

Hoonah Schools Newsletter

September-October 2018

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

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

Welcome to a New Year at Hoonah City Schools

With the start of a new year at Hoonah City Schools comes the opportunity to welcome new students and staff to Hoonah. We have five new certified staff and quite a number of new students as well. See pages three and four for pictures and profiles of the new staff.

You will also find in these pages: news of a new middle school/high school electives program, a story about this summer's Culture Camp, one about our students' participation in the Healing Pole Raising Ceremony at Glacier Bay, classroom news from the elementary side, a playground fundraising update, dates of upcoming events, Tlingit language program highlights, and much more. If you haven't looked at our school website lately, it is full of even more information about our school, including a school calendar for the whole year, ways to contact individual staff, testing information, and more. Take a look at www.hoonahschools.org.

Hoonah Schools Fall Carnival is Back!

It's been gone for a couple of years, but the Fall Carnival is back, and slated for **Saturday, November 3rd**. This is a huge community event, with something for everyone to enjoy. The Food Booth will open at 5:00, Game Booths at 6:00, and the Auction will begin at 7:00.

We have already had a great response from local businesses with donations for the Carnival Auction and are hoping to get even more. Thank you to Alaska Seaplanes for allowing free space for Carnival freight from Juneau during the week of October 24th to the 31st. Any individuals that would like to donate to the Auction are welcome to do so. Just drop off your contribution at the District Office or with Ladonna Dybdahl at the High School Office. Call Daphne Wright (723-1223) or Sally



Hoonah students took part in the Healing Pole Raising at Glacier Bay August 25th.
Story on page 8. NPS Photo

Dybdahl (209-9326) with questions or if you would like something picked up.

Besides the Food Booth and Auction, there will be: Bingo, Cake Walk, Face Painting, Fish Pond, Grab Bag, Bake Sale, Big Hoop Shot, Duck Pond, Ring-a-Pop, Lollipop Tree, Hats, Jail, Wheel of Fortune, Hacky Sack Throw, Robot Game, Root Beer Floats, Coin Toss and more!



Carnival 2014

The booths will be manned by volunteers, so if you would like to help and have not been contacted yet, you can call Sally or Daphne and let it be known that you want to help.

It sounds like it will be a memorable night, so mark your calendars for November 3rd, then come on down and have some fun!



Superintendent’s Message

Hoonah City Schools is committed to providing the best education to all of its students. In order to do that, we must evolve as a school to meet the needs of a changing world. While we are committed to staying grounded in our core cultural beliefs, we cannot escape the reality of our

changing world. It is getting bigger and more connected daily. However, with those changes comes opportunity; opportunity for us to be on the forefront of changing and transforming education. Within the state of Alaska, schools look different in each community as they try to be reflective of the populations they serve. Yet, even within that diversity, we see more agreement than disagreement about *what* great education looks like in our world today.

What most tend to agree on is preparing students with the skills and knowledge that they must possess to succeed in 21st century jobs and civic life. At the heart of that idea is a set of outcomes students must master in order to develop a keen understanding of academic content and application of their knowledge to problems in the classroom and on the job. Here is a list of those outcomes:

- Mastering core academic content
- Thinking critically and solving complex problems
- Working collaboratively
- Communicating effectively
- Learning how to learn
- Developing academic mindsets

At Hoonah City Schools, one of our efforts to meet these changing educational needs is the Variable Term Schedule (VTS). The VTS is a unique way of looking at how time is distributed and utilized throughout the year. We have divided the semester into three six-week blocks. Four of those six weeks are spent in a student’s core academic subjects: math, science, social studies, and language arts. The remaining two weeks are spent in student-selected electives. These electives are offered in extended blocks. This extended time allows them to work more deeply in the selected content. This semester we are offering: EMT/ETT Certification, Welding, Woodshop, Robotics, Outdoor Environmental Science, Art, Hunter Safety, Creative Writing, Culinary Arts, Healthy Relationships, and Automotive Technology. We will be adding additional courses for the second semester.

We were pleased with our first phase. When surveyed, students expressed an overwhelmingly positive attitude about the scheduling and courses. One of our original objectives was to expose students to many career pathways in order to help them foster a desire to



*Bob Hutton
HCS Board President*

Photo: School Board members Bob Hutton, Dillon Styers, Heidi Jewell, Grace Villarreal, Harold Houston congratulated Superintendent/ Principal Ralph Watkins on receiving his Superintendent’s Certification at their June meeting.

explore their own interests and to see the many opportunities out there.

At HCSD we believe in education and its power to transform lives. We also believe that in order for that to happen we must first transform the way we do education. Why? **Because we must; because we want to; because we know better; because we can.** Education is meant to prepare young people for their lives, both in the moment and in their futures. The world our young people will engage with over their lifetime is already very different from that of former generations and will become even more different as the rate of change accelerates. While there will always be a timeless set of knowledge that helps in this preparation, students need skills that help them navigate a future that will be increasingly complex with new challenges every day. As the Tlingit have adapted for thousands of years, we will join together to move forward to meet these new challenges.

Gunalchéesh,
Ralph Watkins/Superintendent HCSD

Greetings from your School Board!

The board held our annual retreat in early August. Lon Garrison of the Alaska Association of School Boards once again facilitated. During the retreat, we completed our board self-evaluation and set goals for 2018-2019.

Our two goals for self-improvement are:

1. The Board will institute a regular program of recognition of staff and student accomplishments.
2. The Board will educate itself on understanding its role with regard to grants.

We set the following priorities for 2018-2019:

1. By June 2019, the Board will have in place a sustainable district technology plan that improves opportunities for student success and achievement.
2. By May 2019, the Board will adopt revisions to the “Actions” of the 2016-2021 Hoonah City Schools Strategic Plan.
3. By June 2019, the board will adopt a plan for recruitment and retention of qualified staff.

