

# Hoonah Schools Newsletter

May 2020

*Kayaaní Dísi: the month when grass starts to sprout*

## ***Congratulations, 2020 Hoonah Graduates!***

Our Hoonah High School Graduation Ceremony always follows tradition pretty closely, and this year's event definitely had plenty of the traditional pieces. The graduates marched in with one or two parents, scholarships were awarded, speeches were given, the graduates handed out dozens of roses, diplomas were awarded, even the quilts were handed out.

But this year, due to the coronavirus pandemic, there were changes to the usual: it was held outside, at the airport; the audience sat in cars parked six feet apart; at times, the graduates wore personalized face masks; there was no hand-shaking or hugging (okay, there was a bit of hugging, especially



when the roses were handed out); and cupcakes were handed to folks in cars as they left the area. And in lieu of applause, there was a lot of honking of car horns throughout the evening. And don't forget about the bear that was sighted in the alders across the creek. It was a night to remember, to be sure.

Speakers included Class Valedictorian Zada Michel and Special Guest Speaker, Lora Jett, who delivered her speech via phone from Arkansas, since she wasn't able to be here.

Thank you to Kris Skaflestad and Yan Meserve, for making quilts for each of the graduates. Another thank you goes to Tammy Groshong for making personalized face masks for the grads.

The graduates, pictured above, left to right: Christian Austin, Halle Budke, Liyah Jewell, Zada Michel and Nicholas Truetel-Jacobsen. See page three to read about their plans for after high school.





## Superintendent's Message

As the school year ends, I want to give a heartfelt thank you to all of the teachers and staff of Hoonah City Schools. When our global situation called for change, the HCS staff made those changes without hesitation. What an

amazing group of educators HCS is blessed to have working on behalf of our students, community, and school. I would be remiss if I did not also give a warm nod of appreciation to every parent, grandparent, auntie, uncle, and caretaker of our students. I know first-hand through phone calls, emails, and texts of your hard work on behalf of our students. Thank you.

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2020. Your year did not finish in the manner you had hoped, but through your perseverance, resiliency, and commitment, you made it. You are now high school graduates. The world waits for you to spread your influence, to embrace the opportunity that awaits you, and to be the change agent this world needs. You are ready. You are prepared. We are proud of you.

The end of the year brings changes to HCS. I want to wish a warm farewell and good wishes to our departing staff. Thank you for your service on behalf of our students. Christina Carrick has departed to Fairbanks. Sylvia Lowery has made the move to Anchorage. Elena Swenson will be moving to Kashunamiut, Alaska. On behalf of the Hoonah district and community, we wish them well. I also want to thank Melissa Thaalesen and Gene Biledeau for stepping in and filling in as substitutes to finish the year. Our district could not have done it without you.

Even though summer has begun, staff are still busy planning for next year. Although there is much uncertainty as to what the next school year will look like, I can assure you we will be ready. The HCS Leadership team is actively planning for all foreseeable contingencies. We are working closely with the Department of Education to formulate several plans that ensure the safety of our students and staff as well as providing a positive, quality experience for each and every student. The Leadership team has been searching for and hiring new staff. We are excited about the teachers that will be joining our team next year. Check the school website for bios on our new staff.

As we enter the summer, one take-away from the year's experience is to lead with kindness - we are all in this together. There is no doubt that the COVID-19 crisis is afflicting our Hoonah community. Many staff and families are dealing with unemployment, housing and food insecurity, anxiety and emotional trauma, isolation, as well as the loss of shared moments, events and experiences. Each day our individual and collective actions reinforce the safety of our community, but it doesn't make the experience less difficult or less emotionally straining. As we navigate our own challenges, let's all remember to act with kindness and compassion. Attending to the social-emotional needs of our students and staff is front and center in our minds. School is the place where our students build and rely on relationships and social emotional connections; that has been torn away from them this year. As we all forge our way in this uncertain environment, let's remember to rely on our relationships and act with patience, kindness and compassion.

Have a great summer.

*Ralph M. Watkins*

*Superintendent/Principal  
Hoonah City Schools*

**Mark your Calendars**  
**The First Day of School for the 2020-2021 School Year is**  
**Thursday, September 10, 2020**

**This newsletter** is a project of the Native Education Program at Hoonah City Schools. It was started in 1986 as a means to increase parent involvement in the school by "getting the word out" about school activities and programs. As this is the last issue of this school year, I want to thank everyone who has submitted articles, student work, and photos for the newsletter this year. Everyone is busy, so I appreciate your taking the time to help spread the good word about our school and our students. Thank you to my faithful proofreaders, Sally Dybdahl and Karen Mills. For this and past issues, check our school website. We are in the process of archiving newsletters from past years. If you have suggestions, questions or comments, you can contact Daphne Wright, newsletter editor, by email at [wrightd@hoonahschools.org](mailto:wrightd@hoonahschools.org) or by calling 723-1223. Gunalchéesh, Idakát yeewháan (thank you, everyone) for your support.



