

# Hoonah Schools Newsletter

May 2023

*May--Kayaani Dísi: the month when grass starts to sprout*

## ***Congratulations, 2023 Hoonah Graduates!***

Hoonah High School's Class of 2023 received their diplomas May 12th. Class speakers were Salutatorian Abby Stevenson and Valedictorian Teresa Lewis. This year's Commencement Speaker was former Hoonah teacher, Renée Gray.

A special thank you goes to Donna and David Austin for providing music for the occasion. Along with



scholarships and gifts given to the graduates were handmade quilts made by Kris Skaflestad. Gunalchéesh to Kris for carrying on this tradition. See the back page for more about the Senior Quilts project. This year's graduates, shown in the picture are, from left to right: Ted Elliott, Kelly St. Clair, Emily Hurtado, Abby Stevenson, Alona Howland, Cheyanne Jack, Teresa Lewis, Kaci Jewell and Alejandro Contreras.

## **HCS Ku.éex' 2023 Marks 30 Years**

Hoonah City Schools celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> annual Heritage Celebration Ku.éex' on April 28th, with our biggest event yet. This year the Eagle students were the hosts.

Out of town guests included students from the TCLL (Tlingit Culture, Language and

Literacy) Program in Juneau, Sít' Eetí Shaanáx Glacier Valley School, as well as many elders attending the Huna Heritage Clan Workshop that week. Other special guests included Tlingit language teachers and learners from other Southeast communities and Canada. *Continued on page 5*



*Lgéik'i Heather Powell photo*



## Superintendent's Message:

Goodbye to the 22/2023 school year! It has been a trying but fun year. Many activities that were lost during the Covid years were brought back, including the Ku.éex'. What an amazing gathering! Thank you to all who helped to make it a big success.



At the end of this school year, I will be retiring. I have been in public education for 34 years and I am very fortunate to have spent the last 9 years of my career in Hoonah. For that I am truly thankful. The students, staff and community mean so much to me. I will miss each and every one of you.

The 23/24 school year will be upon us soon and will bring many changes. New leadership, new staff and certainly many more new programs. Together, staff and students will make a difference and make next year a better school year.

Enjoy your summer and take time to relax. We all need a good break! Gunalchéesh!

*Heather Wheeler*  
*Superintendent of Schools*

## Hoonah City Schools Board of Education

Harold Houston	President
Jamie Erickson	Vice President
Karen Hinchman	Secretary
Dillon Styers	Board Member
Bryce Tyler	Board Member

**This newsletter** is the last issue of the 2022-23 School Year. We hope it has helped to keep the community informed about the people and programs at our school. Gunalchéesh to all who have contributed articles, photos, suggestions and comments throughout the year.

A special gunalchéesh to the volunteer proofreaders, Sally Dybdahl and Karen Mills, who have faithfully checked each issue for errors and omissions. Gunalchéesh to Sally for her work as volunteer circulation manager as well.

Finally, gunalchéesh to all of our readers, near and far. We hope everyone has a safe summer.

*Daphne Wright, Newsletter Editor*

## Principal's Message

With resolve and excitement, we have reached the end of a school year. As a new principal, I have learned so much and look forward to taking what I have learned and making improvements for the fall. I want to extend my sincerest appreciation to the students, staff, families, community members and community leaders for actively supporting me in this venture. You motivated me daily to strive to provide an environment that promotes academic achievement and a positive school climate and culture.

Despite the many challenges we faced alongside the nation with staff shortages, our students and staff have persevered together and grown stronger as a result. Teachers have been challenged to adapt lesson delivery approaches to keep students engaged. They have each worn multiple hats to ensure the safety and quality of education for 180 days in school. Innovative strategies have allowed students to learn in an environment that meets their needs.

Support staff have taken on additional roles and responsibilities to assist students with various parts of their day. Students have supported one another academically, socially and emotionally. And parents, guardians and caregivers have been there every step along the way to support their children and the school staff. It has definitely been a team approach that has been used this year at Hoonah City Schools.

Congratulations to the 9 seniors of the Class of 2023! Your legacy is great and your future is bright. We all look forward to watching you continue to grow and thrive on your new path. Congratulations to our 5th and 8th grade students who will take the next step in their academic career transitioning to middle and high school next fall. Hoonah student-athletes, the Robotics team, and Band/Choir members have so much to be proud of.

Best wishes to all students and families who will be moving away and leaving our school community. Rest assured you have made your mark on Hoonah and you will not be forgotten.

With that, I would like to wish students, families and school staff a safe, restful and rewarding summer. I am challenging each of us to turn our technology off for at least 30 minutes, twice a day, and take that opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends. We can then launch into the 2023/2024 school year with a sense of rejuvenation in the fall.

With gratitude,  
*Nicolle Egan*  
*Proud Principal*





## Seniors Make Plans for After High School

*Members of the Class of 2023 were asked about their plans for the future, and also if they had a favorite memory, advice for younger students, and a quote that they wanted to share.*



**Alejandro Contreras** plans to go to school for deisel and gas mechanics, starting at UAS in Juneau and possibly transferring to another University of Alaska campus later. He first plans to stay home and work for a year.

**Teresa**

**Lewis:** My plans for after high school is to go into the army; I leave in October to go and be a combat medic. My favorite memory in school was my freshman history class, just every time I went to that class it was the best part of my day.

