

# Hoonah Schools Newsletter

September-October 2015

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

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



of their Tlingit class; and right, the high school robotics students working on the Marshmallow Challenge, an international competition. Robotics teacher Ben McLuckie says you can go on-line and see videos of the Challenge on YouTube.

Plans are in the works for a whole new playground for behind the school. Volunteers are invited to get involved with the planning and fundraising this will require.

## Carnival is Coming!

The Fall Carnival date is set for **Friday, October 30th**. Mark your calendars and get ready for some fun! This year, Kendra Hill and Kristi Styers have volunteered to be Carnival Co-chairs. Look forward to some new games at our Carnival, such as Frisbee Golf, Ladder Ball, and more. We will also have many of the usual favorites: Bingo, Fish Pond, Hoop Shot, Cake Walk, Wheel of Fortune, other games of chance, and lots of goodies to eat. Rumor has it there might even be a Haunted House. Coach Adam Gretsinger will have a table where folks can order Braves t-shirts and other gear. You will need to pay with cash or checks at the time the order is placed.

School groups will be looking for donations and volunteers. Community groups are also invited to sign up for booths. The more, the merrier. Look for a sign-up sheet outside the high school office. Contact Kendra Hill with questions about booths.

## Welcome to a New Year at Hoonah City Schools

With the start of a new year at Hoonah City Schools comes the opportunity to welcome new students and staff to Hoonah. We have eight new certified staff at our school, and quite a number of new students as well. See pages 3, 4 and 5 for pictures and profiles of the new teachers.

The school year has gotten off to a good start, with plenty of energy and excitement in the halls and classroom, outside too! These pictures show just two examples of the interesting activities for our students: left, kindergarten students picking blueberries (kanat'á) as part



Profits from the Food Booth and Auction will go into the Playground Fund this year. Mary Beth Moss and Kaz Harris have agreed to be the organizers of the Food Booth. They will be looking for donations and workers.

The Food Booth will open at 5:00 and the game booths will open at 6:00. This is our big fall fun and fundraising event, so we hope to see everyone there.

If you have something to donate for the Auction, you can bring it to one of the school offices. If you would like to volunteer to help in some other way, please contact one of the teachers, or call the school office at 945-3611.

The next Carnival organizing meeting will be held Tuesday, Oct. 13th at 6 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Come with your questions, ideas and energy!

## Superintendent's Message from Dr. PJ Ford Slack *Wooch.een: All Pulling Together*



The cruise ships may be gone, lazy days in the Hoonah sun are a sweet memory and there is energy in Hoonah Schools Hallways! We are **Team Hoonah**, every person is **Pulling together**, every day. Team Hoonah *commits* to our families to educate each student, to offer experiences, and to listen and appreciate what each child brings to us.

Hoonah families, let's all come together for our children. All Alaska districts are struggling with fiscal issues but we are Hoonah, the people who faced glaciers and tricky seas, and we work together. We need everyone involved to keep our district strong and part of Hoonah. Every member of Team Hoonah is working more, learning a Tlingit phrase or two, offering to take on new challenges, and doing it all with a smile for the students.

Math is a big focus. Every carving requires math, catching fish requires math, and we want our students to push our teachers to take them further in math. Our students need to become *Math warriors*; all students must learn to love math, play with math, and never ever say, "I am not good at math." Tlingit culture depends on students who are strong in their culture and that also means fearless with math. Everyone will be going to Sitka to focus on Math. Why are we all going to Sitka together? Because our students need to destroy the myth that U.S. students can't do math.

Please vote YES to keep the ordinance in place that supports student activities. From Music Fest to Basketball to Elders and Youth leadership to Sitka Fine Arts Camp, our students deserve opportunities. They deserve your vote.

Fun, Fit, and Healthy...We encourage you to visit Hoonah City Schools! How about breakfast with a student? Reach out to a school board member and share your ideas. How about a Run with the Cross Country team or perhaps you can share a talent with students after school. Ms. Lorrie is always up for fun ideas and she wants you to visit; don't wait until Parent /Teacher conferences. Come and share your knowledge.

Team Hoonah needs YOU as we continue to become creative in these fiscally tough times. Please work with us and **Pull together** to keep the best education in Hoonah for all students.

Gunalcheesh, Hoonah.  
Dr. PJ

## Board President's Letter

Welcome back to a new school year, one and all!

The fall goal of your school board is to revise our board policy manual and bring it up-to-date. We are privileged to have Norm Wooten, the Executive Director of the Alaska Association of School Boards, to facilitate our policy workshop during the second weekend in October. Norm has had extensive experience as a long-serving member of the Kodiak Island School Board.

Other items on the school board's "to-do" list this school year include:

- a superintendent search for a replacement for Dr. PJ Ford Slack, who will continue to steer our ship in a most capable manner through the end of this school year,
- formulating a new Strategic Plan (with the help of the community) that will serve to guide HCS during the next several years. and
- figuring out how we can afford the educational services that we have provided in the past, given the certainty of reduced funding from the State next year

In closing, I would like to remind everyone that members of the community are welcome to contact me at any time to discuss their concerns regarding the school. I'm here to listen and to help find solutions.

*Bob Hutton*



*New teaching staff members Elena Leinberger, Aimee Smith and Amber Malone with Commissioner of Education Mike Hanley during his September 14th visit to Hoonah. Gunalchéesh to Dr. PJ for the photo.*



## Hoonah City Schools Welcomes New Staff

*After saying good-bye to quite a number of staff that left HCS last spring, we welcome the new employees to the district:*



**Nhung Dinh** is the new Test Coordinator, High School and Middle School Art teacher, and one of the school counselors. She comes here from Sitka where she has lived for the last six years; in Sitka she ran the tutorials program at Mt. Edgecumbe HS, taught ceramics at Sitka Fine Arts Camp, and worked at the Sitka Tribal Tannery. Her educational background includes degrees in Reading from UAS and

Psychology from UC Santa Cruz. She is currently completing a Masters in Education program with Framingham State College. Nhung has also studied art in France and Mexico. While she is here in Hoonah, Nhung would like to start programs in tanning, ceramics and silkscreen.