# Graduates Make Plans for After High School

*What do the members of the Class of 2020 have planned for their futures?*

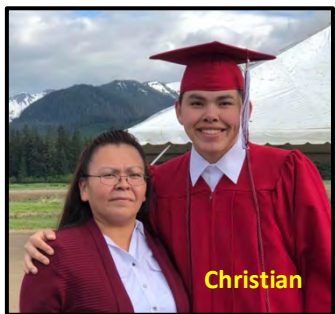


Zada Michel said that her plans aren't definite yet, but that her long-term goal is to help people, so that will be incorporated into her future career.

We wish all of our graduates the best of luck in your futures!



Zada



**Christian Austin** will be entering the Nursing Program at the University of Alaska Southeast in the fall.



Halle

**Halle Budke** has plans to move to Montana, visit family, and establish residency in that state. Not too long after that, Halle plans a trip to Bali Indonesia with her mom and a group of women.



Class Valedictorian Zada Michel giving her speech.



Nicholas

**Nicholas Truetel-Jacobsen**, a former Hoonah High School student, took part in the Hoonah graduation, but is a graduate of Galena Interior Learning Academy. He said that he will be headed to Portland, Oregon, where he will be doing internships in the Information Technology field.



Liyah

**Liyah Jewell** will be taking a gap year, then enrolling at UAS to major in business administration.

**Good-bye and Gunalchéesh** to staff members who are moving on:

**Christina Carrick**, the Kindergarten-First Grade teacher for the past three years, has moved to Fairbanks.



**Sylvia Lowery**, secondary



school special education teacher and Archery Coach, has relocated to Anchorage.

**Elena Swenson**, secondary math and culinary arts teacher, will be moving to Kashunamiut, Alaska.



Thank you to these three educators and best wishes to you in the future.

Thank you also to **Melissa Thaalesen** and **Gene Biledeau**, who worked as long-term substitute teachers this year.



## Close Up Report

Close Up students have officially reached their goal of raising almost \$22,000.00. This pays for eight high school students to attend the week-long trip to Washington, DC and New York City.

A HUGE thank you to everyone who supported us through this endeavor!! This community always amazes me with their support of our students.

We did a final food sale on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to the Houstons for the donation of a king salmon; we were able to serve a great salmon dinner.

Here is what each student is looking forward to:

- "I'm most excited to visit New York since it's such a big city. I don't get to see huge cities a lot."  
*Ethan Ruerup, 11<sup>th</sup> grade*
- "I'm most excited for meeting all new people and seeing how different places can be."  
*Abigail Stevenson, 9<sup>th</sup> grade*
- "I am looking forward to looking at the White House and the Washington Monument."  
*Anthony Johnson, 9<sup>th</sup> grade*
- "I am looking forward to a trip with my friends to a couple of fun cities." *Cooper Ross, 11<sup>th</sup> grade*
- "I am looking forward to meeting new people."  
*Esias Kohler, 11<sup>th</sup> grade*
- "I am looking forward to this great opportunity of a trip. I am excited to meet new people, see new places, and learn more." *Liyah Jewell, 12<sup>th</sup> grade*
- "I am looking forward to the experience of Washington, DC's monuments and New York City's sites." *Alejandro Contreras, 9<sup>th</sup> grade*
- "I am looking forward to learning more about the government and experience being in a big place."  
*Sierra McClement, 10<sup>th</sup> grade*

## Final Update on Close Up

Unfortunately, due to COVID 19, the Close Up trip has been rescheduled to October 11- 18, 2020. While we were totally disappointed, our trip did not get canceled, and the delayed date will allow us to do more fundraising.

*Renee Gray, Close Up Advisor*

## Middle School Language Arts

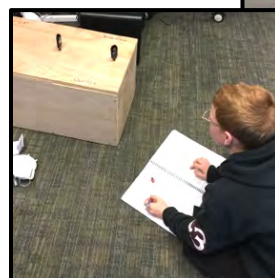
In Language Arts, the students are learning all about critical thinking. We go beyond learning how to read the words on the page to learning how to read the "words" that aren't. We "read between the lines" and apply those lessons and ideas to other situations, which is the highest level of thinking.

We spend time questioning text and questioning each other. We learn how to critically listen to each other so we can respond thoughtfully. By mastering these skills, students learn how to argue a point and properly defend themselves with supporting facts. They practice these skills in both reading and writing.

