

Hoonah Schools Newsletter

May 2017

Kayaaní Dísi: the month when grass starts to sprout



Congratulations to the Hoonah High School Class of 2017

The Class of 2017 walked across the stage to receive their high school diplomas May 18th. Class speakers were Salutatorian Kelsey Thein and Valedictorian Alaska Skaflestad. The students had invited their former third and fourth grade teacher, Jennifer Bidiman, to be their commencement speaker. See page three to find out about their plans for after high school. The graduates are pictured above, left to right: Kelsey Thein, Alaska Skaflestad, Cecelia George, Manny Budke, Vanessa Contreras, Randy Roberts and Austin Martuscelli.

The Head Start class performed for a full house at this year's Heritage Celebration Ku.éex' on April 28th. Students from all other grade levels took part also. See pages 7 & 8 for more about this year's event and for a long list of people to whom we want to say a BIG Gunalchéesh!



Ian Johnson photo

✓**Mark your calendars:** the first day of school for the 2017-2018 school year is Tuesday, August 15th. Have a great summer, everyone!



Superintendent's Message

From Dr. PJ Ford Slack

Haa Kusteeyi Áyá

Two years ago, the Hoonah City School Board asked me to write an

ANEP grant. To be fair, their purpose was to sustain our PAT (Parents as Teachers) program, not for what we wrote. Upon arriving in Hoonah, I found out that the Federal government would not permit us to have another ANEP grant for our PAT Program, but we could have one for language and culture. That gave me an idea.

Mrs. Lorrie Scoles and I set out to write an ANEP grant to support increased language and culture at the secondary level and throughout our school. In the past, I have helped with language learning nests on Leech Lake (Ojibwa) because I learned from my Tuhoe (Maori) family.

Gunalchéesh to all the aunties and uncles and grandparents who fought to hold on to their Tlingit. Mrs. Katherine Mills is one key person who made sure Tlingit was taught in our school many years ago. Many voices guided the writing of this grant. Carol, Bob, Darlene, Edna, Daphne, Mary Beth, Veronica, Amelia, and Bill Wilson all added thoughts and structure for what was needed. Gaawt'ak.aan dancers and Tlingit language added the heartbeat to the grant. We needed a name to hold it all together. The name that we chose was "Haa Kusteeyi Áyá" (This is Who We Are); this had been used as the theme of a school ku.éex' many years ago, and we hoped it would bring this grant alive.

As you know that is all now part of our story. We took that story to the Xunaa Shuká Hít in August. The school family, teachers and students, everyone danced and sang together with one voice. A few weeks ago, we sang the canoes toward home again. And as I looked around at the shirts and the oars and the faces, it was clear that Haa Kusteeyi Áyá: Xunaa Káawu was well chosen. This is now part of our At.óow.

Gunalchéesh haa éet yeeydasheeyí! Thank you all for helping us!

As I give my hand to Mr. Watkins to bring him into our canoe, I say Aatlein Gunalchéesh, and I will always carry the Xunaa Káawu in my heart. Dr. PJ

School Board President's Message

All of our seniors having graduated, it's an appropriate time to reflect on the past and look to the future.

In March, Anasia Neal found it necessary to resign from the board. The board would like to thank her very much for her service. She brought a unique and valuable perspective to the board. In April, Grace Villarreal volunteered to fill Anasia's seat until elections in the fall. Thank you, Grace! Also, thank you to Halle Budke for serving as the student government representative to the board this year.

The board would like to express its deep gratitude to Dr. PJ Ford Slack for two and a half years of hard work on behalf of HCS students. She arrived in Hoonah during the winter of 2015 when the district suffered a crisis of leadership. At that time the board gave her three very difficult tasks to accomplish and she promptly achieved all of them.

Since that time, Dr. PJ has helped the board to face some very tough decisions that we have had to make on behalf of our students, even though the results of those decisions were at times very unpopular. And she chose to continue her commitment to our district despite significant personal sacrifice. When it became apparent that budget difficulties meant that for HCS to keep both a full-time superintendent and full-time principal, the district would be forced to reduce instructional staff, PJ made the decision to resign as of June 30, 2017.

PJ has been responsible for attracting many quality individuals to the district, principal Ralph Watkins among them. Mr. Watkins has been contracted to continue to lead our district as principal/superintendent. The board is grateful to Dr. PJ and to Ralph for providing leadership during these times of significant budgetary challenges.



To kick off the new school year, the board has scheduled a retreat on August 11 and 12. Lon Garrison from the state association of school boards will be facilitating the board's self-evaluation of our own performance during this school year, as well as helping us to set our goals for the next school year. Our first regular board meeting for 2017-2018 is scheduled for August 17.

Have a great summer!

Bob Hutton, President

Principal's End of the Year Message

It has been a fantastic year at Hoonah City Schools. We have much to celebrate. We ended the year with the graduation of 100% of our seniors. We are so very proud of them. We have shared much together this year. We have made memories that will stay with us forever.



All of our students' achievements could not be possible without the support they receive from a committed faculty. Thank you to the teachers, para-educators, and support staff that work tirelessly to make learning at our school possible. Thank you also to all our parents and guardians who support our students in so many ways. I want to extend a special thanks to the volunteers, the City of Hoonah, and the School Board. We are blessed with a caring and supportive community. We really appreciate such a positive partnership.

With the end of the year also comes staff changes and family moves. We would like to take this opportunity to wish those students and families leaving us this year all the best in their new schools and homes. We want to extend our sincere thanks and best wishes to staff members who will be leaving us for different assignments and different communities. It has been an exciting and fun-filled year. Have a safe summer.

