

Hoonah Schools Newsletter

March 2025

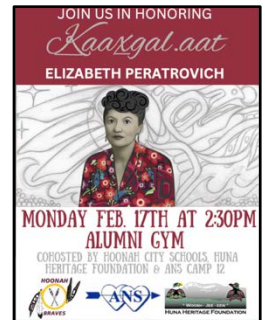
Héentaanáx Dis: the month when saltwater fish spawn.



Fifth graders who performed the Alaska Territorial Legislature Readers' Theater: Avery Martin, Mia Smith, Jake Mansel, Thayr Williams, Mackenzie Koenig, James Jack III, Saundra Grams, Jacklynn Williams, Arianah Gonzalez, Shaylee Hill Bates, Dima Aleksieva, Ravin Jewell

Honoring a Trailblazer: Elizabeth Peratrovich Day

On February 17th, our community came together in a powerful tribute to Elizabeth Peratrovich, the courageous Tlingit leader whose advocacy led to the passage of the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945. Co-hosted by Hoonah City Schools, Huna Heritage Foundation, and ANS Camp 12, the event was a



heartfelt celebration of her legacy.

Students of all ages paid tribute in moving performances. Kindergarten through fifth graders lifted their voices in song, and the fifth graders brought history to life with the Alaska Territorial Legislature Reader's Theater, re-enacting the historic hearing on the Anti-Discrimination Bill. The celebration concluded with a delicious Papa Murphy's pizza feast, courtesy of ANS Camp 12.

This annual gathering was a powerful reminder of how Elizabeth Peratrovich's courage continues to inspire current and future generations. Gunalchéesh to all who participated and helped make this event so memorable! Gunalchéesh to Amelia Wilson for this article.



Congratulations to Krista Howland, for being a State Wrestling Champ, the first-ever girl from Hoonah to achieve that honor! We are so proud of you! See page 12 for details.

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Administrator's Message

Welcome to Springtime!

We have so much to be proud of, from academics to extra-curricular activities and sports. Hoonah students are kind, respectful and hard working. They strive to do their best and are challenged every day by our staff. The role of family in Hoonah children's education is priority #1. The more active you can be in their day-to-day learning and growing in the school, the more opportunities will open up for our children.

We continue to search locally (in Southeast), statewide and nationally to fill several teaching positions for the 25/26 School Year. We continue to look at this challenge as an opportunity, allowing us to develop innovative ways to provide the

highest quality education through the leadership and involvement of Hoonah community members.



Nicolle Egan, at the State Basketball Tournament with Jora Savland, Player of the Game for the Braves' first game. Jora would also go on to be named to the State All Tourney Team!



I am grateful to have the opportunity to continue this journey with you.

Gunalchéesh,

Nicolle Egan
Interim Chief School Administrator

A Note from the School Maintenance Director

Over the upcoming Spring Break, work will commence on the replacement of the Alumni Gym floor. A big shout out to the City of Hoonah Administration for making this possible for us! The new flooring system will be a rubber floor which will look identical to the current existing floor. The new floor will enhance our facility and endure for decades to come. We will work with the contractors performing the installation to preserve what we can from the existing floor. Our hope is that we can preserve part of the legacy of the Alumni Gym through up-cycling what we can save from the existing floor.

Matt Ebersbach

Hoonah City Schools Board of Education

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>Harold Houston</i> | <i>Board President</i> |
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Dates to Remember

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Spring Break | March 24-28 |
| Career Week | April 14-18 |
| Huna Heritage Clan Workshop | April 24 |
| School Ku.éex' | April 25 |
| Earth Day Cleanup | April 26 |
| Spring Concert | April 29 |
| 8 th Grade Promotion | May 8 |
| High School Graduation | May 9 |
| Last Day of School | May 15 |

Art Grant Update

from Grant Director Dianne Zemanek

The Art grant is going very well. We are excited for new things to roll out with the update of the Alumni Gym to make it an Arts and Cultural Center. It will have updated stage curtains; thanks to Bob Hutton for hanging the curtain. We will also have a new screen and projector and added speakers for sound (Art Grant funded). There will be new flooring (thanks to the City of Hoonah and Mayor.) We are looking forward to being able to host a variety of activities here in the Alumni Gym. Watch for our fundraiser of selling parts of the old gym flooring complete with engraving from our equipment we have acquired through great partners like Sealaska Heritage Institute, Advanced Tactical Training Institute, and *Benteh STEAM Academy*. Gunalchéesh!