We also came up with a consistent timeline for our annual superintendent evaluation and added it to our policy manual during our August meeting. Finally, we reviewed our board handbook and will add it to policy, as well.

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!

Welcome to New Staff



Renee Gray-Middle School Language Arts

It is great to be home! Most of you know me, but for those who don't, my name is Renee Gray. I graduated from Hoonah City Schools in 1992, earned my Bachelor's from University of Alaska Fairbanks, and then came

back and taught at HCS for 9½ years. The last 9½ years have been spent teaching middle school in North Bend, WA. My husband is Dennis Gray Jr.; he works as the City Administrator and is also a commercial fisherman. We have two boys, Truman (20) and Ethan (16) and two dogs.

This year I will be the middle school teacher, teaching Language Arts and Social Studies for grades 6-8. The students will be encouraged to critically read, question, and discuss literature as both readers and writers. As writers, the students will communicate their thoughts through narrative and analytical structured writing. Students will be developing their argumentative, persuasive, and expository styles of writing.

The core of my teaching beliefs is centered around relationships. I believe in the power of positive relationships. When a student enters my classroom, they know they will be respected. Because of that, respect towards me is a given. Having that trust and respect, creates an environment where students feel comfortable taking risks, which leads to learning.

Patricia Gardner – Second Grade

I have this long-time habit of always introducing myself by where I am from, and if I think they would know my family I always included my parents. My parents are Pat and Carolyn Gardner, my dad has a brother George Gardner, whom I take care in Ketchikan Pioneer Home. I grew up in Craig, fishing with my dad, starting our family fishing season with herring in the spring. My dad and two sons still go fishing every chance we get. Now a little about my education.



I come from a long line of teachers in my family, not only both my parents were teachers, but 3

both of my grandparents were teachers as well. I have an M.B.A. Education- Technology, B.Ed. degree in Elementary Education K-8, and 6 years of teaching experience. I have just completed my Reading Endorsement and looking into taking some summer courses.

As well as being a teacher, I have volunteered at the schools such as trained elementary librarians how to run a library, had the highest income for the Box Top program, helped doubled the income for both the fall and spring book fair. I was a part of the PTSA, but one of the rewarding programs I did with my son was the Battle of the Books and his team came in first in the state of Alaska for 3/4 graders. This past year I coached the 5/6 Battle of the Books team, who placed 3rd in Alaska.

I am looking forward to teaching for Hoonah City Schools; please let me know if you have any questions.



Clark Brown

Greetings! My name is Clark Brown, and I will be teaching the secondary special education courses and the culinary courses as well. I am excited to be here, and hope to become a valuable part of this welcoming community.

My wife - Wanda Brown - and I have been married for 32 years. We have three biological children, an adopted son and a God-Daughter; so, five children. They are all out on their own in some fashion. Two are married (we have 5 grandchildren), and the other three are in the military, college or just starting college. Alaska is considered home to our older children as they were raised in the "Bush villages" for most of their schooling. We left for family medical reasons, and are now returning to a land we love. My wife is a former teacher, who is now a nurse. Together we enjoy exploring the outdoors (hunting, fishing, berry picking, hiking, etc.). We also enjoy exploring the culinary palette.

I'm entering into my 28th year of teaching. Over this span of time I have taught from preschool to college, with the majority of time being in the secondary level, and in special education. I started my teaching journey in Southern California, then ventured north to Alaska out to the Aleutians, then to the interior with the Copper River School District. Missouri was the next stop, and now Hoonah! Thank you for welcoming me and giving me this opportunity to work with your children. I ask for your help and patience in learning your culture and language. Thank you.

Val Buffa—4th-5th Grade

I was raised on St. Croix in the US Virgin Islands, riding wild horses and free diving for lobster. Currently, my parents, who are in their 80s, live in Colorado where my two daughters attend college. I love to swim and sail, garden and cook, hike and collect wild medicinal and edible plants. I'm hoping to learn how to kayak & canoe, fish & hunt, sew with a machine and work leather.



I am a proud, fourth generation, committed educator. Over the past 27 years, I've honed my craft in public, private, and parochial schools, teaching in England, the Caribbean, several US regions, and the North Slope of Alaska. My Bachelor's degree is in English Literature and I hold a Master of Arts in Curriculum & Instruction from University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. I have logged hundreds of hours in continuing education, in-service trainings, and workshops and spend time every week reading pertinent studies, reports, and journals.

Education is an art, a craft, and a science. It requires the commitment of mind, body, and spirit, and quite often, the devoted educator's blood, sweat, and tears. It is an incredible responsibility; we truly do touch the future. I am honored and humbled to be chosen to teach the children of Hoonah.

Lora Jett—High School English & Yearbook



I am originally from Searcy, Arkansas. I obtained my A.A. in Liberal Arts from Arkansas State University in Beebe, Arkansas, a B.A. from Lyon College in Batesville, Arkansas, and my M.A.T. from Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas.

Before coming to Hoonah, I was working in Little

Rock, Arkansas as a dyslexia interventionist. I have two sons: Evan is 30 and Trevor is 19. Evan manages a Planet Fitness in Little Rock, and Trevor works at Walmart in Morrilton, where he is pursuing a career in retail management.

When I am not working, I love walking around Hoonah and taking in all the beautiful scenery. I also enjoy reading and writing.

I have wanted to live and teach in Alaska for as long as I can remember. My youngest son graduated last year, so I felt free to pursue my life's dreams; luckily I ended up in Hoonah this year. I absolutely love this community. The people here are so inclusive and kind. The students are respectful and happy. My co-workers are supportive. I feel

blessed to have the opportunity to serve at Hoonah City Schools and hope to be here for many years to come.