Our next school year begins August 15, 2017. Until then, stay safe.

Ralph Watkins, Principal



Seniors Make Plans for Their Futures

In the days leading up to graduation, the seniors were asked about their plans for after high school. Here are their responses:

Manny Budke 's plan is to study criminal justice at Flathead Valley Community College in Libby, Montana.



Vanessa Contreras will work at ISP this summer, then head to Anchorage in August to attend the University of Alaska.

Cecelia George would also like to go north to enroll at the University of Alaska Anchorage.



Austin Martuscelli's goal is to become a pilot. He plans to work until he can afford to go for training towards that goal.

Randy Roberts is going to work at Glacier Bay National Park this summer. In the fall, he will head to AVTEC in Seward and train to be an electrician.



Alaska Skaflestad will be packing her bags in the fall and going to Arizona, where she will work towards a degree in business at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

Kelsey Thein has decided to attend Elmhurst College in Chicago; she will major in pre-med and nursing.



We wish our graduates nothing but the best as they move on from high school and go out into the world!

Goodbye and Gunalchéesh

The end of each school year comes with a mixture of excitement and sadness as well, as we say goodbye to not only our graduating seniors, but also to others who will be moving on. We thank all of the following school staff who will be leaving our school:



Judy Hankla, our business manager who has been in the administration office since December 2006, has retired.

Math instructor and wrestling coach **Marc Leinberger** (shown in photo with wife **Elena**, K-1 teacher) has also retired. The Leinbergers will be moving to Kodiak after two years teaching here in Hoonah.



Aimee Smith has been here for two years; she taught elementary music and middle school band last year, as well as special education. This year she has been the elementary special education teacher. Aimee has also been the student government and yearbook advisor for two years.



The Malones are also moving. **Amber Malone** has taught 5th-6th grade for two years, and **Patrick Malone** has been the science teacher in the high school. Next stop for the Malones is Japan.



Melinda Hamerly has been the high school language arts teacher this year.

Heather Wheeler has been the pre-elementary school teacher and part of the Special Education staff.

Tina Fuller is moving to Arizona after teaching in the elementary for 12 years. Mrs. Fuller has taught kindergarten all the way up to third grade, and has been involved in all of the special activities that happen in the elementary, from Carnival and Christmas programs to *Ku.éex'* and Field Day. She was the staff person who started our Veterans Day celebration, which has grown to be an important event in our school. A new special activity this year was the Wax Museum put on by Mrs. Fuller's 2/3 class and Ms. Bidiman's 4th graders.

We thank all of these fine people for all of the time and effort they have put into our school during their years here. We wish all of them well in their new homes.



Yearbook staff Mary Jack, Advisor Aimee Smith, Zada Michel, Halle Budke and Vanessa Contreras show off this year's book.

Yearbook Advisor Thanks

Thank you to everyone who made the yearbook a success! To our staff: Halle, Zada and Vanessa for their photography and editing work, and to Mary for her inspiration and help on designing the cover. We had a fun year and I appreciate all the work that they've done. To our sponsors and contributors—the yearbook would not have been as strong without your help. To those who sponsored students and made it so they could own a yearbook, Aatlein Gunalchéesh.

I am so grateful that my last yearbook as an advisor turned out so well due to the fantastic work of our students. They have grown tremendously in their skills. We will be looking for a new advisor next year, so if you are interested, please let the school know and keep this program strong for future years. Aatlein Gunalchéesh,

Aimee Smith, At'kaheení, Yearbook Advisor

4th Quarter/2nd Semester Honor Roll

"A" Honor Roll for students with a Grade Point Average of 3.33 – 4.00

Middle School

Sierra McClement – Qt./Sem.
Orion Osborne – Qt./Sem.
Duane Jack – Qt./Sem.
Cooper Ross – Qt./Sem.
Ethan Ruerup – Qt./Sem.
Xaviery Sharclane – Sem.

High School

Zada Michel – Sem
Leticia Skaflestad – Qt./Sem.
Josh Wright – Qt.
Jeffrey Devlin – Qt.
Vanessa Contreras – Qt./Sem.
Austin Martuscelli – Qt./Sem.
Randy Roberts – Qt./Sem.
Alaska Skaflestad – Qt./Sem.
Kelsey Thein – Qt./Sem.

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

Xaviery Sharclane – Qt.

Liyah Jewell – Qt.
Zada Michel – Qt.
Aiyanna Williams – Qt./Sem.
Dylan Johnson – Qt./Sem.
Tyler Watkins – Qt./Sem.
Edward Williams – Sem.
Josh Wright – Sem.
Jeffrey Devlin – Sem.
Ronie Roberts – Qt.
Jerry White – Qt./Sem.

Remembering Grandma Jennie

This past year, we lost one of our past Tlingit language teachers: Aansheex, Jennie Lindoff, known to many of our students and staff as Grandma Jennie. A fluent speaker, she taught Tlingit in the elementary school for many years. Mrs. Lindoff was also the Foster Grandmother at our school for several years, and was the cultural advisor and one of the teachers for the Gaawt'ak.aan Dance Group. She helped teach dancing, she talked about when it was appropriate to sing certain songs, and would interpret the meaning of songs. At graduation in May, the Gaawt'ak.aan scholarships were given in her memory.



Grandma Jennie was of the Chookaneidi clan from Xóots Hít (Bear House) of Hoonah.

From letting kids visit her smokehouse to traveling with students to Glacier Bay and telling the Chookaneidí story, she left a lasting impact on our students

and many others in our community.