My advice to the upcoming freshmen is there's going to be obstacles, and there's gonna be some days where you feel there's no point in school. But that doesn't mean give up, take it one day at a time, and don't leave with regrets;

senior year comes faster than you realize.



**Kaci Jewell:** I was planning on taking a gap year so I can save up for culinary school. My favorite memory would be the day we learned something about the ping pong ball in Mrs. Tannehill's room. My advice would be to stay in

school and do your homework!

**Alona Howland** said that she plans on becoming a whale boat captain at Icy Strait Point.



**Emily**

**Hurtado:**

I plan on pursuing a degree in education and biology at Pacific University in Oregon. My favorite memory would have been in Heather's classroom. We

were making designs for our moccasins and I asked her if I could use Mexican flowers on mine and she just yelled "Yes! Of course!". From there, I began to embrace my Hispanic side and learned more about my heritage. Her advice for freshmen: Learn time management. It is important to

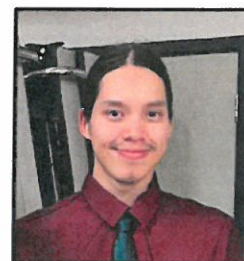


balance work and fun in high school, especially if you're trying to get good grades, and go somewhere where you'll need those classes and grades in the future. When asked about a favorite quote: I always live by the phrase "YOLO". Not necessarily a quote, but it's something that always pushed me to enjoy time I have to still be a kid, and to enjoy time with family and friends.



**Kelly St. Clair** is another of the graduates; he is unsure of his immediate plans for after high school, besides working.

**Ted Elliott** plans to work in town for a little bit; his favorite memories are from basketball season. His advice to younger students: "Don't overthink the simple stuff, pick yourself up and keep on pushing." And a favorite quote: "Live life like it's your last day, make every minute count. For tomorrow is not promised, live in the moment." – Alisha Broughton



**Abby Stevenson** has plans to do some traveling after high school. She said that she would especially like to travel to Greece.



**Cheyenne Jack** is

working with Gordon Greenwald and the other carvers at The Carving Shed this summer. She is unsure about what she will be doing once the season is over in the fall.



The graduates were all given quilts as a graduation gift. The quilts were all made by Kristine Skaflestad. See the back page for more information on the history of this Hoonah tradition.



Continued from front page:

## Ku.éex' Marks 30 Years

Alejandro Contreras, Wooshkeetaan, welcomed everyone on behalf of the Eagle students. For a Raven response, Trissa Shepard thanked the Eagles for the invitation.

The elementary students performed songs and skits, while the fifth graders carried on our tradition of doing their introduction speeches, acknowledging their lineage, in Tlingit and in English. The students in grades 3, 4 and 5 sang *Ax Gaganix Isitee* (You Are My Sunshine) in honor of special guest Kaanáx Ruth Demmert, who wrote the Tlingit version of this song.

Students visiting from Juneau schools performed thank you songs and handed out gifts. Sit' Eeti Shaanáx Glacier Valley students gave gifts of tea and jelly that they had prepared. TCLL brought over many cases of fruit that they handed out to the guests during one of their songs.

A House Post was brought out during the event. Elder Ken Grant told the killer whale story behind the post; students and adults who worked on it over a number of years were recognized.

Gunalchéesh to the many people who helped to make our event a success:

Hoonah City Schools Administration

Teachers & paraprofessional staff

Lights and sound: Bob Hutton

Photographers: Ian Johnson, Cory Hill, Tesh

Gray, Lisa Worl, Yélt'ooch Tláa Collyne Bunn

Videographer: Moriah Hayes

Maintenance staff: Atti Wark & Jesse Van Dusen

And a special gunalchéesh to the kitchen crew (Kaz Harris, Jackson Combs and volunteers) for the wonderful lunch!

Gunalchéesh to our volunteers:

Sally Dybdahl

Karen S. Mills

Marti Lee

Glenda Hutton

Lois Verbaan

Ladonna Dybdahl

Nicolle Egan

Dianne Zemanek

Ian Smith

Maggie James

Kathy Van Dusen

Skeiwduśá Matthew Spellberg

Darlene See

Lisa Worl

Gunalchéesh to the staff of Huna Heritage Foundation for all of

their help: Amelia Wilson, Rebekah Contreras, Moriah Hayes, Jeff Skaflestad, Brett Dillingham; and to many others who stepped up to help during the event, aatlein gunalchéesh!



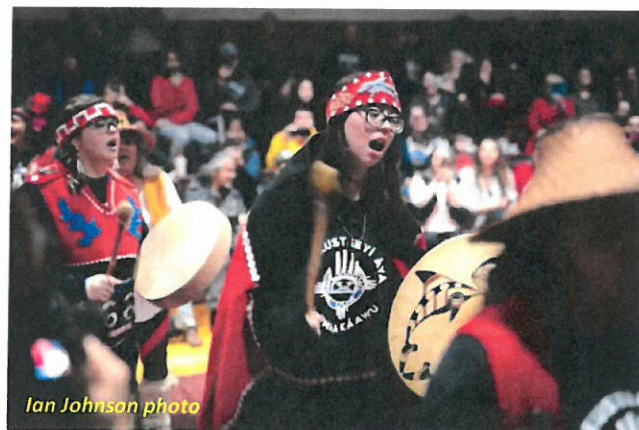
Ian Johnson photo



Photo above shows the moment in the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders' "Tour Bus" skit when the ch'áak' kúdi (eagle's nest) is spotted by the guide Jimmy Jack and the members of the tour. Gunalchéesh to Cory Hill for the photo, to Dianne Zemanek for working with the students to make the nest and to Sally Dybdahl for repairing and replenishing our supply of "binoculars."



