

Hoonah Schools Newsletter

September-October 2020

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

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

Welcome to a New Year at Hoonah City Schools

When the doors opened for the first day of school for the 2020-2021 academic year on September 10th, there were a lot of changes from the usual. Due to coronavirus concerns, Hoonah City Schools implemented new protocols for a Safe Start. Temperature checks at the door and masks for everyone, as well as frequent cleaning and sanitizing, became the new normal. Students now pick up a bagged breakfast on their way to class, where they remove their masks to eat, then put them back on. At lunch time, they line up, keeping a safe distance from each other, get their lunch, then take it to the gym, where there is more space for them to distance while they eat.

Read more about Safe Start in Mr. Watkins' Superintendent/Principal's Message on page 2. Photo at right: picking up a bag of breakfast is part of the morning routine.



High School and Fourth Grade Team Up for a Potato Picking Adventure

The day was overcast with a slight drizzle in the morning air. Our car bumped along down the road out towards Game Creek. Kids in the back seat were playing the various games they play as they drive down the dirt roads around Hoonah: First to Spot a ridge, Find the Mile Marker Sign, and they just chatted about the day and joked around. We pulled into the Farm parking lot and were met by Bob who brought us down the trail towards the fields. Michael Akes's Geometry class and Mark Browning's 4th grade class, all on a Great Potato Adventure!



The walk down was wet and soupy. Moss grew in folds out into the woods and across the logs rotting on the forest floor. We passed a bench in the woods that overlooked beautiful mountains above the thick spruce and hemlock forest, and we landed in the fields below at about 11:45. It was going to be a serious day of picking potatoes. We had been approached by the Farm to help them in a partnership with the school to pick the potatoes in their fields and pass them out to people in town who might need them this winter.

Charlie said, "This is my first-time picking potatoes ever," she smiled when she said it and you could feel the excitement around her. We got to the business of picking potatoes right away. There was no time to waste with a field of potatoes staring back at us and just a few hours to pick 'em. One last look across the field and over the cows down near the water's edge, and we were off to work. The shovels were passed out and holes were dug.

Kenlee looked up and yelled, "This is the dirtiest job I have ever done. The mud is so slippery I am about to fall!" We began baggin' up potatoes by the 50 lb. bag — one after the other.

Continued on page 11

Superintendent/Principal's Message



Welcome to Hoonah City School's school year 2020-2021. Congratulations to our senior class of 2021 and a big shout-out to our UA Scholar, Mr. Ethan Ruerup. This will be a school year like no other. We were unsure what school would look like heading into the year, especially seeing how 2019-2020 concluded.

I want to give a special thank you to all of our staff, students, and families that rode the COVID-19 rollercoaster with us last spring. We have learned so much since then and are prepared and excited for this school year. By the time you read this, we will be in our 8th week of school and will have had time to evaluate our plan for safely opening HCS for the school year.

As a reflection I wanted to share some information with you about our Smart Start Plan. Each district was tasked with creating an individual plan for safely opening their schools. We were provided with 6 weeks of training on how to create a safe plan. HCSD put together a Smart Start Planning Team made up of staff and community members. We worked through all of the guidelines provided to ensure safety, continuity of instruction, and building capacity to support the new mandates.

The HCSD plan can be found on the district's website and on the State's website. Our plan includes: a mask requirement (with frequent breaks), health and temperature screening upon entry, lunch in the gym with physical distancing, grab-and-go breakfast, no water fountains but students are allowed water bottles, physical spacing in classrooms as well as partitions in some classrooms, high-touch sanitizing every 2 hours, and disinfecting of classrooms between classes. These are just some of the things we are doing to keep our students and staff safe.

We have also hired a school social worker to work alongside our counselor to address the social and emotional needs of our students and staff. Fall of 2020 has challenged staff and students to find a new normal for learning, and has connected us in new ways. What I have most learned through this process is how much I appreciate the expertise our teachers bring to HCS and the ways in which our students continue to work hard to grow; and overall, I have gained an appreciation for the little things in life that we are currently going without---giving a high five, a hug or being able to laugh out loud with many people around. What I MOST appreciate about HCS is how even under these trying

circumstances, we are still a learning and caring community.

Ralph Watkins
Superintendent/Principal



Hoonah City Schools Board of Education Members:

Dillon Styers	President
Amy Courtney	Vice-President
Esther Heath-Mills	Secretary-Treasurer
Karen Hinchman	Member
Harold Houston	Member



School Library News

The Kindergarten through fifth grade students enjoy a weekly trip to the library during a 50-minute specials session. The students are learning how to care for a book and the importance of returning books on time so their friends can enjoy them too. They are beginning to learn how the books are organized and to use shelf markers when looking for books.