My hope as a teacher is to develop critical readers and writers, developing students who learn how to validate and question an opinion and to not always take ideas/positions at their face value. In this day and age, this is so important. I want to develop thinkers, who see a problem and know how to tackle it without giving up at every roadblock. I want to develop resiliency, problem solving, and cooperative working skills. These are lifelong skills that students need in order to be successful. I want students to see themselves as doctors, mechanics, lawyers, veterinarians, pilots, beauticians or whatever they desire.

Hoonah has amazing children with amazing futures. My goal is to use my classroom to make it happen!  
~~~Renee Gray

**Congratulations to 6<sup>th</sup> grader Dietrich Lewis for attending the ANSEP (Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program) Academy in January. Thanks to Adrien Lee for going along as chaperone.**





## Wooch.een Monday February 10<sup>th</sup>

### A Family Engagement Activity Presented by the Cultural Education Team at HCS

We had a great turnout at our February 10<sup>th</sup> Wooch.een Monday, with 112 participants signing in. Folks enjoyed some family get-together time, with a dinner of Sisterhood Stew, followed by several different activities. Those in attendance could stop into the K-1 classroom for some Tlingo (Tlingit Bingo), or they could go to the Elementary Tlingit classroom for a Make & Take session. They were able to make card sets with Tlingit pictures and vocabulary words to take home. In the 5<sup>th</sup> grade room, the movie “*For the Rights of All: Ending Jim Crow in Alaska*” was shown. This movie chronicles the events leading up to the passage of the Anti-Discrimination Act in the Alaska Territorial Legislature in 1945. It features the roles that Elizabeth and Roy Peratrovich played in the Alaska Natives’ fight for equal rights. The evening was capped off with a jam session and drawings for door prizes.



Gunalchéesh to all who attended this event, and special thanks to Sally Dybdahl and John Marvin for their help in the cafeteria.





## Tlingit Language Class News

**Pre-Shut-Down in the Elementary Tlingit Class:** During the daily Dís Wooxéiyi (Calendar) activity, students practiced basic vocabulary for the *Going Places* Unit. During the daily lesson, they practiced such phrases as “Hoon daakahíidéi yaa nxagút.” (I am going to the store.) Large posters around the room were used to represent the various destinations, such as “atxá daakahídi” (cafeteria or restaurant), “sgóon” (school) or “ash kudat’áchjaa daakahídi” (swimming pool); students were instructed to walk to the different locations. Pictures on this page show the fourth graders in front of several of these posters.

Gunalchéesh to the North Carolina State students, who participated in Tlingit class, and even helped construct new materials to enhance the lessons. During one class time, they helped videotape an activity that we did in class. As always, the college students were willing and eager to participate in Tlingit class. Gunalchéesh!

Fifth graders were hard at work on their self-introduction speeches, which they were to present during our annual Ƙu.éex’ in early May. This event, of course, was postponed. We will plan on having these students deliver their speeches next year as sixth graders.



**Post-Shut Down:** After school was closed, students had the opportunity to continue practicing their Tlingit language, by attending Zoom meetings. The fifth graders met with Mr. Mettling and Mrs. Wright once a week for three weeks. We worked on reviewing some vocabulary from the year, by studying flashcards and doing matching activities on *Quizlet*, and then ending the class with a few rounds of *Quizlet Live*.

Ms. Priser and her second & third graders had some fun on Zoom as well, with four meetings. Even Mrs. Lee and the Pre-school students met for three Zoom Tlingit meetings. It was fun for the students to see each other and their teachers, and we found out that Quizlet is a good way to study and practice our Tlingit vocabulary via distance-delivery.

For those families who have internet access, I recommend that you go to [Quizlet.com](https://quizlet.com) and search KashGe to find our study sets. There are a few simple games that learners can play, and even short tests that you can take. Quizlet even has sound files on many of the sets. There is also a free Quizlet app that you can download onto your phone.

*Zoom photos, above:* fifth graders and Mr. Mettling in a Zoom meeting with Mrs. Wright. Left, second-third graders with Ms. Priser and Mrs. Wright.





## Middle School Tlingit Class Before and After Shut-down



**Pre-Shutdown:** Middle School students in Tlingit Class spent a few class periods helping elders in the community by packing wood and shoveling snow. They also went into Kindergarten-First Grade and read with the children in that class.



### Post-

**Shutdown:** Zoom meetings were held for all HCS students twice a week from April 6<sup>th</sup> to May 5<sup>th</sup>. During the meetings, students could talk about what they were doing during quarantine, review Tlingit vocabulary, and play Tlingit games, such as *Quizlet Live* and *Kahoot*.

During one class, Lgéik'i Heather Powell took them on a "field trip" when she took her computer outside and showed everyone how to gather cottonwood buds. After that, she showed several different methods of processing them.





