

Hoonah Schools Newsletter

September-October 2019

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

(Oct.) Shanax̄ Dís: the month to go to the mountains to get mountain goat.



Ravens gathered by the Raven Kootéeyaa in front of the Huna Tribal House in Glacier Bay. The pole shows crests representing all of the Raven clans in Huna. Erin Lehnert photo.

Journey to Homeland August 2019

“You are AWESOME!” Gene Tagaban told the gathered group of Hoonah City School students. Parents, teachers, family members, and National Park Service employees echoed the affirmation, “YOU are awesome.” Tagaban’s opening message led a truly awesome day focused on holding up the youth of Hoonah at Xunaa Shuká Hít in Glacier Bay homeland.

Since the opening of the Huna Tribal House – Xunaa Shuká Hít – in Glacier Bay – the National Park Service, Hoonah Indian Association, and Hoonah City Schools have sponsored gatherings to celebrate the raising of tribal house walls and totem poles. This summer, on August 24, 2019, the community “raised up” its most precious treasures, the youth and families of

Hoonah. The day’s events focused on honoring the students of Hoonah and celebrating together as families.

T’akdeintaan storyteller, Gene Tagaban, opened the day with enchanting flute music, a rousing, interactive story of rabbit’s courage, and a rendition of his own personal life journey to become the Raven Dancer. Through story and music, he encouraged students and adults alike to have pride in self, to be resilient, and to be open to healing. *Continued on page 5*



“Start With Hello” Week was celebrated at our school this past quarter. On Friday, October 4th, the entire school gathered outside to form the word “HELLO”. This week is focused around making sure people feel visible and included, and working towards the prevention of youth violence and isolation. In the elementary hallway is a “Helping Hands Tree” with everyone’s handprint, showing how we can all work together and support each other.

Mark Your Calendars for Saturday, October 26th---Hoonah City Schools Fall Carnival, as always, will have something for everyone to enjoy! Food Booth will open at 5:00, Game Booths at 6:00, and the Live Auction begins at 7:00.

See back page for how you can help.



Superintendent's Welcome Back Message

I am excited to welcome everyone back for the start of the 2019-20 school year and hope you had an enjoyable summer. A special welcome to the families and staff who are

new to the Hoonah City School District. We are happy to serve you and your child.

We are excited about all the great things happening in our district this year. We have added several new staff members to our teaching team and look forward to learning from them and welcoming them into our school and community.

We are happy to bring back our variable term schedule with its wide variety of elective choices for our students. This year's electives include Driver's Education, Robotics, Northwest Coast Arts, Small Engines, Construction Technology, Culinary Arts, Creative Writing, Health, College Classes, and Art. Additional classes will be added during second semester. These classes provide our students a wonderful opportunity to explore their educational options academically, as well as career goals. Students can also choose from our wide selection of online core courses and complete graduation requirements.

There is more exciting news to share. Partnering with two other communities, Hoonah is part of a five-year grant that will facilitate hiring a fulltime music teacher. After a long hiatus, our district now has the ability to bring music back into the school. More information will follow on this exciting opportunity.

This year we added new language to our strategic plan to reflect our transition to a Trauma Informed and Responsive School. This new language clarifies our mission to provide a safe, authentic, quality educational experience for all of our students. The language can be found on the homepage of our district's website and within the revised strategic plan, which can also be found on the district's website.

"Hoonah City School is a Trauma-Sensitive School.

We strive to ensure that all students feel safe, welcomed, and supported. Working to mitigate trauma's impact on learning is at the center of our educational mission.

Hoonah City Schools is a place where an ongoing, inquiry-based process allows for teamwork, coordination,

creativity, and sharing of responsibility for all students, and where continuous learning is for educators as well as students."

To improve access to district information, Hoonah City School has launched its own app. You can download the app for both Apple and Google devices. Just search for Hoonah City School District. Take time to explore this new tool. You can connect to Power School, view school lunch menus and more.

Please feel free to join us for events throughout the year. They are posted online as well as on our reader boards throughout the district. It is exciting to see the number of students who participate in activities. Upcoming events: Principal Roundtable October 23rd, Fall Carnival October 26th, and Veteran's Day Program November 11th.

We encourage you to follow us on Facebook, Hoonah City School District. And for the latest information about district happenings, visit our website at www.hoonahschools.org. In closing, thank you for your tremendous support of our schools!

*Sincerely,
Ralph M. Watkins
Superintendent
Hoonah City School District*

Greetings from your School Board!

The board usually holds our annual retreat in August, but this year we met in June. Timi Tullis of the Alaska Association of School Boards facilitated.

During the retreat, we completed our annual board self-evaluation and set goals for 2019-2020.

Our goals for self-improvement are:

1. The board will investigate committee work to determine if there are standing committees that should be outlined in policy.
2. The board will hold at least one work session per quarter to educate themselves when necessary. (Potential topics include budget, curriculum, parent involvement, policies and grants.)

We also set the following goals for the district:

1. The board will work with the administration to develop and implement a 6-year curriculum review plan for the district.

Continued on next page...

2. The board will work with administration to adopt a plan for recruitment and retention of qualified staff.
3. The quarterly Principal Roundtables will be reinstated.

As of our meeting on July 1st, information needed for self-improvement goal #1 had been gathered from several school districts similar to ours. For our goal #2, Heidi Jewell gathered ideas from board members about topics during our September meeting, and she will schedule one of those topics for our first workshop, date to be determined. The board decided during the same meeting that we will set a purpose and guidelines for one standing committee having to do with budget during one of the workshops.

