of Maintenance

Hi, my name is Matt Ebersbach. I recently moved to Hoonah from Eastport, Maine. Prior to living in Maine, I spent 21 years in South Florida, West Palm Beach.

I like to spend leisure time going out walking and hiking with my three dogs: Hercules, Andromeda, and Ginger. When I'm indoors, I enjoy cooking and baking. I live here in Hoonah now with my wife, Carolina, and three dogs.

We all love it here! The landscape outside always shows off a different facet of natural beauty. I never get tired of looking out over the water to see the mountains. It's always a beautiful and refreshing view. Hoonah is a lovely place and what an experience it is to be able to help out, be a part of, and give back to this extraordinary community.

Christmas Bazaar 2023 Thanks

Thanks to all who made the Christmas Bazaar such a huge success. The Middle and High School Robotics Team netted \$2,115 from table rentals, Mystery Gifts and the Silent Auction table. Thank you to Niccole Williams, the Bitz Gardens, Chris Greenwald, Nicki and John Shelton, Marti Lee, Laurie Scoles in Idaho and the Thrift Store for your generous donations to the Silent Auction Table. A very special thank you to Fishbone Gifts (aka Monica and Stan Savland) and Icy Strait Point (aka Eleanor Davenport) who always donate such varied and unique items to our Silent Auction.

And a huge shout out of thanks goes to Pearl Miller for her Christmas Stockings Project. The stockings alone raised \$480 for the Robotic Class. Thank you to the businesses and individuals listed below who filled Pearl's stockings with so many gifts:

Alaska Seaplanes
Icy Strait Lodge
Pearl Miller

Nicki & John Shelton
Jamie Erickson
Hoonah Trading Company

Lilly James
Jessie Schoonover
Colette's Cupboard

Elana Cranston-Rhodes
Daphne Wright
Sally Dybdahl
Jessie Wright
Jessie Martin

Finally, without the help of Dianne Zemanek, Sally Dybdahl, Karen Mills, Teresa McConnell, Ollee Kloeckner, all the ladies in the Bookmark Group who donated & wrapped Mystery Presents & the support of HCS staff, this wonderful event would never have happened. Gunalchéesh to everyone! *Glenda Hutton, Christmas Bazaar Coordinator*

Hoonah Students Take a Winter Trip to Xunaa Shuká Hít in Glacier Bay

Snow and wind drove furiously into the walls of the Xunaa Shuká Hít on the shores of Bartlett Cove, and for four days, Hoonah's 6th Grade Class and Ethno Math Class took cover inside. Ten students gathered around the fire pit to talk and learn and listen as Heather Powell, Darlene See, and the National Park Service staff led activities and discussions. We had come over on the ferry February 1st and intended to stay through the 5th. Our purpose was to support Naakilaan Hans Chester and Seigóot Jessica Chester as they welcomed an at'óow back into their lives and into their clan, the L'uknaḡádi.

We partnered up with the Park Service to learn about life within Glacier Bay National Park in the wintertime. As Alex says, we were also able to adventure around Gustavus a bit too, *"The Hoonah basketball games in Gustavus were amazing and funny. We lost the games. They were at, I don't know, like 59 and we were at like 36. Then at the basketball games one of the players fell on Gigi and Chloe. Chloe fell off the "bleachers" though."* We also had the opportunity to shop in the Community Chest thrift store in Gustavus to top it off; much thanks were given for opening up for our students. Many fun things were bought at next-to-nothing prices.



On one of the days, we built survival shelters to fight the weather, as Landon describes. *"So, me, Chloe Brown, Alex, and my sister Chloe Lane, Matthew, Mr B., and Sophie along with Park Rangers Steve and Meghan, built a survival shelter in the forest along the coast. In the snow and wind, we started off with putting our biggest sticks on the tree, and made a triangle door. Then we started taking ice blocks and making a wall. After this we were going to put moss on the wall, but we didn't do it. Another team built another shelter down the beach. After, we went and took pictures with all of us in the shelter."*

On Saturday, the 3rd, we had the honor of helping celebrate the first *ku.éex'* hosted in the wintertime in many years at Glacier Bay. Unfortunately, as Silas describes, due to the wind and rough seas, many who planned on attending were not able to get to Bartlett Cove as had been planned, *"Missing the ku.éex' was a sad story for many people after the catamaran to Gustavus was canceled due to bad weather. I wish I could've gone because I would've really enjoyed the ku.éex', and seeing the deer get skinned and just being there really."*

However, a close group of friends and supporters from Gustavus were able to gather and our students from Hoonah, including the basketball team, were able to support and celebrate a beautiful and very personal *Ku.éex'*. *"Leading up to the Ku.éex' Naakilaan unveiled his thread and needle and carefully threaded through the 200 year old felt tunic at'óow to repair the damaged beadwork. It seemed an act of bravery, as we watched. I had the honor of witnessing Naakilaan Seitáan and L Yei Sakgwaxeex Seigóot repatriate a clan tunic back to his people of Yakutat. Watching those at the Ku.éex' support Naakilaan and Seigóot this day was amazing,"* wrote Mark Browning, Hoonah 6th grade teacher.