School Counselor's Message: Greetings parents and guardians of Hoonah City School Students,

My name is Rita Crouch. This year I am serving the school district as the School Counselor. Many of you already know me from teaching High School Language Arts last year. I am now working exclusively in the role of School Counselor.



The purpose of school counselors is to support students in three key areas; Academics, Social Emotional Development, and Career Explorations and Preparation. When any student needs help in any of these areas, you as a parent can make a referral to my office. I will follow up with meetings with your child to help build supports while at school and to work alongside you for their success.

Other ways students are referred to my office are through teacher referrals or students may refer themselves. When I receive a referral, I will document what the student needs and set up a plan to work through that issue in 4-5 visits. If a student requires further help, I will contact you to find out what other options are available for them. Together we can come up with solutions for everyday problems or issues that become more complex. So far this year, I have been so happy to help students work on attentiveness in class, conflict resolution, and college preparation in addition to helping students make some of their own education decisions.

Part of my work also involves teaching the 4th R--Healthy Relationships courses. Some student comments about that class are: "Every high schooler should be required to take this class!", and "I thought this class was going to be boring, but we actually deal with very important stuff." In fact, this course is very effective in helping young people to learn self-regulation, healthy decision making, and the framework for healthy relationships.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to work with your children on a daily basis. Please feel free to contact me anytime if you have questions or concerns by calling the school at 907-945-3613 Ext. 282 or emailing me at crouchr@hoonahschools.org. I look forward to meeting each of you and sharing more about how I can work with you to help your child be successful every day.

Gunalchéesh,
Rita Crouch, School Counselor

Wilderness EMT Certification Class Offered as High School Elective

This year our middle school and high school students will have the opportunity to take a variety of elective courses, offered in two week blocks, as our school begins to use a Variable Term Schedule (VTS). As explained by Superintendent/Principal Ralph Watkins, the “VTS (Variable Term Schedule) is a unique way of looking at how time is distributed and utilized throughout the year. We have divided the semester into three six-week blocks. Four of those six weeks are spent in a student’s core academic subjects, math, science, social studies, and language arts. The remaining two weeks are spent in student selected electives.”

One of the electives being offered is **Wilderness EMT Certification**. This class is being taught by Kenya Skaflestad. The students will learn both wilderness medicine and urban medical care practices in this intensive program. After 29 days of classroom education, practical skills, scenarios, and full-scale mock rescues, they will be ready to handle medical emergencies, in the wilderness or in town.

Upon completion students will receive the following certifications:

Students Age 14 & 15 will receive:

- 2 year certification American Red Cross CPR for the Professional Rescuer
- 2 year certification American Red Cross Wilderness and Remote First Aid
- 2 year certification American Red Cross Emergency Medical Responder

Students Age 16 & 17 will receive:

- 2 year certification American Red Cross CPR for the Professional Health Care Provider
- 2 year certification American Red Cross Wilderness and Remote First Aid
- 2 year certification American Red Cross Emergency Medical Responder
- 2 year certification State of Alaska EMT-1 (at age of 18)
- Student qualify for NREMT exam (at age of 18)

Photos on this page show the EMT class learning to use the stretcher that the ambulance crew utilizes to transport patients; meeting at the Fire Station with police and fire department workers, and getting hands-on experience taking blood pressure readings at the Hoonah Senior Center.

Other Elective classes offered during First Semester are: Welding, Woodshop, Robotics, Outdoor Environmental Science, Art, Hunter Safety, Creative Writing, Culinary Arts, Healthy Relationships, and Automotive Technology. We will be adding additional courses for the second semester.

The last picture on this page is of the Culinary Arts class, taught by Clark Brown. This group plans to open a student-run Café.



Watch for notices about their first event; they will be taking reservations, which will have to be pre-paid. They are looking at early November for their first series of dinners.

Haa Kusteeyí Áyá Program Highlights

Tlingit Language Offered Daily in Elementary Classes

We began the year with every elementary class having daily Tlingit language lessons, starting from Day One. Even in the Pre-school, part of the everyday routine is to have a short language lesson, with all adults in the room participating in the lessons. This is to ensure that they can reinforce whatever the students are learning from Daphne Wright, the Tlingit language teacher. In the picture below, some of the pre-schoolers are playing with Potato Heads during a language lesson on body parts.

The topics that we have covered in the elementary this quarter are animals, colors, things at school, weather terms and body parts. The 4-5 class has also covered a basic list of birds. That class has used Quizlet, an app that allows for another way to study the language and have some fun too. We also have studied several traditional Tlingit songs, including those recently composed by our own students.



Parents and family members are welcome to visit Tlingit language classes to see what we are working on. You can also ask and encourage your children to report to you what they are learning. Ask them to teach you! Please keep in mind: *the best way for the language to be retained by our children is for them to be allowed and encouraged to practice outside of school.*

The daily schedule for Tlingit classes:

3rd Grade: 11:50-12:15. 2nd Grade: 12:20-12:40
K-1: 12:45-1:05 4th-5th Grade: 1:20-1:50
Pre-school: 2:00-2:15 Monday—Thursday

Gunalchéesh haa éet yeeydasheeyí (thank you for helping us) to: Sally Dybdahl and Karen Mills, for help with making language class materials and doing repair work on regalia. During the summer, some regalia repair work was also done by Arely Wright.

Gunalchéesh also to Deiwjee, Genevieve Cook of Hoonah, Kaanáḱ, Ruth Demmert of Kake, Naakilaan, Hans Chester, and X'unéi, Lance Twitchell in Juneau, for on-going help with Tlingit language.