Superintendent Watkins presented the board with the draft of a 4-year core curriculum review plan on July 1st, and the plan should be complete by the time we meet for our regular October meeting on the 17th. During our September meeting we discussed the beginnings of a plan for goal #2, and the first quarter's principal roundtable is scheduled for October 23rd.

As always, I encourage anyone with concerns about the school to email me at huttonr@hoonahschools.org or call or text me on my cell phone (907-209-0996). Gunalchéesh!

Bob Hutton
HCS Board President

HCS Welcomes New Staff for 2019-2020 School Year

Natalia Bucher is the new School Counselor. She comes to Hoonah from Mancos, Colorado, where she worked as a K-12 school counselor.

Natalia grew up in Southwest Colorado in the small



rural farming community of Dove Creek, Colorado. She attended Northeastern Junior College after graduation, transferred to West Texas A&M University to finish a Bachelors of Science in Agriculture with a Teaching Endorsement, and then continued her education at Liberty University, where she

earned a Masters in Education in School Counseling.

Natalia has a very loving and supportive family, with three little brothers and her parents. She loves spending time with them enjoying nature and making memories. Natalia loves being outdoors and exploring nature, and has a huge passion for sustainable agriculture and being a keeper

of what we have been given. She enjoys relaxing with all kind of card games, board games and even video games. Her passion at work is to empower children and help them achieve their highest goals and dreams.

She ended up working here because Hoonah felt inviting and made her feel like it was home on an island. She loves the community and the quiet solitude that Hoonah has to offer. Natalia looks forward to building relationships with the students and community.



Fourth Grade teacher

Joan Martin was born island hopping in San Juan, Puerto Rico with her military family. Criss-crossing Pacific Islands, she taught her first class at age 12, on Okinawa. Her family then moved to Adak, Alaska, where she taught swimming and water safety to people of all ages in

high school, then through college at Fairbanks and Ketchikan while also commercial fishing.

Armed with a bachelor's degree from UAF, she taught K-8 and special education around Alaska while pursuing her love of travel. At one point she and her husband took a leave of absence. They sailed their boat from Sitka to New Zealand, spending five years exploring the South Pacific, which included a short stint teaching special education at Majuro, an atoll in the Marshall Islands. She also tutored other sailing children along the way.

Missing the classroom, Joan returned to Alaska. She taught school and worked as a district librarian. She completed her Masters degree in creative writing in 2017. The district cut their library staff, so Joan took a year to regroup, take care of a family crisis, and pursue her other passion - writing. She wrote two books, and returned to the ocean sailing 2000 miles from Southern California back to Alaska. Joan is excited to be back, teaching and sailing around her home waters of Southeast Alaska.

Elena Swenson is another new staff member in the Middle School/High School. She is teaching Algebra Readiness, Pre-Algebra, and Culinary Arts. She is from San Jose, California. Elena received her bachelor's degree in Secondary Education in Family and Consumer Science from Idaho State University. She started teaching in Alaska last year on the Aleutian Peninsula and loves the people, scenery, and the experiences she has had here in Alaska so far. She is excited to be teaching here in Hoonah and looks forward to all the new experiences this year will bring.



HCS Welcomes New Staff for 2019-2020 School Year

Rachel Priser, our new teacher in the Second-Third Grade, was most recently a teacher in an Inupiaq village in the Northwest Arctic. She was there for two years before accepting a position in Hoonah.

When asked about her background, she shared that she joined the Air Force after high school, and was stationed in Germany for two years. She had the opportunity to explore most of Europe during that time. She was then stationed in California where she finished graduate school. Following that, she was a stay-at-home mom for many years. She became a teacher when her



daughter entered high school. Her first teaching assignment was for an inner-city school in Houston's 5th Ward. When her daughter went to college, she took the teaching assignment in Alaska.

When she is not teaching, Rachel loves to spend her time traveling

and exploring the outdoors. She has been to a ladies' surf and yoga camp in Bali, she has hunted wild boar in the California Wine Valley, and has kayaked a large portion of the Texas Gulf Coast bayous and waterways which are often alligator-filled.

She also loves spending time dabbling in the arts. Her interests include digital photography, painting, and jewelry making. She enjoys meeting artists and talking about their work. On vacation, she loves to see the theater and go to art museums and galleries. Her favorite works are the Impressionists and she has an affinity for Modern Art. Rachel also enjoys listening to all kinds of music and really likes a good book that has a strong sense of place. That is usually how she decides where to visit next in her travels.

Ben Mettling is our new 5th Grade Teacher, who comes to Hoonah after teaching in the Northwest Arctic village of Selawik for five years. While working there, he taught 6th grade for two years, 3rd grade for one year, and PE for the past two years.



Ben was born and raised in Minnesota. He went to Itasca Community College for two years right

after high school, then transferred to Bemidji State University where he double majored in physical education and elementary education.

Both of his parents are retired from teaching. His dad taught elementary and his mom taught American Sign Language. He has one sister who lives with her husband and two boys (one in 3rd grade and one in kindergarten) back in Minnesota.

Hunting and fishing were a huge part of Ben's life back home and continue to be in Alaska. His love for the outdoors is what lead him to pursue teaching jobs in Alaska six years ago. Physical fitness is also a big part of his life. If you are out and about, you might see him running, biking, swimming, or at Open Gym.

When asked how he ended up here in Hoonah, he said that he liked the Arctic, but was open to experiencing a different part of Alaska. When the job opened up here, he applied and was able to get the job. He is enjoying Hoonah a lot so far. He said that the students have been great and the returning staff has been very helpful. He recently bought a boat and has been able to get out fishing and crabbing, which has been fun. He is also having a great time going out the road. He has been to Freshwater Bay, False Bay, Whitestone Harbor, and Game Creek for a little fishing. He has even hiked a few muskegs and seen a few does.