Your Hoonah students will take you through the day. Devlyn documented the first processing of a deer at the Xunaa Shuká Hít Tribal House. The deer was brought over from Hoonah and donated for the *ku.éex'*. *"Watching my dad and Mr B. skin the deer was cool; I've never seen someone skin a deer. It's good I was able to watch because soon I will be the one that has to butcher a deer. It was unreal that we were the first people to butcher a deer there since Glacier Bay became a National Park."*



Following this, the day really got underway. Chloe could not have said it better, *"In Glacier Bay we were in the Hoonah Xunaa Shuká Hít where we had a ku.éex'. We were singing and dancing and having a great time. A little bit after Grandma Debbie cooked us some VERY VERY yummy dinner. She made some deer stew, fried bread, herring eggs, everything you can name, and it all tasted awesome. It really felt awesome dancing, singing, knowing family, friends, ancestors were all there--- it felt heart warming."*

The day ended powerfully as Giana noted, *"Some people got new Lingit names. The two new names that were given were, Xéetli (grandma Debbie's new Lingit name), and Kudataan Tláa (Darlene's new name)."*

Xunaa Shuká Hít Trip, continued.

Being there at the Tribal House while the names were given was awesome because it was, I think, one of the first Lingit namings in the Tribal House."

There are so many people to thank for such an amazing week in Glacier Bay, it is hard to know where to begin. Of course, thank you to the entire National Park Service for their continued hospitality- Melissa, Steve, Meghan, Matthew, Patrick and the entire support staff there. Thank you to those that made the trip possible from Hoonah, including Hoonah Indian Association and Darlene See, and those who helped us with financial support, including Sealaska. Thanks to our artist in residence, Ms Kathy Hocker, who took time to teach our kids to observe and make art. Thanks to all the behind the scenes people doing their parts to make this week happen. It was another amazing experience for our Hoonah kids!

Elementary Tlingit Class

Taught by Shaa Deik Cristina Smith



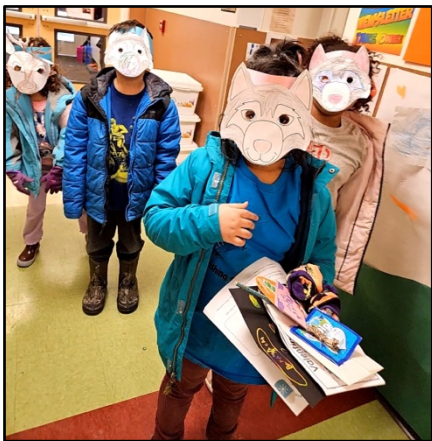
PreK and kindergarten work on learning taakw naa.ádi (winter clothes) vocabulary.



Carter and Ava do the Pledge to the Flag in Tlingit during morning announcements.



↑ The First Grade class learned beginning weaving techniques while they made placemats.



←Elementary students learned about the Anishinabe tribe and the similarities they have to our culture. Students chose animals they relate to and created masks to represent the totem of their choice.



↑First graders learned about Benny Benson, who won a competition to design the State Flag of Alaska. Then they made their own flags.

Mark Your Calendars for our 31st Annual Hoonah Schools Heritage Celebration Ku.éex'

Our **All-School Ku.éex'** will be held **Friday, April 12th** in the Alumni Gym, beginning at 10 a.m. It will follow two days of the Clan Workshop, put on by Huna Heritage Foundation. This year the Raven students will be the hosts. We will be asking for donations to help with this event. We can use: berries, from your freezer or from the store, dried seaweed, jarred jam and jelly, smoked salmon or other dried or canned goodies for gifts. We can also use cash donations for supplies.

We invite parents and other community members to volunteer to help with serving on the day of the event or the day before, to help get everything ready. Contact Cristina Smith at 907-209-1703 or Heather Powell at 907-738-5555 to sign up to help, or with any questions. Students will be taking home a parent letter about this event as the time draws near. Gunalchéesh, we hope to see everyone there.

Art Classes Update

by *Instructor Stephanie Harold*

Fall semester 2023 I returned for another daily class with Hoonah City Schools: 8th grade Sketcher's Workshop. The class focused on developing the skills of drawing and seeing to sketch from observation in black and white and, eventually, in watercolor. Every period started with five-minute warm-ups, putting in the pencil miles to draw circles, long and straight lines, ellipses, and curves with varied line thickness. We even experimented with syncing our breathing with the pencil strokes. The only time we skipped the warm-ups was for the weekly Friday Zentangle. This practice improved their pen skills by creating abstract, pattern-based designs. At the core of Zentangle is the principle of working only in pen, so that the artist must work with whatever mistakes naturally occur.



The class's weekly daily focus was based on an early survey of what the students wanted to learn to draw. Their first

goal was local marine mammals. We began by learning how to create an impression of three dimensions. This introduced the students to using toned paper with various pens and dark-colored pencil. They created Blobbies, rounded forms organized with cross-contour lines and covered with texture. Then they learned to use light and dark values to create believable seals, sea lions, and whales. We even spent two sessions drawing actual seal flippers from the seal necropsy sponsored by Sealaska Heritage Institute.