## Preschool End of Year News

Oh, the fun we had in preschool! With busy hands and questioning minds, we built, played, listened to exciting stories, dug for dinosaur bones, drew pictures, studied ABC's and numbers one to twenty, and so much more. We learned by ourselves, from our friends and teachers. We shared our toys and supplies. We applauded the success of our classmates who in turn would encourage us to keep trying when we were having difficulties. Everyone enjoyed our time together.



Our days were enhanced by the adults who helped in our classroom. Mrs Wright began a unit of place names in Tlingit. She brought pictures of a school, the store, a church, a cafeteria and a home. She taught us their names and posted the pictures throughout the room. Then, in Tlingit she instructed individual students to walk to a specific place. The students were quickly catching on to these place names and their smiles during this active learning experience showed that they enjoyed what they were doing.



Miss Eleana was very helpful in the classroom. One day I asked her to read a story about construction to the students while they were dressed as road builders themselves. This was enjoyed by all. She was very good at sharing her artistic talents with us and interacted so

pleasantly with the students at the sand table and during our other activities as well. The students like her very much.

Mrs. Martin came to our room and brought with her a positive and fun-loving attitude. She encouraged us and helped us with skills we found most difficult.

Miss Tesh popped in a few times to check on her student. It is always good to see you, Tesh, and we are thankful for the work you do with our students.



Mrs. Carrick came to preschool in the late afternoon to teach math. What a joy it was for the children to have her there. The students learned so much about math and other subjects during their times together.

And now, we are apart. The reasons for our separation are understandable, even necessary, but sad. I have much hope though, that our time apart, while being difficult and sad, can be enriching too. I know the preschool parents love their children even more than the adults who serve them. I know that the sacrifices they make during this time to help their children stay on track with their learning, as best they can, will have great rewards for their families. Preschoolers, I speak for all of the adults mentioned in this article. We miss you! We are rooting for you and your families and we applaud your success during our time apart. Keep learning and have fun while you do it.

From,  
Mrs. Lee





## News from Fifth Grade

*(Written before school closure in March)*

The year is flying by here in Fifth Grade. The students have been working hard in both Language Arts and Math.

On full (five-day) weeks, we have been working our way through our Language Arts book. Each week we have a new story which introduces new vocabulary words. We also use the story to work on different language arts skills and concepts. On short weeks, we do novel studies. Students read a novel with a partner and identify and define



Will, Josh & Mitchel Playing **Quizlet Live** during Tlingit class.

important words. They also write a summary of each chapter they read.

In math we have been focusing on adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions. Even when we learn new concepts, we always have a fraction review on the back. The fifth graders

have also been working really hard on *Aleks*, which is an online math program that places students at their own level and they work forward from there. We have some fifth graders that have moved onto a middle school *Aleks* course, and some that are getting very close to finishing the fifth-grade course.

I would like to say thank you to Cody Anderson and the City of Hoonah on behalf of the entire elementary school for opening up the pool an hour a week for each class to swim. The students really enjoy that time.

The fifth grade class had three archers qualify for the *National Archery in the Schools Program's* National competition! Congratulations to fifth graders Joshua Sseek, Jora Savland and Mitchel Michel. Not all the fifth graders joined archery. However, for two weeks in January, Ms. Sylvia Lowery had the archery equipment out during our PE time and taught the students some archery skills. Thank you, Ms. Lowery.

We are looking forward to traveling to Glacier Bay at the end of May as part of the First Bloom program, which is presented by the folks at Glacier Bay National Park. We will have the opportunity to spend a night or two there and continue working with the Park staff on the things we will learn in the classroom. The Park staff have been working with Hoonah City Schools for a number of years and we are excited for this opportunity. This year's focus is on native plants.