**Bonnie Harris** is our new High School and Middle School English teacher. She is also teaching High School Band. She most recently taught in Cordova, where she was the K-12 music teacher. Bonnie has lived in southeast Alaska for most of her life, most of it in Sitka: she grew up in Juneau, moved to Gustavus after high school and built a cabin there. She

has a BA in Music Education from Western Washington University and a Reading Specialist Masters Degree from UAS. When asked what she would like to do as a teacher here, she said, *"I would like to challenge students to step out of their usual comfort zones a bit and use their creative spirits for making something new and good in their lives, to do some things they've not tried before."*



**Steve Berry** is one of our new Special Education teachers. He just moved here from the Los Angeles area where he taught in the same specialty. Steve grew up in Las Vegas, NV, where he also attended college, as well as in Utah, Indiana, and L.A. Steve has a daughter in Las Vegas, and a son who recently moved to

Australia. His early impressions of our kids and our community? *"The students here are fantastic. Most seem*

*to value their education, which is a change from my previous teaching experience. The community has seemed very welcoming."*

Steve recently completed the coursework for the BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst.) He would like to complete his supervision hours as well as get his BCBA certificate. He is also looking at Doctorate program as a possibility for the future.

**Amber Malone** can be found these days in Room 105 in the



Elementary School, teaching the fifth grade class. She and her family (husband Patrick, also a teacher, and 2-year-old son Keagan) moved to Hoonah from Klamath Falls, Oregon, where she taught 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade. She also worked on curriculum and professional development. Before Klamath Falls, the family was in

Beaverton, OR, where she was the director at a K-12 learning center. She has also taught various grades in Missouri and India.

Amber grew up in Springfield, Missouri, and attended college at Drury University in Springfield. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with degrees in Elementary Education and Sociology and a minor in Global Studies. She is completing Masters coursework at Eastern Oregon University and has additional teaching endorsements in Reading and English as a Second Language.

Besides working at school, Amber enjoys baking and canning, reading, taking hikes, and enjoying the outdoors. She says that she and her family love it here in Hoonah, and that it already feels like home. She looks forward to a good year, and plans to put her energy into creating a great learning atmosphere for kids.



**Elena Leinberger** is the new Kindergarten teacher. Elena has moved here from Bethel, Alaska, where she taught grades 5 and 6 at the Yup'ik Immersion School for 14 years. Elena is a fluent Yup'ik speaker who learned her language as a very young child. She is originally from Atmautluak, near Bethel. She attended the University of Alaska Fairbanks,

where she earned a BA in Education.

Elena and her husband Marc, also a teacher, are enjoying getting to know Hoonah. When they aren't at work, they like to go berry picking, fishing, and taking drives out to Freshwater Bay. Elena says that she especially enjoys the beautiful scenery and wilderness surrounding Hoonah. She finds it amazing that she can see whales so often just by looking out over the water. She also is impressed that Hoonah Schools offers Tlingit language to the students.



## Dear Hoonah Friends and Families,

It has been a great start to what I believe is going to be a wonderful year. I see students engaged in lessons, having fun together, welcoming the many new students we have this year and

just being good all around kids. I invite you to come visit any time. The coffee pot is always on and I'd love to hear your thoughts about how we can work together to make Hoonah City Schools an even better place to learn.

*Lorrie Scoles*  
K-12 Principal

**Our Fall Carnival Date is October 30.** Be a part of the team that plans and organizes this big event. If you can help, please call the school at 945-3613. We are also looking for donated items for the Auction. All items are appreciated! You can either drop off your item or call us at 945-3613 and we can pick it up. Remember your donation is tax deductible.

### Parent Teacher Conferences October 5-9

This is the time to make sure your student is doing well, and if not it is still early enough in the quarter to turn things around. Scheduling notes have already gone home.

### Career Fair October 16

Jessica Voeller of the Hoonah Indian Association will be hosting a College/Career Fair on Friday, October 16th. This event will be held at the HIA Community Center Building from noon to 2 pm. From 1:00 to 2:00, there will be speakers from the community. Information from colleges and vocational schools will be displayed. All students and parents are invited. There will be a scavenger hunt for all interested students, with prizes for those who enter.

### Thank You

Three hundred and thirty handmade bookmarks were delivered to the ISP School Bookstore. These helped earn \$825 for the student activities fund. Thanks you to dedicated bookmark artists, wildflower & leaf pressers Linda Dellazoppa, Glenda Hutton, Karen Mills, Daphne Wright, Arely Wright, Sally Dybdahl.

### New Staff, continued.

**Patrick Malone** is the new Science teacher for Middle School and High School. His story follows:

I have wandered through six countries, and ultimately gleaned several degrees from 5 universities and colleges before working at Genentech as a research assistant. Later, I took a faculty position at

the UCSF School of Medicine, Department of Neurology, under Nobel laureate Dr. Stanley Prusiner, engaged in laboratory transgenics work to support Dr. Prusiner's ongoing prion studies ("Mad Cow disease" and the inherited variety known as Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease).

In the past few years I have enjoyed amazing opportunities at the Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute, The National Chimpanzee Sanctuary System - Chimp Haven, and enjoyed valuable conversations with Dr. Jane Goodall. I have provided scientific consultation with the Gorilla Foundation in support of Koko the gorilla, famous for her excellent use of sign language, and I have conducted research at Chimp Haven. I have also presented some of my research into the gene-gender-environment link at the Western Psychological Association, the Autism Society of America, and the American Psychological Association.

I found great satisfaction working with the J.A.C.K. chimpanzee sanctuary in the Democratic Republic of Congo where I provided on-going support for the first clearly DSM-IV diagnostic autistic chimpanzee Elia. This work was presented at the Autism Society with great interest and appreciation, and you may enjoy video documentation of this effort by using the following web link:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZ-Pq6slH3Q>

I am currently working to complete a neurobiological study of nonhuman primate infant and toddler developmental neurogenetics through which I demonstrate the connection between human brain evolution and the rise of developmental disorder. Chimpanzee young raised in captivity invariably grow to display behaviors analogous to institutionalized children, and these behaviors may ultimately grow to resemble an ASD or even PTSD. This study will greatly inform future prevention and medical treatment of disordered development in both chimpanzee and human children. In 2013 I provided an invited lecture detailing my research work at Sidney Sussex College, University of Cambridge.

I am most recently from Klamath Falls, Oregon where I taught mathematics at Klamath Union High School and Advanced Multivariate Statistics as a professor of mathematics at Klamath Community College. It is my facility with very advanced statistical methods that led to my continuing climate research that I enjoy in cooperation with several research institutions, including the Environmental Change Institute at the University of Oxford, and the Arctic Research Consortium of the United States (ARCUS).