Lisa Worl photo



Ian Johnson photo

Gunalchéesh to Goldbelt Heritage Foundation and Douglas Indian Association for providing catamarans that brought out-of-town guests.



Gunalchéesh for donations of food, supplies and cash to help us with the lunch:

Sally & Paul Dybdahl	Courtney Family
Veronica & Richard Dalton	Jayne Coutlee
Bill Veler	Albert Hinchman
Bob & Glenda Hutton	Sam Willard
Kathy Harris	Linda Belarde
John & Nicki Shelton	Hurtado Family
Marcie & Jacklyn Williams & Family	
Rose Willard	Mary Cook
Ian Smith	Hlavnicka Family
Karen S. Mills	Frank & Daphne Wright
Lisa Worl	Josh Dybdahl & Kendri Cesar
Vernon Hill & Crew for bringing herring eggs for the community	

Aatlein Gunalchéesh Idakát yeewháan!  
(Many Thanks to everyone!)



*Getting Ready: Above, 4th & 5th graders bagged up gáax'w (herring eggs) to be served as part of the lunch at the ku.éex'. Gunalchéesh to Vernon Hill & his crew and HIA for getting the herring eggs for our community. Below: Rebekah Contreras, Moriah Hayes and Amelia Wilson of Huna Heritage Foundation worked with the students on making trail mix for éenwu.*



*Cory Hill photo*



*Left, Shaadeik Cristina Smith with student speakers Alejandro Contreras, who welcomed everyone, and Trissa Shepard, who gave the Raven response.*



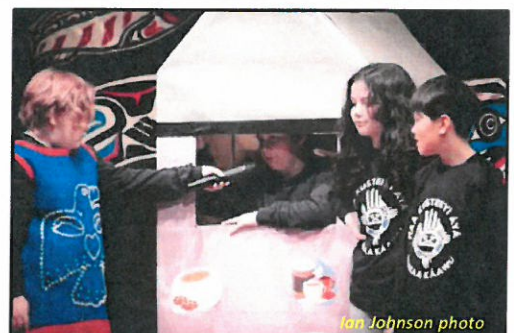
*Ian Johnson photo*



*Ian Johnson photo*



*Ian Johnson photo*



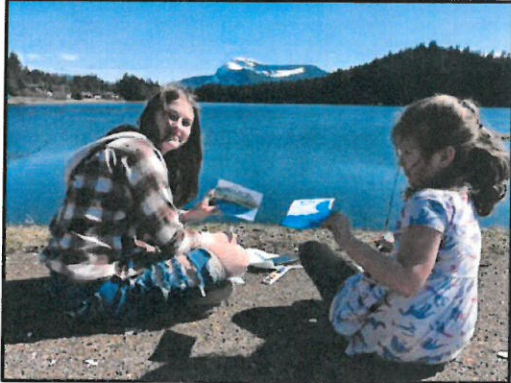
*Ian Johnson photo*

*Photos from left: 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders singing "Aḡ Ḡagaaniḡ Isitee", Pre-K & K class, Alex Mord giving her introduction speech, 4<sup>th</sup> graders presenting a skit "Wé Káaxwei Daakahidi" (The Coffee Shop.)*



## Arts Integration at Hoonah City Schools

This spring has been amazing. We have had several artists in our schools to come alongside our teachers and help them with integrating art and culture into our classes. A huge shout out to Bob Hutton (theater), Jeff Skaflestad (formline), Ben McLuckie (3D design) and Darlene See & Sonya Johnson (weaving). Darlene and Sonya worked with our graduating seniors to weave cedar bark graduation caps.



We held a training for staff where we learned about the local area from Amelia Wilson and Rebekah Contreras and had the opportunity to paint what we saw using watercolors. We had a beautiful day for it; the afternoon was invigorating and connected staff.

We had many opportunities for kids exploring the arts from drum making to outdoor watercolor to making sidewalk chalk in the elementary to weaving May Day baskets to solos in our spring music concert.

We want to wish our music teacher, Ms. Medley, a safe and happy next year as she returns home to teach in Alabama. She will be missed. Thank you Miss

Medley, for all your hard work and the great skills you taught our students this year!



**Skid Marks** was a short play presented on May 14<sup>th</sup> by the Theater class under the director of Bob Hutton. It was a series of short skits about driving, and was very well received by the audience of family and friends who attended.