Hello Hoonah! My name is **Alexandria Tannehill-Smith** and I am

overjoyed to be the new 6-12 science teacher here in beautiful Hoonah. I am a graduate of The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs with a BAS in biological science and secondary education. This will be my 6th year serving as an educator, and my love for teaching has never been stronger. Prior to teaching in Hoonah, I had the privilege of teaching science and AVID in Colorado and Metlakatla, Alaska. I am here with my husband, Mitchell, who is also a science teacher; as well as my two daughters, Summit and Arrow. We love the outdoors and going for walks with our golden retrievers, Denver Nugget and Wayiwah, so be sure to stop us and say "hi!" if you see us. I cannot wait to meet you all and am so excited to experience life in this beautiful community. Here's to a wonderful year full of learning and a love of exploration!



Note: Watch for more profiles of new staff members in our next newsletter.



Erin Lehnert photo

Journey to Homeland, continued from front page

Later in the morning, families watched slideshows that showcased the important roles Hoonah students have played in building a Tribal House community. Photographs of students speaking, drumming, dancing and learning at the 2016 Tribal House Dedication, the 2017 Raven and Eagle Totem Pole Dedication, the 2018 Healing Totem Pole Dedication, and Journey to Homeland trips in 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 depicted the connection between Huna youth and their homeland in recent years. As the slides rotated on a large wall screen recently installed at the Tribal House, Heather Powell led students in singing *Sít Tlein Daa Sheeyí* and *Yáa At Wooné*, songs written by Hoonah students during some of these events. Encouraged by Tlingit language instructor, Daphne Wright, several brave students stood to introduce themselves in Tlingit, remembering past years at school *ku.éex's*.

After sitting and listening attentively, there was at last time to celebrate. As always, the most exciting part of the day centered around singing, dancing, and drumming.

In the afternoon, following a lunch provided by the Hoonah Indian Association, students gathered around the moiety totem poles standing in front of the Tribal House. As HIA staff Lea Houston and Darlene See called out the name of each clan represented on the towering cedar poles, students “found their place” amongst the clans of Hoonah.

All too soon, it was time for the Grand Exit. Student drummers led the way along the Tlingit Trail to the waiting catamaran. Passing Yaa Naa Nex Kootéeyaa, the Healing Pole, students quietly placed rocks or pebbles they had selected from the shoreline earlier in the afternoon at its base, as symbols of their own commitment to homeland and healing.

Gunalchéesh to NPS staff Mary Beth Moss for this article and to Erin Lehnert for the photos.

Playground Update

As you can see, there was noticeable progress on replacing our playground at school over the summer. Groundwork and Phase One were accomplished this summer, thanks to five years of community fund-raising efforts that continue to this day. Also responsible for helping us reach this milestone are you, the taxpayers of Hoonah, who made up a short-fall in funding through the 1% sales tax that is dedicated to student activities. Thank you!

Our gratitude also goes to the Hoonah Recyclers, who recently purchased rakes and brooms to tend the rubber mulch safety surface, and who also purchased two new tetherballs and two trash cans. Thank you, Paul Dybdahl, for delivering the equipment and installing the tetherballs!

We are currently in possession of playground equipment for a pre-school area, but the cost quoted by the construction firm that installed Phase One was prohibitive. Current plans are to use a group of volunteers to install the additional structures under the direction of a specialist. That would happen as early as spring break, but in any case, it needs to occur when the rest of the playground is otherwise not being used.

Report submitted by Bob Hutton and Jeremiah Byers

Gunalchéesh Notes

Thanks to those who support our ongoing Elementary Playground Fundraising efforts; \$345.00 was deposited from collection cans at Hoonah Liquor, Hoonah Trading Company, and Colette's Cupboard.

Many thanks to these artistic do-gooders who create bookmarks with local flowers & plants sold at Icy Strait Point Student Bookstore: Linda Belarde, Linda Dellazoppa, Pam Mahooty, Arely Wright, Daphne Wright, Karen S. Mills, Glenda Hutton, Judy Hankla, and Sally Dybdahl. This on-going project raised \$450 for our school this summer alone.

Gunalchéesh to Teresa McConnell, for operating the Seaside Selfies business this summer. She was able to collect



\$400 in donations for the school playground fund.

Picture: Jora Savland at the HOONAH sign outside the Seaside Selfies Boat Shed.

Tlingit Language and Culture Classes in the Middle School/High School

Middle School Lingít Language students are working towards translating and creating a Lingít Recipe book! With the help of the Katherine Mills Math Book, they will be using Lingít language and Math concepts such as fractions, and liquid and linear measurements.

In the **Elective Phases**, which happen for two weeks at a time in between four weeks of Core Classes, students are working with Culture and Language instructors Heather Powell and Herb Sheakley Jr. to learn Traditional Northwest Coast Art. Projects include Carved Headdresses, Painted and Designed Drums, House Posts and Panels.



Moose: By donation from State of Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game, HCS received a half of a moose (dzísk'w) to process with students. The moose will be used for preparation of meals with the Home Ec Class, as well as for Family Engagement activities planned throughout the year. In addition, students, with the help of our dynamic kitchen crew, will have moose meat (dzísk'w dleeyi) for school lunch! What an amazing opportunity!

What's Happening in Ms. Tannehill-Smith's Science Class?



↑Leah and Susie are collecting data during their "Barbie Bungee Lab". They are looking at independent and dependent variables. Using their data, they correctly calculated how many rubber bands they would need to bungee their Barbie down the stairwell without hitting her head. These ladies' data was so accurate that they had a perfect bungee!!



