

Hoonah Schools Newsletter

November-December 2015

(Nov.) *Kukahaa Disi: The Month in Which You Start to Shovel Snow*

(Dec.) *L-kiyeekee.u.eix: The Month When You Can't See the Four Corners of the House*



Johnny Hinchman Builds 3d Printer

For HS Robotics class, Johnny Hinchman is building a 3d printer from nuts, bolts, rods, plates, wires, and more. There are literally hundreds of parts, and each one must be installed exactly according to highly technical instructions and illustrations.

But he is not done when he finishes assembly! He must calibrate the printer, which includes taking measurements to the 0.01mm and programming the print controller. Only then is he ready to become the class's 3d print operator, supplying printed parts for both team's robots.

Johnny has been invited to present at the Alaska SpaceGrant Symposium April 15-16 in Anchorage, Alaska. Most large high schools in Alaska now have 3d printers, but to my knowledge we are the only high school where students build 3d printers from parts (this is

Hoonah's 2nd build). All of this gives Johnny real 21st century skills needed by Alaska's job marketplace.

Photo: Johnny at work (everything shown was a pile of pieces before he started). Thank you to Robotics teacher Ben McLuckie for the story.

Morgan Stevenson Named UA Scholar

Congratulations to HCS 12th grader Morgan Stevenson, who recently received the University of Alaska Scholar Award. This award is a \$12,000 scholarship for use at any University of Alaska campus and goes to the top 10% of students at each high school in Alaska.

The purpose of the UA Scholars program is to provide an incentive for Alaska high school students to achieve academic excellence, to nourish efforts of schools to provide high quality education and to encourage the top high school graduates from every community in Alaska to attend the University of Alaska.

Morgan has not yet decided where she will attend college next year, though college is definitely in her plans. *In the photo, Morgan is shown with Chancellor of UAS Richard Caulfield and UA President James Johnsen at the reception held in Juneau for all of the UA Scholars in Southeast.*



Student Government First Semester Report

Student Government has been busy this first semester, planning events, and discussing cultural integration, and issues within our school. Five members of the government traveled to two conferences in October and November - the State Student Government Conference and a Leadership Institute at the State School Board Association Conference. At both conferences, they were able to connect with other students, learn about issues across the state, develop leadership skills, and acquire fresh ideas to bring back to Hoonah. Students were also invited to give input in the new superintendent search, as well as speak with Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins about issues in the state, how they

affect Hoonah, and ideas of how to strengthen the spirit of Hoonah in the student body.

In the coming semester, the Student Government has some exciting events and activities planned, including a Homecoming Week scheduled for January. We hope to connect with the Cultural Leadership Club and other stakeholders in these events. Please keep an eye on the bulletin and flyers around the school for information about these activities and how community members can get involved.

from Aimee Smith—Átk'aheení—Student Government Advisor

Superintendent's Message

To All of our Hoonah Families****May your Winter Holiday Be Starry and Bright***



Boots, gloves, hats, and mittens are the stylish apparel of anyone in Alaska. It means extra minutes to get ready and extra time to go home each day. It is part of our season, like hunting for deer meat, catching a winter King, or savoring our frozen berries. Every one of these daily

moments should be savored, as life is precious and a gift.

If you know of a child who needs a coat, gloves, or boots, please drop a line to Carol at williamsc@hoonahschools.org or call 945.3611 and we will see that the student is warm and dry on their walk to school.

Our Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) results should be arriving in your mailbox. Do not worry if they look very different-- they are; if you don't understand the results, we are all learning; if you want help, we have an answer. On Monday January 18th at 5:30PM, join us in the school cafeteria for a light dinner. At that meeting, Principal Lorrie Scoles or I will do our best to help you understand your child's results. We hope you will join us for AMP questions and answers.

Remember: our doors are open for breakfast for you and your family every day. It is a time for you to sit with your children, meet their friends, or chat with teachers or others.

Thank you for all of your support. Every child has a chance to succeed if their family supports them. We cannot do it without you. Best wishes for a blessed beginning to 2016.

Your child's superintendent,

Dr. PJ

Season's Greetings from Your School Board!

As I mentioned in my last column, the board deeply regrets that Superintendent PJ Ford Slack must leave us at the end of this school year. Hiring a new superintendent is arguably your board's most important responsibility.

In November we contracted with the Alaska Association of School Boards (AASB) to do a superintendent search. Our online advertisement was posted the week after Thanksgiving. The ad describes specifically what qualities we are looking for in a superintendent. The ad is located here:

<http://aasb.org/superintendent/vacancies/>

The closing date for applications is January 30th. Applicants will be vetted by AASB and the application materials of qualified applicants will be presented to the board at an executive session on February 15th, at which time the board will choose up to 3 finalists. On February 26th and 27th, the finalists will come to Hoonah to tour our community and school, to meet with community members and students, and to be interviewed by the board. A final decision for hire will be made during an executive session on the evening of the 27th, and a contract will be offered to one of the finalists at that time. We will have a new superintendent hired by the end of February who will begin work on July 1, 2016.

Perhaps the second most important task of the school board is to ensure that a Strategic Plan is created on a regular basis. A Strategic Plan serves as a guide for the school, articulating the district's vision and mission, as well as specifying goals and objectives that should be met during the next several years. The strategic planning committee will consist of about 15 members who are representative of the diversity within our community. Education Consultant Jerry Covey, former Commissioner of Education for the State of Alaska, will facilitate the strategic planning process. The committee will meet from March 3rd through the 5th and will present the board with a new Strategic Plan to approve and implement by our regular meeting in March.

Please address any questions or concerns to me via email at huttonr@hoonahschools.org or by voice or text to 907-209-0996.

*Bob Hutton
Board President*

About this newsletter: this publication is a project of the Hoonah City Schools Title VII Native Education Program. Its purpose is to inform families and the rest of the community about what is happening at school. Please contact Daphne Wright at 723-1223 (email wrightd@hoonahschools.org with questions or suggestions about this project.

♪♪ Notes from the Music Department ♪♪

***Following up a festive Winter Concert on December 8th, the Hoonah High School Band is now gearing up for Pep Band season to play music at basketball home games in January & February. In addition to our regular Spring Concert, the band will be preparing for travel to perform at Southeast Regional Music Festival in Ketchikan April 14-16. This is also where students audition for the Alaska State Solo & Ensemble Festival, which takes place May 5-6 in Anchorage. Gunalchéesh to all the families, school staff, and community members who come out and support our students playing music!