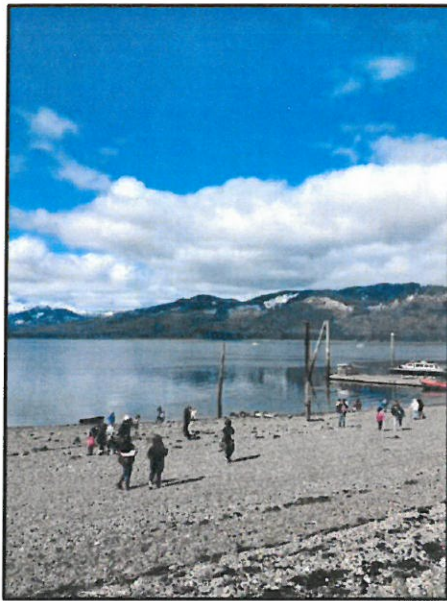


## Grow Tower Report

If you have had the opportunity to visit our cafeteria this year, you may have noticed two "towers" that have lettuce growing on them. This year Justin has been our tower manager. Justin helped set them up and has continued to water them and keep them healthy. He was asked, "What did you like the best about helping set up the grow towers?" His response: "We know where the food is coming from. We are so sure it's growing." Also, "Do you enjoy eating the food from them?" "I don't really eat salad, I just want the other kids to be happy!"

It has been growing for us since February. Our cooks love the fresh greens. Using the grow towers has reduced the amount of lettuce we need to order from 9 heads a week down to 3 heads. It has been a great experience to grow our own produce. We will start our towers up again next August and eat from them all year. The fresh herbs to cook with have been a great addition to flavor. A huge shout out to the Middle school STEAM Program.



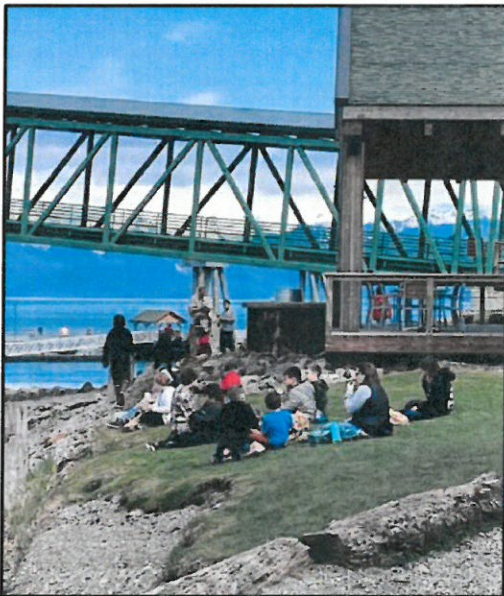


## Hoonah City School Celebrates Sea Week 2023

This year, HCS Elementary School looked out across the harbor and celebrated the place we live within the arms of Port Frederick. We looked into this beautiful body of water and attempted to penetrate its depths to help our children understand both the science we know and the traditional uses and understandings it provides. We focused on the Food Webs that linger in its waters: the plankton that feeds everything

in the end; the myriad of creatures who filter this cornucopia from the tidal waters: butter clams, cockles, mussels, and the silver herring (where have they gone this year?) We investigated the starfish and whelk, and moonsnails who feed on the bivalves and each other. We studied the relationships between geesh (kelp) and nées' (urchins) and the yáxwch' (otters) who then regulate the urchins to ensure they do not eat all the kelp. We studied much more. This interconnectedness of the ocean is limitless as a subject to study in the seas around us.

We are so fortunate to be able to walk right down to the beach and find



so much evidence of all of this going on. When we travel down there as a class- Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, the curiosity that arises from all our students is just as limitless as the creatures of the ocean we are searching for. On Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup> we made the long hike down past the city docks, out past Hoonah Trading and the haul out. Somehow, we continued forth past the tunnel and survived the long road out to ISP. There were complaints.

There were tired feet, and students were hungry, but we made it!

Down on the beach we were met by a host of parents (who happened to have driver's licenses and used them wisely to make it down there in record time- we were envious). Here we explored the intertidal zone and collected a host of beasts and seaweeds. Students called out things they had learned and things they had already known and of course stacked

them up by the dozens into small plastic bins. The crabs and little eel like fishes- blenny eels, beneath the rocks stoically endured the brunt of 94 little exploring hands and 940 investigating fingers. Later we ate lunch on the



grass overlooking the entrance to Port Fredrick and out into the Icy Strait. The sun shone for us. The sea slowly rose as the tide rolled steadily back in as it has for time immemorial. We had a great day, and we all safely returned.

A big thanks goes out to ISP for sharing their boardwalks and walk ways and lawns. Thanks to Glenda Hutton for her continued guidance as a sea week expert who has led many a trip down there



herself. Thanks to the parents who came along for the ride and to Ms. Kaz for supplying the fodder. Thanks to Ms. Zemanek for driving down the food and water. Thanks to all the teachers

for the long hours of work in preparing for this week. AND THANKS TO ALL THE AMAZING KIDS WHO LOVE TO LEARN ABOUT THE SEA! We all hope the little creatures will recover and survive another year because trust us... we will be back!

*Gunalchéesh to Mr. Browning for the Sea Week report and to Ms. Baysinger for the photos.*



## Close up Trip 2023



Thomas Jefferson, founding father of our country and 3rd president of the United States, once said, "An educated citizenry is a vital requisite for our survival as a free people." With that in mind, four Hoonah students through the Close Up program visited Washington, D.C. during the 2nd week of April and became informed citizens in how our government works. Over the course of our 10-day trip, Kaci Jewell, Emily Hurtado, Cheyanne Jack and Teresa Lewis learned how to navigate around international airports and thru Washington, D.C.'s Metro stations. They visited the Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln Memorials, the Vietnam War Memorial and other historical monuments. They also visited the grounds around the White House and the Changing of the Guard at Arlington National Cemetery.