Haa Too Yei Yatee Culture Camp

Our second annual *Haa Too Yei Yatee Culture Camp* was held during the early part of July at Freshwater Bay. The camp had a great turn-out of children and community folks, as well as out-of-town instructors. Camp Director Lgéik'i,



Heather Powell, put together a top-notch team to lead and teach a variety of traditional life skills that, in the past, were taught at seasonal family camps during the course of the year.

SeiGóot, Jessica Chester, came from Juneau to help teach Tlingit language; Shgendootaan George, from Angoon, taught weaving; Jessica's daughter Helen and Shgendootaan's daughter Gabby worked as apprentice weaving instructors. Gooch Xaayi, Ralph Wolfe and Kaaswoot, Gloria Wolfe, came from Yakutat to teach traditional food gathering and preparation. All the teachers participated in song and dance instruction, as well as the daily lessons of living together in a traditional camp setting. The camp attendees were reminded to always show respect, and to take care of each other, as well as the land and its resources.

During the course of the four-day camp, students took part in the gathering and preparation of s'ikshaldéen (Hudson Bay Tea.) They also gathered sukḱádzi (beach asparagus) and found out how time-consuming it is to clean it and get it ready for jarring. Both of these traditional food items were given out as gifts on the last day of camp. A gift of laak'ásk (black seaweed) from Chris Mills and Phyllis Grant turned into a great set of lessons on how to dry seaweed, grind it up, then dry it a bit more.



A smokehouse was built by the TRAYLS crew and was used to smoke salmon: more lessons for the kids as they helped with that entire process. Another lesson occurred as Sheens, Levi Mills, demonstrated how to prepare a salmon to be cooked in a pit, covered by skunk

cabbage leaves and grass (photo above.)

Continued on next page.

Gunalchéesh

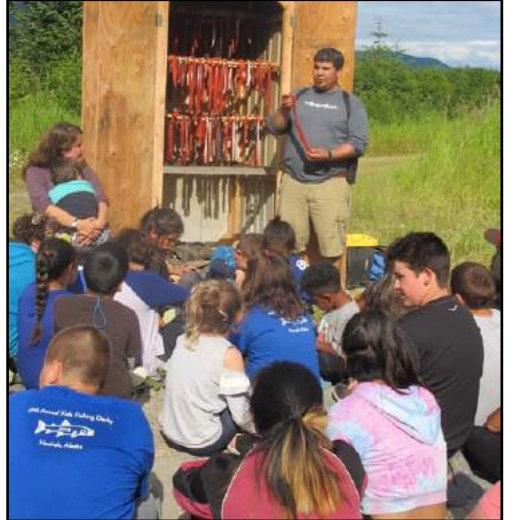
The camp organizers thank Icy Strait Point for donating the bus transportation, and a big Gunalchéesh to Uncle Buddy Howard for driving each day. We also want to acknowledge many family and friends who volunteered by donating time, rides, food and company. Phyllis Grant, Kagweil, Adrien Lee, and Terri Rae Mills were volunteer camp cooks from ANS Crew Camp #12. Other staff and volunteers included Levi Mills, Miguel Contreras, Daphne Wright, Sheryl Ross, Dave Hay, Corbin Harris, Cody Mills, Rebekah Sawers and her TRAYLS crew, Bob Christianson, of Sustainable



Weaving instructor Shgentootaan George worked with some of the youngest campers.

Southeast Partnership, Miakah Nix, EcoTrust, Ian Johnson, Hoonah Indian Association (HIA) / SSP, Jennifer Nu, SSP, Derrick and Sarah, teachers from Alaska Humanities Forum, Damen Bell- Holter, *Nang Gaahlaang* of Sealaska Corp., Sean Williams,

Ralph Wolfe of Yakutat worked with the students on smoking fish.



Americorp/Vista/HIA, and Amelia Wilson, Huna Heritage Foundation. Food was donated by the Fisherman’s Daughter, Sarah Lampe, Diane Carrier, Chris Mills, Phyllis Grant and family, and Sheryl Ross.

Spotlight on TRAYLS

Among those at Haa Too Yei Yatee Culture Camp was a group of students in the TRALYS (Training Rural Alaska Youth and Leaders) program. Under the leadership of Rebekah Sawers, the four in the program spent the summer working mostly outdoors around Hoonah, learning about forests and watersheds, surveying streams and gaining skills in scientific data collection. The purpose of the program is to provide youth with a variety of experiences that may lead to jobs and careers in the future.

During the camp, they helped out wherever needed. They also built the smokehouse and were responsible for putting up another large structure that was used to store gear.

Rebekah Sawers’s comments: *I had an awesome summer*



Above: TRAYLS crew member Sam Sheakley grinds seaweed. Below: Ashlyn shows Mia how s’ikshaldéen (Hudson Bay Tea) looks.

with these students! It was wonderful getting to see them take action, and explore this beautiful island every day! We were lucky because we learned a bunch of different skills and made connections in different parts of the community-- Hoonah Indian Association, U.S. Forest Service, and Culture Camp. I really hope more kids get involved with this awesome program!



TRAYLS Crew, Summer 2018: Ashlyn Gray, Dawson Hollingsworth, Nickolas Trutel Jacobsen, Group Leader Rebekah Sawers, Samuel Sheakley

Hoonah Students Take Part in Healing Pole Raising at Glacier Bay National Park

On August 25, 2018, Hoonah City School (HCS) students led hundreds of tribal members up the Bartlett Cove dock into homeland – Sít' Eeti Geiyí - now known as Glacier Bay National Park. More than 25 years ago, their parents and grandparents led a similar procession to reclaim this special place in an event that has come to be called the 1992 Peaceful Demonstration. This August, tribal members, National Park Service (NPS) employees, park visitors and dignitaries gathered to raise the Healing Totem Pole – Yaa Naa Néx Kootéeyaa – and to celebrate the healing that has come through decades of commitment to respectful communication; joint efforts on projects like the Tribal House and Journey to Homeland trips; and a willingness to explore creative solutions to challenging issues.