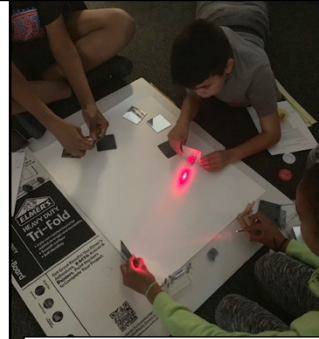
↑Jaden is using spectroscopy to see the emission spectra of the different types of lightbulbs we use in our lives. He is looking at a halogen bulb in the picture above using a spectroscope. The image below is the view inside the spectroscope while looking at an LED bulb!



→→
Star and Kaida are measuring and recording the growth of their Gummi Bears during our Gummi Bear Osmosis Lab. This lab simulates how our cell's semipermeable membranes use transport to keep our cells alive and healthy. An IV drip of fluids given to you at the hospital is not just full of water; if it was only water, your cells would explode like these poor Gummi Bears. In fact, that IV is full of saline solution (salt water), which is crucial to making sure your cells stay isotonic and don't shrivel up or explode!



Edward, Leah and Tyrell are building a laser pointer maze using their knowledge of the law of the angle of reflection. Their goal is to hit a target by reflecting the laser off of 6 mirrors first. Did you know that light bounces? The sun bounces its light off the moon and that's the only reason we can see it! Essentially, the moon is a giant mirror in the sky.
←←



Gunalchéesh to Ms. Tannehill-Smith for supplying these pictures and captions that allow us to peek into the Science Class, which looks like a pretty exciting place!

Tlingit Language in the Elementary School

Room 102 in the Elementary School is a busy place! All of the students in grades K to 5 meet every day for their Tlingit classes with K'ashGé, Daphne Wright. Later in the day Mrs. Wright goes down the hall to the Preschool room where they have a short daily lesson in their own room.

Some topics we have been covering in the younger grades during the first quarter are berries, animals, weather, things in the classroom, counting, and body parts. In the upper elementary, we have also worked on greetings, mammals, feelings, and kinship terms. We try to do plenty of oral review throughout the grades, so that the Tlingit that the children are learning is continually reinforced. The fifth grade class has been doing writing practice as well as listening and speaking practice.

All of the classes do plenty of singing on a regular basis. We sing basic "learning" songs, such as *Ax Éet Yaan Uwaháa* (I'm Hungry) and *Tléix' K'únts', Deix' K'únts'* (One Potato, Two Potato). We also sing and drum traditional Tlingit songs, such as *Raven Peace* and *Sít' Tlein Daa Sheeyí* (written by Hoonah City Schools students in 2016.)

Visitors are welcome, but please check it at the high school office before coming over to our classroom.

The daily schedule for Elementary is as follows:

4th Grade	11:55-12:15
3rd Grade	12:20-12:40
Kindergarten	12:45-1:00
1st Grade	1:00-1:15
5th Grade	1:20-1:45
Pre-school	1:50-2:05
2nd Grade	2:10-2:30

Gunalchéesh

Many of the materials used in the Tlingit class are handmade, and have been assembled over the years, many by volunteers. Gunalchéesh to Sally Dybdahl, Karen Mills, Arely Wright and Glenda Hutton, for all of their help in making materials for our Tlingit program. Another gunalchéesh to Karen Mills for donating the payment for her volunteer hours at ISP this summer to our program's supply budget.

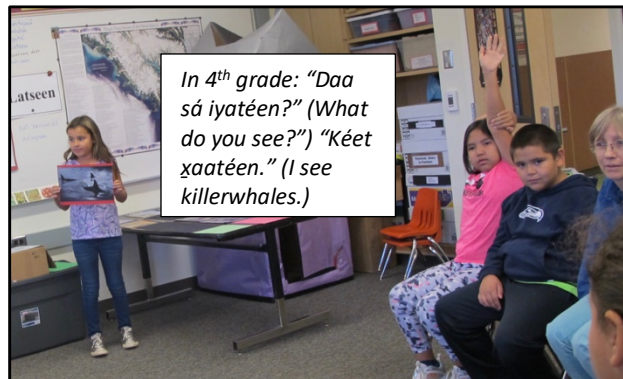
At the Carnival on October 26th, we will hold a **Bake Sale** to benefit our language program. Anyone who would like to contribute to this effort is invited to donate a baked item to our cause. If you are not a baker, be sure and stop by to see what wonderful baked goodies we have to offer. The sale will begin right at 5:00, so please bring your donation by 4:30, or call Daphne (723-1223) to have it picked up. We will be in the school cafeteria.



Third graders, above: "Daa sá du jeewú Taylour?" (What does Taylour have?) "Kaashaxáshaa du jeewú." ("She has scissors.") Below: "Corbin, daa sá i jeewú?" ("Corbin, what do you have?") "S'eenáa ax jeewú." ("I have a lamp.")



Above: Kindergarten students got to play with stuffed animals representing those on our *dís wooxeyi* (calendar) this month: from left: *jánwú yádi*, *jánwu*, *sigeidí*, *Guwakaan*, *s'igeidí*, *kóoshdaa*.



In 4th grade: "Daa sá iyatéen?" (What do you see?) "Kéet xaatéen." (I see killerwhales.)