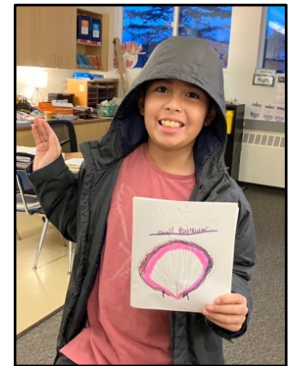
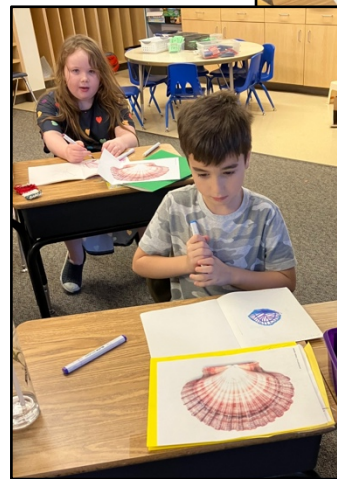
Sea creatures led us easily into pen or graphite Quick Sketches of common objects: five to fifteen minutes to sketch a flour sifter or a mug or a mini-pumpkin (each day a different item from the classroom and kitchen.) Half the period, we did several Quick Sketches; the other half focused on color.

The students used colored pencils to explore principles of color theory. I needed them to understand a host of concepts — hue, temperature, saturation, color value, and complements. Then they were ready to experiment with mixing the actual colors of nature from only primary and secondary colors.

The class's final project was working with watercolor. Students mixed all their colors from seven hues: two reds, blues, and yellows and one very dark blue or umber. With

just those plus a round brush, a large flat brush and high quality watercolor paper; they created a series of guided mini-landscapes. Then they used personal or published photos from Southeast Alaska to paint a personal choice landscape. I organized the class around foundational art skills and concepts using simple, affordable set ups. I was very proud of how the 8th graders rose to this challenge.

The Art Grant also made a number of other Drawing Skill courses possible. In the Fisheries Biology class (a dual-credit course with UAS), the students did three creative



projects that involved presenting information and observations visually. I also taught what I term Sketch Learning in the 4th grade and the 2/3 classroom. Sketch Learning uses principles of nature journaling (observation, curiosity, and visual communication) to interact with content. Creating sketch art uses different ways of seeing and thinking and self-expression. The fourth graders created comparison studies between bear bread and interesting rocks and explored moss and feathers. The second and third graders worked with shape observation and ways to duplicate simple shapes before taking those skills to cockle shells using brush pens.

Finally, I volunteered to host the second year of the Hoonah Community Sketchers. This entirely free, weekly gathering is open to any member of the Hoonah Community. My sub-title is "drawing for joy and relaxation" and "no guilt, no stress." I firmly believe that anyone with the desire, can learn to draw and thus share their unique visual perspective. You don't even have to be able to draw stick figures :).

Hoonah Schools Music Program

This year is flying by in Music! Our first public performance was at the Community Veterans Day Program in November when students from 4th, 5th and 7th grade sang a thank you song entitled, *What Can You Say to a*



Hero? They did a beautiful job and touched the hearts of many in attendance.

We moved rapidly into fall

with exploring our new guitars and xylophones. Seasonal songs and dances were enjoyed in our primary grades while the upper grades began to prepare for our holiday concert. Everyone from prek-12th participated in our concert in December. Elementary students dressed as elves and reindeer sharing songs of their "Holiday Wishes".

Our chorus looked lovely (and handsome) in their new performance attire and sounded even better. The HS girls did themselves proud with a Christmas version of Hallelujah. A special guest made her dancing debut in Holly Jolly Christmas...wonder who it was? The band also did themselves proud. Our beginner band students in 6th



grade joined the larger group to play three carols, with the combined 7th-12th grade band finishing out the concert.

The new semester brought a Music Exploration class into my schedule....we have played guitars, learned about the music of Japan through our new xylophone



collection and did a performance of Momotaro, the Peach Child, for the elementary students. We are currently working on an Easter musical to do for the younger students. Band is now being challenged with working through proficiency levels; rewards of pins or medals will be presented upon completion of a level.

A nice break to the winter blahs was some serious drumming on exercise balls. Finally, we can't forget our Pep Band is back and happily performed at our home basketball games. Thanks to everyone for your support and encouragement.

A special highlight of this year has been inviting members of the community to join in a free guitar class. Eric Clapton does NOT need to feel threatened, but we have had a grand time learning guitar basics and even inviting guests to a mini concert before Christmas. Not only were the songs great, but the hot chocolate and cookies that



Guitar Class performed at mini-concert before Christmas.

were served really went over well. A new class is going on now, both for returning students and beginners. Ages are 4th grade on up. We meet Thursdays at 4:30 in the music room.

Mae Higgins, K-12 Music Teacher

Reporting in From Fourth Grade is Mr. Johnston:

The fourth graders have now read ten books during whole class reading this year. They are great readers and love reading every day. They go to other teachers in the morning for 30 minutes of reading in a program called "Walk to Read." This gives them an additional ½ hour for a total time of one hour reading every day!