The day's events began when former HCS students, Randy Roberts and Mary Jack figuratively “pulled in” Hoonah's two red and black dugout canoes, carrying treasured at.óowu, tribal elders, culture bearers, Huna youth, and National Park Service employees, representing the collective wisdom of Hoonah; the skills and abilities of the NPS; and the past, present, and future generations of both. Singing *Tsu héidei shugaxtootaan, yá yaa kusgédaakeit, haa jeex' anak has kawdak'eet'* (*We will now open this box of knowledge that has been put in our care*), students processed up the shoreline to the site of the kootéeyaa raising.



Twenty four representatives carried the pole to a site just across from the Sea Otter canoe. The Healing Totem Pole, carved in Hoonah by Gordon Greenwald, Owen James, and Herb Sheakley with assistance from Randy Roberts, is the last of the cultural elements produced cooperatively by the Hoonah Indian Association (HIA) and the National Park Service. Its design incorporates concepts offered by Huna elders and culture bearers as well as NPS staff and openly tells the story of a painful journey from hurt to healing. It compresses centuries of history into 20 feet of yellow cedar, depicting the Huna Tlingit's tragic migration from Glacier Bay homeland, the

painful period of alienation, and the more recent collaborative efforts to forge a true partnership. Capped by two human figures symbolically holding Xunaa Shuká Hít, Huna Ancestors' House - one wearing a woven cedar hat, one wearing the iconic ranger hat - the totem will be a focal point for future conversations about effective partnerships.



The Healing Totem Pole was specifically designed not only to relate the difficult history between NPS and the Huna Tlingit, but also to relay the history of people working to overcome past hurts and to heal. In his remarks before the kootéeyaa raising, Park Superintendent, Philip Hooe noted that the Healing Totem Pole “... is essentially the recorded history, not only of the Huna Tlingit, not only of Glacier Bay National Park, but of our long, sometimes painful, sometimes joyous, journey together. The images on Yaa Naa Néx, tell our collective history – but they do not define who we are. Our partnership, rather, will be defined by growing trust, enhanced communication, and our response to changing needs and political climates. “

Ken Grant, T'akdeintaan spokesperson, led those gathered in naming the totem pole - Yaa Naa Néx Kootéeyaa – the name suggests an ongoing process of healing, a relationship that will continue to require negotiation and open communication for generations to come. Hoonah Indian Association Board President, Frank Wright, Jr. said, “The next generation is why we do this today.”

As the afternoon warmed, students once again led the gathered crowd down the wooded trail to Xunaa Shuká



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Hít, the Huna Tribal House, to celebrate coming home and coming together. This special day mirrored several others in recent years including the 2015 Ground Blessing Ceremony, the 2016 Tribal House Dedication, and the 2017 Raven and Eagle Kootéeyaa Raising events in that partners on both sides of the water – the National Park Service and the Hoonah Indian Association – gathered to learn, to honor, and to celebrate.

This event, and other ongoing collaboratively developed cultural programs, have attracted regional and national attention. The process of working together on these common dreams has ensured the preservation of traditional skills and knowledge, encouraged intergenerational learning, engendered communication on a range of issues, and healed and strengthened relationships between the park and the tribe.

Xunaa Shuká Hít opened for its second season in May 2018. In



NPS photo

2017, it served as a venue for numerous tribal gatherings and a focal point for cultural interpretation in Glacier Bay National Park. The National Park Service and the tribal government jointly completed Strategic and Interpretive plans, and now offer daily interpretive programs to thousands of visitors during the summer season,

and are cooperatively developing interpretive films and media. We continue to explore ways to build federal career pathways for tribal members interested in sharing their culture and expertise at the Tribal House and in their Glacier Bay homeland.

Gunalchéesh to Mary Beth Moss for this article.



NPS photo

Huna Heritage Foundation and Hoonah City Schools

Huna Heritage Foundation and Hoonah City Schools continue to work together for the benefit of students, school staff and community. The school year began with HHF Executive Director Amelia Wilson hosting an orientation for HCS staff at the Huna Heritage Foundation Hoonah office. Over a dozen staff attended to engage in meaningful and important cultural dialogue and enjoy our community's history and culture through viewing historic and cultural photos and videos of Hoonah. Huna Heritage looks forward to future opportunities to share with school staff and in classrooms.

This semester, Huna Heritage is excited to share that HCS eleventh grader Aiyanna Williams is interning with HHF as part of the new elective opportunities for students to explore trades and careers. Ms. Williams is gaining valuable experience digitizing old yearbooks of Hoonah City Schools and publishing them on the Huna Heritage Digital Archives website (archives.hunaheritage.org). For the first two-week elective block, Aiyanna learned how to scan the yearbook, input data on the images into a spreadsheet, catalog the images, upload them onto the Mukurtu Content Management System used by HHF for the digital archives and create the Digital Heritage item making the content viewable by the public.



Aiyanna Williams

Fifty-four years ago, Hoonah City Schools added high school grades to the existing elementary and junior high; 1964 was the first graduating class out of Hoonah. The 1964 yearbook "The Gowtukan" was the first published by Hoonah City Schools and is now available on the Huna Heritage Foundation Digital

Archives at archives.hunaheritage.org. We encourage you to check it out! It is the goal this semester with Aiyanna's internship at HHF to digitize and make available online as many yearbooks as possible. We are excited about the opportunity to continue to collaborate with Hoonah City Schools and for a student to learn the process of digitization to preserve, perpetuate and share our history.