Haa Kusteeyí Áyá

Congratulations to Haa Kusteeyí Áyá Program Director, Heather Powell, who was chosen by Tlingit Haida Central Council to receive the Inspiring Educator Award at the General Assembly in April.

We ended the school year with a number of opportunities for our students and staff to celebrate our Tlingit culture: *Photo below: Some of our high school students helped carry the Raven and Eagle totem poles when they were being sent to Glacier Bay.*



The whole school went down to the harbor to help send off the two dugout canoes when they were heading over to Glacier Bay for the raising of the poles.

A group of our students traveled to Glacier Bay for the pole-raising on May 20th. Some had gone over on the canoes, the older ones helped carry the poles, and the younger ones joined in with the drumming, singing and dancing. *See photo at right.*

Val Williams' final project for Tlingit class was a drum, which she presented to the National Park Service for the Tribal House. Val's drum has a button robe design on the

rim; the buttons represent all the people that will come to the Tribal House. On the inside is the glacier design in ravenstail weaving. The design shows how we are all interwoven together. *Photo: Val with her drum, which she presented to Park Superintendent Philip Hooge.*



The senior class of 2017 made woven cedar bark caps, which they wore at graduation.

Gunalchéesh to Darlene See, Carol Williams and Heather Powell for helping the students with this project.



Haa Kusteeyí Áyá ,continued.

Hoonah students in high school and fourth grade took part in a trip to the **Xunaa Shuká Hít at Glacier Bay** on May 12th. This trip was organized by teachers in Juneau at the Harborview TCLL Program and Glacier Valley Elementary. The Juneau group stopped here and picked up our students on their way to Bartlett Cove.

Upon arrival, the students heard the Glacier Bay story, told by Lgéik'i, Heather Powell. At the Tribal House, Darlene See of the Hoonah Indian Association explained the interior house screen and Goosgéiki, Randy Roberts, talked about the T'akdeintaan house post. *See photo at right.* Sonya Gray, a Park Service employee and Hoonah Native, discussed the Wooshkeetaan pole, which belongs to her father's clan.

The Hoonah students were able to perform the Glacier Bay songs that were written by our students for the Tribal House dedication.

Hoonah Schools thanks the Juneau teachers for including our students in this trip, which was the first one of its kind, bringing students from another community to the Xunaa Shuká Hít.



Darlene See tells about the interior house screen at the Xunaa Shuká Hít.

Hoonah Students Attend Leadership Institute

Six of our Hoonah High School students attended the **Our Youth, Our Future Leadership Institute** put on by Nature Conservancy and Huna Heritage Foundation in Juneau April 17-19. Here is a sampling of what they wrote about the experience on their return.

Zada Michel: It was amazing to see how many communities were there and how many adults really care about us enough to help us. We sang and danced with the people from the other communities. On two separate occasions, the youth were asked to go into a different room and answered questions by ourselves. The adults were very surprised by our answers.



Brandon Guthrie: During the time spent there, each of the younger people had to give an idea of a style of a culture camp. My idea was like a school set-up. Each group of kids would go and learn about a certain topic for about an hour. Then they would move to the next subject. Some examples of this would be beading, making regalia, and carving. That is my idea of how the camp would be run.

Wea Bigelow: If you could choose a way to have the youth of Southeast learn the Lingit language in a fun way, how would you do it? This was one of the many questions we were asked during the leadership conference. As a group of youth leaders we came up with the idea of a summer camp. It would be a 2-3 week camp where youth from all over Southeast would come together, and learn the Lingit traditional ways. Not only would we get a chance to create bonds with kids from all around Southeast Alaska, we'd also learn how to speak and live the Lingit way. Although it is just an idea, one day I hope it could become a real possibility that bonds our youth for generations to come.

Jerry White III: On Monday the 17th, five other students and I left to Juneau for Youth Leadership. We arrived late, but received a warm welcome. We introduced ourselves in Lingit and found three other communities with youth to join us. Later on through the day, they brought all the youth in a circle to answer a question. They asked us where did we want to see our community in 40 years. I answered, "I want to see the communities pull together; they're not many elders who can speak the language left and who know the protocol. We need to gather and harvest the knowledge while we can, because once that knowledge is gone, we can't get it back."

2017 Heritage Celebration Ku.éex'

The HCS 27th annual Heritage Celebration Ku.éex' was held April 28th. Twelfth-grader Randy Roberts (Koosegeik'i), T'akdeintaan, welcomed everyone on behalf of all the Raven student hosts. In response, Jyáax' (Jerry White III) spoke for the Eagles to thank the Ravens. The large crowd of community members and visitors were an appreciative audience as the students made speeches and entertained with music, dancing and skits. The presentations included Headstart students all the way up to those in high school. We received many positive comments afterwards from proud relatives and friends.

Prior to the start of the program, guests enjoyed a slide show of past cultural celebrations at our school. Gunalchéesh to Aimee Smith, for setting up the slide show. Gunalchéesh also to the many photographers who in past years have taken photos and given them to the school, among them: Phyllis Bach, Tina Dinzl-Pederson, Stephanie Andersson, Keri Edwards, Raphael Curiel, Michelle Amundson, Candy Keown, Tesh Gray, Ron Klein, Terry Fiske and Mary Beth Moss.

Special guests this year included a fourth grade class from Auke Bay Elementary School, who came over from Juneau on a catamaran; their teacher is Angie Wright. Heath Hill, a former Hoonah student, was among the group. He had asked to do his Tlingit introduction speech, and was on the program with the Hoonah speech-makers.