The students are very hard at work on mastering their math facts.. This is a critical step to get them ready for upper grade math. Most days of the week every student is present, and I am proud of students and their families for that.



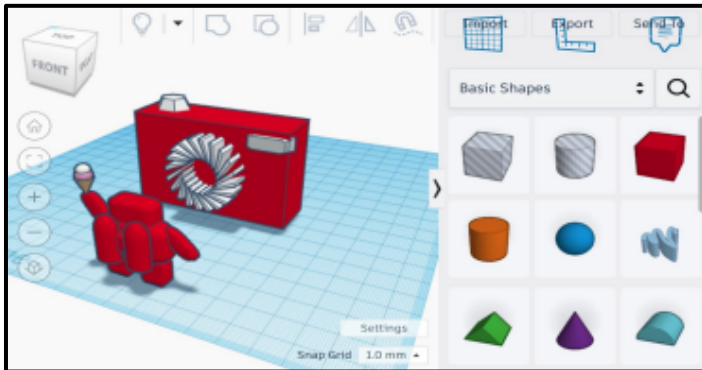
4th graders with Principal Nicole Egan

Turning Ideas into Thingies

Image > Design > Make > Play

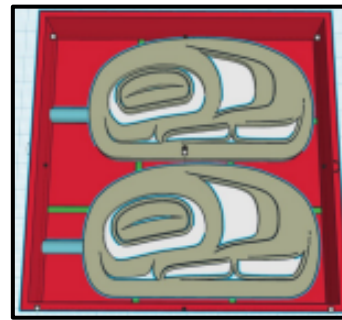
Students possess so much creativity and imagination, but how can they harness that into something of purpose, meaning, or simply of fun? New technologies of design and fabrication give anyone the tools and techniques to go from an idea to a digital design, then to objects made of plastic, rubber, chocolate, resin, metal, and even animated 'bots.

The 6th and 7th graders used their imagination to make things of their own in the *Inventor's Workshop* class during 1st semester. First step was to bring their creativity and inspirations into Tinkercad where they created their own original designs.



Tinkercad (<https://tinkercad.com>) is a free web app for 3d design, electronics, coding and 3d simulation. But great ideas are not born in a vacuum. Tinkercad allowed the students to bring in images from the web, photos off of a digital camera, and designs by others that they could edit. The core classroom rule was simply that all designs had to be of their own imagination and modeled by themselves. No copycats.

The next phase was fabrication, where students turned their digital designs into physical objects. Most often one of Hoonah School's 3d printers were used to make the object. 3d printers melt plastic into a strand the size of human hair, then extrude the strand onto a build plate in an outline of the design. It typically takes hours to complete the design, building one thin layer at a time.

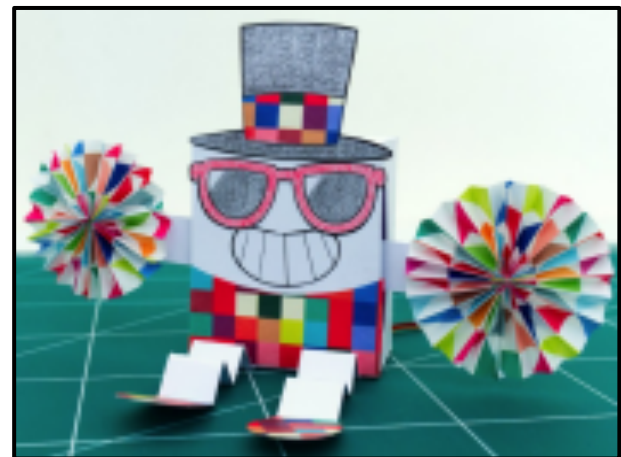


Fabrication using 3d printers was also used to make reusable silicone molds for candy or resin, and to make casting molds for pewter metal using the investment casting technique. No longer must thingies be limited to plastic!



The students were also able to fabricate using a 2d laser engraver and cutter. Where a 3d printer deposits plastic, a laser burns material. At lower power, the laser will only burn the top of the material, leaving an image. At high power, the laser will cut right through the material with a kerf of about 0.2mm. Students used mostly acrylic, basswood and plywood materials.

The final project was to make animated 'bots. Unfortunately, the semester ended too quickly, so there was no time to design in Tinkercad and 3d print. Students used paper templates instead, then decorated them as they wished. Students wired motors, sensors, and LED lights to a microcontroller, then coded the 'bot for a host of playful behaviors and responses.



Inventor's Workshop was made possible with support from the Assistance for the Arts grant administered by Dianne Zemanek, Sealaska Heritage Institute, and the Bente Alaska STEAM Hub.