I grew up in Corvallis, Oregon and spent a great deal of my time in the surrounding Cascade Mountains and all along the Oregon coast. The Pacific Northwest coastal geology and weather are essentially identical to what I find living in Hoonah, so bringing my family to this community feels very much like a homecoming. My wife, Amber Malone, and I have sought someplace special to put down our roots and look forward to raising our son, Keagan, within this amazing community.





## More New Staff Profiles:



**Marc Leinberger** has taken the job of math teacher for the Middle School and High School. He has come here from Bethel, where he worked as the Lower Kuskokwim Career and Technical Education Specialist, which included: Teaching high school level applied mathematics by live two-way videoconferencing; developing school district and school CTE courses & curriculum; leading professional development for teachers; and coordinating the K-12 Junior FIRST Lego League, FIRST Lego League and FIRST Tech Challenge robotics program for over 50 teams.

Marc was born in Illinois and lived there until age 10. His family then moved to Kotzebue and then Barrow (his parents were bush teachers in the Arctic for 20 years). After graduating from Barrow, he completed his Bachelor's degree at UAF. He has taught in rural Alaska communities on Kodiak Island and southwest Alaska for the past 23 years before moving to Hoonah.

Marc's wife, Elena, is a teacher in Hoonah as well. She is full-blooded Yup'ik. Together they have four children: Cingarkaq, Luke, Katherine and Donovan. Donovan is a kindergartener in Hoonah. The older three are attending UAA or finishing senior year in Sitka. They love to travel, do subsistence activities and be outdoors when they have family time together.

When asked about his early impressions of Hoonah, Marc says: *"Hoonah is a great small town! Everyone is very nice and has been helpful as I get acquainted with businesses, the environment and learn local traditions like the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration, Tlingit culture, and seasonal fishing times."*

And what would he like to accomplish in the near future? *"My greatest accomplishments would be to live in harmony with my family and community while helping students set and reach goals to become responsible adults. I would like to learn Tlingit language and how the local environment and culture are connected."*



**Aimee Smith** is a new Special Education Teacher & Elementary/Middle School Music Teacher. She comes here from Sitka, where she taught special education in the Sitka School District for the past two years.

Her hometown is Brooks, Oregon, near Salem. She holds a B.A. in Music - with concentrations in theory/composition and music education from George Fox University. She also holds an M.A. in Teaching and graduate endorsement in Special Education from Willamette University. Aimee most recently studied preschool special education at UAS.

When asked about her family, Aimee said that her

dad's family is of Cherokee, Choctaw and Blackfoot lineage. Her grandparents on her mother's side were both born and raised in Juneau before moving to Oregon. Both of her great-grandfathers worked in the mines, and one of them owned Carson's Bakery and worked on the M/V Taku as a baker during its maiden voyage. Although her family is still in Oregon, she feels at home in southeast Alaska.

Outside of school, Aimee is a music composer and has had her work performed in Oregon, Alaska, New York and Spain. Writing and exploring how to create with sound is one of her passions. She also loves to dance and began dancing ballet again a year ago.

Aimee has found Hoonah to be very friendly and welcoming. She loves waving to people as she drives through town or seeing her students at the store. She says that the students are very creative, willing to learn and willing to teach her when the opportunity arises. She looks forward to growing with them this year.

As for her goals for the near future, Aimee is interested in getting her music therapy certification and studying music and neurological/linguistic development. She started studying Tlingit in June and is looking forward to deepening what she is learning and using it in her classroom. Her Tlingit name is Át'kaheení.

## Tlingit Study Group for All Ages

Games such as *Ast'eix Nagú* (Go Fish), *Tlingo* (Tlingit Bingo) or *Sh kahaadí Kux'awóos'i* (Crazy Questions) are just some of the ways that the participants at Tlingit Study Group practice using Tlingit language. The group uses each other's Tlingit names when playing the games or taking turns asking each other questions.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Study Group, which starts at 6 p.m. and goes until 7:30. We will be meeting on most Wednesdays until early December. Some weeks we don't meet due to scheduling conflicts and travel commitments. We will start up again in January after a break for the holidays. Call Daphne Wright at 723-1223 with any questions about Study Group.

Gunalchéesh to all who have attended the meetings we have had so far, with a special gunalchéesh to Deiwjee, Genevieve Cook, for all of her patience and help.

**Tribal house website--** Follow the Glacier Bay-Huna Tribal House Project by going to the National Park Service Website: <http://www.nps.gov/glba/historyculture/huna-tribal-house-project.htm>



*About this newsletter: Welcome to a new year at Hoonah City Schools. This is the first issue of our newsletter for the 2015-2016 academic year. Since 1988, the Title VII Native Education Program at HCS has provided this publication as a means of informing families and the rest of the community about what is going on at school, and about other events that affect our students. Please contact Daphne Wright at school with questions or suggestions about this project. She can also be reached by email: [wrightd@hoonahschools.org](mailto:wrightd@hoonahschools.org).*

## Esther Greenwald: Hoonah's First Librarian



Esther Greenwald came to Hoonah as a teacher from Colorado in 1948. She worked at the school as a committed, sincere and successful teacher for about 20 years before becoming the librarian. Esther said her favorite part about being a librarian was being able to get reacquainted with former students she had taught since kindergarten.

Esther set up the library, gathering books from the elementary teacher's classroom libraries. The Hoonah library began with a small collection of grouped books. In 1971, when the cafeteria building was built it was decided that the upstairs would be the library. From there, it was organized and cataloging cards were put in place. The next year high school books were added. Esther's vision and ability to make that a reality, created our library.

She also made sure the library had games like "Go Fish" for kids to learn from. It became a place for kids to go. Upon Esther's retirement in 1976 the library was named after her. Esther shared that working as the librarian, "Was a very interesting and fun time. I felt I could expose kids to a variety of other things outside of the classroom." Esther Greenwald's dedication, passion and love for our students is all part of the legacy she created. This spring will mark 40 years of honoring Hoonah's first librarian with our library carrying her name. *Thank you to Amelia Wilson, our current librarian, for this article.*



**Esther Greenwald Library Hours**— Library hours will be from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. We will be open for students before and after school as well as during the middle and high school lunch break. The library strives to be a resource center and information hub for students, a place to gather, study, do research, relax, investigate and be inspired.