*****Congratulations to Jordan McLuckie** for her achievements at the All-State Music Festival in November. She was 'seeded' 7th from her qualifying audition out of 68 submissions. Then from the chair auditions at the Festival, she moved up to the 2nd chair in 2nd violins, considered the 4th chair among 40 qualifiers in the violin section, and just a foot from the conductor's baton!---Bonnie Harris, Hoonah High School Band Director



First Quarter Honor Roll

"A" Honor Roll for students with a Grade Point

Average of 3.33 - 4.00

Middle School

Aja Marks
Orion Osborne
Dakota Garrison
Duane Jack
Cooper Ross
Ethan Ruerup
Kaylahni Bidiman
Halle Budke
Sofia Comolli
Arianna Hinchman
Liyah Jewell
Zada Michel
McKayla Sheakley

High School

Sophia Henry
Justin McConnell
Leticia Skaflestad
Johnny Hinchman
Alaska Skaflestad
Kelsey Thein
DongQiang Liu
Jordan McLuckie
Morgan Stevenson

"B" Honor Roll for students with a Grade Point

Average of 3.00 - 3.32

Olivia Morrison
Esias Kohler
Xaviery Sharclane

Jeffrey Devlin
Ronie Roberts
Cecelia George
Austin Martuscelli

***The elementary and middle school students recently performed at their winter concert. If you attended and supported our students, gunalchéesh haat yee.adi! The students had a blast sharing what they've been learning. The Preschool through 5th grade students put together a multicultural holiday celebration, including games of children from across cultures and looking at commonalities among our holidays and theirs. The middle school students have been learning second instruments and exploring jazz concepts. Both elementary and middle school students will be expanding the types of music explored and mediums that they will perform with in the coming semester. Gunalchéesh for supporting our students!

Aimee Smith, Átk'aheení, K-8 Music Director



The Middle School band, directed by Aimee Smith, played a short Christmas concert for the elementary students during lunch a few days before vacation.

THANK YOU Hoonah! Hoonah City Schools is so grateful to everyone who came to the Christmas Bazaar on December 5th. We raised \$1060 from table rentals, Mystery Gifts and the Silent Auction. The money will be used to help buy new equipment for the playground, and the Junior Class, who helped clean up, will receive additional funds for the Prom in May. A very special thank you to Alice Williams, Ruth and Bill Brown, Kris Skaflestad, Nicki Shelton, Chris Greenwald, Lorrie Scoles, Karen Mills, and Frank and Daphne Wright for donating gift items to the Silent Auction and Mystery Gifts tables. *Photo: Kelsey Thein and Kayla Wolfe had a gift-wrapping table at the Bazaar.*





Valarie Williams, Mary Jack, Lt. Gov. Byron Mallott, Randy Roberts, Raymond Osborne, Ben McLuckie, Sam Sheakley, Amelia Wilson

HCS Cultural Leadership Club Trip to Elders and Youth & AFN

The HCS Cultural Leadership Club was honored with another amazing opportunity to travel to the Elders and Youth Conference and Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN). This was the club's second year participating in Elders and Youth and the first time staying for AFN. The conference offered motivational and educational speakers and panels as well as many opportunities to meet new people and network with other emerging leaders. The group also saw many wonderful cultural performance events. The 2015 theme "Not in Our Smokehouse!" was created by village youth, and represents the protection and love we feel for our people and our Alaska Native Ways of Life.

The conference strengthens the knowledge and self-confidence of Native people to speak out and to create change within themselves and in their communities. It celebrates the Alaska Native intellect. And, it encourages young people and elders alike to pursue the great task of maintaining our traditional Native values and practices, while thriving in the modern world. Our youth did an awesome job of representing our community. They were engaged, attentive and respectful, learning and sharing throughout the conference. If you would like to know more about the Elders and Youth conference, you can get more information online at www.firstalaskans.org

A special thanks goes to Sarah Dybdahl and the Huna Heritage Foundation for their generous financial assistance in making this trip possible. Other funds that made the trip a reality came from the 1% sales tax for student activities. The Cultural Leadership Club is extremely grateful for this support in ensuring our youth and community are able to represent Hoonah, the largest Tlingit community, at Elders and Youth and AFN. A big thank you also goes to long



time HCS teacher, Ben McLuckie, who attended as the male chaperone. The strengthening of the participants' cultural and leadership foundation is priceless and we are all so grateful for the support of the school, the parents, community and event sponsors.

Youth Perspectives on Our Trip:

"AFN is important because we need to know what's going on in our state. It's such a great experience going to Anchorage to see new stuff that we thought we would never get to see except on TV. It's great to see new people and meet people like the Lt. Governor. And, it's awesome seeing different Native dance groups. AFN and Elders and Youth are NEEDED for us." –Raymond Osborne

"I think we should be going to AFN every year because it helps us to be more involved in our culture and we can make the future for the next generation better by being able to teach them what we learned by attending AFN. Being able to attend Elders and Youth was amazing, to be able to learn about other cultures in Alaska and to teach them about ours." –Cecelia George

"I think AFN is important because it's the biggest Native gathering in Alaska. If you want to be in Native politics you have to get used to going to these types of conferences. Everybody in Alaskan politics goes to this conference, regional corporations, village corporations, the Governor and Lt. Governor of Alaska and people from the White House. If you want to be in politics, this is what you want to be going to." –Randy Roberts



"Attending Elders and Youth and AFN means learning more about our culture, meeting new people and learning what other towns are doing. By participating we become better able to help the kids in our community." – Valarie Williams

"I think we should go to Elders and Youth and AFN every year because we are the largest Tlingit community and should be represented there. With our language dying, they have great ideas that we can take away from it to try to save our language." – Mary Jack



"Elders and Youth and AFN helps us to be open-minded and gain knowledge. We learn more Tlingit, meet new people, know our place in Alaska and learn new things like how to make medicine." –Sam Sheakley

Gunalchéesh to group advisor Amelia Wilson for this article, and for her important role in shaping our future leaders.

Native Education News Notes

Hoonah City Schools has been awarded a three-year ANEP (Alaska Native Education Program) grant, titled: **Haa Kusteeyí Áyá**. This three-year grant is funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

The purpose of this grant is to increase our students' academic success and graduation rate. Another area of focus is to increase participation in early learning programs and to increase family involvement in cultural education. This grant will support additional Lingít resource and opportunities for our students.