Another very special guest from Juneau was Keixnéi (Nora Marks Dauenhaur), Lukaax̂.ádi. She was honored and presented with a special gift during the program. *See photo at right.*

The Eagle hosts served a delicious lunch of halibut and salmon, herring eggs and berries. Families, school staff, and other community members had donated money and food items to help to make the event possible. Because of these and many other donations, the Raven students were able to hand out gifts of jarred food, trail mix and dried seaweed (gunalchéesh to Owen James & Mary Beth Moss, Sarah Lampe and Marti Lee for the seaweed.)

Something new last year was the t-shirt worn by many of the students, staff and volunteers. That shirt had *Haa Kusteeyi Áyá-Xunaa Kaawú* on the front with a wonderful design made by our very own Richard Dalton III. The back of the t-shirt had a chant for Language Warriors, learners, supporters and families to bring strength to learning our Lingít Language. This year, we had new t-shirts with the same design on the front, but with



Patrick Malone photo

different words on the back. The words are the lyrics to the Glacier Bay song "Sít' Tlein Daa Sheeyí", composed by a group of students last year with help from Naakil.aan (Hans Chester) and Lgéik'i (Heather Powell).

We have set **April 27, 2018** as the tentative date for next year's celebration, which will be our 28th annual ku.éex'. Eagle students will be the hosts in 2018.



Patrick Malone photo

Many adult volunteers helped this year, in the days leading up to the ku.éex' as well as during the event itself. Following is a list of names of those who helped in

some way. We sincerely apologize if we have omitted any names from our list. *See the next page for our Gunalchéesh list.*



Ian Johnson photo

Gunalchéesh

People Who Made Donations:

Wilma & Randy Davis	Sally & Paul Dybdahl
Sheryl Ross & David Hay	Sarah Lampe
Linda Belarde	Karen S. Mills
Jen Bidiman	Pearl Miller
George Westman	Jolene Watkins
Charles & Marian Kingsland	Veronica Dalton
Tina Fuller	Vernon Hill
Nicki & John Shelton	Marlene Duvall
Mary Beth Moss & Owen James	Melvin Williams
Carol Williams	Glen & Lenora Johnson
Bob & Glenda Hutton	Frank & Daphne Wright
Pete & Rory Schneeberger	Eleana & Marc Leinberger

Laura Hinchman at **Hoonah Trading Company**
 Raino & Colette Hill at **Colette's Cupboard**

Volunteers:	Sally Dybdahl	Karen S. Mills
Marti Lee	Kathie Deitering	George Carteeti
Marilyn Wolfe	Arely Wright	Mary Beth Moss
Jen Bidiman	Elena Leinberger	Aimee Smith
Wilma Davis	PJ Ford Slack	Sheryl Ross
Pearl Miller	Bob Hughes	Sharon Hill
Tesh Gray	Darlene See	Kassie Pesche-Johnson

Photography: Tesh Gray, Ian Johnson, Patrick Malone,
 Mary Beth Moss
 Slide Show set-up: Aimee Smith
 Doorway set-up: Patrick Malone & Marc Leinberger
 Maintenance staff: Jeremiah Byers & Corbin Harris
 And a very special gunalchéesh to the cooks, Kathy Harris
 and Jackson Combs, for the wonderful lunch! *(See the
 happy kitchen volunteers Sheryl, PJ and Pearl in photo, thanks to
 Tesh Gray.)*
 Aatlein Gunalchéesh Idakát yeewhaan!
 A Big Thank You to everyone



Student Government News from Aimee Smith

The Student Government accomplished a great deal this year. Halle Budke attended a Youth Leadership Institute. The students put on an Election Day breakfast and work session and a joint meeting with the school board, as well as Homecoming and Spirit Week. A committee of officers and representatives worked under our president to develop a new constitution. Manny Budke arranged and served during his Spring Break as an intern with the legislature and brought back knowledge to share. We had three students who received our new Scholar Delegate Award for maintaining honor roll status throughout their service: Randy Roberts, Tyler Watkins and Zada Michel. Elections next year have been postponed until the fall. If any student is interested in serving as an officer/representative or any adult would like to advise this wonderful group of emerging leaders, please contact the school. It has been my pleasure to serve alongside these students.

Aatlein Gunalchéesh, Aimee Smith, At'kaheení, Student Government Director



A Note from Elena Leinberger, K-1 Teacher

Quyana, gunalchéesh for your hospitality while my family was here. In my culture, we don't say good-bye, we say "piura" which means "be as you are".

So I will remember all my students as they were that last day of school, small and fun-size. They will grow and do many things with Tlingit language and culture. I will miss learning Tlingit with the students. Thank you, Mrs. Wright, for teaching me the Tlingit language.

Coming to Hoonah City School was a great experience; the trip to Glacier Bay, which I will never forget, Kuéex' in the springtime and integrating the Tlingit language in our classroom. My students had fun in the Kuéex' celebration. They shine bright when it is time to hoojaa because they practice the songs and dances in the classroom before the performance and continue into the days after.

Thank you, Ms. Carol, for encouraging me to be me at the Kuéex'. Heather, listening to you read in Tlingit and Hoojaa's with the students, motivated all of us to speak in Tlingit. Donovan speaks more Tlingit than he does Yup'ik!

Piura, continue to teach/learn the language and continue to hoojaa!



A Note From Mrs. Lee

Students, remember to read this summer. It is fun and will keep your reading skills strong. Parents, read to your children this summer. They will love you for it.

Some books can be found at the thrift store for purchase or ordered from the Interlibrary loan in Juneau at: **907 586-5397**.

Students, I will miss sharing books and stories with you this summer. Our times together were meaningful and enriching. You are all such amazing children who have learned so much this year. Please stay safe, have fun and keep learning.
Mrs. Lee

Note: Glenda Hutton asks if anyone has children's books they no longer want or need, please let her know and she will pick them up. They will be distributed to the children of Hoonah. Please call **945-3307**.