Several classes had the pleasure of having Mrs. McConnell present interesting lessons about choosing "Just Right" library books that we can comfortably read. Thank you, Mrs. McConnell, for your help!

This month we are learning about elections in our great country of the United States of America by listening to stories and nonfiction books about elections. Some classes have registered to vote and cast their ballots on a variety of subjects or book characters. We are learning who can be President of the United States, how a campaign works, and how to evaluate a candidate.

Miguel Contrares, a city council member and instructional aide at the school, has helped us understand the electoral process from his own experiences. Thank you for sharing your experiences and understanding of being of a public servant, Miguel!

In November we will enjoy celebrating National Native American Heritage Month and National Young Readers Day, which is on November 10th, by listening to stories that relate to those topics! Happy reading everyone!

Mrs. Lee

Hoonah Elementary School Playground fundraising continues at collection cans at Hoonah Liquor and Colette's Cupboard. \$248.50 was counted recently. Gunalchéesh for your support!

Hoonah City Schools Welcomes New Staff For 2020-2021 School Year

Please help us welcome new staff members to our school and community:



Deborah Badertscher

Deborah Badertscher is our new School Counselor. She has come here from Florida, where she recently worked as a Positive Behavior Coordinator.

Deborah grew up in Petoskey, Michigan. She shared this bit of information: Petoskey is also the name of Michigan's state stone, the Petoskey stone. She joined the Army shortly after high school.

Later she attended the St. Leo University where she earned her BA in Human Resources. Following that, she attended Troy University and earned her Master of Education in Counseling. She has been working for schools ever since.

So far, she loves Hoonah and thinks it is a beautiful place. She said that everyone has been very kind and welcoming. She is looking forward to learning all about Hoonah and its rich culture.

She states as a goal: *"Growing the counseling program so that all students can reach their full potential and achieve their dreams."*

Mark Browning is the new 4th Grade Teacher. He most recently worked in Powell, Wyoming, where he taught for the past 6 years; before that he taught in Colorado for 10 years. His home state is Colorado, where he graduated from Fort Collins High School, then traveled around the world for 6 years before going to college and graduating from the University of Northern Colorado.



Mark Browning

Mark is here with his fiancé, who is doing coursework with UAS to finish up her degree as an elementary school teacher. He has a daughter who

is currently living and working in Thailand.

When asked about how he ended up in Hoonah, Mark tells this story: *"Last summer my fiance Ollee and I motor-sailed our 19-foot sailboat down the Lynn Canal from Skagway over two weeks. After a stay in Juneau, we caught wind of Hoonah from some friends of ours living in the Yukon, and on their advice came out here. We spent 10 days on the docks here and absolutely fell in love with the*

land and people here. I turned around and upon arriving in Powell, informed my principal that I would be leaving for Hoonah in the summer. Fortunately, Ralph Watkins made room for me, otherwise I do not know what would have happened."

His interests outside of work? *"I am a forager and a cook. My favorite passion is to find foods from the wild and then chef those vittles up into a feast at the dinner table. Currently I am on the hunt for Chanterelles, if anyone has a favorite spot they want to share... yeah, I know."*

For the last question, Mark was asked about his goals for the near future: *"In the future I would like to become an active community member here in Hoonah. I would like to find my niche as someone who supports the community wherever he goes and figure out how I can help the community here accomplish its goals and grow to become the best Hoonah it can be. I would also like to learn how to catch shrimp. I am 5 soaks in so far with only 8 shrimp to show."*



Sondra Steele

Another new teacher in the Elementary School is **Sondra Steele**, who has been assigned to teach Pre-K and Kindergarten. Prior to coming here, she was in the Peace Corps in Tonga, teaching English as a second language to Kindergarten to 6th grade.

Sondra grew up in central Minnesota and attended college at the University of Wisconsin- Stout where she received her degree in Early Childhood Education.

Sondra's family lives in the Minnesota area. She has three younger siblings. When she is not working at school, she enjoys jogging, hiking, knitting, watching movies, and baking.

After she was evacuated from Tonga in March, she was unsure of what she wanted to do next, so she started applying to schools around the country, and ended up here in Hoonah. She is enjoying Hoonah so far, and really likes exploring the area. Sondra hopes to be successful in the classroom here, and in the community as well.