In January our Community Partners will gather to form the Advisory Council, to be known as **"Aadaa wduwanaaGí aa"**----those who support us. Community Partners will include representatives from Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA), Hoonah Indian Association, Huna Heritage Foundation, University of Alaska Southeast, and Southeast Regional Resource Center, as well as a local elder, parents, and students.



Heather Powell (Lgeik'í) has begun working for our Hoonah City Schools students as the new ANEP Project Director and Tlingit Language Teacher; she is very excited to be moving home and joining the current Tlingit Language team! Heather says that in the next three years,

"we will work as a team to increase the use of Lingít yóo x'atángi (Tlingit language) in everything that we do." Interested in contacting her? Feel free to email her at lgeiki@hoonahschools.org. In the photo with Heather are her children Sophie, RJ, and Ava.

Two activities (Beading and Song & Dance) supported by the new ANEP grant are described below:

Tlingit Beading Class

This year, students in grades 5 to 8 can participate in a traditional Tlingit beading class. The class meets every day from 3:30 to 4:30; the students are able to create one piece of traditional regalia. The finest supplies were purchased to enhance this class – the best quality felt, beads, and everything else that may be needed to insure a high degree of success.

The beading instructor, Carol Williams, is working with the students, giving daily lessons. Once this class is completed, students will be invited to participate in another activity – possibly Ravenstail Weaving, basket weaving, or making moccasins. This program is supported by the ANEP grant which is focusing on building the skills of the HCS students.

Song and Dance

Every Friday, from 1:30 to 2:30, students in grades K to 5 are able to participate in a traditional song and dance class that is facilitated by Carol Williams. Students are learning traditional songs, given dance instruction, given leadership roles, and are just having fun! This program is brought to you by the ANEP grant, which is designed to bring more cultural activities to our HCS students. "The enthusiasm of the students is remarkable and it is nice to see them enjoying themselves," stated Carol.

AUNTIE'S House---Saturdays at the Salvation Army

With the networking of the Hoonah Salvation Army, the assistance from SEARHC Behavioral Health and the coordinating skills from Title VII Indian Education – we are pleased to announce that we will be having "Auntie's House" meetings beginning the first Saturday in January at the Salvation Army Building from 11:00 to 3:00. Community members are encouraged to bring their crafts for this fun and social gathering. Some supplies and three sewing machines will be made available. Folks will be able to bring their felt and create traditional Tlingit blankets if they wish. Beading, crochet, knitting, basket weaving or crafts of any kind are welcome. Bring your quilting and finish that project!

If you plan on staying the entire four hours – you may wish to pack yourself a sack lunch. There is no fee involved. Come and join us – it will be much more fun if you are there! For more information, please contact Carol at 723-0723. Gunalchéesh!

Tlingit Study Group Fall Session

Our Study Group this fall met a total of 13 times between late August and early December. We had 15 different individuals attend at least one meeting, with many attending well over half. This session focused on basic pronunciation, kinship terms, and feelings vocabulary. At one meeting, we brought family pictures and shared them with the group, using Tlingit language to explain what family members were in the photos. We also tried out a new game, a variation on the old "Ast'eix Nagú" (Go Fish) card game that we've played before. This new game uses feelings vocabulary and picture cards.

We will start up again in mid January and keep going until early May. Tlingit Study Group is free, and open to all, regardless of prior language experience. Meetings are held Wednesday evenings from 6 to 7:30 in the Tlingit classroom (Room 102 of the Elementary School.) Gunalchéesh once again to Deiwjee (Genevieve Cook) for helping us! Call Daphne Wright 723-1223 with questions about Study Group.

Thanks for Carnival Help

Our Fall Carnival on October 30th was a great success, with lots of fun for all ages. This opportunity to raise money for clubs, organizations, and the playground was amazing! We have quite a list of folks to thank; without all the donations and volunteers, this event would not be possible. Our apologies if this list is incomplete.

Major Gratitude goes to Kendra Hill, Kathy Harris, Mary Beth Moss, Lorrie Scoles, Daphne Wright, Amy Stevenson, Sally Dybdahl, Kristi Styers, Jeremiah Byers, Corbin Harris, and Jeremy Martin for all their work for the cause!

Help at **ticket sales** was provided by Ladonna Dybdahl, Glenda Hutton, Mary Comolli, Sandy Howard, Lorrie Scoles, and Sally Dybdahl. **Prize Booth Help** included Wilbur Skeek, Lorrie Scoles, Bob Barton, Sally Dybdahl, Natalie Elias, and Bobby Hughes.

Accounting helpers included Steve Berry, Amy Stevenson, Karen the Great, Lorrie Scoles, Jackie Dick, and Sally Dybdahl.

Auction Donations were received from: Marti & Jack Lee, Emma Lee, Jessie Fred, Debbie Picken, Hoonah Cold Storage, Hoonah Indian Association, Hoonah Trading, Rie Munoz Gallery, Gus's Marine, Sally Dybdahl, Pearl Miller, Hill Fuel, Huna Totem Corporation, Candy Keown & Lisa Andersson, Proceeds from the Auction went into the fund for a new playground. Thank you to Auction workers Luke Meyers and Bob Hutton.

Food Booth-- Gunalchéesh to all who helped to make this year's Food Booth a success; this Booth raised over \$2000, which will go into the Playground Fund. Thank you to Mary Beth Moss and Kaz Harris for running the Food Booth this year. And thank you to the following for donations: Costco, Hilltop Services, Colette's Cupboard, Hoonah City Schools, Hoonah Trading, Hoonah Liquor Store, Kristi Styers, Sally Dybdahl, Jen Bidiman and Tom Botts. Thank you to frybread makers: Christina Dick, Hattie Dalton, Sharon Hill, Kathy Marvin, George Westman and Mildred Wright.

Food Booth Workers-- Thank you to all those who volunteered at the Food Booth: Kaz Harris, Mary Beth Moss, Sharon Hill, Trevor Hill, Steve Berry, Pearl Miller, Owena James, Fran Dalton, Judy Bitz, Wilbur Skeek, Marilyn Wolfe, Anasia Neal and Owen James.

Big thanks to **Wings/Fjord Flying** for flying our Carnival freight in for free.