Volunteer Thanks

The staff and administration of Hoonah City Schools would like to express our sincere appreciation to the following parent and community volunteers who gave their valuable time to help make our school year more successful. This list of volunteers came from the staff; those with an asterisk were mentioned several times, volunteering in several different capacities:

Tesh Miller*	Glenda Hutton*	Sheryl Ross*
Marti Lee*	Terri Budke	Melissa Fisher
Terri Mills	Diane Bean	Marlene Duvall
Janice Towry	George Carteeti	Sally Dybdahl*
Karen Mills*	Arely Wright	Marilyn Wolfe
Wilma Davis*	Genevieve Cook	Mary Beth Moss*

Our heartfelt thanks to these good folks for helping with events and working with our students. You are all very much appreciated. Aatlein gunalchéesh!

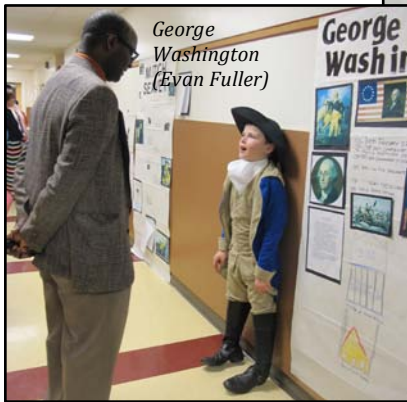
Second-Third Grade Class News

Hello from the second and third grade class! It sure has been an awesome end of the year. We were so busy; where do I begin?

The month of April was filled with some awesome events; some old and some new. New to our school was the 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade Wax Museum. How do I put into words how much fun we had? If you got to visit, you know what I mean. This year, we worked hard on learning different genres for reading and writing. Our class studied biographies and



each child chose a historical figure to research. They took their research one step further by dressing up and took on the

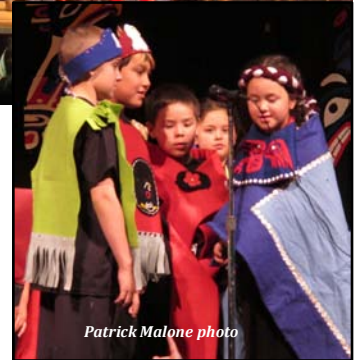


persona of their historical figure. Then they rehearsed a speech for others to hear about the life of

their person in history. On the night of the event, students stood very still until a spectator came by, pressed the button, and brought them to life. Then the fun began. We had presidents, explorers, inventors, famous authors, and much more represented at our Wax Museum.

The end of the month in April also had many fun activities. We studied about the beach and learned about the ocean, animals in the ocean, and intertidal zones. On April 27th, we went to the beach and got to see the intertidal zones at their best. We saw many clams, mussels, sea stars, urchins, sea cucumbers, gumboots, crabs and barnacles. We even saw a few new creatures never seen on Beach Day: a basket sea star and some baby octopus. It was a wonderful day at the beach!

The following day was our annual Ku éex'. Our class sang Tlingit songs and performed this really cool skit called "A Day at the Beach". Our students each had a part to play and spoke the Tlingit language for fishing, beach creatures and the stars. It was so much fun and each and every



child's regalia had such fine work. Thank you to those who came and joined in on all of the fun and thank you, Mrs. Wright, for such wonderful work you do teaching us about the language and culture.

Later in the month of May, we had a very exciting field day at Hoonah Elementary. The children were given the opportunity to visit various station games. They had fun at an obstacle course, target tossing, human foosball, balloon stomp/flag tag, Frisbee tic tac toe and playing tug-a-war. Thank you so much to the Americorps volunteers; they helped run the games. Many thanks to Glenda Hutton, Teresa McConnell, Jamie Erickson and Harriet Knudson for helping facilitate the games. Also, thanks to Jamie Erickson and Jack Diamond for lifeguarding during our special open swim. What kind of challenging games will there be next year???

Last but certainly not least, I'd like to take time to thank our wonderful volunteers for the year. Thanks to all of the parents who sent in snacks, helped with our class parties, volunteered in the classrooms and most importantly, sent your child to school rested and ready to learn. We also want to thank our special volunteers, Diane Bean, Glenda Hutton, Janice Towery and Marlene Duvall. We so appreciate the countless hours, care and compassion you shared with our students. You are a true blessing to us all!

This is my final newsletter, as I am leaving Hoonah City Schools. It has been twelve wonderful years my family and I have been here in Hoonah. We have become part of this community, and it will always be a part of us. Thank you to everyone, and I hope you have a wonderful summer!



Mrs. Fuller

Fourth Grade News

We have had a very eventful end of the school year! Our Ku.éex' went off without a hitch. The class performed a skit about tourists on a tour bus, and all of the things they saw along the way. We were so excited that our pen pals from Auke Bay School in Juneau were here to join us for the Ku.éex' as well.

In Science, Robin Hasselquist, and our friends from the Americorps group joined the class and talked to us about the importance of "Leave no Trace," when spending time in the outdoors. We learned that some materials are very biodegradable, and others take a million years to decompose. It is so important to pick up after ourselves and leave no trace when out in nature.



We felt very fortunate to spend additional time with Robin and the Americorps workers to continue a more in-depth study of birds and plant structures and adaptations. We went out to the Airport Spasski Trail and got up close and personal with the moss, plant life and birds. The students found the snake liverwort moss very fascinating, and can point out stair-step moss in the woods right away. Robin provided Kindles for the students to listen to birdcalls and try to

identify the different birds we heard in the woods. As a culminating project, we went to the Forest Service later in the afternoon to observe and sketch a rufous hummingbird. Our class would also like to thank Josh and Ryan, the two police officers who joined us on their day off to make sure we were safe. The day was amazing!