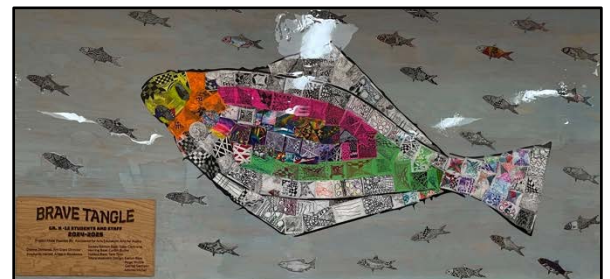


The vest-making project is on-going. You can ask secondary students how their vests are coming along. We have our first completed one! Looking nice! Gunalchéesh to Lisa Andersson for working on this project with students and staff. Next step will be to learn to bead to add to our basic vest; there is so much to learn and grow with. Thanks to our great volunteers and assistants up here at the school. We welcomed Sonya Johnson recently as an Artist in Residence; she will be assisting with regalia making.



Thank you to our volunteer artists and supporters: Chris and Gorden Greenwald, Lisa Andersson, Stephen Karnazes, and Wayne Price. Thank you to Bob Hutton for presenting a Theater Exploration class.

Stephanie Harold led the students in the BraveTangle Project, using the art technique Zentangle, which is a relaxing and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. The patterns are called “tangles.” All of our students and staff got to have a part of this project, which is now hanging in the hallway at school.

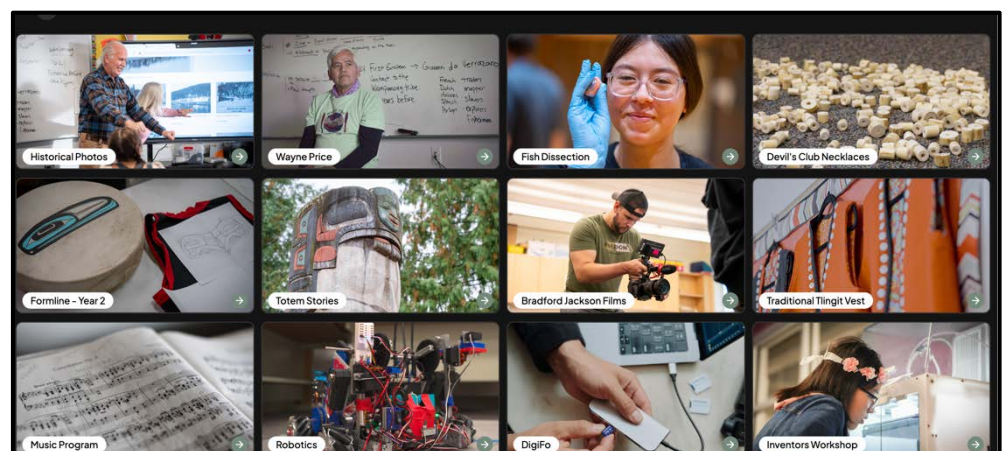


Jeff Skaflestad, local Tlingit classical Formline artist, continues to work with students to hone their skills in the traditional art of Formline.

Congratulations to the students whose art was selected to be sent to Juneau to be hung in the Capitol Building during the Legislative Fly-in: Harlee Brown, Jenna Jack, Justin Sheakley, Marcie Williams, and Reigna Sharclane.



Above: Harlee Brown's painted drum will be among the art pieces to be displayed at the Capitol Building in April during the Legislative Fly-in.



I invite everyone to take a look at the hoonahkids.org website, which shows many of our art activities and grant-funded projects.

Notes from Music Teacher Mae Higgins

We are as busy as ever in music classes! In December, we shared our winter concert with elementary students clad in festive pajamas. Performance Arts students showed off our new Suzuki hand chimes and both of our bands did an excellent job presenting festive songs of the season.



After the holidays, we jumped right into Pep Band. A special thank you to the students and families who gave of their time so that we could play for several games. Hopefully, we will be able to increase our participation next year. It's a crowd pleaser for sure!

Our World Cultures class has focused much of our time on Hawaii and are currently making ukuleles and planning for a luau. We are very grateful to Pete Schneeberger for his help and guidance on this project.

Our bands continue to learn and grow with eyes upon our Spring Concert, to be held April 29th. Our elementary students will be sharing songs of sunshine, gardens and springtime! Please plan to join us and as always, thank you for supporting music at Hoonah School!



The elementary students had some Beginning Guitar lessons with Ms. Higgins, their Music Teacher.



School Administrator Nicolle Egan welcomed everyone to the Christmas Program. The elementary students were decked out in Santa hats and pajamas.