See page 4 for more new staff profiles.

Meet More New Staff.....



Elizabeth Mair

Elizabeth (Liz) Mair is our School Social Worker, which is a new, grant-supported position this year.

In her own words: *"I am from sunny Orlando, Florida! Before my university transitioned to online learning, I was working as an intern with the Hamilton County Children's Advocacy*

Center."

"I was born and raised in Orlando with my older brother, Jeffrey. He and I both attended college at Southern Adventist University in Chattanooga, TN."

When asked about her family, Liz shared: *"I come from a family of healthcare workers: Mom, Dad, and Jeffrey are all nurses, as are my grandparents on both sides. I also come from a family of immigrants; my father is Jamaican, my mother is English, and my maternal grandparents are from Guyana and Trinidad—soon it will be my turn to find a new country and continue the tradition! My sights are set on Norway ;)."*

And what about when she is not at work?

"When I'm not at the school or stirring up trouble, you can find me drawing and painting at home! I'm a rather introverted individual and art is the way I practice self-care. My most recent project has been writing and illustrating a children's novel set in Ålesund, Norway."

More questions for Liz: How is it that you ended up here? How do you like Hoonah so far?

"After I finished my degree in August of 2020, I began furiously applying for jobs in the US & EU. After weeks of radio silence, I was beginning to lose hope, until one afternoon I received a call from Ralph and my luck began to change! I'm loving Hoonah—from the people to the scenery, everything is stellar. I have yet to see a wild bear (I have no doubt they've seen me though)."

And one more question: What are some things you would like to accomplish in the near future? *"I'd like to be able to practice and perfect my Tlingit greetings with Ms. Duffy." 😊*



Update on Close Up:

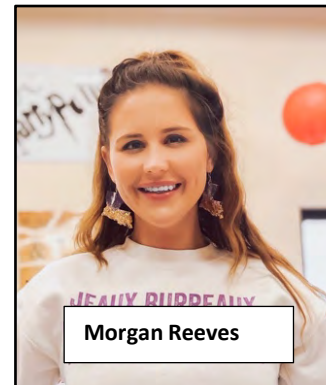
Unfortunately, our trip has been postponed again until May 2nd. Please be watching for more opportunities to support our trip; we

will have to do more fundraising because the ticket prices have changed. ~Renée Gray, Advisor

Morgan Reeves is the English teacher for grades 9-12. She comes from West Monroe, Louisiana, where she was teaching English. Morgan grew up in Lake Providence, Louisiana and earned her Bachelor's and Master's from the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Morgan is here with her husband, Bubba, who works at the sawmill here in town. Her son, Boady, is in kindergarten. She and her family enjoy exploring the local area, cooking, and listening to music. Her own interests include creative writing, film, and fashion.

The family came here to Hoonah because they wanted to experience living in rural Alaska, and are enjoying living here. When asked about her goal for the near future, Morgan said she would like to earn a second master's degree.



Morgan Reeves



Michael Akes

Michael Akes is the new High School Math teacher, who has come here from Orlando, Florida, where he worked in the District Office. He grew up in Louisiana, and got his Bachelor's from Florida State and graduate degrees from the University of Georgia.

Michael has a daughter who lives in Orlando. His interests include outdoor activities---hunting, fishing, camping and hiking.

When asked how he ended up here in Hoonah, he said, *"I started looking and researching places that I had always wanted to live and learn about; Alaska was always at the top of my list. I applied to several places around the world including Hoonah. Mr. Watkins and his staff did an excellent job of not only recruiting me as a teacher, but also of ensuring that I was a good fit for Hoonah."*

Michael said that he loves it here, and is enjoying getting to know the students and the community. His goal for the near future is to make a difference in the lives of his students.

We will have more new staff profiles in the next newsletter.

Family Engagement Event Held October 16th

On the evening of October 16th, Family Engagement Night was held in the gymnasium at Hoonah City Schools. Grandparents, parents, students and siblings, as well as teachers, gathered together to explore career opportunities, discover personal strengths, and explore the Alaska Career Information System. This system will allow all of our students to create a personal portfolio, in which they will:



identify their personal interests, explore different career options, look at colleges and employment opportunities and even write a resume.

Different stations were set up for participants to move through. Ms. Liz Mair, the HCS Social Worker, told spooky stories to participants at one station, while Rebekah Sawers, Hoonah Indian Association's AmeriCorp Representative, held Tobacco Prevention Bingo at another. Ms. Elana Cranston set up an Arts and Crafts station where pumpkins were created and Halloween coloring sheets and markers were available.