Haa Kusteeyí Áyá Summer Activities

Hoonah City Schools held two camps this summer: *Dancing with our Ancestors Art Camp* in early July, followed by *Haa Too Yéi Yatee Culture Camp* at Freshwater Bay. Art Camp was held at the school, with three activities offered: for the younger students, regalia-making with Carol Williams; and for the older students, either Ravenstail weaving



with Shgen George, or drum making and formline with Herb Sheakley, Jr. Over 50 students took part in the week-long camp.

Gunalchéesh to the instructors Herb Sheakley, Jr., Shgendootaan George, Carol Williams. Gunalchéesh to volunteer helpers: Tanya Kookesh, Emily Sheakley, Daphne Wright, Karen Mills, Suzanne Lindoff, Sally Dybdahl



Haa Too Yéi Yatee Culture Camp

was held at Freshwater Bay July 14 to 16. Activities at this year's camp included a demonstration of Native Youth Olympics games by Kyle Kaayák'w Worl and Patrice Kaawóotk'i DeAsis. Kyle explained to the students that the NYO games test skills that were key to survival for Alaska Natives, and that they include the spirit of cooperation and support for each other today as well. After a demonstration in front of the whole camp, smaller groups got to work with Kyle and Patrice to try out a few of the games.



Grinding seaweed (laak'ásk)



Other activities involved food gathering and preparation. The camp had a smokehouse again this year, and groups of campers took turns preparing fish for smoking, hanging it, and then tending the fire. We were also able to work on drying and grinding seaweed (laak'ásk) again this year; gunalchéesh to Mary Beth Moss and Owen James for donating the seaweed, to Phyllis and Jeff Tischer for the loan of the grinder, and to Royal Hill for technical assistance with the grinding. The seaweed will be given out at our school *ku.éex'* later in the school year. Campers got to help butcher and

process a seal (tsaa) under the direction of Herb Sheakley, Jr. Gunalchéesh to Bob Hughes and Aaron St. Clair for getting the seal for us.



On behalf of HCS and the students, Camp Director



Heather Powell wants to say gunalchéesh to the many other people who made this another successful camp: Shgen George, Herb Sheakley, Jr., Michelle Martin, Levi Mills, Corbin Harris, Cody Mills, Daphne Wright, Owen James, Elder

Ken Grant, Michael Martin, Bob Christiansen of Sustainable Southeast Partnership, Ian Johnson and Arianna Lapke of HIA, Tanya Kookesh, Wilbur Skeek, Emily Sheakley, Miguel Contreras, Chris Mills, Sr., Ida Jean Sheakley, Damon Bell-Holter, Bus Driver Extraordinaire Buddy Howard, Kitchen crew Phyllis Grant, Adrien Lee, Terri Rae Mills, Deb Picken, Mona Brown. Thank you to Anchorage teachers Molly Larmie and Emily Lucy, who were a great help, jumping in wherever needed. Yvette Darrington did some diving, and showed the kids some of the things she found underwater. Donations came from Fisherman's Daughter, Icy Strait Point and Icy Strait Lodge, Tlingit & Haida Central Council, Sealaska, Huna Heritage, Huna Totem, Coeur AK-Kensington Mine, Nugget Outfitters. Aatlein gunalchéesh Idakát yeewháan! (Thank you, everyone!)

Introducing Your K-12 School Counselor

Ms. Natalia Bucher



How and Why do Parents Contact The School Counselor?

- Concerns over student achievement
- Family Health Problems
- New School Orientation
- Test Interpretation
- Discussing special needs of their child
- Early discussion of potential crisis
- Family difficulties or concerns that affect school performance
- Social and/or emotional concerns about their student

Please use the Hoonah School Counselor as a resource for your student and family.

Parents/guardians can call Ms. Bucher at any time for a phone conference or to set up a school visit. Phone: (907)945-3611 ext 280

How Does a Student See a Counselor?

- Self-referral
- Request of a counselor
- Parent referral
- Administration, teacher, or other staff referral
- Referral by friends

**CONFIDENTIALITY
is
Strictly Upheld**

School Counselors help children by ...

- Promoting positive attitudes among students toward self, family, peers, and community
- Assisting students in learning how school performance relates to future opportunities
- Developing and delivering classroom guidance lessons that teach skills, such as healthy decision making, resolving conflicts, and respecting others
- Working collaboratively with students, parents, and teachers to identify and remove barriers to learning.
- Supporting students by teaching skills for achieving success.
- Helping students to recognize and make the best of their abilities
- Counseling with students individually and in groups
- Providing support during personal crisis

Counselors are the heart of the school by..

- Helping to create a safe school where children can learn
- Working with students on attendance issues
- Coordinating referrals to outside agencies
- Helping design interventions to enhance student success
- Developing community partnerships to enhance student awareness
- Helping teachers create a positive learning environment
- Helping students learn anger management, conflict resolution, stress management, and mediation skills, among others
- Helping parents, teachers, and administrators in learning how to meet the needs of all students

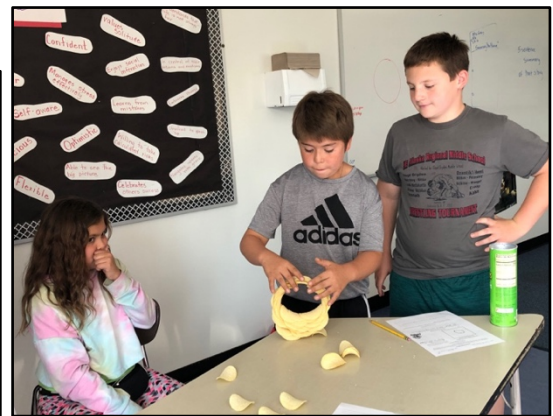
Ms. Bucher meets with classes on a regular basis and works with the students on a variety of topics, such as Fairness, Coping Skills, Bullying, Being Responsible, Empathy, Cooperation & Teamwork, Handling Peer Pressure, Becoming a Good Friend, Having a Positive Attitude, Resolving Conflicts, and Career Exploration.