**Summer Reading Program**- The Summer Reading Program was a great success! Kids came weekly to participate in this summer's themed program, "Every Hero has a Story." We had a book read and a fun craft that went along with the book every week. We also had our lovely elder, Genevieve Cook read to our kids on two occasions. Participants were able to check out books, earn prizes for reading and enjoy a healthy snack.

For our final week, our police and fire chiefs came to help us celebrate our local heroes and even brought a police car, police dog and fire truck for the kids to play with. Thank you to all of the parents and families who brought their kids!





## News From Hoonah High School and Middle School

**Greetings from Room 414, old-new home for Stephanie Harold.** Here Middle School Language Arts is learning about Signposts in Reading -- which are features of a narrative that give clues about theme, character development, and various levels of conflict. Meanwhile, the World Literature class is exploring the word parts acquired from the many cultures that contributed to the English language we speak today. World Literature is also heading off into an exploration of mythology, connecting the stories of ancient heroes with Tlingit oral history. Finally, Spanish 1 (actually being taught in the Science Room) is a fiesta of storytelling, singing, and even circle time with picture books and cookies!



**Math Department:** Greetings! This is an exciting time of year when I am able to get to know each student as an individual and his/her current math skills. Secondary students completed an initial diagnostic math assessment the first week of school. Middle school and high school students have been learning and applying teamwork, persistence and problem solving skills in all math classes so far this semester. These three skills are critical not only for acquiring new math concepts, but also throughout life. Middle school students have participated in math games such as Factor Captor and The Product Game to practice multiplication and division skills. High schools students have played Battleship on Cartesian planes, created unique designs through Stick Stack, played advanced Factor Captor among other activities. Parents should have received a syllabus to sign for each high school math class, as a take-home assignment.

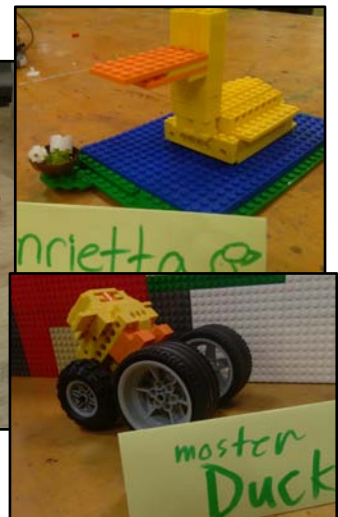
*Marc Leinberger*

### Robotics Report from Mr. McLuckie

What do you have when you take a dozen bins of LEGO parts, apply the design process of an engineer, and mix in the creative eye of an artist? You get model designers for Legoland, and in August they hired for seven more positions! Our students in middle school robotics class have all those qualities too, so I thought why not, let's do the same job interviews here in Hoonah!

Just as in Legoland, our 'job applicants' were grouped into teams, given a picture of a toy duck and unlimited LEGO parts, and restricted to 30 minutes of design and build time.

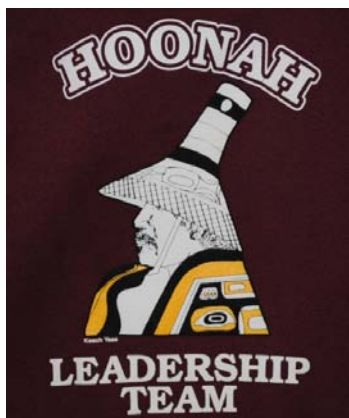
Compare our students' ducks with winning entries from Legoland and I think you'll agree: our ducks show the creativity and 3D building skills equal to that of professional Lego model designers. Shall we open a Legoland here in Hoonah?



### Library Summer Youth Worker Eddie Williams

This summer the Esther Greenwald Library participated for the second time in the Summer Youth Employment program through Hoonah Indian Association and Tlingit & Haida. The program provides youth with summer jobs and pays their wages. It is an excellent opportunity for the job site and youth. Our youth worker was Edward "Eddie" Williams, IV who proved to be an amazing asset to our library. Eddie shared that this was his first job and said, "I really enjoyed working at the library. I am thankful for the job experience because it will help me get jobs in the future. I also had a chance to learn new things and gain new skills." Thank you Eddie for your hard work and dedication this summer. Thank you also to HIA and T&H for selecting the library as a host work site and providing this awesome program.

## Cultural Leadership Club Offered for High School Students



Hoonah City Schools is proud to offer the high school Cultural Leadership Club for students in grades 9-12 again this year. The goal of the club is to support the academic achievement and personal success for students by encouraging and fostering youth leadership, community and civic engagement and the practice of culture,

values and traditions.

The club fosters friendship among students and serves to represent the students at Hoonah High School through political, social and cultural activities, and to promote goodwill between the high school community and the community at large. The cultural leadership club aims to provide students the opportunity to gather and celebrate their culture and traditions.

The club will meet twice a month. Each semester club members will engage in a service project. For example, students will lead a community event during Native American month in November. In April, students will formally assist with the School *Ku.éex'*. In addition to these large events, upon club member determination and consensus, we will meet on evenings, weekends or during breaks and host events for all students.

Upcoming club trips include an ISP- sponsored trip for four students and club advisor to attend the Alaska Travel Industry Association's convention in Juneau to participate in the Arts, Culture & Heritage Tourism Summit to be held at the Walter Sobeloff Center. Huna Totem Corporation and Huna Heritage Foundation are supportive of our students, club and what we aim to accomplish for our youth. By partnering with these and other organizations like the Hoonah Indian Association, we hope to provide engaging, inspiring and real-life opportunities to set our youth up to take on the leadership roles and positions within our community, corporation and state.

We are also very excited to again take students to the 2015 Elder's and Youth Conference and AFN gathering in Anchorage. The conference strengthens the knowledge and self-confidence of Native people to speak out and to create change within themselves and in their communities. It celebrates the Alaska Native intellect. And, it encourages young people and Elders alike to pursue the great task of maintaining our traditional Native values and practices, while thriving in the modern world.

Leadership club members will be selected for trips through an application process. School eligibility will apply in addition to active participation in club sponsored meetings and events. Preference will be given to upper classmen. Club advisor, Amelia Wilson welcomes parents, families, community members and businesses to advise, volunteer and support club efforts to uplift our youth as they develop their leadership path.

### Chautauqua Report *from Local Coordinator Amelia Wilson*

The New Old Time Chautauqua "circus" group that came to Hoonah this summer was amazing! This non-profit organization travels all over, bringing rural communities laughter, joy and entertainment. They provided fun workshops on things like juggling and acrobatics, did a parade through town and put on an awesome "big show" with a packed gym. All \$1,064 of the ticket sales was donated to our ANB Hall Fund.