HCS Superintendent and Principal, Ralph M. Watkins shares, "Hoonah City Schools would like to express sincere gratitude to the Huna Heritage Foundation. Amelia Wilson has given unforgettable presentations to our teachers and students explaining the Tlingit culture and history of Hoonah. This knowledge goes back generations; and the pictures are breathtaking. The Huna Heritage Digital Archives is a vast resource for our students. It is so important for culture to be integrated in our school. We appreciate all that Huna Heritage has helped with this. Gunalchéesh."

News from Preschool

The 2018/2019 Preschool year is off to a great start! We began the year with the opportunity for each family to bring their child to visit the K/1 and Preschool classrooms at a time designated just for them. During this visit both parent and child had the opportunity to be introduced to some of our daily routines. They learned where to hang up their coats, sit for number corner in Mrs. Carrick's room, how to sign-in in the Preschool classroom, find out where we sit during whole group time and experience some of the centers which are offered during school. This was very well-attended and I think it helped all of us get acquainted, understand some classroom expectations and perhaps calm some fears about the upcoming school year. Thank you, parents, for taking the time to bring your child in.

This year our Preschool has the privilege of having two other adults working with students. Anne Marie Sharclane is a one-on-one student aide and Adrien Lee is a classroom aide. I am so excited about the time students have already been able to have with adults in small groups and individually because of the addition of these two caring staff members. I think the future looks



bright for our students as we will be able to continue to give them the attention and help they need.

I am so happy to have each student in Preschool. Every student has a unique set of talents and abilities that they share with us at school. I have noticed students who are good at drawing, art, singing and dancing. Others enjoy building, counting or science. This group enjoys books and their time in the class library. All of them are working hard at following our classroom procedures and rules. This is a bright bunch of preschoolers and it is wonderful to be with them. I am expecting an interesting and fulfilling year of learning for us all.

Mrs. Lee, Preschool Teacher

Kindergarten-First Grade Class News

The kindergarten and first grade class has had a great start to the year! Kindergarteners have been learning their letters and sounds in reading and writing and have already started reading some short books. In Math they are working on counting and learning to read and write their numbers through 10. They are doing a great job!

First graders have picked up where they left off last year. They are reading and writing and learning about all kinds of new concepts with our new reading program. They are also working toward numbers 100 and beyond. In Science students have learned how to use their senses to explore their world.



The kindergarten and first grade class is doing a great job! It is so exciting to see how they are learning and growing.

Thank you everyone who sent things like disinfectant wipes, Kleenex, paper towels, hand soap, and snacks. We are using these things daily to keep our students healthy.



News from Third Grade

It is hard to believe that September is already over and we are well into October! So much learning and growth is happening in the third grade classroom because the students are inquisitive and focused.

In Language Arts, the students are learning the importance of reading fluidly. This is something that is practiced and will continue to be practiced every day. Reading every night is so important in mastering this skill. The students have learned how to answer critical thinking questions with complete sentences. Recently our focus was on writing paragraphs that included a topic sentence that answers the question, supportive sentences that explain their reasoning and then a concluding sentence to summarize the whole paragraph.

Spelling books will continue to go home every night. The new words are given to the students on Monday, they should practice all week, and then the test is on Friday.



In Math, the focus is on using addition and subtraction facts to quickly solve other problems. They are learning how to write and solve story problems, learning about fact families, and becoming independent mathematical thinkers. Practicing the basic addition and subtraction facts at home will give the student a solid base for more difficult

problems.

Science has been all about plants. The shelves are lined with plants and vegetables that the students planted by filling

pots with dirt and then planting the seeds. Recently, they designed, sketched, and built trellises to use as supports for their plants. Every morning, they excitedly come into the classroom to analyze the growth of the plants and look for new root development. They are super proud of their plants. Ms. Buffa, the 4th/5th grade teacher, invited them into her room so they could participate in an in-depth study on how plants work. Thank you, Ms. Buffa.

We want to say a big WELCOME to a new staff member, Ms. Mandi Eubanks, who arrived recently, and has started working as the classroom teacher in the third grade.



Ms. Mandi, listening for what Yéil (Raven) has to say.

Your third grade teaching team: Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Gray and now, Ms. Eubanks

2nd Grade News

The second graders are working hard to become great third graders. Please remember to read with your child daily. This

month will be our first school party! We will be having Halloween snacks and activity at the end of the day. Please send in any food to share with our class. Also, the second graders will be having the Lollipop Tree at the Fall Carnival. I would appreciate any volunteers to help run the booth. Thank you,
Ms. Gardner



Fourth-Fifth Grade Update

What a wonderful 1st Quarter we have had! The students are happy and engaged in their studies AND making excellent progress:-) Composition and spelling are major areas of need, so we spend a large part of our morning learning and practicing the organizational skills needed to produce great short answers, summaries, paragraphs, and eventually reports and essays.

Each student has their own assigned Chromebook to use throughout the day. Educational programs deliver highly individualized instruction to provide intervention, practice, and enrichment for each student. Immediate step-by-step help, immediate feedback, and error analysis allow students to clear up confusion and move on while creating independence and self-confidence. Detailed reports allow me to see areas of need and pull small groups to reteach specific skills. Read about each program here:

READING:

Lexia Core 5

<https://www.lexialearning.com/products/core5>

NewsELA <https://newsela.com/>

MATH:

ALEKS https://www.aleks.com/about_aleks

Khan Academy <https://www.khanacademy.org/about>

Prodigy <https://www.prodigygame.com/>

We are focusing on life science and art this quarter. Robin Hasselquist from the US Forest Service taught us about birds and taught us how to paint a female Belted Kingfisher! As we continue our study of plants, Stephanie Harold will be honing our scientific observation skills through annotated botanical drawing instruction.