Middle School AVID

AVID is a middle school class where students learn college and career readiness skills. Some of the skills the students learn are organization, note taking and processing, public speaking, and cooperative skills.

During the semester long class, the students will be researching and presenting a college/university/vocational school, as well as a potential career. We are blessed to have many very talented individuals in this community who have volunteered to share their career path to our class. Thank you to Christina Baal, Ian Johnson, Rich Groshong and Jim Sheehan. *(Christina is pictured at right.)* If anyone else would like to come in and share your path through college or vocational school to where you are today, you can contact Renée Gray at the the school.

The pictures on the right are the students' Pringle rings. They had to work together to use one can of Pringles to make a complete 360 degree ring that stood up by itself.



Close Up Program is Back at HCS!

During the week of April 19-26, 2020, eight high school students will be in Washington, D.C. and New York City, participating in the Close Up Program. This program allows the students to come face-to-face with the people and places that shape our nation. Through this opportunity, the students will learn what it takes to become an engaged citizen, developing a voice in their own American democracy.



Liyah Jewell, Ethan Ruerup, Cooper Ross, Esias Kohler, Sierra McClement, Abigail Stevenson, Anthony Johnson, and Alejandro Contreras will spend five days visiting DC and then will spend two days in New York City. This opportunity will open their eyes to the many possibilities that are available to them post high school.

Students have to fundraise for the total cost of the trip, which is about \$2100.00. We will be getting donations and holding fundraisers, to help with that amount.

A huge thank you to the following companies and people who have already donated to our group: Huna Heritage Association, Icy Strait Lodge, Mark Smith, Hoonah Trading, Brenners, Hoonah Liquor Board, Fishbone Gifts, Alaska Commercial Contractors, and Huna Travel Adventures.

There will be many upcoming fundraisers. We would greatly appreciate your support. Contact Renée Gray, Close Up Group Advisor, if you would like to help.

Currently we are selling raffle tickets for two pieces of Native Design clothing donated by Brenners; they are \$5.00 for one ticket or \$20.00 for five tickets. The drawing will be on Carnival night. You don't need to be present to win.



News from the K-1 Class

The Kindergarten and First Grade is an exciting place to be this fall! We have our largest class in quite a while with 24 students. The students are growing and learning so much already. We are learning the basic subjects like Reading, Writing, and Math, but we are also working on Science this year. Earlier in the year, we dug for worms and started a worm farm. We have a compost bin in our classroom with the worms we dug up and will use the soil later in the year to grow our classroom garden.

Our tadpoles from last year became frogs over the summer. The students named them Peek-a-choo and Starlight. Later this year we will order a few more tadpoles, so the kindergarteners who weren't here in K-1 last year will get a chance to see them grow, also.



Thank you so much for all of the supplies and donations that were brought in so far this year. We have a variety of snacks and plenty of materials for our students. If you are able to donate antibacterial wipes, Kleenex, napkins and snacks, that would be great! We run out at different times throughout the year. We will be doing the **Cake Walk** for the Fall Carnival Oct. 26th. Any cake donations will be well appreciated. Thank you again for all of your support for our students.

Mrs. Carrick



Preschool Class News

The 2019 - 2020 Preschool is off to a tremendous start. At this time, we have five amazing young people attending the preschool. The teachers are Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Carrick, Ms. Anne Sharclane, and Mrs. Wright. This year Mrs. Carrick is with the students for the last 45 minutes of the day teaching math and other skills. I am so excited about all of the learning that will take place because she is in the classroom!



The students are enjoying their classroom environment, our learning centers and all of the interesting equipment that their little hands get to use. One student was so excited when she entered our preschool that she exclaimed, "This is cool! This is beautiful!" We are truly fortunate to have a preschool at Hoonah City Schools with a variety of resources which make learning more interesting. Thank you, Mr. Watkins, School Board members, and all those who worked in the past to support and make the program as strong as it is today.



Another place we have enjoyed this year is the playground. On a few sunny days during gym, our students had so much fun swinging on the new swings. The green swing is a favorite, which gave us opportunities to practice our sharing skills. The kids were kind and sometimes helped push their classmates on the swings. Thank you Sally Dybdahl, the Tuesday "do-gooders group", Jeremiah Byers, Mr. Hutton, Mr Watkins and everyone else who donated or worked to improve our playground. Our preschool kids love it!

I have already seen growth in our little ones this early in the year. They know our routines of signing in, and where to sit on the rug. They can recite the class rules, are eager to do their class jobs and they understand more and more that when one activity ceases, another fun and engaging one will follow. I look forward to a productive year in preschool for our precious ones and I am happy to be a part of their education.

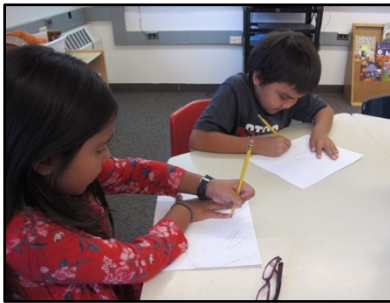
Mrs. Lee



Second-Third Grade Class News

Having a full classroom and running two separate grade levels in the same room can be quite challenging. Our classroom is using multiple ways to give all students exposure to grade level material while also meeting each student where they are academically. One of the ways we meet these student needs is through blended learning. Blended learning is done through the use of the Lexia program for reading and the Prodigy program for math. Both programs have been essential to helping students at their individual levels. The teacher receives an alert when the student is struggling and needs to be taught one on one.