On May 12th, our class was invited by Glacier Valley Elementary, Harborview Elementary, TLE Program, TCLL Program, USDA Forest Service, the National Park Service, and HIA to go to Bartlett Cove. We got to visit the Xunaa Tribal House and learn about the screens and house posts and the stories they tell. We heard the Chookaneidí oral history and songs, and listened to the Raven's response to the Chookaneidí. Our class, along with some of the high school students, sang and danced the Glacier Bay songs for the Juneau group.



Our class at the Bartlett Cove dock during our visit to the Tribal House.



*Ian Johnson
photo*



*Ian Johnson
photo*

This trip was funded by the Forest Grant, connecting diverse communities to the US Forest Service resources through the *Every Kid in a Park* Initiative. We want to thank the Juneau teachers for inviting us to join them for this event.

The last week of school was loads of fun with field day, the awards assembly, and the end of the year picnic and softball game.

I want to thank Glenda Hutton for the time she spent volunteering in our room, helping the students with language arts. Another thank you goes to Kaz Harris, for all the snack donations that she sent in during the school year.

Last, I want to say thank you to all of my students for working incredibly hard this year! Continue reading, and if possible try to even squeeze in some writing.

Have an enjoyable summer!

Jen Bidiman

The 5/6 class recently returned from a trip to Glacier Bay. Sixth grader Teresa Lewis wrote about it for this newsletter.



Our First Plume Trip

This year has ended very well. The 5th/6th grade class has returned to our homeland, Glacier Bay, to study birds.

The first day we got there, we went on a hike. We got to gather sea animals in the intertidal zone. Our class had five groups and five rooms at the Lodge. I was in Ms. Johnson's room; she was AWESOME! The other chaperones were Ian Johnson, Ms. Aimee (Smith), Amber Malone (our teacher), and Andy Gray. There were really cool; they actually didn't go crazy because of us kids!

On the second day, we went on the day boat for EIGHT



HOURS! It was fun, except for the last two hours, I felt sick. So did a few of my classmates. That day, we read our bird reports to some very nice people. My bird was the Sooty Grouse, AKA Blue Grouse. We also got to sing and dance on the inside of the boat and on the back deck. It was marvelous!

That night around 7:00, we all went to the Tribal House. Owen James and Herb Sheakley told stories about the glacier and about the totem poles. After that, we got to JAM OUT! I wish Heather was there, she would have loved that.

To wrap up my article, I would like to say thanks to all who made this trip a success. Thank you, Amber Malone, for being a great teacher and chaperone. I hope you have a great trip to Japan. You'll be



missed! I'd also like to thank all the other chaperones who came with us. Another thank you to Ranger Steve (Schaller), the other Rangers, and the Lodge.

Editor's Note: thank you to Teresa for writing this article and to Ian Johnson for the trip photos on this page.

More Writing from the 5-6 Class

Reading By Abigail Stevenson



Today I will be telling about what the 5th and 6th grade class did in reading this year. To start it off, we read the book "The Hunger Games". We did discussion notes for the chapters. Then the next day we would move our desks into a giant circle and read the chapter of the book. We also had a list of vocabulary words that we looked for in the chapters; then we would find the meaning of the word and the syllabication. Another book we read was "The Watsons Go to Birmingham"; we did discussion notes and vocabulary for this book also.

Another thing that we did was a research project on a certain topic, such as the reason that the Civil War was started. Another example is animal captivity. We started with one simple question, then went to a paragraph. After that, we started to do research to find the information that we needed to start the next paragraph.

We also read books in our groups, like one group read "Hatchet", another group read "All Fall Down", then another read "Bud Not Buddy." I was in the group that read "Eragon"; it is long, but it is a fun book. It was also confusing, but when I got more into the book, the more I started to understand it.

On this page are pieces of student writing from the 7th-8th grade class.

I Wish...I Wish.... I Wish

By: Sierra McClement



There are many things that I wish for, but the thing I wish for the most is for people to stop hurting themselves and committing suicide. In 2015, Alaska had the second highest suicide rate in the country.

You may be asking yourself why this is important to me. It is because I have been touched by the act of suicide. One of my old classmates committed suicide in November 2016. He was only 12 years old. I wish that he had gone to someone for help with whatever it was that made him feel like that was the only thing he could do. I feel like we need to help people with this problem because it is not only hard for the family, it's hard for the whole community to go through.

We can stop this issue by making people feel like they belong right where they are and remind them that we care about them. Some people just need that little boost to feel better about themselves. Make sure that they are ok, and if not, then help them. Doing some of these things can keep the people you care about healthy and happy. The most important thing you have to do is tell an adult because it's better safe than sorry.

Now, if you know someone that needs help, help him or her. Everyone goes through these situations in life. Thank you for reading.

Hoonah Pride

By: Orion Osborne



Dear School Authorities,

What do you think Hoonah City Schools was like before you or someone you know started school here? I think that most things here in

my favorite middle school are great; however, there are a few things that would be better if changed.

For one, I find that the three-minute hall break is not enough, and many students will most likely agree. Students here are late for class because of the shortage of time, or the miserable distance between classrooms, also not counting that it takes about 23.6 seconds to send a text, open a snap, and take a video of your friend drinking from the fountain as a response to that snap, plus another 4 minutes and 48 seconds to get a drink from the fountain, walk to your locker, open it, take your stuff out, close it, and walk to class.