Bingo: The Junior Class would like to say Gunalchéesh to the following good folks who donated prizes for Bingo: Icy Strait Lodge, Turnagain Marine (fuel provided by Hill Fuel), Rejuvenation Salon and Spa, Super Bear, Sherrie Stears, Emma Lee, Frank Wright, Jr., Linda Belarde, Nugget

Alaska Outfitters, Terri & Chris Budke, Pearl Miller, Wilma & Randy Davis, Huna Totem, Lisa Andersson & Candy Keown. The Juniors who ran the Bingo Booth along with their advisor Stephanie Harold were: Vanessa Contreras, Sam Sheakley, Cecelia George, Alaska Skaflestad and Austin Martuscelli. They also want to thank the volunteers who helped them that night: Amelia Lafferty, Joeleen Koenig, Esther Heath and Toni Thomas.

A big Gunalchéesh goes to all of the kind folks who donated baked goodies to the **Carnival Bake Sale**: Sally & Paul Dybdahl, Mary Beth Moss & Owen James, Karen TG Mills, Marti Lee, Elena Leinberger & Donovan, Bob & Glenda Hutton, Bonnie Harris, Kathy Marvin, Jen Bidiman, Dottie Johanson, Chris Greenwald, Icy Strait Point, Marlene Duvall, Sarah Lampe, Myrtle Brogdon, Phyllis Tischer and Nicki Shelton. And another BIG Gunalchéesh to the **Bake Sale workers**: Marti Lee, Karen TG Mills and Mary Cook. Proceeds from this Booth will go towards the Tlingit Language Program and the Playground Fund.

PLAYGROUND NEWS:

Hoonah Fun & Fit Partnership received \$1000 donations from the Hoonah Liquor Board in September, October, and November for playground renovations.

Playground Committee members Mary Beth Moss and Marlene Duvall collaborated on coin jars at L. Kane, Hoonah Liquor, and Colette's Cupboard that have yielded \$131.00+ so far. Many thanks to parent Wilbur Skeek for serving on the Committee, as well.

Many contributed and helped with fundraising at our Fall Carnival, where \$5559.50 was raised for the cause.

Karl Croft from exerplay.com is sending plans put together from input from students, staff, and parents/community members at his visit this fall. In the photos below, elementary students work on plans for the new playground equipment.

Thank you to Glenda Hutton, who organized a wonderful Holiday Christmas Bazaar December 5th. Proceeds from table rentals, silent auction items, and mystery gifts will benefit our playground, also.

Concession stands sales during home basketball games will benefit the effort, as well.



Song-writing Workshop Funded by NEA Grant

Hoonah City School District (HCS D) is one of 33 recipients across the nation of a 2015 National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grant. HCS D's grant award of \$20,000 will support a traditional Tlingit song-writing workshop for high school students. The "Imagine Your Park" grant program is part of a collaborative effort between NEA and the National Park Service (NPS) to encourage the creation of art associated with the National Park System. It honors the NEA's 50th anniversary in 2015 as well as the National Park Service's centennial in 2016.

In addition to NEA grant funds, the \$100,000+ project is made possible with financial and in-kind support from the National Park Service, Hoonah Indian Association (HIA), Hoonah City School District and generous in-kind support from Sea Wolf Adventures and Adventures Afloat.



Throughout the upcoming year, community elders and culture bearers will continue to share the rich history of the Huna Tlingit as captured in existing clan-owned songs. Then, in late spring 2016, students will explore Glacier Bay aboard the charter vessels M/V Sea Wolf and the M/V Valkyrie, visiting sites

associated with existing clan songs and seeking inspiration for new traditional songs. Over the course of the journey, elders, culture bearers, teachers, and NPS staff will encourage students to incorporate traditional knowledge, ancestral voices, natural history, poetry, art, music, and their own experiences in Glacier Bay into new chants and songs. Dr. PJ Ford Slack, HCS D Superintendent said, "This collaborative project will give our students an opportunity to join their voices to those of their ancestors." She noted that student leadership and creativity are important components of the HCS curriculum, a philosophy echoed by HCS Principal, Lorrie Scoles: "While the project will certainly engage students in language arts, music, visual arts, and history, we are as focused on teaching students that they themselves are agents of history. We

believe this project will empower students to 'write their own history.'"

Upon their return to the classroom, students will refine their songs, make and adorn traditional drums, and choreograph dance movements. The 2016 Grand Opening Celebration of the Huna Tribal House – or Xunaa Shuká Hít – scheduled for late August 2016 in Bartlett Cove, Glacier Bay National Park – will provide the perfect opportunity for students to perform their newly composed songs. HIA Tribal Administrator, Bob Starbard emphasized that the songs will be a lasting means of documenting the Tribal House dedication ceremonies, noting that "many of our Glacier Bay songs are about leaving our beloved homeland. This project will encourage tribal members, particularly our tribal youth, to compose songs that celebrate our return." The long-awaited Tribal House is envisioned as a place where tribal members and park visitors can honor and learn more about Tlingit life ways and traditions.

Mary Beth Moss, NPS cultural anthropologist, noted that the project is a natural extension of collaborative "Journey to Homeland" trips which have connected Huna clan members with homeland for more than twenty years. "We hope this project will inspire Huna youth to develop their own connection to homeland and to document and celebrate that connection through traditional song."

Philip Hooge, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve Superintendent stated, "We are excited that the National Park Service and National Endowment for the Arts partnership – "Imagine Your Parks" – might broaden and enhance our long-term commitment to connecting diverse people to Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. In particular, it provides us another opportunity to strengthen the connection between the Huna Clans and their traditional homeland."

Photos: left, Cecelia George and right, Mary Jack. Gunalchéesh to Mary Beth Moss for the article and photos.



Writing from the Middle School Class



In Back

By Halle Budke

The woods in the back of my house are deadly; it's not the woods themselves, it's the terror inside the woods.

Once you enter the woods, the crunchy spruce needles become your footstep; the wind becomes your cry; the branches are your bullies. You may not see it, you may not hear it, but something is watching you. This thing may be alone, but if you are unlucky, there may be many, many more.

You run, but you can't hide. Your spruce footsteps bellow louder and louder with each step. Your soft cry blows through the trees like the wind. The branches leave you bruised and in pain. When you try to flee, you can't because they are too strong for you.

Your brain becomes stiff. It begins to believe that it will never survive. Your life counts down: 5, 4, 3, 2, . . .