The other way we meet student needs is through the many adults who help out and volunteer in our classroom. The second and third grade classes are fortunate to have so many volunteers and helpers in the classroom. I've never worked any place that had so many educated and extremely qualified people donating time and working in my classroom. I'm extremely thankful for all this help.



Diane Bean comes in every morning to help children with fluency and comprehension. She also provides books for students to take home each evening and read with a parent. Students that are reading the books each night with a parent are making notable progress. It is remarkable how fast students who practice and read with a parent can accelerate. We are fortunate to have Diane giving us her time and sharing her materials so selflessly.

Stephanie Harold is teaching art in the classroom on Wednesdays and Fridays. She is working on helping students learn to draw. It is quite a challenge to draw what you see, rather than what you know. The students are enjoying this addition to the classroom. We are so lucky to have her.

Glenda Hutton is here bright and early every morning to work on reading recovery/intervention with students. Intervention takes both allocated time and consistency to provide results. The consistency and quality of intervention that Mrs. Hutton is providing is phenomenal.

Teresa McConnell is working with students on book writing. She is helping students brainstorm, complete a rough draft, and edit their writing. Once complete, students will have a book to share with the class. It's fun to see writing brought to life in this way.

Auntie Carol Williams works in our classroom daily as a student mentor and also provides cultural guidance. On Friday afternoons, she teaches our class a cultural lesson. It is nice to have more Tlingit cultural influence in the classroom.

Alexandria Tannehill from the high school comes in during her break and takes the students to PE. We've struggled to get planning time in the Elementary and to make time for PE. The donation of her time and energy is extremely helpful. The students really enjoy her, as well.

Marti Lee, our librarian, has been a huge help by reading the grade level Journeys selections to the 2nd and 3rd graders during library time. Her passion for reading is passed directly to the students. Without her help, it would be very difficult to get through both grade level curriculum. This has also freed class time to better reach each student at their independent levels. Her willingness to collaborate has been so very helpful.

I'd also like to thank the many parents that have sent in snacks for our classroom. The students are working extremely hard and are making great strides. It's nice to be able to have a snack in the afternoon to keep everyone going. If you've sent in snacks, our entire classroom is so appreciative!

-Rachel Priser

Note: the photos on this page show the 2-3 class working on their handprints, to add to the "Start With Hello" display in the Elementary Hallway, an activity led by School Counselor Natalia Bucher. Below, the "Start with Hello" display, also called "The Helping Hands Tree."



Cross Country 2019

Season Wrap Up

The cross country season started July 31st with a total of thirteen runners. Our cross country team was fortunate enough to travel to three races; Juneau was our first race at Sandy Beach, Haines was our second race at the Fairgrounds, and third was Regionals in Sitka. The Hoonah Braves improved each race by building up their endurance and stamina. Almost every runner, in each race that they participated in, IMPROVED (decreased their race times), some by seconds, and some even by minutes, which is very difficult to do. After each race we would compare our race times to the previous one; everyone had a Personal Record (PR) at some point in the season.



Hoonah Braves Cross Country Team, Back: Coach Miguel Contreras, Sierra McClement, Teresa Lewis, Hallie Wilson, Olivia Morrison, Alona Howland, Zada Michel; Front: Christian Austin, Cooper Ross, Alejandro Contreras, Esias Kohler, Anthony Johnson, Jermaine Johnson.

At Cross Country Regionals in Sitka, the Hoonah Braves received multiple awards for not only physical performance, but also academic performance, and sportsmanship as a whole. Zada Michel received the All-Academic Team award, which is given to seniors who have a GPA of 3.00 or higher. Teresa Lewis and Cooper Ross received the Good Sport award for showing positive leadership, good sportsmanship, and leading by example throughout the season. The Hoonah Braves as a whole team received the Sportsmanship Award which is voted on at the Regionals. This award is given to the team that shows respect, a good attitude, and most importantly, shows good sportsmanship during the regional race. Olivia Morrison placed 7th at Regionals, which qualified her individually for the State Cross Country Meet in Anchorage. Olivia



Coach Miguel & Olivia at State.

competed against 80 other runners from across the state who also were the top 10 or top 15 from their region, and placed very well at 25th out of 80 total runners. Way to go, Olivia!



X-Country runners getting in a workout during Jeet's Challenge.

I would like to thank the Hoonah Braves athletes for letting me take on the new role of being the cross country coach. I am very proud of all the performances throughout the whole season, and am very anxious to get started onto the next season. Cross Country---signing off.



Thanks for the awesome season! *Coach Miguel*



Huna Hoops and Formline Camp

Huna Heritage Foundation (HHF) sponsored the Huna Hoops and Formline Camp August 5-9, 2019, an art and basketball camp for students entering Kindergarten through Fifth grade. *Our Way of Life* cultural and community programming is a priority focus area for Huna Heritage Foundation. The HHF Board of Trustees has identified events and activities that focus on our children and youth as a high priority for our educational and cultural service to shareholders, descendants and community.

Over forty children attended the camp Monday through Thursday, with the first part of the camp creating Tlingit art at the Youth Center and the second part of camp having fun with basketball at the City Gym. The week ended on Friday with a picnic day for participants and family members at False Bay with plenty of food and fun for all.

The success of the camp wouldn't have been possible without a stellar crew of staff: our art instructors Louie White, Jr., Herb Sheakley, Sr., and Gordon Greenwald; basketball instructors Miguel Contreras, Melissa Fisher, Adam Gretsinger and Damen Bell-Holter; camp teachers Jamie Erickson and Adrien Lee; and two youth teacher aides, Edward Austin and Cheyenne Jack. We also had our two bear safety for our Friday picnic, Stuart Mills and Owen James. These amazing adults made each day fun and engaging.