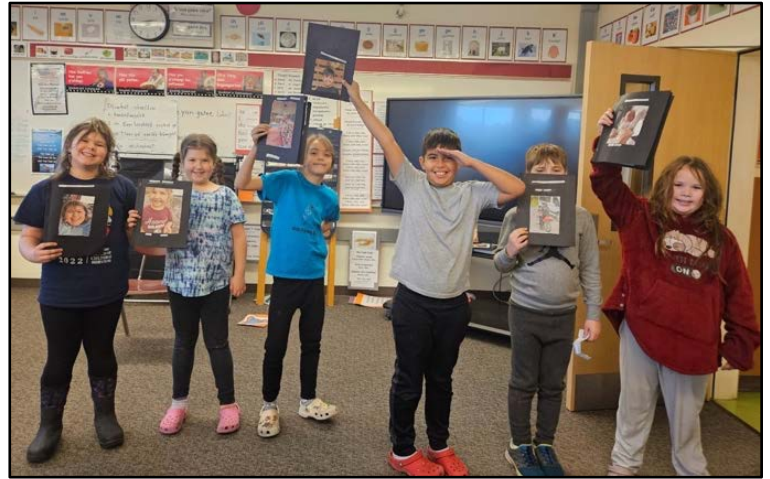


About this Newsletter: This is our second issue of the school year 2024-2025. In this publication, we try to inform the community about what is happening at school and around town. It started as a component of the Native Education Program back in 1986, as a means to increase parent involvement by letting them know about the various school programs, classes and events, and the people who worked at the school. We have tried to keep the focus on our students. This purpose has remained the same, though the funding sources have changed through the years. Currently it is funded by the Arts Grant. Feedback, suggestions and comments can be directed to Newsletter Editor Daphne Wright (wrightd@hoonahschools.org.)

Elementary Tlingit Program

Taught by Shaa Deik Cristina Smith

Our Elementary Tlingit Classroom has been a busy place over the last few months. Third & Fourth graders spent time learning kinship terms in Tlingit. For example, *ax tláa* - my mother, *ax léelk'w* - my grandparent, and *du húnxw* - his older brother, just to name a few. We took pictures of our immediate family members and made photo albums, labeling each picture with the corresponding Tlingit kinship term. This is a great way to start the process of putting together their introductory speeches which will be a 5th grade project for them.



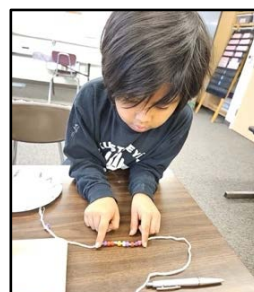
3rd graders practicing weather phrases while playing a game of Memory.

In December, 2nd, 3rd and 4th grades dove into weaving on looms. They made coasters that they gifted to loved ones for Christmas. We talked about having good intentions and happy thoughts when creating art, especially when you are working on something you will be gifting to someone else. Their work was quite impressive! *Photos at right show some of the 2nd*



graders with their weaving projects.

In January, we hit the ground running, learning about Elizabeth Peratrovich, the Alaska Native Brotherhood and Alaska Native Sisterhood and the work they did to fight for Native Civil Rights. 5th graders did an incredible job reenacting the 1945 Alaska Territorial Legislature and the important speech that Elizabeth Peratrovich gave to persuade legislators to pass the 1st ever Anti-Discrimination Act in the United States. Second Graders worked on a historical timeline telling the journey that led up to the passing of the Anti-Discrimination Act. Our event could not have been as successful without the work that Huna Heritage Foundation and the Alaska Native Sisterhood Camp #12 contributed. Aatlein Gunalchéesh for all the work you put into this annual event!



First graders worked on beginning beading techniques by making necklaces with pony beads and yarn. Above, Charlie working on his necklace. At left: Charlie, Norah, Isla, Alicia and Jen show off their finished necklaces.



Winter and Mickey explore time while practicing phrases in Tlingit.

Save the Date: Our 32nd Annual Heritage Celebration *Ku.éex'* will be held Friday, April 25th. Everyone is invited to help us celebrate all that our students are learning in Tlingit language, culture and art classes at our school. Eagle students will be the hosts this year.

News from the School Library

From Mrs. Mansel



In January I began teaching elementary library classes during specials. I would like to share a recent activity that all the elementary students participated in.

To help celebrate Valentine's Day, all elementary students participated in **Blind Date with a**

Book during their library classes. Books were wrapped in paper and labeled by grade level. Each student then selected a book without knowing what it was. After unwrapping their book, students were asked to write down the title and author of their book. Students then spent time looking at the pictures in their book and reading a few pages. Finally, students made a decision on whether or not they would check out the book. The benefits of this activity are that students are introduced to new authors and they learn not to judge a book by its cover. The students really enjoyed this activity. Moving forward I will continue to have memorable experiences for our students that excite them about coming to the library. As a librarian my goal is to foster students' love of reading.