School Counselor Ms. Badertscher provided information on FAFSA, ACT, Dual Enrollment, scholarships and answered graduation progression questions.

HIA's Coastal Program Manager Sean Williams shared information on scuba diving, demonstrated how the equipment worked, and discussed a special dual enrollment course on Fisheries Management to be offered this spring.

Coach Miguel Contreras had a station to provide students with Strengths and Qualities worksheets paired with Job Search Tip handouts. Two lucky students who attended this



station got to take home Central Council Tlingit & Haida duffel bags.

The Family Engagement Planning Committee as well as many others provided a drug-free facility to instill values to help enrich our students' lives through connection.

We sent participants home with a to-go bowl of Sisterhood Stew prepared by the Culinary Arts class under the direction of instructor Annie Humpreys. We look forward to seeing you all again during the HCS November 20th Family Engagement Night. Please stay tuned for more information as the date comes closer.

HCS Supporters, check out the new method of saving Boxtops for Education to benefit our school:

EARN CASH FOR YOUR SCHOOL
LITTLE BY LITTLE WE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE.

The Box Tops mobile app uses state-of-the-art technology to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to your school's earnings online.

LOOK FOR THE LABEL:

NO MORE CLIPPING

SCAN YOUR RECEIPT

SEE HOW AT BTFC.COM

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

BUY
BOX TOPS PRODUCTS

You can find Box Tops on hundreds of products throughout the store.

SCAN
YOUR RECEIPT

Use the app to snap a photo of your receipt within 14 days of purchase.

EARN
CASH FOR YOUR SCHOOL

Box Tops earnings are identified and automatically updated online.

SHOPPING FOR GROCERIES ONLINE?

You can still earn Box Tops for your school with your e-receipt! See how at BTFC.com/email/groceryreceipts

BOX TOPS CLIPS

You may occasionally find an old Box Tops clip on packages in stores. You can still clip them and send them to school, as long as each clip has a valid expiration date.

SEE PRODUCTS & LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BOX TOPS APP AT BTFC.COM

DON'T HAVE THE BOX TOPS APP YET? DOWNLOAD IT NOW.

Tlingit Language in the Elementary School

Hoonah Elementary students are receiving Tlingit language lessons on a regular schedule, though the teaching methods have been adjusted in this era of coronavirus concerns. Language instructor Daphne Wright is using Zoom to deliver lessons remotely to all the classes four days a week, and five days to the First Grade.

Topics that have been covered during this first quarter of the school year are: classroom things, animals, weather, berries, counting, and feelings. The younger students are working on the same topics as the older students, though they have fewer words and phrases to learn, and are still at the listening stage for a lot of the vocabulary. We use sign language, other hand motions, songs and simple games to help remember the words and phrases.

First, second and third graders do *Dis Wootéiyi* (Calendar) every day. This provides counting practice, reinforces vocabulary, and includes lessons about traditional seasonal activities of the Tlingit people.



The photo above shows the fifth graders on Zoom for Tlingit class. In this class and in the fourth grade, each student is on their own computer, and can send messages and answer questions by “Chat” to Mrs. Wright. We have worked on basic classroom phrases to start off the year, and will continue to add to the students’ Tlingit vocabulary with various programs and activities. We use Quizlet to review and practice, do multiple choice, and take short tests. Both of these classes will also learn about Tlingit clans and Hoonah history. The fifth graders will learn how to introduce themselves in Tlingit.

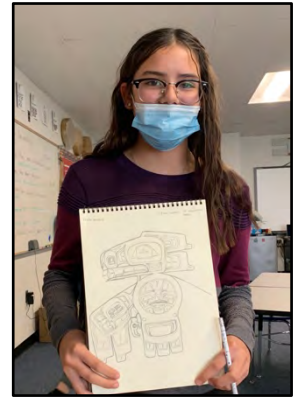
Middle School Lingít Language

Students have started their year with Kinship. Students have learned the importance of family lineage, kinship terms and how they are connected to each other and the world as a whole. It’s exciting to be able to meet with our students in person, we are making changes and

accommodations as needed, and looking forward to another great year! This class is taught by Lgéik’i Heather Powell.

NW Coast Art Elective Phase

Students are learning Traditional Northwest Coast Formline by co-teachers Sam Kháaxóoteen Sheakley and Lgeik’i Heather Powell. Students are utilizing in-class and Zoom technology to reach out to Sam, HCS Alumni, in his teaching of Formline. This is a continuation of last year’s class with brother, Herb Sheakley Jr.