### Jump Rope for Heart

Even though we were not able to have our usual *Jump Rope for Heart* event, our kids collected \$1,431.71 to benefit the American Heart Association. The biggest fundraiser was Aryah Dybdahl with a total of \$301.00, and

2nd place was Kyah Martin with \$232.00; both girls are 5<sup>th</sup> graders. I want to give a big THANK YOU to the community members who helped support these students in their quest to help the American Heart Association.

*Sylvia Lowery, Jump Rope for Heart Co-ordinator*



Aryah, Easton & Kyah Playing **Quizlet Live** during Tlingit class.

## Kindergarten-First Grade News

Students in the Kindergarten and First Grade had a great time learning in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. We enjoyed spending time with the North Carolina students when they visited in March.

We were also able to do some fun projects with science. Students learned about plants and did a few different experiments in the classroom Grow Tent to see how things grow.

All the students did a great job in reading and math. In *Lexia* all students progressed at least one grade level this year. That is amazing! Students can use *Lexia* through July 31<sup>st</sup>. We were sad to see the school year cut short, but I am sure there will be so much learning that continues on to next year. Parents, thank you so much for all you did with your children during this time. I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe summer!

*Christina Carrick*

**Editor's Note: Best wishes to Mrs. Carrick and her family, who have moved to Fairbanks. She will be greatly missed in the Elementary School, and the community will miss the whole family.**



Mrs. Carrick's K-1 Class



## Second-Third Grade Class News

*(Written Before the School Closure)*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders have been very busy! Reading levels have continued to climb. I'd like to thank those parents who are reading with their children every night and making sure that books come back. You can truly see a difference in the growth levels of these students. Thank you for your dedication at home!



We've started Book Clubs in the classroom. Half of the class is reading *Flat Stanley* and the other half is reading *Dear Mr. Henshaw*. The students are learning to delve into books and discuss them with each other. We'll continue this through the end of the year.

Students are continuing to grow in the *Lexia Reading Intervention Program*. We have one student who has completed *Lexia* and others who are on track to complete the program by the end of the school year. I'm really proud of the work the students are doing and their ability to work through the difficult parts.

We work on writing every single day. The handwriting has improved greatly! Students have also grown from making simple sentences into writing complex and detailed sentences. We have also been working on poetry. I'm amazed at the creativity levels in the room.

We've seen tremendous growth in Math this year! Currently, we are working on multiplication, division, graphing, and fractions. Thank you to those parents and community members working at home with students on memorizing math facts! Students that memorize math facts free up mental space to work on higher level problem solving. It makes math so much easier and enjoyable!

In free time, students have access to STEM



toys. We have Magna Tiles, K'Nex, and Legos. The students really enjoy designing, building, and making new creations. I'm fascinated with their engineering and design abilities. This is certainly a skill we need to capitalize on. We'll be adding in more STEM activities as we move forward.

On most Fridays, we get to go swimming at the pool. The kids are really enjoying this. They are learning a lifesaving skill, as well.



Since back in October, we've been doing Artist in Residence in our classroom. This is when one student has the opportunity to teach the rest of the class how to create a piece of art. The student teaching is in command of both the lesson and the management of the class. I'm really proud of how the students have grown as both teachers and respectful learners.

~~Ms. Priser

*Rain—a Poem by Taylour Mills, written at home after school was closed*

*Rain rain rain all day like everyday  
Rain all morning rain all night  
Evening  
Afternoon*

*Rain rain rain*

*Rain on dogs, rain on cats, and rain on deer and rain on bears  
and people*

*All you do is rain rain rain, in summer, winter, fall, spring,  
rain rain rain*

*Less in summer, winter, more in spring  
rain all the time because we need it all!*

*For lakes, streams, ponds, we are lucky that it rains so much  
rain rain rain*

*Rain is good for us, rain gives us water, rain gives us life, rain  
is also fun to play in, rain is good to drink, to us, to animals  
and plants.*



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*A Final Note:*