In another activity students grew crystals! Each student took a pipe cleaner and bent it into the shape of a heart. We mixed water and borax together in a cup. We dipped the heart-shaped pipe cleaners in the cups of the water/borax solution and let them set overnight. The next day students were thrilled to see they had grown crystals in the shape of a heart.



For another activity, students made predictions about how many conversation heart candies they could stack up before it would topple over. The class had fun trying to stack the most conversation hearts. They also enjoyed trying the candy when they were done stacking.

Second Grade Update

Second graders have been busy, and are learning a lot. Some of the things we have been working on are comprehension topics like main idea, details and chain of events. In math, the students have been practicing measuring. As part of their study of measurement, they created their very own town which they named Centimeter Town (we created buildings that we measured and recorded in centimeters.)



First Grade News

During February, First Grade was busy with Valentine's Day STEAM activities. The class really enjoyed salt painting. I made Valentine's Day designs on construction paper using glue and then applied salt. After the glue had dried, the students painted over the designs with watercolors. The students were delighted to see how the paint magically traveled over the salt.



We have also been learning how to use similes; during this unit, the students wrote poems about themselves. They have also been making huge gains in reading and we have seen many 100% scores on spelling tests. Overall, it has been a busy year in our Second Grade class, and we are making lots of growth!



Devil's Club Harvest in 5th Grade

This past Fall, the Hoonah 5th Graders spent considerable time learning about the harvesting of Devil's Club, as well as the uses and the invaluable existence in our ecosystem of this amazing plant. We decided it must be one of the most amazing plants on the planet. The Tlingit name *S'áxt'* was how we came to know it.

In November, we set out to harvest some stalks for ourselves and learn what we could do with it. Though it was not the best time for this, we wanted to include an entire process of harvesting and preparing this plant. We invited our local friend and volunteer Jamie Erickson and Yéilk' Vivian Mork, who was in town with the Huna Heritage Foundation. Traveling out the road, we located some late-season *S'áxt'* and harvested 30 feet of stalks. We then took this back to class and began to process, first stripping the outer bark and mincing the inner bark into little bits.



Amelia Wilson and Rebekah Sawers of Huna Heritage then came to class and helped us to soak the *S'áxt'* in olive oil, which they donated. They instructed us to let it sit for 3 to 4 months as the medicine bled out of the inner bark and into the oil. We shook the concoction once or twice a week to expose all the pieces to the oil. We shook, and we shook, and we shook some more.

In early February, our Huna Heritage friends of class arrived again. We processed our mixture by straining and adding the oil and beeswax, provided by our Tlingit teacher Ms. Cristina Smith. This was all put into crocks and the wax was melted in. Finally, we ladled it out into small tins for the kids to take home and to give as gifts. The salve was gifted to School Board members at their February meeting, and also gifted to school volunteers.



We did not stop there though. Through this six-month-long event we also used the inner core of the *S'áxt'* to make beads. Students took these home. Over the course of this study, we worked on respecting this amazing plant through all the parts of our processing. We learned about using every part of the plant we could. We studied and read about *S'áxt'*'s traditional uses here in Southeast by the Tlingit people. What a great adventure we went on. None of us will ever look at *S'áxt'* the same.



News from Middle School ELA (English Language Arts)

We have worked on figurative language and grammar this part of the school year. We worked on this to understand creative language and to tighten up the students' spelling and grammar skills. We also read and watched a great short story, *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*. It has been such a busy time for the Middle schoolers this year with teams and practices; it's also been a rewarding time for their instructor, watching them flex their creativity muscles.

Whitney Noble, Middle School ELA Teacher

Sixth Grade Science



We have had an amazing second and third quarter. From understanding more about the world with our *Earth, Moon, and Stars* Unit, to our current project, 2D and 3D printing, these sixth graders show an affinity for Science and Technology.

In February, the 6th Grade class traveled to Palmer for a Benteh Stem Camp hosted by the KNIK Charter School. Our time in the facility was spent investigating areas of study in the camp, and completing a track that helped us to be better engineers. Activities included 2D printing, cybersecurity, robotics, woodworking, drones, a social media lab, and more. When we weren't actively working in the learning labs, the program hosted us on a variety of outings, including the movies, cross country skiing, and a trampoline park.

Below are some comments from the students after their trip.

"I learned how to use a manual CNC machine." - Liam

"I learned how to design on Adobe" - Keicee

"My favorite part of the field trip was walking across the frozen lake" - Keicee

"It could take 2-3 weeks for a 30-second movie trailer" - Leelind

"Drones are a lot more difficult than they look" - Leelind

"My favorite part from this trip was skiing, mostly because I got to do it with friends" - Trissa



Skin Sewing Class Presented by Sealaska Heritage Institute



Hoonah students had the opportunity to learn about skin sewing and hide preparation in a class hosted by Sealaska Heritage Institute, in partnership with Huna Heritage Foundation, and held at Hoonah City Schools. The class was held after school from March 10th - 13th. It was open for grades 6th - 12th grades. It was led by SHI's Middle School STEAM Program staff Kellie Lynch and Maddie Henson. Amelia Wilson of Huna Heritage Foundation, Heather Powell Mills, and Sonya Johnson helped.