At night, the students broke up into smaller groups to discuss issues affecting young people. This culminated with a mock Congress where the body of 200 kids wrote a bill that there would be background checks required for all gun sales in our country, debated the pros and cons of such a bill, then voted yea or nay for the bill\*. The following day our four girls, as well as other Alaska students from Anchorage and Fairbanks, met up with our Alaska delegation. We learned about the bills that Representative Peltola and Senators Murkowski and Sullivan were currently working on. The students were able to get their questions answered.

The girls learned about living with roommates from New Mexico and Michigan and found that teenagers from other parts of the country like to watch movies into the wee hours of the morning just as they do. They also practiced the skill of being patient, as four girls sharing one bathroom in the morning proved to be very challenging.

We all ended the week by traveling by bus to Times Square in New York City. We walked through Central Park and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and that night the girls saw their first Broadway play, "Shucked", which proved to be very

funny. On Saturday, everyone traveled by boat to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. They walked along Wall Street to the 9/11 Memorial, across Brooklyn Bridge and up 70 floors to the top of Rockefeller Center to see the city lights at night. Needless to say, this was an exhausting day, especially for their advisor!

Teresa Lewis said, "I think the trip was really fun and I recommend it to any of the upcoming juniors and seniors. It was an eye-opening experience to learn about our history and today's government. You get to meet people with different views, as well as people with your own views, and you make friendships with people that will last a lifetime. And I would like to give a special thank you to Glenda Hutton for making this trip possible and a success".

Kaci Jewell commented, "What I loved the most about the Close Up trip was being able to go with friends. Although it was very scary being out in the world, I enjoyed learning more about my rights, and being able to meet some very kind people. Thank you to everyone who made the trip possible."

Emily Hurtado said about the trip, "I thoroughly enjoyed my time in D.C. the most, going through all of the museums and memorials. It was the highlight of my senior year, especially since I went with friends which made the experience even more fun. We met so many people in D.C. and New York, and learned so much along the way. I'm thankful we got to do this trip, and I'm even more thankful to Mrs. Hutton for making it happen".

Thank you Hoonah, for making this trip possible. I would like to give a special shout out of thanks to the Bookmark Ladies who make bookmarks to sell at the Point and who donated all their profits to Close Up. Many many thanks go to Nicki Shelton, Monica Savland (Fishbone Gifts) and Eleanor Davenport (ISP) for your generous donations to the Mystery Gifts and Silent Auction tables at the Christmas Bazaar. Also, I am so grateful for the 1% sales tax that paid for all our travel costs. Again, thank you all!

*Glenda Hutton*  
Close Up Advisor

\*The background checks bill passed overwhelmingly when voted on by the students.





## First & Second Grade News

The power outage doesn't stop these 1st and 2nd graders from reading, they made it into an adventure! Our class had an eventful 2nd semester of school including making masks about animals they researched, and learning how to take care of their teeth— thank you Arielle Crawston! We celebrated St. Patrick's Day, the 100th day of school, Sea Week, and many many other fun learning adventures. It has been a pleasure to watch these students learn and grow; they will be 2nd and 3rd graders before we know it!



At the school Ku.éex', the 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> grade performed a Musical Canoe Journey.



### Gunalchéesh, Ms. Jane

*We thank Jane Renslo, for coming and finishing off the school year in the Kindergarten-Preschool Class. She was asked to tell us a little about herself for this newsletter.*

Arriving in Hoonah on Saturday, April 8, I knew I had arrived in a beautiful community. I have felt welcomed by staff, students, and community. The majority of my teaching in Alaska has been in Bristol



Bay (Naknek) and Kodiak including Ouzinkie on Spruce Island. Since retiring, I have taught as a long-term substitute in Chignik Lake, villages in Northwest Arctic School District & villages in the North Slope Borough School District. This position, kindergarten/preschool has been my first time teaching in Southeast Alaska and it has been a great experience! When the position to teach in Hoonah was offered, I welcomed the opportunity. Hoonah holds a special place in my heart and appreciate the warm kindnesses I've been shown. Thank you so very much!

*Jane Renslo*



## Hoonah Students Attend Federal Subsistence Board Meeting

### --Not Your Average Classroom

At the end of January, three Hoonah students traveled to Anchorage to take part in the Federal Subsistence Board meeting and learn more about how harvesting laws are made and how the public can get involved. The students were participating in UAS's dual-enrollment Biology Practicum course, which lets them earn college credits, travel, and be in the room where it happens all at the same time. Abby Stevenson, Emily Hurtado, and Rosanna Lackey had the chance to witness in person how the federal representatives heard from regional advisory councils, the State, and local hunters and interest groups to make decisions. They were accompanied by Julian Narvaez and Brynn Presler-Marshall, who work for HIA's Environmental team.

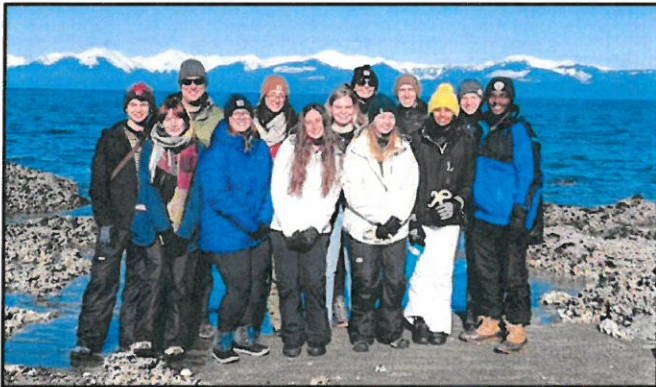


Despite some of the controversial proposals on the table (including the deer harvest proposal near Hoonah), the students were all surprised by how civil people managed to keep the conversations and were moved by both the emotional testimony and humorous moments. While the process can be somewhat dry and difficult to follow, all three students learned about subsistence harvest throughout the state, networked with federal employees and gained hands-on policy experience (and got to go to Olive Garden!).