I believe in a democratic school society, where everybody, students and staff, vote on an idea to make or break that idea.

Another flaw in our school system I can exploit is our problem of grade segregation. In sports and academics, the sixth graders are counted among the middle school group. However, they are not included in the classroom learning group; the sixth graders of Hoonah City Schools must spend their days in the same classroom as the fifth graders, while the "real" middle schoolers have to resist referring to school as "Winter Vacation."

In conclusion, the sixth graders would be better off if they

could join the rest of the middle school. Mostly, to sum it up, the school has many more pros than cons but the school's few problems are chaotic, war-starting problems that should no longer go unheard and unseen.

Life Teacher

By: Shayla Thaalesen

There are many parts of my life that have impacted who I am today. I think the most important is growing up in Hoonah, learning about my culture, and learning of the culture that runs so deep in the community that I was raised in.

When I first started taking Tlingit class in school, I was not sure that I liked it. I did not know what it really had to do with my culture and heritage, as I am primary English, and come from England. My father was born and raised overseas, and that is where my blood runs deep. There were times when I felt that I did not fit in, and was not expected to be involved in the Tlingit culture, and that is when I met Heather.

I have always listened to the stories and attended Tlingit class, but when Heather came to our school, things changed. The great thing about Heather is that she makes learning fun. She tells the whole story in great description so that I can understand it. Understanding it changed the way that it evolved in my life. When she teaches us, I can feel the culture, touch the culture, and understand the culture. When you have a teacher like this, it changes your perspective. I have great respect for the culture now, and the respect has grown into a love.

I feel like I belong. I am Shayla Thaalesen. I am a Raven Sea lion. I am Kaagwaantaan yátx'i. My grandfather, who belongs to the wolf clan, adopted my father. I am the sister of Liam Michel, Mitchel Michel, and Jushnaa, who are also Raven Sea lion. I am proud of who I am, and where I have come from.



Above: Eighth graders at their promotion: Shalya Thaalesen, Ethan Ruerup, Esias Kohler, Cooper Ross, James Carteeti, Xaviery Sharclane, Duane Jack. Below: Duane and Sierra working in Moby, the Mobile Greenhouse.



Hoonah Fun & Fit Partnership Report

Playground Update: The Hoonah City School District Board of Education has approved Corbus Design to work with Maintenance Director Jeremiah Byers on a playground plan and design. This long-awaited step precedes actual installation of equipment. It is hoped that, at the minimum, the grounds will be upgraded for safety & fun, and a swing set for 6 will be installed before the snow flies!

Fundraising over three school years totals \$51,000+. Recently, Mary's Restaurant donated aluminum cans for the fund, \$150 was raised at the Salvation Army Community Yard Sale, coin jars around town continue to fill, and Box Top\$ for Education are being saved. Yeah, Hoonah! Our kids are our treasure!

Want to help work a playground game booth at the Independence Day celebration? Please contact Sally Dybdahl, Candy Keown, or Daphne Wright. Let's add to the fun while earning a few more playground fund dollars!



On April 29, our **Hoonah Health Fair** was held in the school Alumni Gym. Informational booths included:

- Jessica Voeller (HIA/SEARHC Tobacco Education)
- Joyce Skaflestad (HIA/Domestic Violence/Sexual Abuse Advocacy)
- Valerie Gosselin (Public Health Nurse) & Section Chief Linda-FASD Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and ACES Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Kate Fossman (SEARHC Dietitian and Nutrition Education)
- Shannon Miller (SEARHC Clinical Assistant) Wisewoman, bp, glucose, etc.
- Jay Dick SEARHC Behavioral Health
- Medevac Alaska
- Candy Keown & Sally Dybdahl Hoonah Fun & Fit Partnership History and Recruitment, Jump ropes, and Ping Pong.

Hoonah Recyclers Spring Update

For donations of metals, Hoonah Recyclers thank: Julia See and Lorenzo Florendo, William & Mary Johnson Youth Center, Jessie Dybdahl and Jeremy Martin, Hoonah Liquor Store, Robin Hasselquist, Paul & Sally Dybdahl, Diane Bean, Marilyn Wolfe, Dodie & Bob Lunda, Arely & Sam Wright, Daphne & Frank Wright, Jr., Bob & Glenda Hutton, Jen & Dave McKillican, Nicki & John Shelton, Marj & Floyd Peterson, Eleanor Davenport, Mary & Paul Comolli.

Thanks, Paul Dybdahl, for help with hauling cans; thanks to crews of Alaska Marine Lines, City of Hoonah, and Moises Contreras, Sr.

Hoonah Recyclers are open *Some* Saturdays from Noon-1:00! Please feel free to join the efforts of volunteers Daphne Wright, Karen S. Mills, Kenny Worrell, and Sally Dybdahl.



Thanks to all who helped *spruce up* Hoonah on Earth Day Saturday, April 22. We had a great City Clean-Up with 71 volunteers signing in to help; many bright

yellow bags of trash were hauled off to the dump. Lunch was provided to the workers; food was donated by Daphne & Frank Wright, Jr., Karen S. Mills, Debbie Picken, and Paul & Sally Dybdahl. Prizes were donated by Karen S. Mills, Hoonah Recyclers, and Big Brothers Big Sisters. We received help from partners US Forest Service, ALPAR, Hoonah Indian Association, Alaska Marine Lines, Hoonah Liquor Board, and City of Hoonah.