*School ended so abruptly and many of the students were making great progress. I'm sorry we didn't get to finish out the year with our class meeting in person. I hope to see my students over the summer. Please stop by if you see me working in the yard and say hello. Have a great summer vacation!*

*Ms. Priser*



## News from High School/Middle Science Classes

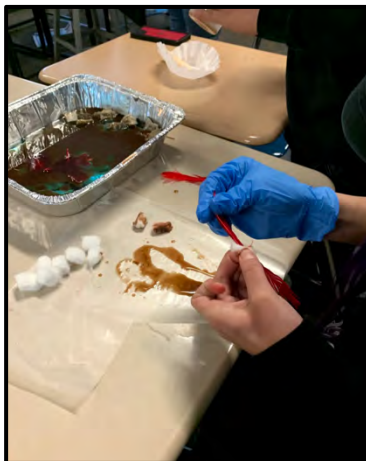
From Mrs. Tannehill-Smith

Dr. Elizabeth Figus is a fisheries management and commercial fishing researcher who has spent time gathering data from Hoonah and other areas in southeastern Alaska. She came to Hoonah to share her findings with our 6/7th science students! We had her poster display available in the District Office hallway during the last part of school.



Sean Williams and Arianna Lapke, from HIA, partnered with HCS to bring our "EnvirOcean" week to life! Sean is demonstrating thermal expansion of water and how that affects our oceans. Arianna is explaining the difficulties that salmon face during their spawn in her super fun Spawn Game! She designed this to help model the socio-ecological interactions of human, animal, plant and non-living things.

We simulated the impacts of oil spills on the water and marine life in this STEM challenge Oil Spill Lab. Students faced the struggles associated with cleaning oil out of water, off of feathers, and off of rocks, the same way Alaskan's struggled to clean up the Exxon Valdez spill in 1989.





## High School Girls Basketball Season Wrap-up

by Coach Miguel Contreras



The Lady Braves had a remarkable season of growth. Starting the 2019-2020 season, we knew the Region 5 conference would have tough teams, but we never counted ourselves out.

The Braves started their season up in Skagway for the Don Hather Tournament and a set of

conference games. They faced several teams from Canada and some higher conference teams from Juneau. The Braves were able to grab a win in the tournament against Juneau's Thunder Mountain team. In the tournament, Olivia Morrison was selected for All Tournament Team for the Girls Division.

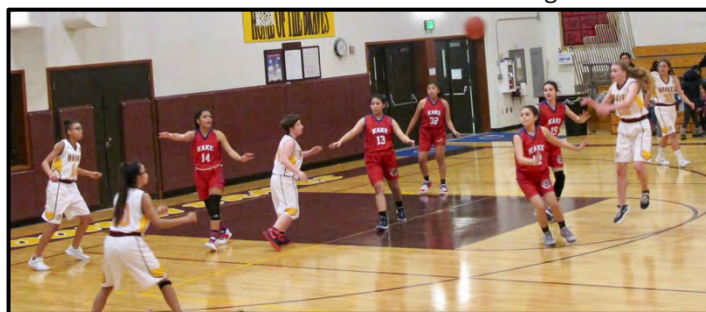
In the conference games, the Braves battled two close games but fell short both nights. The Braves then had home games, against Klawock, Thorne Bay, and Kake.

A couple of memorable games for the season lead to us to having a triple team tie, between Thorne Bay, Yakutat, and Hoonah. Thorne Bay traveled to Hoonah for a double header of games. The first night was a very close game for the Braves, but they fell short by five points. The second night, the Braves ignited and battled until the final seconds of the game, winning by total of 16.



The next set of games were on the road, when we traveled to Yakutat. Our girls fought hard against Yakutat; both nights were decided by less than five points. The first night, a Yakutat senior caught on fire and lead her team in points and rebounds, defeating the Braves by a few points. The second night was very intense; both sides fought hard and used everything they had to try and get the higher seed for the Regional Tournament. The Braves pulled together and won by a single shot in the final minutes of the game.

Headed into Regionals there was a triple tie, between Thorne Bay, Yakutat and Hoonah. It came down to game scores and the Braves were fortunate enough to be seeded fifth out of seven teams. The Braves had nothing to lose in



the tournament, and every year our goal is to get at least one win at regionals. We unfortunately fell short in our first game against Angoon, which meant if we lost the next game, we would be eliminated. This set us up for the upset of the tournament.

Our second game was against Skagway, a team we had lost to all season by double digits most nights, so we were the underdogs going into this game. I reiterated that we must give it everything we had or we would be out of the tournament. The Braves battled the entire game, and it was a game where the lead was switched multiple times in every quarter. Towards the end of regulation, the Braves were able to close the final seconds of the game with technical foul free throws by our very own Zada Michel to win the game. This game was a powerful experience and really an eye-opener for the Braves that truly, anything is possible if you're willing to put in the work.

This win led to us fighting another close battle in the tournament with Angoon, this time for 3rd place. The Braves

fell short in the game against Angoon, but to be a team that had been in a triple tie for last seed in the region, and then defeat a team that was ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>, is a remarkable achievement.

Zada Michel made the All-Academic Team, Liyah Jewell and Teresa Lewis were nominated for the Good Sports Team, and Hallie Wilson and

Zada Michel received an All Conference Award. I would like to thank the Lady Braves for letting me be their coach this season, and I am looking forward to the future with them. Our next goal: going to STATE!