NW Coast Broadcasting Class Report

Gunalchéesh haat yigoodí. Lgéik’i Heather Powell’s Northwest Coast Broadcasting class recently went on location to film s’ikshaldéen (Hudson Bay Tea) harvesting. While embracing Lingít values, the class is studying videography, audio and editing. Lgéik’i is joined by team teacher, journalist and filmmaker Scott Burton. Burton’s Lingít learner’s name is Kashóok’ Kaawadaayi aa, or “one who flows through the electric waves.” While on location, the team captured footage of the harvest and learned the difference between fragrant and healing s’ikshaldéen and poisonous bog rosemary. The team was also taught how to harvest leaves without harming the plant. The final video will be on Hoonah City Schools’ YouTube channel soon. Gunalchéesh.

Pictured Below: Lgéik’i Heather Powell explains how to harvest s’ikshaldéen. Likoodzi Dietrich Lewis holds a DIY light reflector, Shgaté Ava Powell films with an iTouch, and Gaayee Gaa Tláa Marcy Belford takes still photographs.



Carpentry Elective Classes

One of the Carpentry elective classes is mostly first year carpentry students, with a couple of second year students, who are developing into great leaders.

The focus the first week was on learning all about safety, tools, and measuring. While learning these things, the students got hands-on experience building a boot dryer. In order to build the boot dryer, they had to measure and cut the boards with a hand saw. They used the hammers, jig saws, drills, and the brace and bit. Putting it together caused the students to get frustrated, to reflect, and then to regroup. Watching the smiles on their faces when they had finally figured it out, was priceless.



On October 16th, the students went on a field trip to look at the construction around town. They visited the new Sewer building, McConnell's new two-story building, and HIA's new apartments. Thank you to Dawson Construction and the City of Hoonah for taking the time to explain the process of building a large metal commercial building. Thank you to Shawn McConnell for explaining the steps he has gone through in building his two-story wood construction building. It was awesome that they heard about the two styles of buildings and could make the comparisons between the two.

The two carpentry elective classes are being taught by Eli Derenoff and Michael Akes.



Middle School Language Arts

In Middle School Language Arts, the students learn how to critically read; I tell them they spend more time reading "what isn't on the page, than what is actually written". Critically analyzing text comes at all different levels and even though the students think they are doing the same thing, the analysis gets deeper every year.

This year, they will be reading all genres of literature: fiction, non-fiction, poetry, newspaper articles, etc. They will develop strategies for reading each genre; some of the strategies being annotating, using structural clues, and questioning. Students will use philosophical chairs and Socratic seminars to learn how to question each other as well as support their opinions.

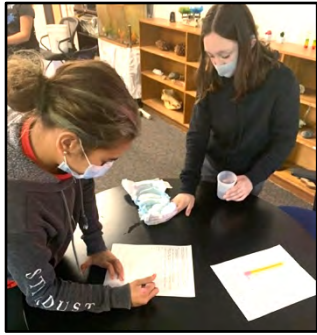
Writing involves using textual evidence to write either a critically thought out, organized paragraph or essay. Students have to use background knowledge to connect to and explain the how's and why's. Explaining "why you think what you think" is difficult, and the students hate it at first, but by the end of eighth grade, they get pretty good at it. I always tell them, "If their brain doesn't smoke, I haven't done my job."

I really appreciate everyone who has been checking their emails for correspondence from me. That will be my main form of communication. I try to send out weekly emails during academic weeks, just so parents/guardians stay informed.

Renée Gray

High School & Middle School Science Classes: Busy as Usual!
 News and Pictures from Ms. Tannehill-Smith

Biology students have been studying our cells and the phospholipid membrane that makes them up. We were able to model how water moves (osmosis) in and out of cells by dissolving raw egg shells in vinegar and exposing their inner membrane. We then expanded and shrank the eggs using filtered and salt water. Lastly, we dyed the eggs using osmosis. After the simulation, we decided to have an egg toss---some fared better than others with that activity! 😊

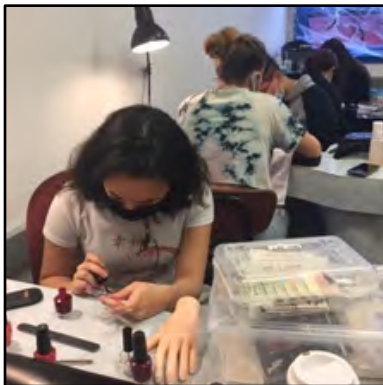


Sixth grade science students used the Scientific Method to test the absorbency ability of a diaper. They used their knowledge of scientific variables to create a valid experiment. They compared the absorbing ability of the diaper when saturated with hot water versus cold water. They recorded the amount of each type of water in mL that each diaper could hold before leaking onto the table. It is in fact

possible to be extremely proud of a loaded diaper in middle school.