In addition to their top-notch entertainment, the group performed service work including cleaning the ANB hall and the graveyard by the ferry terminal. They also did a special show at the Senior Center for our elders. What a blessing Chautauqua was to our community!

I was grateful for the opportunity to be the local coordinator and get to know the group. Thank you to the following who helped make this possible: Bob Hutton, Mayor Ken Skaflestad, Sally Dybdahl, Daphne Wright, Wilma Davis, Mary Marks, Sam Willard, Darlene See, David See, Bob Starbard, Keith Skaflestad, Bill Wilson, Julie Jackson, Jackie Dick, Raino Hill, Hoonah City Schools, City of Hoonah, ANB/ANS, HIA, ISP, Gaaxw Xaayi Dance Group, Icy Strait Lodge, Hoonah Trading, Collette's Cupboard and the Hoonah Liquor Board. Please forgive me if I left someone off this list. It was absolutely awesome to see our community come together for such a happy event!



*The Chautauqua group paraded down Front Street. Can you spot a local trombone player in the group?*



## ♪ Notes from the Music Department ♪

I am excited to work with the **elementary and middle school** students this year in music class. We have been busy at work figuring out where students are at in their musical journey and exploring their interests. The elementary students have learned several songs and games thus far. We started with "Waa Sa Iduwasaakw?", a Tlingit song, to learn each other's names. We sang a song about fishing and even went on a bear hunt! We had a great discussion about what things you might find in the forest if you are hunting bears and talked about why you don't run from them. Students were very articulate in sharing what they know. They even worked in teams to make pictures and we used them in our song. The students have been focusing on two concepts recently, steady beat and loud vs. soft. We created a "Loud-O-Meter" on the board and used it to practice. We are currently learning a song called "Sing! Speak! Whisper! Shout!" to learn about the different types of voices we can have. We worked on individual assessments during September. Please come in to the music room to see the list of songs and games that we have learned in each class, and watch it grow throughout the year!

The middle school students have been working on things such as staccato articulation and learning how to tune and balance by ear. We have been rehearsing a march called "American Patrol" and it has been great to watch the band improve over the past few weeks. We have also sight read some pieces and listened to possibilities for later this year. In early September, we began looking at individual student plans to map out their personal growth as a musician. We also started some small ensemble work. Watch for our new music journals to be coming home as well as instruments for practice. They will be listing their homework in their music journals. All parents should have received a music letter that students and parents are asked to read and sign. If you haven't seen it, contact me and I can provide you a new one.

I look forward to meeting all of you and working with your students as they develop their musical knowledge, appreciation, and skill.

*Aimee Smith, Elementary/Middle School Music Director*

### High School Music

The front hall rings with music from Hoonah's High School Band in the mornings! The band is regrouping, reviewing, and evaluating pieces they have played before, while we begin listening to and choosing new material for this year's upcoming performances. Students were invited to audition for Southeast Honors Festival, which takes place October 25-27 in Wrangell. Those audition recordings were to be completed by September 21. In addition, students were given a letter to take home about the band program and instrument rental fees. Students and parents were asked to sign the letter and return it, so they could take their instruments home. Please do not hesitate to call the new band director Bonnie Harris 945-3613, 9

or email [harrisb@hoonahschools.org](mailto:harrisb@hoonahschools.org) if you have questions. Our thanks for Bob Hutton for help with many small details in getting us off to a good start. Gunalchéesh!



*Aimee Smith photo*

### Special Music Performance in Hoonah

On September 5th, the Sitka Summer Music Festival brought in three world-class musicians to share with our school and community. Zuill Bailey (cello), Awadagian Pratt (piano) and Benjamin Breen (violin) joined us in the HCS cafeteria for a night of magical music. They invited young children to sit up close on the floor and see first hand the intricacies of their instruments and playing. Students and adults alike stared as they shared extended techniques of their instruments and how the original composers performed, bizarre stories of performances and how pieces were developed, and really brought the music alive for the audience. Middle school students were given the opportunity to write performance reviews for a class assignment, as part of learning how to evaluate music we hear. Gunalchéesh to everyone that joined us.

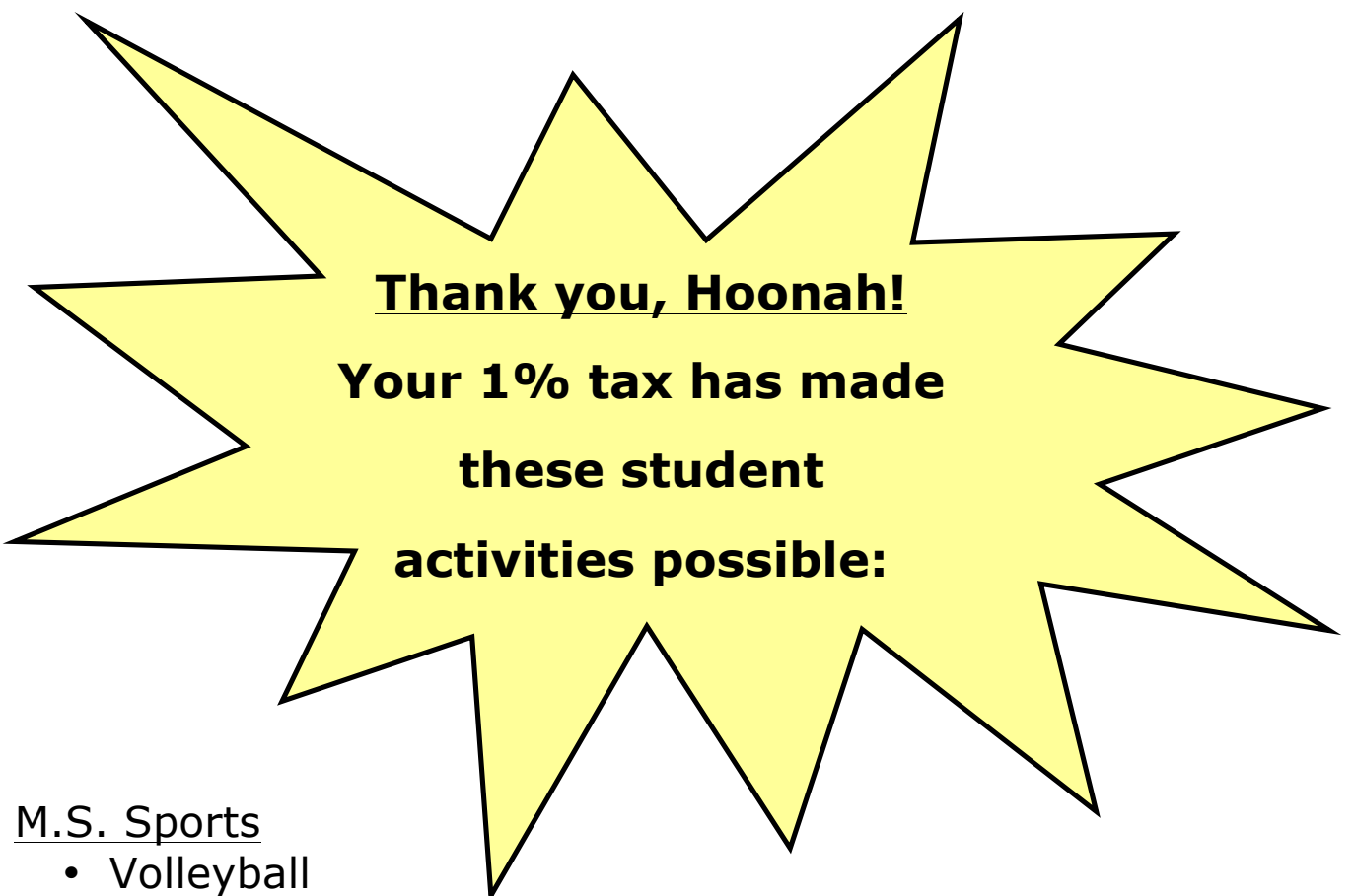
### Late-Breaking Music News:

**Congratulations to Jordan McLuckie and Morgan Stevenson** who have been selected for the Region V Honor Band, to be held in Wrangell October 25-26.

Both girls are seniors, and have been selected for this honor each year they have been in high school. Jordan will be playing a violin solo at Honor Band this year.



Music instructor Bonnie Harris has started a **Guitar Club** for students in grades 6-12. The Club meets Tuesdays after school in Rom 416.



**Thank you, Hoonah!**

**Your 1% tax has made  
these student  
activities possible:**

**M.S. Sports**

- Volleyball
- Wrestling
- Girls' Basketball
- Boys' Basketball

**H.S. Sports**

- Boys' Basketball
- Girls' Basketball
- Cross-Country
- Wrestling
- Volleyball

**and travel to:**

- Student Government Events
- SE Music Festival
- SE Honor Music Festival

- All-State Music Festival
- Sitka Jazz Festival
- Robotics Events
- AFN Convention
- Native Youth Olympics
- Elders and Youth Leadership Conference
- Future Teachers of AK
- Alaska Career and Technical Conference
- Culinary Arts Competition
- AVTEC Tour
- Rifle Team
- AASA Art Fair
- Career Fair



## News from the Elementary Classrooms

For the first part of the year, the **3rd and 4th grade class** have been focusing in Science on a unique Earth material: water. Water is the only material on Earth that occurs naturally in all three states of matter: solid, liquid, and gas. One of the goals with this unit is to help students to begin seeing water in a new light. Through their investigations into the properties of water, they



have begun to appreciate how important this natural resource is! The class conducted an investigation to observe what happens when water falls on 4 different surfaces, (aluminum foil, paper towels, writing paper, and wax paper,) and observed how "surface tension" can cause a large amount of water to stay pooled up on a penny. Mary Beth Moss, Johan and Leah brought in some water bugs from the muskegs for us to observe. These insects are able to stay afloat because of surface tension! We are looking forward to more investigations with this precious resource!

*Mrs. Bidiman*

*Gunalchéesh to Kendra Hill for the photos from the 3-4 class.*

\*\*\*\*\*



It has been a busy start to a wonderful year here in the **first and second grade class**. All of us are back for "S'MORE" learning with our camping theme. All of the students have settled nicely into a new routine and a new classroom. We have begun the year by becoming a community of learners, embracing new friendships and having lots and lots of FUN! We welcome visitors and volunteers in our classroom. We would also welcome donations of healthy snacks and paper cups, bowls, and plates in various sizes. Gunalchéesh in advance for any help. Have a great fall!

*Mrs. Fuller*

In **Kindergarten**, the students are learning to recognize their first and last names and writing numbers. We are going to practice counting up to 100 going by 1's, 2's, 5's, and 10's. Students will learn to read and write the alphabet and begin forming words. While we are learning our routines and developing classroom expectations we are working for a positive learning atmosphere.

*Mrs. Leinberger*



**Pre-school** is in full swing now. Their hours are from 1:00 to 3:30 every school day except Friday, when they go home at 2:30 along with the other students. Some of the activities that the pre-schoolers take part in are gym time, going to the library, working with the kindergarten students in their classroom, and having Tlingit time with Mrs. Wright. Pre-school teachers are Carrie Lindoff and Veronica Dalton.



## News from the Fifth Grade Class

Things have been busy so far, as we started the year off with a dash! We have spent the last several weeks reviewing math concepts from last year and laying a foundation for this year. We are utilizing the Bridge's math program, which utilizes several models to represent mathematical thinking. The students have been busy building and demonstrating their thinking through tile arrays, ratio tables, and number lines. If you stop by our room, you will see lots of our thinking hanging up and you might even catch a glimpse of our math models on the floor in the back of the room. We hope that our love of math is felt by all who come into our room.



On another note, we are busy with our first Unit of Inquiry. We learned that to inquire means to ask thought provoking questions and that is our goal as we venture out to learn more about Colonial America. We are busy reading and writing about the earliest European settlements, building our background knowledge so that we can reconstruct a thriving colony in our own classroom over the next several weeks. In order to make this project possible, we are looking for large pieces of cardboard and other recycled goods that can be made into storefronts for our village. Each student will be assigned a character and trade within the village and will be asked to take on the persona of a colonial settler. In addition to recycled materials, we are also looking for volunteers to help with the design and painting of storefronts. Those interested in volunteering some time for our project are encouraged to email [malonea@hoonahschools.org](mailto:malonea@hoonahschools.org).