You open your tear-stained eyes, and there it is, the most beautiful thing: your red and black house. You enter and never leave without permission from your parents again.

No More Play Time

By Sofia Comolli

The big blue slide was giving me rug burns up and down my arms and legs.

The stairs were slippery with sweaty kid feet residue. The whole room reeked of burgers and onions. The tic-tac-toe blocks were crusted with dried ketchup and slobber.

Wrappers covered every table, and crumbs lay all over the floor. There were thick pieces of bubblegum under the tables, semi hard and sticky. The thick, rounded window was fogged over by people's breath and scratched by long fingernails.

Suddenly, there were shrieking kids running in every direction, making me cringe. Some of them surrounded me. I wished I could leave.

Soon enough, I heard my dad call my name.



"Coming, Dad." I walked away slowly, turning my back, knowing I wouldn't come to the McDonald's play area ever again.

My Name's Story

By Zada Michel

"Well, Grandma, you're smart," Melissa said, sitting down to rest her swollen belly. "I need help choosing a name for my baby girl."

Delores walked over carrying a spatula and said with the biggest grin on her face, "What are the names you have?"

"There's Jessica, Alexis, and Zada."

After considering all the names, Delores smiled and said, "I think you should name her Zada after my mother because, honestly, Jessica sounds stupid, and Alexis is pretty but it's just not fitting."

Just then Melissa's fiancé Garry came in from work. "I was standing outside for a couple of minutes listening to you guys talk," he said with his British accent. "Mel, I think Dee is right. Zada is a beautiful name, and it's perfect for our baby."

Melissa still wasn't sure about this name, so she still thought long and hard with her fiancé Garry and her grandma Dee. The baby was three months away from coming into this world, and she still wasn't sure about a name.

Mel and Dee went through many lists of names, some of them just random, made-up names. After months of looking for names and what-not, Melissa went into labor. After many hours of complications and waiting, the baby was here and in perfect health.

Melissa held her baby with Garry next to her and said, "You and Grammy were right. Zada is the perfect name for her."

In the year of 1928, Cecilia Moore gave birth to her baby girl, Zada Moore. Zada didn't name any of her kids after herself. After four generations, Melissa named me Zada, making me the first Zada in the fifth generation.



News from the Fifth Grade Class

How the time passes when you are busy learning! We have had a very busy first half of the year and are excited to continue in January.

The fifth grade class has continued our study of Colonial America and moved straight into the American Revolution. In order to make the most of our time, we have been integrating our study into Reading and Writing to meet standards in English Language Arts and History. Students have been busy reading nonfiction articles based on historical events, developing timelines, and reading historical fiction to help develop their own colonial characters and narratives. The use of nonfiction articles has given us the chance to learn highlighting and notation skills useful in developing a "conversation with the text." Our dive into historical fiction has allowed us to practice our conversational skills through Socratic Seminars where we discuss our observations, connections, questions, and predictions about what we are reading. Throughout our study, students have been using strong verbs to develop and analyze higher-level questions. They have been working to answer these questions using evidence from the text, sharing their responses both in writing and in group discussions.

In math, we have continued our study of multiplication and division through the use of area models, ratio tables, and number lines. We have also been looking at how to decompose numbers to solve multiplication and division problems more efficiently. Within our work, we have discussed the importance of flexibility when working with numbers and how greater flexibility lends itself to greater



"number sense." We have also been working to represent equivalent fractions with multiple models and building a conceptual background for adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions.



High School & Kindergarten Reading Buddies

Kindergarten students have high school reading buddies who come and read with them as a community service component of their advisory program in career exploration. Cross-age reading helps unify school goals by building Elementary/High School relationships, enjoyment of books, and students' knowledge of reading processes.

Kindergartners are proud to receive a sticker for each reading session.



Left: Together in the Reading Boat: Leticia & Harlee

Photo, right: HCS students Josh Wright and Edward Williams read aloud to their kindergarten reading buddies Riley and Lauren.

The HCS Annual Book Fair

Our school had another amazing Book Fair this year. Thank you to everyone who helped put it on and everyone who came to buy books. All profits go straight back into the library and allow us to buy more books. It was wonderful seeing the excitement in the kids' eyes over new reading material. This year was the highest in sales over the past three years, with total sales of \$4995.42 and a profit to the library of \$2,145.10! Thank you Hoonah, for the investment in our children and for promoting the joy of reading.



News from the 3th-4th Grade Class

As the holidays are upon us, it gives us time to reflect on things we've learned or reviewed. In writing, we spent time learning about the "Ideas" and "Word Choice" traits. We've also been "Tuning in to Vocabulary" in reading, which in turn helps us during writing. This class loves keeping track of interesting words they've found and can use in their writing. In November, we completed a letter-writing unit and took a field trip to the post office to mail the letters. Our class would like to say a huge "Thank you" to Mark and Joyce for giving us a tour while there! This month, we learned about persuasive writing and practiced by writing letters to Santa.

We are wrapping up our water unit in Science. We had a great time making our own thermometers. We learned about water expanding when it heats and contracting when it gets cold. We saw this firsthand when we built the thermometers. The students also learned that water is less dense when it is warm, and more dense the colder it gets. We could see colored hot water rise from a vial and make a layer on the top of room temperature water, while the cold water stayed in a vial at the bottom of a cup of room temperature water because it was more dense.

In Tlingit class during the month of November, Mrs. Wright reviewed basic food vocabulary with us, and taught us some handy phrases that we might ask each other while eating a meal. The class spent lunchtime eating together the day before Thanksgiving, and had a chance to practice these Tlingit phrases. We also had time to share things that we were thankful for. I was very touched by how genuine they were, sharing what they were thankful for.

We have been enjoying ourselves during Number Corner in math collecting classroom items that weigh enough grams to equal one kilogram. We also collected 250 ml of water a day for every day of the month of November to see how many liter bottles we would fill up. We found out we were able to fill 7 1/2 liters. Besides Number Corner activities, the students are learning about equivalent fractions, finding area and perimeter of shapes, learning about the attributes of different geometric shapes, using different multiplication models to solve problems and much more.

Finally, we would like



The 3rd-4th grade class enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal together and practiced Tlingit phrases about food and eating.

to thank all of the families that have provided snack for our class. We are so appreciative! Happy holidays!

Until next time,
Jen Bidiman

Hello from the 1st and 2nd grade class!