This year's Varsity Girls Basketball Team consisted of: 12<sup>th</sup> graders Zada Michel and Liyah Jewell, 11<sup>th</sup> grader Halle Wilson, 10<sup>th</sup> grader Olivia Morrison, 9<sup>th</sup> graders Sierra McClement, Cheyanne Jack, Teresa Lewis and Alona Howland, and 8<sup>th</sup> grader Leah Moss.



## Varsity Boys Basketball Coach's End-of-Season Message

The 2019-2020 basketball season has come to an end. I am very proud of the effort that the team gave this year. They played very well together and were an exciting group to watch play.

I would like to say thank you to the community of Hoonah for all the great support throughout the basketball season. You all provided us with a great atmosphere during our home games, and your continued support for the team is amazing.

At the Regional Tournament, Edward Austin and Ethan Ruerup both received the Good Sport Award. Christian Austin was named to the Region V All-Conference Team.

Hoonah City schools was also awarded the Good Sportsmanship Award at the Region V tournament. This award is given to the school that displays good sportsmanship during the tournament and is chosen by the officials and a committee from the host school.

Thanks, *Coach Gretsing*



**2019-2020 Hoonah Braves Boys Team:** Izaac Jacobsen, Jermaine Johnson, Duane Jack, Jr., Tyrell Cromer, Edward Austin, Christian Austin, Ethan Ruerup, Anthony Johnson, Esias Kohler, Cooper Ross



## Braves Archery Team

*Our Braves Archery Team had a very successful season. This was a new activity for our students. This report was submitted by Coach Sylvia Lowery earlier in the year. The students were not able to attend the events mentioned, due to the events being cancelled and travel being shut down because of the corona virus pandemic.*



**Coach's Report:** We had five Archers that qualified for the Nationals. They had to be within the top 10 Alaskan students in their division in order to qualify. Going

from left to right is Star Martinez -4th in the High School girls, Mitchel Michael 10th in Elementary boys, Jora Savland - 3rd in Elementary girls, Eddie Payan - 3rd in Middle School boys, and Josh Skeet - 5th in Elementary boys. They are now practicing for the Nationals Tournament held in Sandy, Utah in hopes of being in the top 100 in the Nation and go to Championships held in Daytona Beach, Florida.

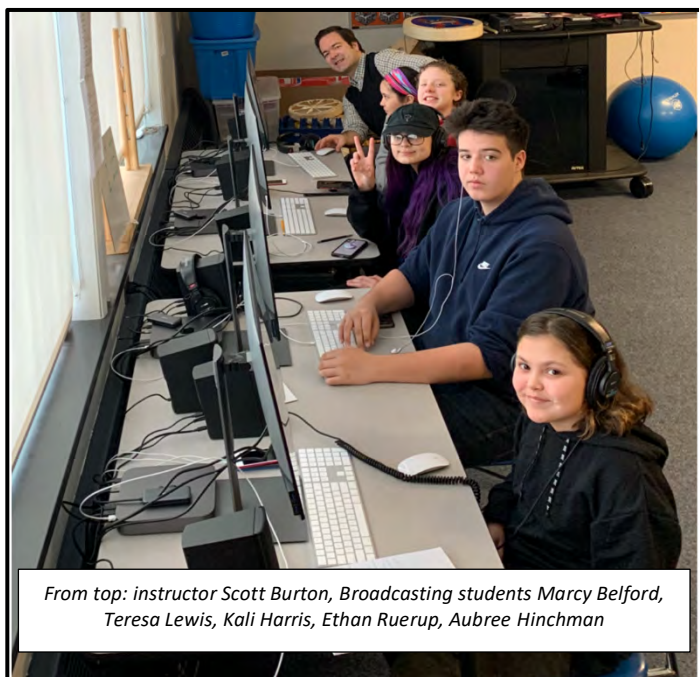
I am super proud of all the students that participated in the tournament. They had a huge handicap this year because most other schools started practicing back in October, while our students did not get to start until January because we were waiting

on equipment to arrive. The State Tournament was held on Feb 18th. Even with this handicap, our archers got up early and arrived at school at 7:45 in the morning to practice and learn. We had 16 students participate in the tournament. Here are our archers and their scores out of 300 possible points: Eddie Payan 282, Star Martinez 273, Leah Moss 257 (she was 11th in her division), Joshua Skeek 243, Jora Savland 223, Gerred Garrison 221, Mitchel Michael 221, Jorge Sandoval 185, Carlos Sandoval 180, Dietrich Lewis 177, Chloe Lane 176, Susie Houston 154, William Dalton Jr. 153, Paige Woitte 99, Kyah Martin 87, and James Erickson 60.

All of our archers qualified as Academic Archers as well, which means if they continue in archery and qualify as an Academic Archer each year, they can carry this through to college and could possibly earn a scholarship. Archery is also one of the Summer Olympic sports and I could see one of our archers on the US Olympic Archery Team someday. Go, Braves Archery Team!







From top: instructor Scott Burton, Broadcasting students Marcy Belford, Teresa Lewis, Kali Harris, Ethan Ruerup, Aubree Hinchman

## Broadcasting Class

In late 2019, Hoonah Schools began a collaboration with Juneau's public media station, KTOO, to upgrade KHOO (our local radio station) physically, and to produce content to broadcast on KHOO. To produce content, Hoonah School's Lgéik'i Heather Powell and KTOO's Scott Burton worked with students on interviewing skills and story production with culture bearers, educators and personal heroes.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, this class, along with all other school programs, was interrupted. Work still needs to be done on the school's radio station. However, students had begun to practice their interviewing skills by speaking with staff members; those interviews can be listened to on the school's website.

## Cosmetology Class

Another class that was interrupted due to the pandemic and all its repercussions,

was the Cosmetology Class taught by Kimberly Savland. Students were on their way to earning certification that would give them a head start in the cosmetology field.



## Paying it Forward—Gunalchéesh to Cody Anderson, of Fairweather Kayaks,

who "Paid it Forward" a few months ago, by paying for a free gym and swim day for everyone.