Ben McLuckie, Instructor

Whalefest 2023

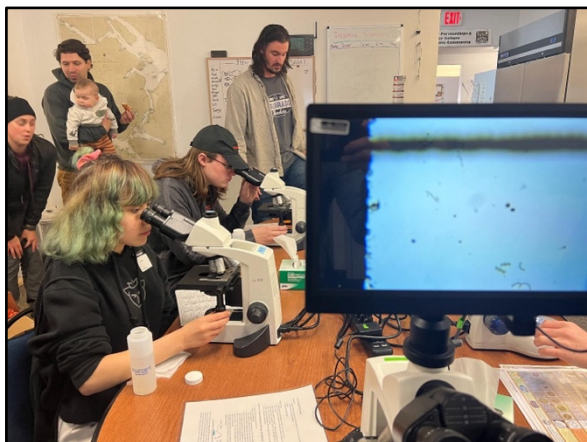
Did you know humpback whale songs can last up to 20 minutes?! We learned all about whale “acoustics” this year at Whalefest. Leif Gray, Susan Bradford, and Dietrich Lewis flew down to Sitka to take part in this science symposium last November with chaperones Darcy Higgins and Julian Narvaez.

Whalefest is a series of talks aimed at the public to raise awareness of marine research being conducted and to create enthusiasm for marine topics. There were 3 days of talks (3 talks each day) and the theme this time was “acoustics.” The theme the previous year was “reproduction.”



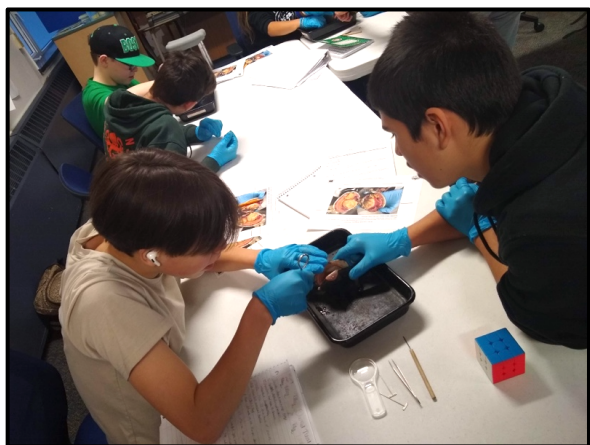
Students earned 1 college credit at UAS by taking BIO175 (Introduction to Biological Research Techniques). They completed assignments before and after attending Whalefest and participated in science activities at Sitka Tribe Lab and Sitka Sound Science Center in the mornings before talks. Students also had separate time dedicated to ask researchers any questions about their areas of expertise and got to spend time in the lab together.

Gunalchéesh RASOR program, and HIA for making this opportunity happen and for supporting our young scientists! We plan on inviting students to go again next year.



Phytoplankton, Shellfish, and PSP, Oh My!

Over the course of 10 weeks, HIA’s environmental team came into the 7th and 8th grade science classes to teach about phytoplankton, shellfish, and reducing the risk of getting paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP). Together, we collected water samples, learned to identify and looked for phytoplankton under a microscope, went digging for shellfish, and dissected butter clams. The goal was to educate students about harmful algal blooms, and how to harvest shellfish safely. Thank you to the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, and SEATOR for the curriculum and support.





Neurolinks Wins Big at State Championship!



Receiving the Judges' Choice Award. Left to right: Will Dalton, Brooke Hansen, Royal Huskey, Rowan Huskey, Dietrich Lewis, Dasher Huskey



Receiving the Winning Alliance Award. Alliance teams, left: Neurolinks, center: Scrap Metal from West HS, Anchorage (captains), right: Legendary Lynx from Dimond HS, Anchorage

Neurolinks #4358, Hoonah's Robotics Team, had their most successful season of trophy hunting ever. At the SE Qualifier in Skagway last December 15-16, they brought home trophies for "Motivate Award" and "Finalist Alliance, 1st Team Selected" amongst a field of 11 teams. Both trophies were qualifying for an invite to the State Championship. Then at the Alaska FTC State Championship in Palmer February 16-17, they brought home another pair of trophies for "Judges' Choice Award" and "Winning Alliance, 2nd Team Selected" amongst a field of 25 top teams. Neurolinks finished the season ranked 5th in the State with all competition and judged awards accounted for. Just the two top teams from Alaska are invited to the World Championship this spring, so that gives our Hoonah team something more to aspire to. As coach, it is a bit unbelievable on one hand, and completely deserving on the other.

In robotics, you form an alliance with another team, then your alliance competes against a different alliance of two other teams. This makes for an intense game with 4 robots all trying to score at the same time! The Championship started with 60 seeding matches, with each team playing 5 of those matches together with a randomized alliance partner. For finals, the top four

seeded teams each drafted their alliance partners to compete in best-out-of-three elimination matches to determine the champion. At Regionals, Neurolinks were drafted by the 4th seeded team, and that alliance won semi-finals, but lost in the final rounds. At State Championship, Neurolinks were drafted by the 1st seeded team, and together won the semi-final and final rounds to be the State Champions – wahoo! Highlights from the State Championship (link: <http://tinyurl.com/Neurolinks-State2024>):

- Silly interview: 3:00:30
- Neurolinks top scoring seeding match: 4:48:18
- Neurolinks in semi-finals: 6:23:00
- Neurolinks in finals: 7:23:44
- Judges' Choice trophy: 8:08:30
- Winning Alliance trophy: 8:31:40

Every team member contributed in multiple ways to make Neurolink the competitive team it has become. Dietrich is the main driver, co-builder and veteran of the team who is expert at all the team roles. Dash is the co-driver and co-builder of the robot.