It sure has been one busy semester here in our class. The fall brought on so much learning from becoming independent readers, to subitizing math concepts (which means internalizing and applying them fluently), to becoming very familiar with the plants and animals in our environment. As a part of our FOSS science curriculum we learned the cycle of plants by growing plants from nodes and bulbs and from seeds. We have some budding botanists! We would like to thank the Savlands and Mrs. Bidiman for allowing us to observe and enjoy apples from their trees.

Our annual Fall Carnival sure was a lot of fun this year. We would like to thank all of you who contributed to our booths; the Cake Walk and the Ring-A-Pop. Our class earned \$600! A special thank you goes to Kimberly Savland, Joann & Andy Wolfe, Judy Bitz and Jiel Constantino for helping on the night of the Carnival. Many hands make light work. Also, thank you Kendra Hill for organizing the whole event.

We rounded our semester out with a fun unit on energy, electricity, charge and light. It was a lot of fun to get hands on with this concept and get all charged up! Additionally, we went to the Hoonah Power Plant for a quick tour of how we receive electricity in our homes. Thank you Don Bolton for taking time out of your day to share with us. It was very informative and a lot of fun.

A few final remarks before we begin our last semester of the year, I would like to thank all of my students' families for your tireless effort to make your child's learning such an enjoyable adventure. Thanks for your donation of time and supplies. It is greatly appreciated. Furthermore, a special thanks goes to Marlene Duvall, Kimberly Savland, and Bonnie Skaflestad for volunteering their time.

Until next time; and we hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mrs. Fuller's Class



Cultural Happenings at HIA

The Hoonah Indian Association (HIA) has commissioned

Master Carver **Wayne Price** (Eagle/Wooshkeetaan) of Haines to carve two 40' spruce dugout canoes to lead the Huna Káawu back home to Glacier Bay for the **Xunaa Shuká Hít** (Tribal House) Dedication on: August 25, 2016. The blessing of the logs took place on Nov. 12th during the Clan Conference. Our amazing youth and elders didn't let the weather put a damper on this wonderful history-making ceremony. Hoonah has been without traditional dugout canoes for too long. Wayne and his apprentices **James Hart** and **Zach James** (Raven/Kiksadi), also of Haines, and Wayne's saw

man, **Dave Jensen** (Raven/Dog Salmon) of Ketchikan have been diligently working to make this dream become a reality. Community members are welcome to continue to come by and take part in this amazing project. You can learn how to use an adze (no experience is necessary), make a paddle or help collect the wood chips so people can write a name of someone who is dealing or has dealt with substance abuse challenges (past or present) or any type of abuse. Later on down the road the chips will be burned at a healing ceremony.



Master Carver Wayne Price and crew making great progress on one of the dugout canoes.

and **Mary Marks** for demonstrating how to make deer stew for our community dinner. Of course, thanks to those who took the time to come and share good food and sang and danced with us! HIA would like to also thank the **Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) of Rural Cap, The Wise Families Program (SEARHC)** for their support in helping make these cultural activities possible.

Other news: pre-K through 12th grade students will be making various art projects to help prepare for the upcoming Tribal House dedication. Aatlein gunalchéesh to **Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA)** and the **Hoonah Liquor Board** for their generous donations to this project.

If you are interested in making a Ravenstail medicine bag, please come by to fill out an application at HIA; the cost of the class is \$20.



Anyone wishing to volunteer their help with the

dedication of the Xunaa Shuká Hít should contact Darlene See, HIA Cultural Specialist and Tribal House Coordinator. The number at HIA is 945-3545.

Photo at right: Leona completed her Ravenstail Medicine Bag!

HIA would like to thank the following people for sharing their precious time and knowledge:

Charlie Wright for getting a deer and demonstrating how to skin and cut it up; **Raino Hill**, who allowed us to use his covered area to be out of the elements; **Kathy Marvin** for teaching participants how to make fry bread; **Sam Willard**



Elder Ken Grant encouraging students to respond in Tlingit to Elder Herman Davis during Clan Conference.



Treston Lafferty, Raymond Osborne, Alaska Skaflestad, Sam Sheakley, Ronie Roberts, Jerry White, Morgan Stevenson, Justin McConnell, Leticia Skaflestad, Randy Roberts, Monique Glover, Manny Budke Edward Williams. Front: Cecelia George

Varsity Volleyball Season Wrap-up

The Hoonah Braves Mixed 6 Volleyball Team ended their season at the Regional Tournament in Thorne Bay, where they finished in 3rd place after an upset by the Kake Thunderbirds.

Congratulations to the following for earning individual honors at regionals: Sam Sheakley and Morgan Stevenson were selected to the Good Sport Team. Morgan was also on the All Academic Team. Alaska Skaflestad was the Passing Competition Champion, and Morgan was the Runner-Up. Raymond Osborne was the Runner-Up for the Serving Competition. Jerry White, Manny Budke, and Morgan were selected to the All-Conference Team.

The Braves Volleyball Team represented Hoonah well across the board. Although they would have liked to attend the State Tournament, they were happy to be home after regionals, and were looking forward to basketball season. Go Braves!

Coach Jessie Dybdahl



Middle School Basketball

The Middle School Braves Basketball Team from the Icebreaker Tournament in Juneau. The ladies came in 4th after winning 2 of 4 tough games and the guys finished 7th after playing the best middle school teams in Southeast. All players improved through the season and we can look forward to their contributions to Braves basketball teams in the future.

Coach Pete

Nutrition Nook

“Eat your breakfast! It’s the most important meal of the day!” Why are parents always saying that?

Well, imagine you’re a car. After a long night of sleeping, your fuel tank is empty. Breakfast is the fuel that gets you going so you can hit the road.

What should you eat?

Any breakfast is better than no breakfast, but try not to have pastries or doughnuts all the time. They’re high in calories, sugar and fat. They also don’t contain the nutrients a kid really needs. And if you have a doughnut for breakfast, you won’t feel full for long.

Just like with other meals, try to eat a variety of foods, including:

fruit, vegetables, grains (make at least half your grains whole grains), protein (meat, poultry, fish, eggs, dry beans, nuts and seeds), dairy products (low-fat or fat-free milk, cheese and yogurt.)

Thank You for Ceramics Program Support

Native Strategies awarded a grant in the amount of \$2500 to support a ceramics program here at Hoonah Schools. This funding is provided through community development contract project funds earned by Native Strategies to support youth and women-led projects that make a difference in native communities.