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 three elected members of the public. Together the group makes decisions regional advisory committees and public testimony from local residents.



This year, there were two proposals to change fishing and deer hunting regulations around Hoonah on the table, neither of which were passed.



### North Carolina State Students Visit Hoonah

NC State March 2023 was the **15th year** that NC State has been traveling to Hoonah during their spring break and visiting this welcoming community! This year 12 NC State students and one staff advisor were able to engage and connect with students, teachers, and community members to participate in meaningful service, cultural engagement, and learning.

If it wasn't for Rory Callanan Schneeberger there wouldn't be an NC State Alternative Service Break partnership with the

community of Hoonah, Alaska. Rory, her spouse, Peter, and Rory's brother and NC State alum, Roger Callanan, envisioned the impact that NC State students could have serving the youth and elders in this predominantly Tlingit Native Alaskan community, as well as the impact that this Native Alaskan cultural experience would have on NC State students. For many from both groups this relationship has been life changing. This first ASB experience to Alaska was in 2008 and it was great to have Roger Callanan in Hoonah visiting Pete and the NC State team during the same week!

Thank you to Principal Egan, all of the Hoonah City Schools teachers, community members and leaders for opening up your hearts, homes, and experiences for us all to learn and grow!

*Adam Culley, Group Advisor*



## Girls Varsity Basketball Season Wrap-Up

Dear Hoonah Lady Braves Fans,

This letter is written to let you know how much I appreciated your support during the past basketball season for 2022-23. You having faith in what we are trying to do, in no small part helped us attain any success that we achieved together.



Another year in the books for the Braves that was indeed a memorable one. I would like to share some high points from our season. We had a busy game schedule, with a few away tournaments and a home tournament.

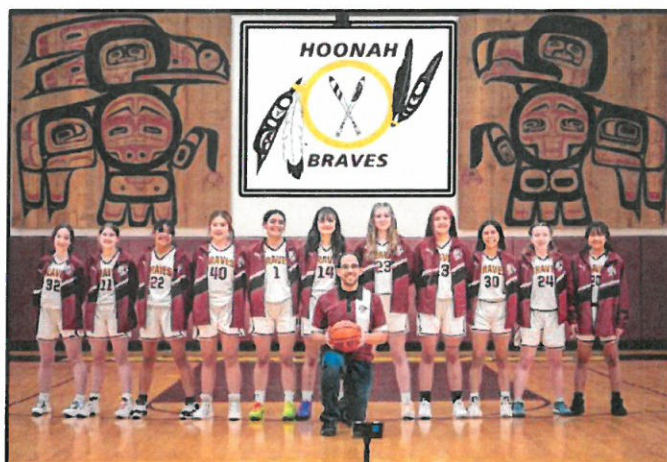


For our first tournament, we traveled to Skagway where we played Haines Varsity and Skagway in a round-robin style tournament. It was our first games of the season, so we were still finding our foundation, and battled throughout the tournament. We lost early on, but fought our way back up to the championship against Haines Glacier Bears. We fell short in the championship game, but the girls grew so much over each game and went to battle with this 2A school.

Mid-season, we hosted our own Icy Strait Invitational Tournament with visiting teams from Mt. Edgecumbe, Kake and Angoon. Hoonah has always played tight games with each of these teams, so we were very unsure of how it was



going to play out. The ladies went in ready to defend their home court with their community behind them. A very tough battle ensued among all the teams, and we were



fortunate enough to come out on top in the Championship against a strong Kake Team. I could hardly believe we Won IT! The Lady Braves put on a phenomenal show for everyone to watch, they played respectfully, had fun, and brought me my first championship EVER! I will hold on to that memory forever. Whoo-hoo --- Champions Lady Braves!



Unfortunately, our season did not end with a state berth as we had hoped. Going into the regionals, we knew that these teams were very strong, and it was anyone's game. Our first game we played against a tough Klawock team who ended up winning the championship. Our second game, we played against the Kake T-Birds and that game had many lead switches until the last two minutes of the game. We got into some foul trouble and fell short at the last buzzer but with that, our season ended with new goals and new vision!

Some Regional Tournament highlights were: Krista Howland and Alona Howland received the All-Conference Award, Teresa Lewis and Chloe Lane Received the Good Sport Award, and lastly, Seniors Alona Howland, Teresa Lewis and Cheyanne Jack were all part of the All-Academic Team. Be on the lookout for the team fundraisers this summer. The Hoonah Lady Braves are fundraising to go to Gonzaga Basketball Camp as a team in July.