Parents as Teachers is Back

We are happy to announce that Parents as Teachers has started up again! Enrollment is open to all families with children prenatal to age 3. See Parent Educator Jamie Erickson to enroll. She can be found on the second floor of the Erickson building; look for the sign on the door. You can also reach Jamie by calling her at 723-4576.

For those new to PAT, **Parents as Teachers** is an international nonprofit organization whose vision is *that all children will develop, learn, and grow to realize their full potential. We're here to provide information that supports parents' role as their child's first and most important teachers and advocates.*

Currently, our local PAT program is being funded through a grant from the AEYC --Association for the Education of Young Children.

Parents are encouraged to get your child enrolled as soon as possible; the faster we get them enrolled, the faster we can get group connections (Play Groups) started.

Jamie will also be doing Baby Raven Reads again this year. The first of these special events will be held October 26th. Call Jamie for details.





Racing cars Competition First Place Team: Shawn Mills, Joshua Dick, Patrick Gardner, Collin McClement

Middle School Students Racing Cars Competition

Early in September, students in Mr. Crouch’s Middle School STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) class took part in a heated FBS (Friction Balance Speed) competition in the Alumni Gym. The students had constructed racing cars from simple

materials to study how friction and balance would affect the speed of their race cars.

The students worked in four groups to cut out the parts of their cars, assemble them carefully, and paint them to look good in the winner’s circle after competition. The first place team had a car with the most balance and the least friction and also took the record for the greatest distance traveled; however, they had to take a respectable 2nd place award for their car’s paint job. The team winning 2nd place fought a major battle with all remaining competitors to earn their respect as runner’s-up in this fun series of racing heats. After the loss of a wheel and some collisions, they still managed to hang on to a 2nd place win. (Members of the 2nd Place team: Captain Israel Boe, R.J. Didrickson, Aubree Hinchman and Krista Howland.) *The picture at the right shows the team that won first place for their design: Atkaheen Budke, Tatiana Jacobsen, Emma Houston and Cheyanne Jack.*



When you bump into these young folks, please give them a pat on the back and a congratulations for their hard work here at Hoonah City Schools. Thank you to Ian Johnson for being our judge.



Hoonah runners at the Region V Meet: Jermaine Johnson, Xaviery Sharclane, Sierra McClement, Hallie Wilson, Tyler Watkins, Josh Wright, Ethan Gray, Cooper Ross.

Cross Country Season

The 2018 cross country season has come to an end. The boys and girls of Hoonah City Schools finished their year with the Region V Meet in Juneau on September 22nd. The boys and girls ran extremely hard and represented our community with pride and dignity. Cross country is not the easiest sport to participate in, and requires a lot of hard work and dedication on the part of the student athlete.

I am very proud of all the runners that started and finished this season. The following students were all



members of the cross country team this year: Josh Wright, Tyler Watkins, Ethan Gray, Christian Austin, Ethan Ruerup, Cooper Ross, Esias Kohler, Jermaine Johnson, Xaviery Sharclane, Levi Woodbury, Sierra McClement and Hallie Wilson.
Coach Adam Gretsinger

Hoonah Recyclers News

The volunteers at Hoonah Recyclers continue to collect metals to benefit our community, our planet, and local youth-friendly projects. We are open at our blue city warehouse location *SOME Saturdays (and an occasional Sunday)*; we pay cash or accept metal donations. Need more information? Call (907) 209-9326.

Thank you to volunteer helpers Kenny Worrell and Paul Dybdahl. Al Hill, Sr., donated a scale to our business, as well as two truckloads of recyclable metals. Thanks, also, to Frank Wright, Jr. for use of his truck for residential pickups. Metal donations came from Brian Bitz, Four Seasons Marine, Elena & Howard Diamond, Frank & Daphne Wright, Red Wynn, Floyd & Marj Peterson, Debbie Picken, Nicki & John Shelton, Diane Bean & Rod Morrison, Minnie & Jimmy Dalton, Jessie Dybdahl & Jeremy Martin, Paul & Sally Dybdahl, Sharon Wright Brown, Bob & Glenda Hutton, Harry Sharclane, Tom & Chris Jack, Alan Fisher, Sr.

And a BIG THANK YOU goes to Alaska Marine Lines for giving our van a free ride to Seattle several times a year.

Please call 209-9326 if you'd like to volunteer to work on recycling day with regulars Daphne Wright, Karen the Great Mills, and Sally Dybdahl. You can also call us if you would like to donate metals, and need to have them picked up.

Hoonah Recyclers hosted a **water table for Jeet's Challenge**, supplying water and encouragement to the runners. Our group included: Karen S. Mills, Daphne Wright, Gerred Garrison, Dietrich Lewis, Mary Beth Moss, Ruby 2 Wright, Sally Dybdahl, and HIA's Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition Woman's Advocate Karen Hinchman and her crew of George Westman and Mia Smith.



Thanks to all 42 volunteers for our Fall Clean Up on September 29th. We had a great sunny day, found lots of trash to pick up, and enjoyed pizza and prize drawings afterwards. Thanks to our partners: City of Hoonah, AML (Alaska Marine Lines) and ALPAR (Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling.)