On a last note, some of you may have already noticed our fifth grade students walking around with some rather large binders. We have come to value these tools, as they have been helping us get organized for the year. They hold all of our daily accounts of the day's events and our work. So, if you are wondering where that homework got stored....check the homework section in the back!

As September comes to a close, we are looking forward to more valuable learning experiences throughout the year. Thank you for all those who have provided snacks and words of encouragement over the last month and a half. We are also appreciative of our time spent at Icy Strait Point, sitting as the audience for the theater performance by many of our own high school students. *Gunalchéesh to Aimee Smith for the photo of the 5th graders at work.*

## High School Cross Country Running

The Cross Country Team finished their season with Regionals the weekend of September 26. Two runners, Jordan McLuckie and Manny Budke, qualified for State by finishing in the top 15. Congratulations to all of the runners who completed the season along with Jordan and Manny: Justin McConnell, Jerry White, Randy Roberts, Morgan Stevenson, Ronie Roberts, Brandon Guthrie, Dylan



Johnson, Leticia Skaflestad. Thank you to Principal Lorrie Scoles and Coach Steve Berry for the photos.





## Hoonah Indian Association Culture Camps Held Summer and Fall 2015

Hoonah Indian Association (HIA) has held three Culture Camps which focused on strengthening and enhancing cultural identity through customary and traditional ways of life. The first camp was in July, and we hope to have one more camp held October 22-23. The camps have been for ages 12-17, and have been well attended; we have some amazing young people that were willing to come and learn various aspects of our diverse Tlingit Culture.

Some of the fantastic cultural activities that took place were: traditional ways of fishing, cooking fry bread and halibut chowder, picking and canning blueberries, making náayadi (half-dried fish), making and canning smoked strips, carving dance paddles, singing Tlingit songs and dancing, and learning more Tlingit language, history and protocol.

During the July session, we camped overnight on Hoonah Island. Activities during that camp included plant identification, safety and survival skills, how to clean a seal, and cooking fish underground.

Gunalchéesh to the knowledgeable adults that took the time out of their busy schedules to share with participants, and of course to the following funding sources: DJJ Youth &

Development Grant, Liquor Board, HIA that made it all possible. We are still looking for funding for the camps.

Elders and culture bearers: Bill Wilson, Genevieve Cook, Daphne Wright, Owen James, Paul Marks, David Katzeek, Gordon Greenwald, Maryann Peterson, Herb Sheakley, Kathy Marvin, Keith Skaflestad, Heather Powell, Paul Marks II, Elijah Marks, Amelia Wilson, Amy Modig. I'd also like to thank the following people for their part in

these camps; Mildred Wright, Eunice Glover, Killian, Kole and

Torsten Skaflestad, Floyd Peterson, Bill Mills, Glen Glover, Icy Strait Point, Elijah Sheakley, Brian Katzeek, Karen Hinchman, Gerald Hinchman, Raino Hill, Kathy McCrobie/SEARHC, Emiko Furuya, Sally Dybdahl, Sophie and Ava Didrickson, Ida Jean Sheakley, Dave Fagan, Larry Sanders, Hoonah City Schools, Haa Aani/Bill Bennett, Herb Sheakley Jr., Mary Beth Moss, Trevor Hill, HIA staff: Bob Starbard, David See, Julie Jackson, Mary Cook, Sheryl Contreras, Sara White, Sarah Lampe, Jessie



Dybdahl. Once again, Gunalcheesh to Amelia Wilson for all her help with the camps. Please forgive me if I left anyone out, as you can see it takes a village...

If you have any suggestions or ideas for future camps/activities please don't hesitate to call me at HIA (907) 945-3545 Gunalcheesh! Darlene See HIA Cultural Programs Assistant/Tribal House Coordinator

*Pictured in front of HIA's Community Smokehouse. August 22, 2015 Back row left to right: Torsten and Keith Skaflestad, Eddy Williams, Sophie Henry, Zada Michel, McKayla Sheakley, Aja Marks, Treston Lafferty, Elijah Marks, Jeff Devlin, Randy Roberts, Amelia Wilson, Ethan Ruerup, Darlene See, Xaviery Sharclane, Paul Marks, Paul Marks II, Shayla Thaalesen*

*Photo at left: Sophie cutting strips. Right: Owen and Randy working on fire pit.*



## Traditional Foods Program Update From Program Manager Kathy McCrobie

The SEARHC Traditional Foods Program has two regular events each week. On Mondays there is a fur sewing class. Larry Sanders started us off with a moccasin sewing class and there are still a few of us who are finishing up. To work on the seal and otter the participant must show proof of 25% blood quantum Alaska Native. This class is on Monday from 6-9 pm.

On Tuesday nights we have a regular beading group called "Just Bead It!". This class began in March and we have been meeting and beading every Tuesday evening. In September we hope to transition to a regalia class. The group meets from 7-9 pm at the William and Mary Johnson Youth Center. These classes are free and all supplies are provided. One of the goals of the Traditional Foods Program is to tap into these cultural traditions to develop skills that will enable folks to improve their economic capability where culture and business can thrive together.

Many people are still unaware that they can sell the jelly and jams that they make. There are many 'cottage foods' that can be made in your home to sell. You can learn more about it in an upcoming online class in October offered by UAF Cooperative Extension. "Starting and Operating a Specialty Food Business in Alaska". The cost for this 5 session, online class is only \$50.00. Check out the Sitka Local Foods Network website at <http://sitkalocalfoodsnetwork.org/> where you can find more information about it and while you're there, read the blog about our own community garden.

For more information on cottage foods stop by and see me at the new Hoonah Indian Association Community Center in Room #1.

Our Wildberry Festival started off this year with a pancake breakfast. Gunalcheesh to Majors Kevin and Tina of the Salvation Army for hosting and to Clara Gray for setting up and serving a good breakfast. There was no cost for this breakfast, just a pledge to donate to your favorite local charity. The Wildberry Festival was almost rained out and it would have been if we weren't able to make the last minute change to hold it in the Youth Center. Thank you Kris Skaflestad for opening the doors there!

And thank you to all the volunteers who make this happen every year so our community can experience the wonderful celebration of our bountiful berries. Thank you to JJ Pate for donating 3 of her fragrant perfumes as prizes. The winner of the Jam Contest was Carlie Brown! She won a \$50.00 Visa gift card. She was our only food entrant and she brought the



most delicious raspberry jam! I think even if there were more entries, she still would have won. It looked, smelled and tasted so very raspberry!