Students made drumsticks, fur earrings or fur keychains. Kellie Lynch demonstrated how to flesh and scrape a deer hide, and some of the class gave it a try. Overall, this was a very informative and fun opportunity for all.



Sealaska Heritage is also registering middle school students for STEAM Camp here in Hoonah in June, and high school students for an all-expenses paid STEAM camp in Juneau. To learn more, go to bit.ly/SHISummerCamps2025 and to sign up, you can go to bit.ly/SHISummer25.

Note: STEAM=Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math

Hoonah Indian Association Environmental Report on Student Opportunities

As part of HIA Environmental's efforts to provide opportunities for Hoonah students, high schoolers traveled to Sitka for WhaleFest, and to Anchorage for the Federal Subsistence Board Meetings. We are proud of them for participating and for what they accomplished!

WhaleFest

WhaleFest is a three-day Science Symposium where scientists and experts share the latest research and knowledge about marine life. Students listen to presentations, ask questions, and engage in hands-on activities as part of a class that provides college credit upon completion through the University of Alaska Southeast.

This past November, James Erickson, Devin Aleksieva, and Hayden Daniels were chaperoned by HIA's Environmental Education Coordinator, Julian Narvaez, and HCS Middle/High School Science teacher, Darcy Oram. The theme for 2024's symposium was "Shifting Boundaries, New Horizons." Students came from around Southeast Alaska for the symposium and for activities such as testing shellfish for paralytic shellfish toxins, looking for microplastics under a microscope, and building underwater robots.



Federal Subsistence Board Meeting

The Federal Subsistence Board is made of representatives from the five land-owning federal agencies in Alaska (the National Park Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs) as well as six elected members of the public. Together the group makes decisions regarding subsistence harvest for both urban and rural users throughout the state, driven by guidance from regional advisory committees and public testimony from local residents.

Students had the chance to attend this year's meeting in February as part of a class given by UAS. Kyah Martin, Mitchel Michel, Cayenne Boe, Dietrich Lewis, and Hayden Daniels met for virtual lectures after school at the Haa Toowú Latseen (Tech Center). They learned how proposals get made, how regional advisory councils operate, and who votes on the board. At the meetings, they were chaperoned by Julian, Jackson Combs, and Jamie Erickson. Students' assignments included networking with federal/state employees, interviewing professionals, following the proposals, and providing their own testimony in front of the board about "subsistence" issues of concern to them.

Hoonah students represented the region well, being active participants and providing input when they could. It was amazing to witness them taking advantage of these educational opportunities and to engage with the wider scientific, political, and professional community. We have seen them grow exponentially through these experiences. Thank you to everyone who helped make these trips possible!



Julian Narvaez, HIA Environmental Education Coordinator



High School Girls Basketball Coach's Report

This basketball season was a busy and homegame-filled season for our Hoonah Lady Braves. Thanks to all the fans that came out and supported these girls in person and virtually. I am so proud of each of these student athletes for their academic, team and individual successes this season. They are truly a talented bunch, with positive attitudes and a desire to do their best and to learn and grow their game.



Back: Krista Howland, Ava Hinchman, Charlie Jack, Paige Woitte, Nevaeh Campbell, Jenna Jack, Harlee Brown, Coach Marlene Duvall. Front: Payton Smith, Jora Savland, Easton Ross, Chloe Lane

The Lady Braves finished up the regular season with a 14-5 overall record (6-3 conference). The week prior to Regionals, the Team travelled to Angoon to play in the 2nd annual Albert Kookesh Tournament and won the Championship game against Klawock. The team also won the tournament's Sportsmanship Award. Paige Woitte won the ladies Free Throw Contest, and Easton Ross and Nevaeh Campbell were named to the All Tournament Team.

The Lady Braves headed into the Regional Tournament as the number 3 seed this year. Tough defense, heart and hustle earned them a spot in the Regional Championship game by beating Skagway in overtime with a buzzer beater 2-pt basket, after defeating Hydaburg in their opening game of the tournament! The Championship game was a great, competitive game all around, but ultimately the Lady Braves lost to Klawock by 1 point in the final seconds. That didn't deter the team though; they battled back the next day to beat Skagway for the #2 berth into the 1A State Basketball Tournament scheduled to be held in Anchorage the week of March 10th. Their post-season record is currently at 3-1. Go Lady Braves, on to State!