Robotics, continued.

Royal is the main designer of custom robot parts, although Will also created some important designs earlier in the season. Will and Royal both are the field setters, and human players. Rowan is the main programmer and engineering journalist and sketcher, and trained Brooke, our newest member of the team, to contribute in all those roles. Rowan, Brooke and Will made the team robes, which is a combination of 2d design, cutting vinyl, weeding and ironing. Everyone helped out with team management and fundraising.

Every robotics season starts with an all-new game the team must strategize around, design, build and code a scoring robot, and practice driving for the winning gameplay. The game is played on a 12 ft by 12 ft field in both autonomous and driver-controlled periods of play. This season's game consists of 94 pixels that had to be captured and placed in a floor goal or stacked high against a vertical goal. Other scoring opportunities Neurolinks succeeded at included using an AI video sensor to find the location of a spike mark and replacing it with a pixel, launching a paper drone into the landing zone, and suspending the robot from the rigging.

ASRC Energy (asrcenergy.com), a top engineering firm in Alaska, sponsored the State Championship. When asked, "Any potential recruits out there?", the ASRC's representative answered, "Probably all of them." UAA College of Engineering gives 4 year scholarships to any team member who participates at Robotics State Championship. 10% of the incoming class at

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) participates in this robotics competition nationwide. Industry, Higher Education and Military all recognize the incredible value that comes from participating on a robotics team.

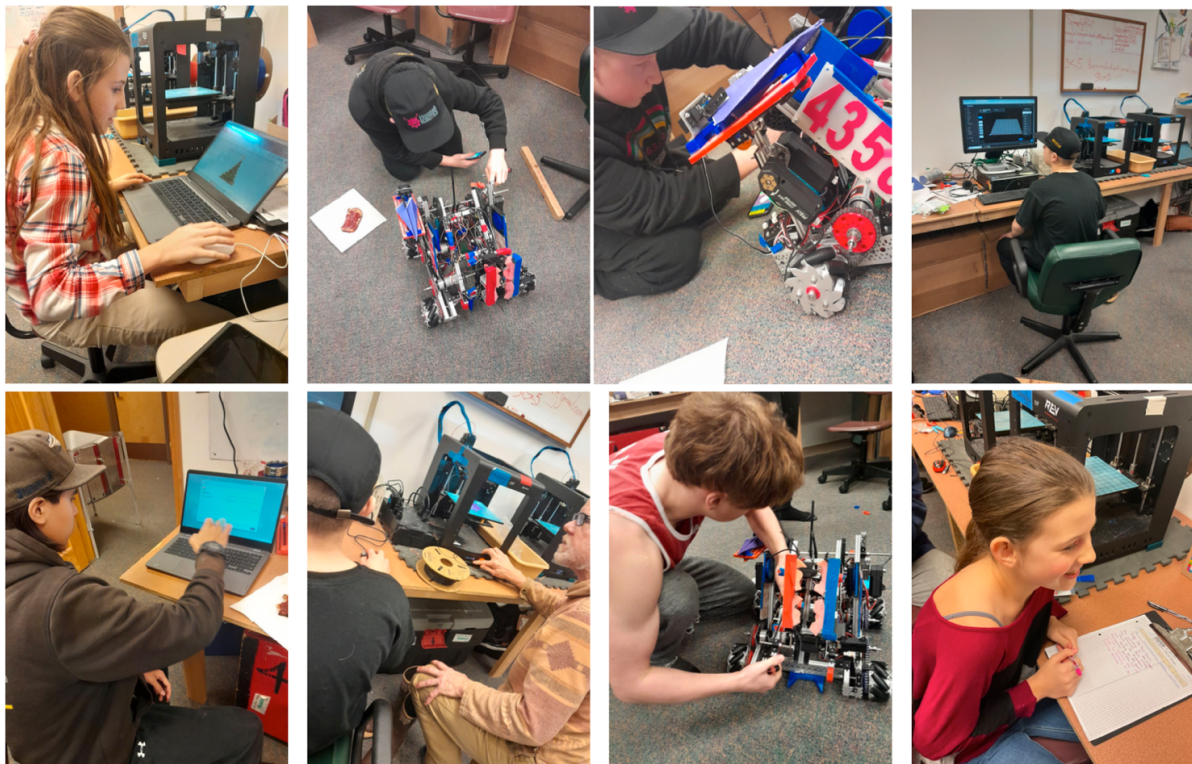


We Need Team Members Like You!

Neurolink will be drafting new members in September, grades 7 - 12, so watch out for the recruitment posters. No previous experience needed. Anyone can be a valuable member of the team: bring your interests and we will teach you the essentials. There are so many positions that make for a strong robotics team; it's not just about building robots. All you really need is a desire to invent while having fun, and a commitment to the team.

Thank You: Our season wouldn't have been the same without the generous support from the Hoonah Community. The City's 1% Student Extracurricular Activities Fund makes our participation possible. The Hoonah Christmas Bazaar proved to be our most successful fundraiser ever. Thank you to Bazaar organizer Glenda Hutton, who invited our Robotics group to assist with the Bazaar set-up and clean-up. Thanks also to Pearl Miller for the special stockings for the Silent Auction. Our food booth was made possible by Abby Huskey and Sara Hansen. Profits from the Mystery Gifts Table and Silent Auction went into our Robotics fund. See the Bazaar Thank You article on page 4 for a list of businesses and individuals who donated to these projects. Thank you to all for your support!