With berry season still going (or with some of the berries now in your freezer) how about trying different ways to prepare them besides jellies, jams, and other sweets. Try this Blueberry basil vinegar recipe from the UAF Cooperative Extension:

### Blueberry Basil Vinegar:

Combine 4 cups blueberries and 1 cup white wine vinegar in a glass bowl. Lightly crush blueberries and add 3 more cups of vinegar. Crush 1 cup basil and add to vinegar along with the zest from one lemon. Cover bowl with plastic wrap and let sit in a cool, dark place for 4 weeks, stirring every 2 or 3 days. Strain vinegar through several layers of cheesecloth.

The One People Canoe Society were here to host a paddle workshop at the old HIA on Sept 18th-20th with a traditional food potluck meal on the last day. Please email me any ideas you have or would like to see happen here, or come by and let's talk about it over some coffee or tea.

### Hoonah Recyclers

#### Update

Our **Recyclers Van** is back in town and open for business *some* Saturdays (or Sundays.) Watch for signs around town for when we will be buying metals. The next Recycling Day will be **Saturday, October 17th.**



Thank you to the following for donating metals:

Diane & Victor Bean, Sr., Chris & Tom Jack, Sr., Sharon Wright-Brown, Sally & Paul Dybdahl, Thursday Troopers, Phyllis & Jeff Tischer, Rory & Pete Schneeberger, Lenora & Glenn Johnson, Elena & Howard Diamond, Daphne & Frank Wright, Jr., Ida McKinley Rabbat, Nicki & John Shelton, Marj & Floyd Peterson, Arely & Sam Wright, Marti & Jack Lee, Dodie & Bob Lunda, Icy Strait Brewing, William & Mary Johnson Youth Center, Hoonah Harbor Department, Kaitlin Snarski & Jack Ruggirello. Mike Picken, Robin Hasselquist. Thank you also to Anonymous for donations.

### Thank you for Assistance:

Hoonah Harbor Department, Paul Dybdahl, Alaska Marine Lines Staff

**Very Big Gunalchéesh to AML** for transporting our van to Seattle freight-free.

*Hoonah Recyclers Volunteers: Daphne Wright, Karen, the Great, Kenny Worrell, Sally Dybdahl. Other volunteers are welcome to join us.*



## News from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hoonah

As we start our 13<sup>th</sup> year of matching Hoonah youth with caring high school and adult mentors, we are still in need of volunteers. This month we celebrated a new community program match: Little Sister Marcy and Big Sister Nadine Morrison, pictured below.



Many thanks to Daphne Wright and Judy & Bob Brown for miscellaneous donations/Bowl for Kids' Sake prizes, F/V Vagabond Queen for a 55-cup percolator, and Ed Phillips for a cash donation.

We were able to sell our 150 allotted statewide raffle tickets. Thanks to Karen S. Mills for making popsicles and help selling raffle tickets on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Leah Moss, Abby Stevenson, Tatiana Jacobsen, Kali Harris, and Teresa Lewis were A+ salespeople at Hoonah Trading Company parking lot. Thanks to everyone who bought tickets.

Thanks to sponsors for providing 35 Free Tickets to Chautauqua for all Littles in our program.

Thanks to those who helped our hanging baskets thrive in the 30+ locations around town! Adding color spots shows our appreciation for Hoonah's support.

Free admission was available to program participants for a special Concert at the school September 6<sup>th</sup>.

BBBS of Hoonah's **Thursday Troopers Litter Patrols** ran from June 25 through August 13. Incentives, publicity, and snacks were provided by the Hoonah Liquor Board. This project was made possible through grant monies from ALPAR (Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling). We had 27 Litter Patrollers who took part this summer:

Prizes were given based on the number of times the Troopers took part. Following is a list of Troopers and the number of Thursdays they attended:

8: Karen the Great, Sally Dybdahl; 7: Yan Meserve  
5: Daphne Wright 3: Janice Towry, Dietrich Lewis  
2: Jermaine Johnson, Teresa Lewis, Gerred Garrison, Tanner Howland, Leah Moss  
1: Teddy Elliott, Auspen Dittman, Leif Gray, George Tokuoka, Dylan Johnson, Krista Howland, Glenda

Hutton, Teresa McConnell, Tatiana Jacobsen, Johan Nichols, Owena James, Jacob Pratt, III, Kayla Wolfe, Gary Glover, Bristol Casperson

*Special circumstances: Diane Bean, Anchorage Trooper*

Yellow trash bags are available from Sally Dybdahl at the Youth Center. Let's keep our yards, neighborhoods, city streets, and logging roads TRASH FREE.

For more information about our program or to become a volunteer, please contact Community Director Sally Dybdahl for more information: call (907)209-9326 or (907)945-3600, visit our office at The William and Mary Johnson Youth Center, or contact [sally.dybdahl@bbbsak.org](mailto:sally.dybdahl@bbbsak.org).



*The highlight of the BBBS summer was our water table at the J'eet's Challenge 8 ½ Mile Mt. Run on Aug. 29th. Our band of race supporters had a great time cheering on the runners by offering high fives, encouragement and water.*



*Our yearly Berry Picking Trip took place Sept. 13th. After such a fine summer, the blueberries were especially big and juicy. The weather was great, and we had a fun time with a small but lively group.*

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

**Bulk Mail**  
**Permit #2**  
**Hoonah**

## **Boxholder**

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#### ***Dates to Remember:***

K-12 Parent Conferences (release at 2:30)	Oct. 5-7
High School Volleyball Seeding Tournament	Oct. 8-9
K-12 In-service	Oct. 8-9
Fall Music Concert 7 PM	Oct. 20
Teacher Workday—No School K-12	Oct. 21
Teacher In-service—No School K-12	Oct. 22-23
Fall Carnival	Oct. 30
Veterans' Day Program	Nov. 11
Thanksgiving Holiday	Nov. 26-27
Christmas Bazaar	Dec. 5
Winter Break	Dec. 18 -Jan. 4
Return after Winter Break	Jan. 5, 2016
Spring Break	March 21-25
Last Day of School	May 20

**The Annual Christmas Bazaar** will be held Saturday December 5th in the Alumni Gym. Call Glenda Hutton (945-3307) if you would like to rent a table.

**Hoonah Fun & Fit Partnership** meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the school administration conference room. Youth and community health & wellness, physical activities, and combating obesity are our main focuses. Everyone is welcome to take part.