Thank you,  
*Coach Miguel Contreras*

*Action shots and team picture by Cory Hill, team picture at Icy Strait Tournament by Jessie Martin*



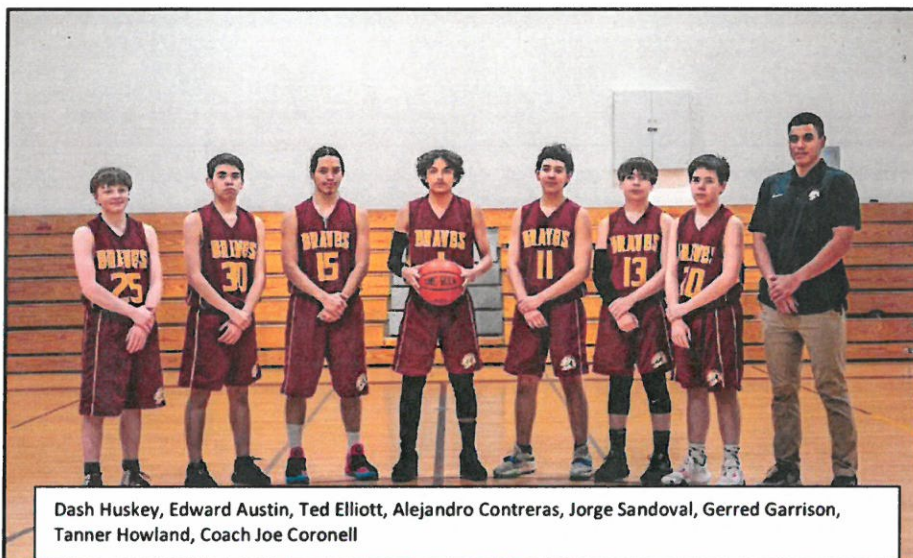


## Varsity Boys Basketball

The 2022-23 Basketball season was my first year

coaching basketball, and it served as an important year for building a new culture for these young athletes. Going into the season we wanted to focus on the individual development of our players and learn how to incorporate those skill sets into team play. The things we learned this year will be built on in the years to follow and the members of the team showed a willingness to learn and improve. Although we had some tough games the boys showed heart and positive attitude throughout the season. Every away event we were at had at least one official or coach that was complimenting the boys on keeping that good attitude and being very respectful. And that's all I can ask of the team. I'm proud of the season we had and I look forward to the continued development of this group of boys.

*Coach Joe Coronell*



Dash Huskey, Edward Austin, Ted Elliott, Alejandro Contreras, Jorge Sandoval, Gerred Garrison, Tanner Howland, Coach Joe Coronell



## Middle School Wrestling

This years Middle School Wrestling season was a fun and exciting one. We had a great turnout of kids who were eager to participate. Most of them were first-year wrestlers, but by the end of the season you wouldn't have been able to tell. I also had three eighth graders who had joined us in high school practice all year. Two of them (Jorge and Tanner) were the captains for the team, making sure everyone was working as hard as they possibly could, seeing that the mats were taken care of, and leading by example.

The wrestlers travelled to Juneau, where they represented Hoonah and the school very well. Three of the seven athletes medaled and there were also a few close matches. I'm very proud of all that participated in this year's season and look forward to next year's season - *Coach Levi Mills*



*And from A.D. Jessie Martin:*

It's been 5 years since Hoonah has had a Middle School Wrestling team and we're excited with the turnout from this season. The Braves traveled to Juneau in February and represented well. Jorge Sandoval was in the finals and took 2nd. Tanner Howland was in the semifinals and took 3rd. Payton Smith was in the semifinals and took 3rd. Aryah Dybdahl and Charlie Jack wrestled each other for 3rd; Dybdahl won. Tank Tyler & Olivia Larsen both lost two tough matches, but had fun. Coach Levi Mills led the Braves, and like many of the other programs we've brought back, we are excited to see more kids get involved in the future. Go Braves!



**The Hoonah Elementary & Middle School Basketball Teams** traveled to Haines in March to compete against the Haines Club teams and the Juneau Hoop Time teams. Our elementary boys, elementary girls, and middle school girls all went undefeated. The middle school boys split 2-2. It was a whirlwind weekend packed full of basketball. Thank you to Louie White Sr. and Rachel White for stepping up to Coach this BIG team. Thank you to Jeremiah Byers, Sarah Lampe, and Chauncey White for stepping in to chaperone as well. Looking forward to seeing these programs continue to grow!

*-Athletic Director Jessie Martin*



## Earth Day Clean Up

This year we had our biggest Earth Day Clean-up ever, with a turnout of 124 volunteers signing in. The Hoonah Recyclers had many partners: City of Hoonah, Hoonah Indian Association, Icy Strait Point, U.S. Forest Service, Hoonah City Schools, ALPAR (Alaskans for Litter Prevention & Recycling), AML (Alaska Marine



Lines).

We received donations for lunch from HIA Environmental, Ed Williams, Sr., Julia See & Lorenzo Florendo, Nicki & John Shelton, and Debbie Picken. Prizes were purchased by Hoonah Recyclers. Thank you to lunch servers: Tank Tyler, Trevor McNulty, Kayla Korecky, and William & Mary Johnson Youth Center Staff, Crystal Sawers.

As a result of this Clean-Up, 205 bags of trash went to the Hoonah Dump, along with: tires, one pike pole, a huge piece of culvert, one kiddie pool, and a damaged super sack for contaminates. A pickup truck load of aluminum cans went to the Hoonah Recyclers container.