ANB Grand Camp made a donation of \$2,787 to support the ceramics program, also.

These funds will be used to purchase the equipment and supplies, such as a kiln, glazes, clay, and ceramic tools, to start a ceramics program.

Yearbook

In the coming semester, the Yearbook Club will be working hard to design and build Hoonah’s yearbook. More details will be released about purchase at a later date. If you have pictures of HCS events, stories to share, or are interested in purchasing ad space in the yearbook, please email Aimee Smith at smitha@hoonahschools.org. Gunalchéesh for your help!

Aimee Smith, Átk’aheení
Yearbook Advisor

Varsity Wrestling: Coach's Report

Hoonah has a rich and proud tradition of producing hard-working, skilled wrestlers. It has been an honor to be a part of keeping that tradition alive by coaching the Hoonah Braves wrestlers who finished the season. Juniors Manny Budke – 132 lbs, Randy Roberts - 138

lbs, Kelsey Thein - 160 lbs, and sophomore Brandon Guthrie - 170lbs. Their dedication showed, as their season included attending daily morning conditioning

workouts and after school technical practices, and competing at tournaments in Wrangell, Ketchikan, Anchorage, Craig and Petersburg. Just for fun the team took a 6-mile run to Seamart while on layover in Sitka!

Brandon Guthrie placed 3rd at the Wrangell and Craig tournaments, 4th in Ketchikan, and currently stands with a record of 11-9. He has finished several overtime nail-biter matches, including a triple overtime thriller. His favorite takedown is the two-on-one fireman's carry. Good work Brandon!

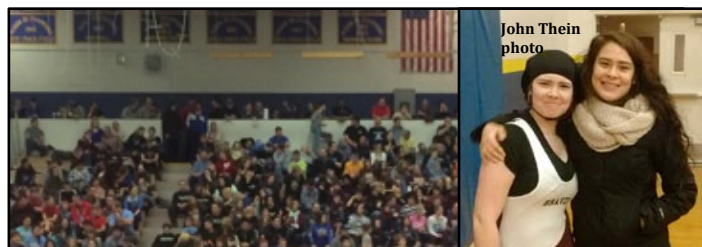
Kelsey Thein has shown that it is never too late to join a sport, led the way as a female wrestler in a predominantly male sport (which is changing quickly in southeast Alaska and elsewhere), and become more fit through effort. Even though Kelsey knew it would be challenging wrestling against mostly boys during the season, she has given it her best and learned many wrestling moves and strategies. In addition, she has been a valuable wrestling partner for her teammates all season. Along the way she has experienced both victory and defeat in matches and learned from those experiences. Way to hang in there Kelsey!

Randy Roberts set personal goals at the beginning of the season and has worked steadily towards them. He currently has a record of 4-11 with all wins coming by pin. Randy placed 4th in the Craig Scramble, 3rd in the Craig Tournament and 6th in Ketchikan's tournament. His weight class is considered to be one of the toughest in Alaska this season. He has a great double leg takedown. Congrats on a job well done Randy!

Manny Budke has had a stellar season. Wrangell...1st place. Ketchikan...1st place. Anchorage...2nd place including defeating the 5th, 6th and 1st ranked opponents in Alaska. Craig Scramble...1st place. Craig tournament...2nd place. He was the 2nd ranked wrestler in Alaska in his weight class after the Anchorage tournament. Manny was selected as the Outstanding Wrestler for his come-from-behind win at the last second in his finals match against Sitka's tough 132 pounder and



Terri Budke Photo



John Thein photo



Kayley Thein photo



Terri Budke photo

overall domination at the Ketchikan tournament, including another last second triple overtime win. His record is 17-3 with 11 wins by pin. Manny has incredibly fast single and double takedown moves which results in opponents going directly to their backs. Hats off to Manny for setting the example so other Braves may follow!

Many thanks to the parents for supporting your wrestler's efforts and to the adults who shared their skills and experience with the team.

---Coach Marc Leinberger



Terri Budke photo

Late breaking news: Congratulations to Manny and Kelsey who placed in the top 5 in their weight class at the Region V 1A Varsity Wrestling tournament in Petersburg. **Manny took 1st place** in his weight class and **Kelsey took 3rd place** in hers. At State, Manny finished fifth and Kelsey finished sixth.

The Masters of Fun!

Our Middle School robotics team *Brave Bots* competed at the Juneau Robot Jamboree, Centennial Hall, December 12th against 28 teams from Southeast Alaska. The season was short (about 1-1/2 months), but they really came together as a team as they received top scores in the Core Values challenge and earned my nickname *Masters of Fun*. Our team is shown in the photo, right: Ashlyn Gray, Dakota Garrison, Arianna Hinchman, Kaylahni Bidiman, Esias Kohler, (Coach Ben McLuckie in center), Olivia Morrison, McKayla Sheakley, Cooper Ross, Xaviery Sharclane, Ethan Reurup. Not pictured was team member Izaac Jacobson, who didn't go on the trip.

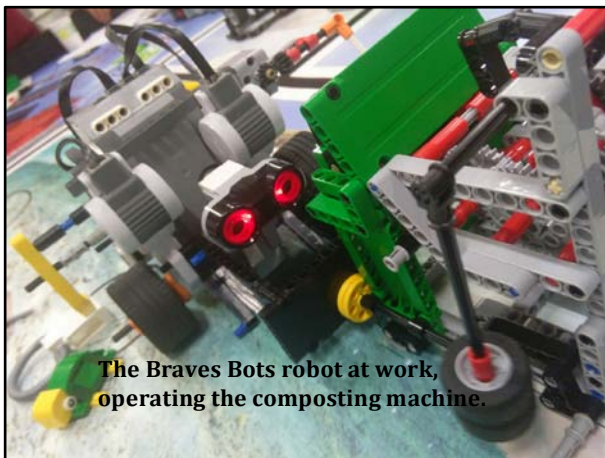
This year's theme for the competition was *Trash Trek*: from collection, to sorting, to smart production and reuse of trash. The team divided themselves into programmers and builders as they engineered smart robots to succeed at 15 different *Trash Trek* missions all rendered in LEGO bricks. Another group researched issues concerning trash, realized some of the biggest problems are found right here in school, and developed solutions for significantly reducing the trash produced by our school breakfast program. You will hear more about their *Trash Trek* project when they present their solutions to the Hoonah School Board. The judges gave them strong accolades for what they had already accomplished. With a longer season they would have become a truly competitive team for the state tournament.