Awards handed out at Regional Tournament

Award Ceremony this season included:

Region 5 Runner-Up/2nd Place: Hoonah Lady Braves; All Academic Team Award: Senior Krista Howland; All Conference Team: Paige Woitte and Easton Ross; All Conference Good Sports Team: Jenna Jack and Charlie Jack; 3-Point Champion: Paige Woitte

Coach Marlene Duvall



Gunalchéesh to RC Dalton for the action shots on this page.

Update after State: Our Hoonah Girls did a great job during their first trip to the State Tournament. (We have not sent a Girls Team to State since 2006.) They won their first game, against Scammon Bay (25-20) and lost the next two games, one to Shaktoolik (37-55) and one to Shismaref (40 to 43). Jora, Easton and Paige got the Player of the Game Awards. Jora was also named to the State All Tourney Team. We are proud of our Hoonah Braves!



Boys High School Basketball Coach's Message

In my third year of coaching the Hoonah Braves Boys Basketball team, we hit some important steps in our journey to becoming a top team

in our region. The team made improvements individually and also as a team. We were able to compete well with teams that have been beating us decisively in the previous few seasons. Most of the team is players returning from last year, and have showed improvement over the off-season. We also had new additions to the team in some eighth graders that showed they bring high value at such a young age. I expect the team to close the gap on the top teams in the region by next year. It was a great season with lots of memories that should stick with the boys for a long time. This is a great group of boys that have a lot of respect and positivity. I look forward to watching them grow as a team over the years to come.

At the Albert Kookesh Tournament in Angoon, the Braves won the Sportsmanship Trophy. Tanner Howland and Tucker Kelly made the All Tourney Team.

At the Regional Tournament, the Hoonah Braves played three games; they defeated Thorne Bay and lost to Klawock and Hydaburg. At the Awards ceremony, Tanner Howland was named to the All Conference Team, and Riley Neal and Dash Huskey were named to the Good Sports Team.



The Hoonah Braves won the Sportsmanship trophy at the Albert Kookesh Tournament in Angoon. From left: James Erickson, Tucker Kelly, Tanner Howland, Gerred Garrison, Riley Neal, Gabe Contreras, Dash Huskey, Dietrich Lewis, Coach Joe Coronell, Jr.



Gunalchéesh to Cory Hill for the action photos on this page.

High School Wrestling Coach's Message

We had a great wrestling season this year; it was one for the record books. This year the team grew in size. We had our returning veterans, a few new members to the team and also a few that were new to the sport entirely. The team as a whole made huge improvements, from our veteran captains to our new wrestler. It made me proud as a coach to see everyone so dedicated in practice and determined in competition. Our wrestlers showed a lot of heart, never giving up and even pulling off big comebacks to win some important matches.

Hoonah Wrestlers Region V Tournament Results:

Senior Krista Howland, 126G Region V Champ & All Academic Award (seniors 3.0 & above).

Junior Dietrich Lewis, tied for 5th place at 135.

Junior Dashel Huskey, 4th place at 145.

Sophomore Tanner Howland, 2nd place at 140.

Sophomore Jora Savland, tied for 5th place at 114G & Good Sport Award.

Freshman Harlee Brown, 145G Region V Champ & Good Sport Award.

We sent three wrestlers to the State Tournament, the most to represent Hoonah since I've been coaching. Two of the three are underclassmen that went to State for their first time, and showed they have a lot of potential in the next few years to be competing to be a top wrestler in the state. Our senior captain, Krista Howland, was returning to the State Wrestling Tournament for the 3rd time in as many years. The previous two years she had placed 4th, and this year she was on a mission. Krista was seeded 6th in the tournament. She quickly showed that was a mistake, knocking off the number 3 seed in the quarter finals, avenging one of her two losses of the season. She avenged her second loss in the State Finals Match, where she pinned her opponent to become Hoonah's first female STATE CHAMPION! In a dominant performance at State, Krista also went on to be the Outstanding Wrestler for the Girls Division, capping off an unforgettable season for our Hoonah Braves.

The Hoonah wrestling team is building a strong program and I look forward to seeing them all continue to grow for the years to come. *Coach Joe Coronell*



Harlee Brown, Tanner Howland, Krista Howland, Dietrich Lewis, Jora Savland, Dash Huskey



Elementary and Middle School Wrestling

This year we had elementary and middle school wrestling at the same time. At one point there were close to thirty kids on the mat. It's nice to see the numbers growing again. Middle schoolers traveled to Juneau where they competed in the Regional Tournament. Ava Hinchman placed 1st, Tank Tyler came in 2nd, and Charlie Jack placed 3rd. We had a bunch of first-year wrestlers who did really well and are eager for



next year. I would like to thank all the parents that helped make this possible and I look forward to next season - *Coach Levi Mills* Photo front row: Leelind Campbell, Avery Martin, Macklin Coutlee, Carter Hinchman, James Jack III, Dax Coutlee, Keicee James, Charlie Jack. Back row: Coach Levi Mills, Mia Smith, Addison Smith, Devlyn Smith, Payton Smith, Kamari Lafferty, Ava Hinchman, Tank Tyler, Trissa Shepard.