Coach Ben McLuckie



Huna Heritage Foundation News

Molly of Denali Community Science Program and Kids' Camp



Huna Heritage Foundation is excited for you to save the date for the **Molly of Denali Kids Camp** coming July 23 and 24, 2024. This summer the camp theme will be Salmon; there will be indoor and outdoor hands-on activities for 5- 8-year-olds. We are planning to

have two 5-hour days of camp this year which allows time for fun field trips. The camp is part of a collaborative project with the hit PBS Kids show and three Alaskan communities- including Hoonah- to develop place-based, relevant, community science learning to engage children in science, environment, and stewardship in exciting and meaningful ways.

Hoonah Job Fair and Career Week

The Hoonah Job Fair was held on Thursday, March 7, 2024, for students and community members to explore local, regional, and state job opportunities as well as unions and apprenticeship opportunities. Local businesses with tables at the Job Fair included Hoonah Trading, Fishbone, Icy Strait Lodge, Hoonah Police Department, Alaska State Troopers, Hoonah Court System, SEARHC Medical and Dental, City of Hoonah, Hoonah Harbor, HIA Environmental, Hoonah Forest Service, and Icy Strait Point.

The Alaska Laborers Union and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers also had representatives participating in the Job Fair and each had a table. The University of Alaska Southeast were in attendance to share educational pathways and the Glacier

Bay National Park Service was present to share job and career opportunities in Glacier Bay. Hecla/Greens Creek mine also came to Hoonah to share with students and community members the career opportunities



Students visit the City of Hoonah Water Plant



Field trip to the Fishing Vessel Vagabond Queen

available working in the mining industry. We were so very grateful for all of the local, regional and state employers who participated in the Job Fair.

This year local businesses generously offered up their time and expertise to our students for career exploration in addition to the Job Fair for students to explore career opportunities in more depth. Middle and high school students went on field trips to explore local employers and learn firsthand about local career paths. Students learned how workers got their jobs, what they do and what they enjoy most about the work they do. Visits to the Hoonah Police Department and EMS, The Hoonah Indian Association, the The Hoonah Harbor Office, HIA Environmental, City Hall, and City of Hoonah Water and Sewer plants, as well as the IPEC diesel plant.

The Job Fair and Career Week are made possible through the collaboration of Hoonah City Schools, Icy Strait Point, and Huna Heritage Foundation, who are all excited to bring this year's hands-on activities and career exploration events to our students.

Scholarships

Huna Heritage Foundation is excited to remind our Hoonah City School seniors and other community members seeking funding for college that we are accepting applications for the 2024/2025 school year with a deadline of May 1, 2024. Scholarships are available for shareholders or descendants of Huna Totem Corporation. We also offer vocational and cultural education scholarships on a year-round basis with a requirement to apply at least two weeks before funds are needed. Check out our website www.hunaheritage.org for applications and to learn more about how you can get funding for school. We at Huna Heritage Foundation are honored to support your needs and goals for higher education.

Girls Varsity Basketball Season Wrap-up Report



The Lady Braves had a remarkable 2023-24 season. We were very fortunate to compete in multiple tournaments early in the season. At the Senator Kookesh Tournament in Angoon, the Braves played a total of five games, losing a couple of round robin games on Day One. However, when the bracket games started, they were able to pull off three wins in one day, earning them a championship title. Two of the Lady Braves earned their spot on the All-Tournament team, Neveah Campbell and Krista Howland. Krista Howland also was named the MVP of the tournament.

For our second tournament, we competed in Juneau at the Elizabeth Peratovich Tournament, and we had some tough games early on. They earned the opportunity yet again to play in the Championship game, unfortunately falling short with a loss. Krista Howland was voted again as the MVP of the Tournament even as a member of the second place team!

Going into Regionals, there was a three-way tie for second seed, between the Kake Thunderbirds, Skagway Panthers, and Lady Braves. We had to compare scores between each team and the Braves ended up as the 4th seed, opening regionals with a win against Angoon. Our second game in the regional tournament was against the #1 seed Klawock. Going into the half, we were tied up, pushing Klawock to the edge, but against their seasoned players, we fell short at the end. I know we gave them a well-fought game.

We fell into the Losers Bracket and wanted to work our way up to earn an opportunity to go to State. The next day we played against Hydaburg and got a good morale boost with a strong win to prepare us for our next game against the #2 seed, Kake T-Birds.

The winner between the T-Birds and Lady Braves would then move on to the Runner Up game and play the loser of

the Championship game. It was a hard-fought battle by both teams and came down to the wire. The Braves came out on top, earning their second game in one day! This gave them an opportunity for second place and a trip to State. They went up against the Skagway Panthers.