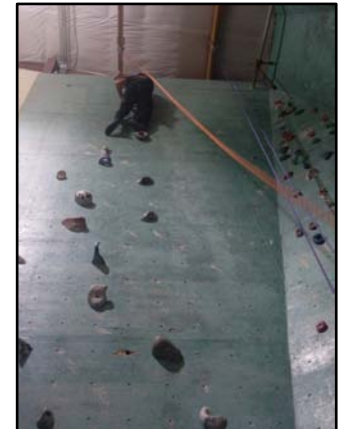
At the game table in Centennial Hall.



On Sunday after the competition, the *Braves Bots* team went to the Rock Dump for some indoor rock climbing (remember how I said they were masters of fun?) Almost all on the team had never climbed before and many said they were too scared of heights to get more than 10 feet up. It didn't take long, however, before everyone was climbing like monkeys. Below Xaviery and Esias climb some decidedly non-beginner routes.



The Braves Bots robot at work, operating the composting machine.

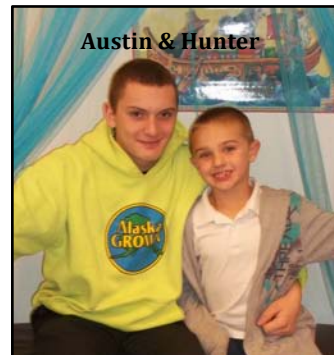


Big Brothers Big Sisters News

We recently celebrated three new school matches: Big Brother Austin and Little Brother Hunter; Big Sister Alaska and Little Sis Kali; Big Sis Val and Little Brother Alejandro.

Gratitude goes to the following supporters of our local mentoring program: \$70--Eleanor Davenport, \$70--James Lewis, \$550--Juneau Lions Club, \$100--Roger Wingfield, Sisters Zada and Sally Dybdahl donated their \$80 salary from work at ISP school bookstore; and we received \$1025 in memorial donations in honor of Victor Bean, Sr. Prize items were donated by Big Sister Daphne Wright and Leadership Council Member Jackie Dick. We received donations of clothing and other items for fundraising purposes from recently deceased supporter, Ida McKinley.

Our Halloween Party on October 25th was *spooktacular!* Dressing-up, coloring, foosball, dance party, BINGO, Pass the Bat, Mummy Wrap (*photo below*), Cauldron Bean Bag Toss were activity choices for the 60+ costume-clad guests. Ghostly brownies, cupcakes, popcorn/cracker jacks, and witches' brew all disappeared. Thanks to those who brought treats and who helped before, during, and after the event: Kelli Deitering, Leah & Mary Beth Moss, Daphne Wright, Dottie Johanson, Easton Ross, Tatiana Jacobsen, Karen the Great, Joann Wolfe, Janice Towry, Anthony Johnson, and Riley Neal.



We welcomed the BBBS Alaska's CEO Taber Rehbaum December 11th. Her visit included: coordinating with the school district administration on BBBS's Success through Education & Cultural Connections Grant, getting the grand tour of the town and lovely BBBS office/storage/activity areas at the City of Hoonah's William and Mary Johnson Youth Center, lunching with local Leadership Council members, and learning that *children are Hoonah's #1 priority!*

"Twas the season to be jolly!" December 21st brought together young and older, 42 in all, to our Christmas Party. Games, karaoke carols, snowman soup and graham cracker house decorating were offered along with cupcakes, oranges, popcorn, and juice. Thanks for all who helped or donated: Kelli Deitering, Janice Towry, Shawna Howland, Kathie Deitering, Dodie Lunda, Diane Bean, Zhané White, Joann Wolfe, Glenda Hutton, Nadine Morrison, Teresa Lewis and Dottie Johanson.

January is Mentoring Month in Hoonah, in Alaska, and in the USA. It's time to consider becoming a part of our program: become or recommend a Big, enroll a Little, donate time, prizes, money, help at events, etc. Please call Community Director Sally Dybdahl @ 945-3600, 209-9326, or drop by the office downstairs at The William & Mary Johnson Youth Center.

Photo, right: Leadership Council members with CEO Taber Rehbaum (2nd from left): Jackie Dick, Nadine Morrison, Diane Bean, Kathie Deitering. Council members not pictured: Jack Lee and Karen S. Mills.



Hoonah Recyclers' profits benefit BBBS and other youth-friendly causes. These folks donated metals to our van: Diane Bean, Harbor Department staff and patrons, William & Mary Johnson Youth Center, Daphne & Frank Wright, Paul & Sally Dybdahl, Wendy & Aldwin Harder,

Eleanor Davenport, Chris & Tom Jack, Sr., Icy Strait Brewing, Glenda & Bob Hutton, and Tina & Kevin Bottjen.

Watch for signs and Facebook ads about our van; we're open *some* Saturdays from noon-1:00.

Hoonah City Schools
P.O. Box 157
Hoonah, Alaska 99829

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Hoonah City Schools Newsletter **November-December 2015**

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Dates to Remember:

Teacher Workday—No School	Jan. 4
Students Return after Winter Break	Jan. 5
Basketball Teams to Skagway	Jan. 5-10
Home Basketball games w/Klawock	Jan. 12-13
Community Theater Performances	Jan. 14-16
AMP Test Results Dinner & Meeting	Jan. 18
Home Basketball games w/Kake	Jan. 22-23
Home Basketball games w/Hydaburg	Jan. 28-29
Home Basketball games w/Thorne Bay	Feb. 11-12
Basketball Teams to Angoon	Feb. 19-20
Region V B-ball Tournament in Juneau	Mar. 2-5
Spring Break	March 21-25
BBBS Bowl for Kids' Sake	April 2
Southeast Music Festival in Ketchikan	April 14-16
Heritage Celebration <u>Ku.éex'</u>	April 29
Last Day of School	May 20

Hoonah Community Theatre will be presenting a series of four short plays on each of three nights at the Icy Strait Lodge on January 14th, 15th, and 16th. Profit from admissions to the performance will be donated to the school. More information is available from Bob Hutton at 907-945-3307.

Hoonah Fun & Fit Partnership meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the school administration conference room. Youth and community health & wellness, physical activities, and combating obesity are our main focuses. Everyone is welcome to take part.