BRAVES BUCK Rewards!!

In the Second Semester, Elementary teachers kicked off a program that rewards students for their excellent hard work, cooperation, kindness and helpfulness. When students are “caught” with amazing behavior, they earn a Brave Buck. This Brave Buck gets added to a bucket and at the end of the week we draw winners from each classroom bucket. Those students have the opportunity to walk the HALL OF FAME at the end of the day and pick a prize from an incredible selection in Ms. Egan’s office!

Once a month we have an assembly full of fun activities and big prizes. All the Brave Bucks from the month are consolidated and we draw for three winners. At our last assembly, we also showcased students from each class that we thought showed exceptionally positive behavior. In Kindergarten, the Student of the Month award went to Mickey Styers for his outstanding achievement in hard work! He is consistently focused and on task with the work at hand, and he is always eager for more. It is his readiness for learning that has set the bar and made him an exemplary learner in the classroom. In First Grade, Alicia Frias has earned numerous Brave Bucks for being kind. Alicia is a model student when it comes to applauding the efforts of her classmates.



In 3rd/4th grade, Alfie Styers was selected for Helpfulness. Alfie is a fast learner and is always eager to help others. She is ready and willing to assist her peers in the classroom. And last but not least, in 5th grade, 3 kids were selected for representing the best of Teamwork: Dima Aleksieva and Shaylee Hill Bates, 5th graders, and Andrea Campbell, 2nd grader, all worked together as a team on the challenge to use a lever and fulcrum to lift 10 pennies with as few pennies as they could.

And in Tlingit class, Saundra Grams was selected for her excellence in being a helping hand during a Devil’s Club Salve Making workshop. Saundra was not only an amazing helper, but she didn’t hesitate to jump in and find ways she could help rather than waiting to be asked. This truly makes the best kind of helper!

Congratulations to all our winners and really to every student who has stepped up their game to ensure our elementary school exudes excellence!!

Christmas Bazaar Thanks

Thanks to all who made the Christmas Bazaar another huge success. The Middle School and High School Robotics Team netted over \$1800 from table rentals, Mystery Gifts and the Silent Auction tables. Robotics Coach Ben McCluckie said that the money raised will be used to buy themed gear for the team and special robotic parts like a linear slide to make the robots more competitive. The money also helps fund team-building activities.

Thank you to Marian Kingsland, Chris and Gordon Greenwald, Linda Belarde, Daphne Wright, Jan Parish and Greg Garrison, and Icy Strait Point (Amber Jaeger) for your generous donations to the Silent Auction tables. A very special thank you to Fishbone Gifts (Monica and Stan Savland) who have, through the years, donated so many varied and unique items to the Silent Auction.

Finally, without the help of many individuals, the Christmas Bazaar would never happen. Many many thanks to Michelle Byer, Dianne Zemanek, Sally Dybdahl, Jen Prpich (what a life savor you were!), Daphne Wright, Arely Wright, Teresa McConnell, Bob Hutton, Mae Higgins, and the HCS staff. Special thanks to Matt Ebersbach and Jackson Reed for helping lay out the mats in the gym on Friday afternoon. I am so grateful to the parents of most of the Robotics students who helped to return tables to rooms and clean up the gym after the Bazaar; and to Jackson Reed, a special shout-out of thanks for all your help in the clean up. You were another life-saver! It was truly a team effort.

Glenda Hutton, Christmas Bazaar Coordinator



Holiday Gift Shop Brings Plenty of Smiles

The Holiday Gift Shop (hidden away from the Bazaar behind the stage curtains) was a chance for the children to shop for gifts for family members, using “Christmas Cash” according to Mae Higgins, who organized the Gift Shop. Students earned the “Cash” for either hard work, display of good manners, working on a small check list of positive actions (picking up trash, opening doors for others, letting someone go in first, asking an elder to share a story, reading to a younger sibling, etc.) Thank you, Ms. Higgins, for providing this experience for the students. Thank you also to the volunteer shopper’s helpers and gift wrappers.