This game had a lot of competitive energy and the Braves played hard, but fell short in the end, placing 3rd overall in the tournament. At the Awards Ceremony, Chloe Lane and Jenna Jack received the Good Sport Award. Neveah Campbell, Easton Ross, and Krista Howland were named to the All Conference Team that was voted on by all coaches for their performance throughout the entire season. Congratulations to all the Braves and their hard work put in this season.

I am proud of their performance as we are underclassmen heavy with no loss of seniors this next season. We won more games this season than lost, and at the regional tournament we also ended with more wins than losses, which is always something to be proud of. I couldn't have asked for a more fun or busy season with this wonderful group of girls.

We have new goals in mind for this upcoming summer and next season, so be on the lookout to support our team in fundraising for going to camp this summer!

-Coach Miguel Contreras



Boys Varsity Coach's Message

This basketball season was my second year coaching this team, and we worked towards building onto the culture we started last season. The team showed great improvement from last year to this year, and even more improvement throughout the season. We used many of the same concepts and also evolved our offense with running set plays and getting more movement going. Every member of the team made a big step forward with their development, as basketball players and as young gentlemen. We continue to receive compliments about our positive attitudes and respect on the court. The future of Hoonah Braves basketball looks bright. I look forward to seeing this team continue to grow.

-Coach Joe Coronell

Varsity Volleyball Season Wrap-up

Even though the HS Mix Six Volleyball season didn't end as we had hoped, I truly couldn't be prouder of this group of student athletes. Most athletes were managing a minimum of two practices a day while our school activities overlap (Cross Country, Robotics, Wrestling, MS Basketball). They played their best volleyball of the season at the Region V tournament, when it mattered most - and that's all I could ask for as their Coach. We're sad to lose one senior (Edward Austin) this year, but with everyone else returning, I can't wait to see their growth over the next ten months.

Coach Jessie Martin



Varsity Mix 6 Volleyball Team, back: Will Dalton, Gerred Garrison, Easton Ross, Harlee Brown, Paige Woitte, Kali Harris, Kyah Martin, Edward Austin, Riley Neal. Front: Jora Savland, Jenna Jack, Dash Huskey, Nevaeh Campbell, James Erickson, Olivia Larsen, Chloe Lane.



Varsity Wrestling Team: Dash Huskey, Gerred Garrison, Tanner Howland, Krista Howland, Aryah Dybdahl, Kyah Martin, Chloe Lane

Varsity Wrestling News

Hoonah High School's wrestling team nearly doubled in size in its second successful high school season! Our lone junior, **Krista Howland**, won a *Region V* title in Juneau and then proceeded to represent Hoonah well at the State Tournament - placing 4th overall. Second year wrestler, Gerred Garrison, placed 3rd overall at Regionals. First year wrestlers Kyah Martin, Aryah Dybdahl, Chloe Lane, Tanner Howland, and Dashel Huskey all had great seasons with some wins in meets across the region.

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.

Coach Joseph Coronell & AD Jessie Martin



Our Middle School Basketball teams had a great season! They traveled to Kake in October and went undefeated against Kake & Angoon. Continuing on into December, they attended the Icebreaker Tournament where our girls team took 2nd in the B Division - and the boys played up in a tough A Division to gain experience, winning several games and losing a few too. Overall, the future of Hoonah Basketball looks bright and I want to thank our coaches, James Jack Jr. (boys' team) and Rebekah Contreras (girls' team) for their dedication to our student athletes. We appreciate you both! Go Braves!

AD Jessie Martin

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Hoonah City Schools Newsletter March 2024

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Dates to Remember:

Spring Break	Mar. 18-22
Clan Workshop	April 10,11
Heritage Celebration Ku.éex'	April 12
Teacher Inservice	April 19
Earth Day City Clean-Up	April 20
Storytelling w/Brett Dillingham	April 22-26
Alaska Excel Trip w/8th graders	April 22-27
Close Up Trip	April 26 - May 4
Activities Banquet	April 29
Juneau Jazz and Classic concert	May 6
Spring Concert K-12	May 8
8 th Grade Promotion	May 10
High School Graduation	May 10
Last Day of School/School Picnic	May 16
Teacher Workday	May 17

Middle School Wrestling Report

It was another great year of wrestling for our Middle School Hoonah Braves. We had two trips this year and did really well in both tournaments. The first trip was to Juneau, where Payton Smith and Ava Hinchman took First Place, James Erickson came in Second Place and Tank Tyler made the podium at Third Place. My favorite match I'd have to say was Charlie Jack's match where she came from behind, never gave up and got the pin late in the third period.

For our second trip, we traveled to Ketchikan for Regionals where Ava and Payton took first place, Harlee Brown came in Second and Olivia Larsen came in Third Place. A big shout out to all the families that were a part of this year's wrestling program: Brittney and Bryce Tyler, Sarah Hansen, Cameron and Shawna Smith, and Tim Coutlee. Thank you for all your time and support. I can't wait for next year; I'm very proud of all the young Braves who stepped on the mat.

Coach Levi Mills



Middle School Wrestling Team: Coach Levi Mills, James Erickson, Tank Tyler, Payton Smith, Charlie Jack, Ava Hinchman, Olivia Larsen, Harlee Brown, Brooke Hansen.