Thanks to the Recyclers & the Hoonah Economic Development Council, **Pet Waste Stations** were purchased by the City of Hoonah. They are located at each end of Kéidladee Park's walking path and at each end of the Hoonah Veteran's Memorial Sea Walk. Funds for some of these stations came from an ALPAR grant received by Hoonah Recyclers. Thanks to Public Works Head Ryan Neal and Parks & Recreation Worker Moises Contreras, Sr., for being our partners. *And thank you to all responsible pet owners, for making use of the Pet Waste Stations.*

Fundraising Updates

Handmade Bookmarks Project

This has been an on-going activity for a number of years. Handmade dried-flower bookmarks are purchased and resold by our partners at Icy Strait Point; profits go into Student Activities. Thank you to Eleanor Davenport, Retail Manager at ISP, for appreciating the work that goes into these Hoonah wildflower creations. Bookmark-making attendees throughout the summer were: Linda Dellazoppa, Daphne Wright, Karen S. Mills, Glenda Hutton, Judy Hankla, Arely Wright, Shelly Hughes, Dominic Taylor Martin, Bristol Casperson, Carlynn Casperson, Sally Dybdahl. Thanks to William & Mary Johnson Youth Center for providing a location for us to meet.

Volunteer Tour Guides led Scavenger Hunts at ISP

for Disney cruise ship visitors this summer. In return, ISP will donate Zipline Rides for Two for Playground fundraising; they also will donate money to the playground fund. Volunteers for this project are pictured above, from left: Sheryl Ross, Sally Dybdahl, Wilma Davis and Daphne Wright. Also pictured are Koda the Bear, First Alaskans Intern Julia Gregory and ISP Product Supervisor Shawna Howland.



Other donations came in throughout the summer for the Hoonah Playground: Hoonah Travel Adventures & Icy Strait Brewing organized a Midnight Sun Run on June 21st, donating the profits. They also sold barbecued entrees at the 4th of July & donated proceeds. Grace Villarreal donated cakes and pies to be auctioned on the 4th, bringing in a tidy sum. Gunalchéesh to all for their help. Collection jars at Hoonah Trading Company, Hoonah Liquor, and Colette's Cupboard have yielded a steady income, as well.

City of Hoonah Parks and Recreation Info

William and Mary Johnson Youth Center Open Hours

- Monday 1:00 to 7:00
- Tues. Wed. Thurs. 2:00 to 9:00 (kids 6 to 11 go home at 7:00, except on a Friday Dance night, when they can stay until 9:30.)
- Fri. 2:00 to 11:00 – There is a dance every other Friday.
- Sat 1:00 to 11:00 (1:00 to 3:00 is Open Gym; kids are encouraged to go there and get some exercise.)
- On School In-service days –open at 1:00.
- Closed Sunday

Crafts Night at the Youth Center

is on Tuesday night from 7 to 9. It is open to anyone who wants to come and work on their own projects. Small children should not come unless their parent is doing a project with them. Teen night will be upstairs.



Thank you to HIA for the recent donation of a beautiful framed photograph of William Johnson, one of the people who donated the property for the Youth Center.

Thank you to Penny Miller for donating fabric to the Center.

Adult visitors are welcome; parents, family members, come see our facility and what is available for our kids here.

There might be a Halloween Costume Walk at the Youth Center – keep an eye for signs about it.

Swimming Pool Open Hours

- Mon. Wed. Fri. Sat. Open Swim 5 to 7 pm Laps 7 to 9 pm
- Morning Lap Swim Mon. Wed. Fri. 6 to 7:30 a.m.
- Admission: Kids \$2, Adults \$4
- Punch cards can be purchased at the pool.



Meanwhile, At The Park . . . We got a start on Summer Softball this year, and hope to really get it going next year. Thank you to the following for their volunteer help in getting softball organized: Police Chief Rick Groshong, Josh Huskey, Levi Mills and Heather Powell.

The big red container at the Park will be used as a concession stand and to store softball equipment in the future. We were able to buy it and work on it with funds from the Liquor Board.

Lost and Found at the Park is loaded with all kinds of forgotten stuff: bike helmets, jackets, hoodies, shoes and towels. Check it out; everything is on the covered bandstand.

Thank you to Hoonah Recyclers and the Hoonah Economic Development Council for purchasing Dog Waste Stations for the Park. We hope that dog owners will make use of them, and help keep our Park clean of doggie poop!

Open Gym Fall & Winter Schedule
Same hours as the pool. Open Gym is for adults and students aged 16 and up: admission is \$3.

Parks & Rec Advisory Board members: Robin Hasselquist, Marlene Duvall, Esther Heath, Kenya and Ray Skaflestad.

Thank you to Parks and Recreation Director Kris Skaflestad for providing the information and photos for this article.



Hoonah City Schools
P.O. Box 157
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Hoonah City Schools Newsletter
September-October 2018

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Dates to Remember

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| Robotics @ Thunder Mt. | Oct. 27 |
| Fall Carnival | Nov. 3 |
| Volleyball Region V Tourney @ Home | Nov. 15-17 |
| Thanksgiving Vacation | Nov. 22-23 |
| Parent-Teacher Conferences | Nov. 28-30 |
| Hoonah Community Theater Play | Dec. 6-7-8 |
| Robotics @ Juneau-Douglas | Dec. 14-15 |
| Christmas Bazaar | Dec. 15 |
| Winter Holiday Vacation | Dec. 24-Jan. 4 |
| School Resumes after Vacation | Jan. 7 |
| End of 2 nd Qt./1 st Semester | Jan. 17 |
| Spring Break | Mar. 18-22 |
| Last Day of School | May 16 |



Photos from Middle School/High School Electives, top left, Culinary Arts, top, Welding, left, Outdoor Environmental Science. Thank you to Clark Brown, Ralph Watkins and Veronica Dalton for these photos.

BoxTop\$ for Education collections continue. The next deadline for submission is November 1st. Thanks to Hoonah citizens, \$1599.07 in lifetime earnings have been submitted for Hoonah Elementary School. Send your Boxtops to school or put them in collection boxes at Colette's Cupboard, Hoonah Trading, and HIA.