Huna Heritage Foundation Report

Save the Date! 2025 Clan Workshop

Mark your calendars! The Huna Heritage Foundation's 2025 Clan Workshop will take place in Hoonah on April 24th. This cherished gathering brings together clan leaders, elders, cultural knowledge bearers, community members, and students to share and celebrate our Hoonah Tlingit heritage.

Originating in the early 1990s, the Clan Workshop is a vital opportunity to strengthen our intergenerational connections and deepen our understanding of Tlingit culture, history, and traditions. This year's workshop again aligns with the Hoonah City School Annual Heritage Celebration *Ku.éex'*, scheduled for April 25th.

Stay tuned for more details. We look forward to gathering, learning, and honoring our traditions together!

Empowering Our Future: Scholarships for 2025/2026

Education is the foundation of our future, and we are thrilled to support the dreams of our Hoonah City School seniors and community members seeking funding for college. The Huna Heritage Foundation administers the scholarship program on behalf of Huna Totem Corporation. We are now accepting scholarship

applications for the 2025/2026 academic year! Don't miss this incredible opportunity—the **deadline to apply is May 1, 2025.**

Scholarships are available for shareholders and descendants of Huna Totem Corporation, and we also provide vocational and cultural education scholarships year-round. If you need financial support for specialized technical training or cultural learning, be sure to apply at least two weeks before funds are needed.

Exciting news! We are developing a brand-new scholarship opportunity tailored for middle and high school students eager to pursue educational and cultural enrichment. Applications will be available in April, so stay tuned! We recognize the drive and ambition of our younger generations, and we are committed to helping them reach their full potential.

Visit www.hunaheritage.org to learn more, apply for funding, and take the next step in your educational journey. The Board of Trustees and staff at Huna Heritage Foundation are honored to be a part of your success!

Huna Heritage Foundation is honored to support, uplift, and celebrate our community. Whether through education, cultural preservation, or community events, we are committed to ensuring that our traditions and values thrive for generations to come.

Hoonah Indian Association News

From Tribal Administrator Nathan Moulton

The staff at the Hoonah Indian Association are pleased to share some exciting information on current projects complete and close to completion. We have received news of confusion of who exactly can use these services. One point of clarification on these projects, is they were built with “community” in mind and as such these facilities and services are open and available to all community members of Hoonah.

Our **Technology Center** is now open to the public and we are offering various courses targeting all age demographics. Beginning typing, beginning computers, dual enrollment college courses, GED courses, beginning Tlingit language classes, business/non-profit formation, last wills and testaments, and we have seen several of the classes from



The First Grade Class made a visit to check out the new Tech Center.

Hoonah City Schools utilize the space. If you'd like us to offer something specific, please let Catherine Bolton know and we will do our best to facilitate. Additionally, we are looking for motivated individuals (youth and/or adults) to submit proposals to the Tribe for additional class offerings they feel would benefit community members' digital knowledge and capabilities.

The **Childcare Center** is 95% complete, with kitchen cabinets, counter tops, appliances, and classroom casework being the only remaining items left to complete. Playground equipment was ordered on 2/20/2025 and expected completion of the playground will occur in April/May of 2025. We expect 90-180 days for licensing approval which puts us into November 2025 as the earliest dates we could potentially operate. Staffing will be our next issue to solve, and we are looking for a Childcare Administrator, Childcare Development Associates (CDA), as well as youth CDA trainees who wish to explore childcare as a career and gain college credits in the process.



The **Greenhouse and Kitchen Project** is nearing completion, and we anticipate beginning our first grow cycle in the next 1-2 months. We have had youth actively engaged at setting up hydroponic grow towers and envision continuing this youth involvement through internships and dual enrollment credit offerings. This project is another example of HIA Admin and HIA Tribal Council caring for the whole community, as food security has never been more important given the current political and economic climate. Be on the lookout for more announcements and information as we begin operations. The Grand Opening for the Greenhouse is slated for June 26, 2025.



Left, Mr. Mansel's 3-4 class made a paper quilt in honor of Elizabeth Peratrovich, as part of their study of the famous Native leader. The quilt was hung in the hallway for all students to enjoy. Above, Mrs. Coutlee's 2nd graders made a timeline that they presented at the Elizabeth Peratrovich Day Program.

Mark Your Calendars for our 32st Annual Hoonah Schools Heritage Celebration Ku.éex'

Our **All-School Ku.éex'** will be held **Friday, April 25th** in the Alumni Gym, beginning at 10 a.m. It will follow the Clan Workshop, put on by Huna Heritage Foundation, which will be held on Thursday, the 24th. This year the Eagle students will be the hosts. We will be asking for donations to help with this event. We can use: berries, from your freezer or from the store, dried seaweed, jarred jam and jelly, smoked salmon or other dried or canned goodies for gifts. We can also use cash donations for supplies.

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