### Other Hoonah Recyclers News:

Our van is here for summer, so expect to see some open Saturdays. We take aluminum, copper, brass, and bronze and will pay for them, or will gladly accept your donations. Thank you to Alaska Marine Lines, who have for many years been transporting our container to Seattle and back for free. Because of this, we are able to pay for metals and still make a small profit. The funds raised through this small volunteer effort are used to support Clean-up efforts and community programs, such as the Fishing Derby, Christmas Program, 4<sup>th</sup> of July and others. Most recently, we were able to help support the Chichagof Classic Basketball Tournament. We partner with Alaska Native Sisterhood Camp 12. Gunalchéesh for donations of metals: Marj & Floyd Peterson, Jessie and Jeremy Martin, Minnie Dalton, City of Hoonah, Frank & Duffy Wright, Eleanor Davenport, Amelia Wilson, Paul & Sally Dybdahl, Miryam Francis, Teresa McConnell, Rebekah Contreras, Nicki and John Shelton, and Elena Diamond. Thanks for helping us: Paul Dybdahl and Brent Coutlee.





## News from Huna Heritage Foundation

### Molly of Denali & PBS Family Workshop & Space Camp!

Huna Heritage Foundation is partnering with Alaska Public Media and PBS for some fun children and family-oriented activities for Hoonah. On June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, PBS will sponsor a Learn and Grow family workshop for families with children in grades Kindergarten through Fourth grade. Each participant will receive a \$50 gift card and a backpack full of fun activities. PBS will also host a space camp for up to 25 campers aged 7 to 12 years old at the Youth Center. Watch



for more details; we hope to see you there!

Huna Heritage Foundation is serving as a community liaison for the PBS kids show *Molly of Denali*. Along with two other Alaskan communities, Northway and Bethel, we will create

science-based learning materials that community organizations can use for fun after school and summer science activities. The *Molly of Denali* crew will visit Hoonah this summer to meet with parents and community members interested in helping with the development of this community science program. Be on the lookout for more information.

### Job Fair

On March 9, 2023, Icy Strait Point, Hoonah City Schools, and Huna Heritage Foundation hosted a Community Job Fair. Hoonah employers set up booths with information on current and upcoming job openings. Students were able to meet with employers before the Job Fair was opened to the public.

### Clan Workshop

Huna Heritage Foundation hosted the 2023 Clan Workshop in collaboration with Hoonah City Schools on April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Students of all ages and grades interacted with clan



leaders, clan elders and cultural knowledge bearers in a rich cultural exchange. Topics included Tlingit Songs and Dancing; Clan At.oowu and Personal Regalia; Clan Leaders, Clan



Mothers and Clan Elders; The Ku.eex'; and Tlingit Oratory, Speechmaking and Responses. Delicious lunches were prepared by Debbie Wright Picken, including Indian Tacos and Halibut Chowder with fry bread. Fun and learning was had by all who attended, and we look forward to future Clan Workshops to continue to learn and deepen our understanding of our Hoonah Tlingit culture, history, and traditions.

### Moananuiākea, A Voyage for Earth: ALASKA

The Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS) included Hoonah as part of their pre-launch stops during their 2023-2027 world voyage! PVS has been traveling the world and visiting communities on their traditional canoes since 1976. May 31<sup>st</sup> marked the arrival of our Hawaiian relatives in Hoonah for a few days visit on their canoe, the *Hōkūle'a*. Hoonah Indian Association and Huna Heritage Foundation collaborated with the First Alaskans Institute, Sealaska Corporation, Huna Totem Corporation, the City of Hoonah, Icy Strait Point and community members to plan activities and opportunities to engage in rich cultural exchanges and celebrations.

Gatherings included a community welcome dinner. Hoonah was selected as one of three pre-launch communities for

PVS to visit because of their relationship with esteemed Hoonah elder and leader, the late Ernie Hillman. Yakutat was identified as another pre-launch visit due to the PVS connection to the late Byron Mallot and Haines another pre-launch visit because of their connection to the late Judson Brown. PVS scheduled the launch of their circumnavigation of the Pacific in Juneau, Alaska on June 10, 2023.



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#### Dates to Remember:

Fishing Derby	June 10
Culture Camp	June 23-29
First Day of School	Aug. 15
Thanksgiving Break	Nov. 22-24
Winter Break	Dec. 21-Jan. 4
Spring Break	Mar. 18-22
School Ku.éex'	April 26
Last Day of School	May 15, 2024



Congratulations to the 8<sup>th</sup> graders, whose promotion ceremony was held May 15<sup>th</sup>. Pictured, back row: Jora Savland, Sophie Didrickson, Kyah Martin, Aryah Dybdahl, Easton Ross, Ava Didrickson. Front row: Mitchel Michel, Tanner Howland, Jorge Sandoval, William Dalton



#### Gunalchéesh for the Quilts, Kris!

What has become a standard part of the Hoonah High School Graduation is the "Presentation of the Quilts." Kristine Skaflestad has been making quilts for the Hoonah graduates since the tradition was started in 2012 by 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Michelle Amundson. She asked Kris, who worked at the Youth Center, if she would help the students make quilts for the seniors. At some point, Kris and Yan Meserve, her assistant at the Youth Center, ended up making them on their own. During Covid, both stopped working there, and Kris continued making the quilts by herself. She has

made 88 quilts so far, and says that she loves making them, so she probably won't be stopping anytime soon.