City of Hoonah Parks and Recreation News for Summer 2017

***Pool Update:** The swimming pool is closed for the summer; we hope to reopen in mid-September.

***Kéidladee Park:** Thank you to everyone for staying off the newly-planted grass. We hope the field will be ready by the July 1st and 4th Celebrations. There will be youth and adult softball leagues organized this summer. There has been some interest in Little League Baseball as well.

Parents, please speak with your children about their behavior at the park. There has been some damage done to the trees and equipment there. Dog owners, remember to pick up after your dogs. Bags and trash containers are there for your use. We are so fortunate to have such a great place for all to enjoy; please, let's ALL take care of it!

***Youth Center:** same hours as during the school year, except we open at 1:00 instead of after school. Closed on holidays. **Open Gym** free for kids age 6-18 on Saturday 1:00 to 3:00.

***Adult Open Gym** nights vary according to ship schedule.

Big Brothers Big Sisters News Report

Congratulations to 2017 Hoonah Grads who served as Bigs: Austin Martuscelli and Alaska Skaflestad. We hope that their lives were enriched as much as the lives of their Littles through this volunteer experience.

Three new matches were made at the end of the school year. These Bigs and Littles will meet regularly when school starts in August: Big Sister Sacajawea Bigelow &



Tyler & Joshua



Wea & Easton



Makia & Mary

Little Sister Easton, Big Brother Tyler Watkins & Little Brother Joshua, and Big Sister

Mary Jack & Little Sister Makia

Our 13th Annual Bowl For Kids' Sake was great fun; with the help and participation of many folks, a hefty amount of fund\$ were raised for our local mentoring program.

Thank you to many volunteers: Arely Wright, Daphne Wright, Karen S. Mills, Glenda Hutton, Paul Dybdahl, Jeremy Martin, Amy Stevenson, Phillip Stevenson, Ladonna Dybdahl, Jeremiah Byers, Marlene Duvall, Teresa McConnell, Amelia Wilson, and Ethan Ruerup.

A BIG SHOUT-OUT to 9 **AmeriCorps Volunteers** *Getting Things Done* around Hoonah and Chichagof Island! Gunalchéesh to Shelby, Meghan, Mar, Kadeem, Shannon, Alicia, Bria, Jonah, and Haleigh for setting up, keeping score, and participating in our Bowl for Kids' Sake 2017 PLUS our Health Fair!

Major event sponsors were Three Wolves Charters, LLC \$1000, Hoonah Recyclers \$1000, CLIA (Cruise Lines International Alaska) \$2500, Hoonah Liquor Board \$500; other sponsors were: F/V Vagabond Queen \$200, Hoonah Cold Storage \$200, and Hoonah Anonymous \$205.

Icy Strait Lodge offered a healthy discount on the 27 hot, fresh, delicious pizzas delivered to the bowling alley. Hoonah Trading donated three frozen turkeys. Other businesses & individuals donated a total of \$570; Fishbone Gifts, FISHES, Harbor Marine, Daphne & Frank Wright, Jr., Amy Wright, Wilma Davis, Rory & Pete Schneeberger, Adam Gretsinger, Karen S. Mills, Glenda & Bob Hutton,

Terry Miller & Deborah Hansen, and Glacier Winds Charters.

Prizes totaling \$2080.47 came from Icy Strait Point, Hoonah Trading Company, Daphne Wright, Linda Belarde, Wilma Davis, Karen S. Mills, Hoonah Thrift Store, Diane Bean, Tideland Tackle & Marine, Eleanor Davenport, Jackie Dick, PJ Ford Slack, and Dottie Johanson.

Sixteen teams collected pledges totaling \$4030.18! Thanks to all the generous people who supported each bowler on the teams. The top three fundraising teams were: Grizzly Girls, Bowl of Beans, and Hoonah Recyclers. The top individual fundraiser was Judy Brown of the Grizzly Girls. A record number of turkeys (three strikes in a row) were rolled this year: Ethan Ruerup, Diane Bean, Vanessa Contreras, Ladonna Dybdahl, Wilma Davis, and Elena Leinberger. *Photo: Vanessa with her turkey.*



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hoonah thanks Janet Taylor for her \$300 donation to honor family birthdays in April.

Our organization is partners once again with ALPAR (Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling). They provide a grant of \$800; in return, we organize biweekly Thursday Trooper Litter Patrols throughout the summer. Watch bulletin boards and Facebook for dates.

Watch for information about the BBBS of Alaska Statewide Raffle of Alaska Airlines Miles from June 1- August 31. All monies from Hoonah ticket sales come back to our community.

Please enjoy the BBBS hanging flower baskets, planted by Hoonah's youth, beautifying Hoonah byways.



Shawn & Johan planting flowers



BBBS sponsored a Free Swim on May 13th, the last open pool day until Sept. We had a great turnout—55 swimmers! Thanks to Jamie and Cody for lifeguarding, Jack for manning the door, and Candy & Daphne for judging the Cannonball and other events.

Hoonah City Schools
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Hoonah City Schools Newsletter May 2017

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Dates to Remember

Haa Too Yéi Yatee Culture Camp	July 9-12
First Day of School	August 15
Labor Day—No School	Sept. 4
Teacher Workday—No School	Oct. 20
Thanksgiving Break	Nov. 23-24
Christmas Vacation	Dec. 25-Jan. 5
Return after Vacation	Jan. 8
Teacher Workday—No School	Jan. 15
Teacher In-Service—No School	Jan. 25-26
Teacher In-Service—No School	Feb. 19-20
Teacher Workday—No School	March 16
Spring Break	March 19-23
Teacher In-Service—No School	April 23-24
School <u>Ku.éex'</u>	April 27
Last Day of School	May 16



Ku.éex' photos by Ian Johnson