According to Cody's Facebook post: *"I got challenged when I got my coffee this morning. So I wanted to make a grand gesture for the kids and the community. Fairweather Kayaks donated \$300 towards the gym and the pool. Come Wednesday, everyone can go for free. This one is on me. So I challenge the City, the kids, and fellow community members who plan on going to the gym or pool this Wednesday to pay it forward. Do something good for somebody."*



## Gunalchéesh to NC State Students—a group of students from North Carolina State University spent their Spring Break in Hoonah, volunteering in the community and

at school. They spent time in various classrooms, helped out at the Youth Center, and made themselves useful wherever needed. The Hoonah kids, as usual, loved having the college students in their classes, in the cafeteria, and at the Youth Center. Gunalchéesh to all of them!



NC State students with Hoonah kids at the Youth Center.



## Hoonah Recyclers News

We had a social-distancing/masked springtime opening of our Recycling Center on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Ted Elliott, who helped load our full-to-overflowing van. Thanks also to **Alaska Marine Lines** for taking our van to Seattle freight-free.

Once it returns, we will advertise for another Saturday opening from noon to 1:00, so please keep on saving your aluminum and other metals. We recycle various metals (aluminum, brass, copper, zincs, bronze, radiators, etc.) to benefit our community, our earth, & local youth-friendly projects. Hoonah Recyclers supported the Chichagof Classic Basketball Tournament this winter.



Thanks to Moises Contreras, Sr. for deliveries and to Paul Dybdahl for keeping the doors of our container clear of snow. Thanks also to City of Hoonah, and our partner, Alaska Native Sisterhood Camp #12.

Thanks to these folks who have donated aluminum cans and other metals: Phyllis & Jeff Tischer, Jessie & Jeremy Martin, Anonymous, Amelia Wilson & Matt See, Daphne & Frank Wright, Jr., Larry & Dianne Woitte, Paul & Sally Dybdahl, Johanna Dybdahl, William & Mary Johnson Youth Center, Glenda & Bob Hutton, Sierra & Collin McClement, Paul Comolli & City of Hoonah.

**Our Hoonah Earth Day Clean-Up** was adjusted in this time of coronavirus and social distancing to be **Earth Day Clean-Up Week**, held April 18<sup>th</sup>– 26<sup>th</sup>. During that time, over 245 yellow ALPAR (Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling) bags were given out, and people cleaned up on their own and in family groups. The Forest Service cleaned up their stretch of highway, and will continue to do so during the summer. Sally has a yellow crate with bags out in front of her

house on Salmon Loop; folks are invited to grab a few bags to have handy in their vehicles to clean up during summer outings.

**Thursday Troopers Litter Patrol** will take place again this year, using social distancing guidelines. We'll meet in front of the Youth Center on alternating Thursdays and clean up from 2:00-3:00. Our starting date will be June 11<sup>th</sup>, and our last day will be August 20<sup>th</sup>. All men, women, and children are welcome to help scour the streets and byways of Hoonah to keep it looking good. There will be a snack after each Trooper Thursday patrol, and free swim passes awarded --once the pool reopens--for each patrol attended. Questions? Please contact Sally @ (907)209-9326.



A 4-legged Clean Up helper.



**Box Tops for Education:** To all of our supporters through the years who have faithfully clipped Boxtops for Education and sent them to school or put them in deposit envelopes around town, we say Gunalchéesh TLEIN ( A BIG Thank you.) According to our records, we have raised over \$1700 for our school with this program, one ten cent coupon at a time. The actual coupons are now being phased out, and there is now an app that can be downloaded to your phone; if you just scan your grocery receipt, the app picks out the Boxtop items and credits our school account. If you still get some unexpired coupons, go ahead and get them to us. Gunalchéesh!



## Boxholder

### Hoonah City Schools Newsletter May 2020

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**Congratulations to the Eighth Grade Class of 2020**, who are the High School Graduating Class of 2024. Their promotion was held May 21<sup>st</sup> at Kéidladee Park. The students in this class, pictured above are: Deborah Shorty, Edward Austin, Leah Moss, Tyrell Cromer, Rosanna Lackey, Tatiana Jacobsen and Leif Gray. Also in the class are Joshua Dick, Emma Houston and Susie Houston.

Their teacher, Renée Gray, had this to say to the students and their families and friends: *"I have watched this group of students maneuver through the awkward seventh grade stage, where life seems to throw more curve balls than normal, into confident young talented eighth graders. In this group we have computer geniuses, beauticians, writers, dancers, artists, athletes, and genuinely kind humans. I have no doubt that as these students continue to navigate through life, they will become even more confident with how they will positively impact this ever-changing world. Go into high school knowing you **can**—and you will!"*

**First Day of School  
for the 2020-2021 Academic Year:  
Thursday, September 10, 2020**