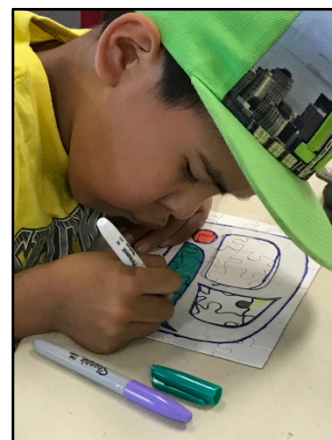


It is through partnerships that we experience the greatest success. HHF is grateful for the donation of the Youth Center and City Gym from the City of Hoonah Parks & Recreation Department. We also thank Icy Strait Point for providing buses and drivers to take the entire camp to False Bay for our family picnic.

Gunalchéesh to Sealaska Director of Youth and Community Development Damen Bell-Holter, for volunteering his time to provide basketball instruction, mentorship and leadership activities, to Tlingit and Haida Central Council for their food donations and Hoonah Police Officer Josh Huskey who joined the picnic to offer extra bear safety. It is through the donations of these organizations and individuals that the camp was a huge success.

Thank you to all the kids who participated to learn new skills and have fun, and to their families for encouraging their kids to attend.

Gunalchéesh to Amelia Wilson, HHF Director, for this article and photos.



Hoonah Recyclers News



Thursday Troopers

Hoonah Recyclers partnered with ALPAR (Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling) to do weekly litter patrols from May 23 through July 30. Thursday Troopers involved 29 people, who took part for a total of 91 hours! Many thanks to all 29 Troopers: Tatiana Jacobsen, Huskey crew (Rowan, Dash, Royal, Archer), Ava & Carter Hinchman, Dietrich Lewis,



Cecelia & Neta Thein, Daphne Wright, Sally Dybdahl, James Erickson, Riley Neal, Davina & Will Dalton, Leah Moss, Wilma Davis, Shawn Mills, Karen the Great Mills, Aubree Hinchman, Aria Gonzalez, Marcy Belford, Mona Brown, Cayenne Boe,

Chloe Brown, Aryah Dybdahl, Eileena St. Clair, and Michaela Skeek.

Troopers earned a snack plus a FREE SWIM PASS for each time they helped.

All who attended at least 3 of 10 weekly patrols were eligible for the end of season picnic at the Lions Club Picnic Area. Fun was had by all in attendance! Some even got their *first ever* taxi ride there.

Thanks.....

Big thanks go to Alaska Marine Lines for shipping our van free to & from Seattle several times each year; this makes our metal recycling possible.

Thanks to Jerry Byers for guidance, Frank Wright, Jr., F/V Heritage, Moises Contreras, Sr., & Paul Dybdahl for help hauling, and Ryan Neal for setting our van in place. Thanks, too, to City of Hoonah Harbor Department employees for their assistance. Zada Michel volunteered with our regulars one summer opening. Kenny Worrell provided muscle power, as well.

Metal donations came in from Minnie & Jimmy Dalton, F/V Heritage, Xia's Healthy Options, Daphne & Frank Wright, Jr., Chris & Tom Jack, Sr., Debbie Wright, Mike Vinson, Diane Bean & Rod Morrison, Basia Trout, Jessie Dybdahl & Jeremy Martin, Mike on the F/V Cleo, Hoonah Youth Center, Dawndi & Kip Keim delivered cans from the Coho Café in Elfin Cove, Marj & Floyd Peterson, Red Wynn, Teresa & Shawn McConnell, and Paul & Sally Dybdahl.

Our van is here for the winter, so we may have an occasional open Saturday; watch for signs.

Thanks to Uncle Miguel Contreras for placing a Hoonah Recyclers' collection can in the Alumni Gym. Smaller cans will be placed in the two staff rooms at Hoonah City Schools to encourage recycling of aluminum.

We used some of our profits to donate prizes to the Carnival Auction and to the Bingo, which will be run by the Head Start parents this year.

Jeet's Challenge

Thanks to Dietrich Lewis, Neta Thein, Ava Hinchman, Carter Hinchman, Karen the Great, Daphne Wright, and Sally Dybdahl for providing water and encouragement to runners in Jeets' Challenge Race August 25th. Thanks to HIA Domestic Violence Sexual Abuse Women's Advocate Karen Hinchman for providing music for runners.

Neta, Ava, Carter and Dietrich were there to cheer on the Jeet's Challenge runners.



Hoonah City Schools
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Hoonah City Schools Newsletter September-October 2019

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Dates to Remember

Teacher Workday	Oct. 18
Principal's Roundtable	Oct. 23
Fall Carnival	Oct. 26
Thanksgiving Vacation	Nov. 28-29
Teacher Workday	Dec. 6
Christmas Vacation	Dec. 23-Jan. 3
School Resumes	Jan. 6, 2020
Teacher Inservice	Jan. 23-24, 27
Teacher Workday	Mar. 6
Spring Break	Mar. 23-27
Teacher Inservice	April 23-24
Last Day of School	May 14

Fall Carnival-----Oct. 26th
Alumni Gym & Cafeteria
Food Booth Opens 5:00
Game Booths Open 6:00
Auction Begins 7:00

Want to help? Call Sally (209-9326) to volunteer in the Food Booth or anywhere else. She can also steer you in the right direction if you want to make a donation.

Mark your calendars---then come on down and have some fun!