Sixth grade science is investigating the effects of soil acidity on Forget Me Not flower growth. They are using vinegar water to water one plant and filtered water to water the other. This is an ongoing experiment that we will continue to investigate!



Cosmetology Elective Class

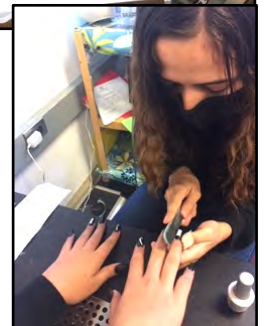
During the two-week Elective Phases of the Middle School/High School schedule, students have a variety of options to choose from. One of those is Cosmetology, taught by Kimberly Steadman. She explains her program below:

Hoonah High School Pathways have given the opportunity for 6-8 students to become trained and certified in a 12-hour manicure program. This helps nail technicians to enter into the

salon and be ready to make money and offer a variety of services to patrons.

Students need to be at least 14 years old to be in this class. A person must be of working age to become licensed to work as a manicurist. This is a great opportunity for those people who would like to continue their career and become hairdressers, barbers, or estheticians. If you hold a current manicure license, you can apply for a loan to continue your education at any post-secondary institution of cosmetology or massage of your choice.

Kimberly stated that the "Alaska Academy of Advanced Cosmetology and Massage was approved for authorization in January 2016 . Our facility is located in Juneau and has approximately 5000 square feet for our students to be licensed in. I'm excited to see Hoonah Schools offering this opportunity for students to be job-ready in the field of manicure and pedicure."





News from First Grade

Hello everyone! My name is Mark Smith and I am the new First Grade teacher here at Hoonah Elementary. I am so excited to be here and I am falling more in love with this beautiful place with each passing day. I absolutely adore your children and can't wait to get to know everyone here better.

Your first graders are working very hard! They have been learning new procedures in light of COVID,

classroom rules and expectations, foundational reading, and math skills in our first few weeks of school. Our students are having fun and enjoying school. I am finding it nice to be in a classroom and working face-to-face with students again.

We have two para-professionals in our classroom, Ms. Jenny Johnson and Ms. Elana Cranston. They both understand our students at a deep level and care for them emotionally and academically. They work hard to provide each of our students with the love and support our students need as they begin their academic career. Currently, our book studies have been focused on "October" themed children's literature. Our science and social studies are also focusing on the "October" theme as well, to compound the building of background knowledge needed for academic success.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns as they arise.

Warm regards,
Mark Smith

Preschool and Kindergarten Class News

The Preschool and Kindergarten classroom is a very exciting place to be this fall! We currently have 8 preschoolers and 8 kindergartners, with preschoolers only attending until after lunch. We are quickly learning the basic subjects such as Reading, Writing, and Math, while also getting started on Science and Social Studies. We are also learning the procedures of how to be students at school, and what it looks like to be inside the classroom. We have also been covering various weekly themes, including, but not limited to, Sunflowers and Spiders.



Pre-schoolers having fun during recess!



Kindergartners enjoying books in the Library.

I have already seen a lot of growth in every single student as we are getting into the routine of being at school. We are learning to be active students in the classroom, while still following the necessary procedures of the school. We are becoming a small community of learners as we all help each other learn and grow. I am looking forward to a very productive and busy year as we work hard to learn the many skills and content that are necessary for a growing individual and classroom.

Thank you for supporting the students and the school,
Ms. Steele



Second-Third Grade Class Letter

Hello, 2nd and 3rd Grade Parents!

I am so excited to be your student's teacher this school year. I have truly enjoyed getting to know your students these first few weeks of school. We have been working on foundational skills in phonics to become better readers. Students will begin to work on reading fluency this month. The end of year goal for reading fluency for 2nd grade is 111 words read correctly in 1 minute. For 3rd grade the end of the year goal is 123 words read correctly in 1 minute.

Please encourage your child to practice reading out loud to you for 15-20

minutes each night to help them improve their reading skills. In Math, 2nd and 3rd grade is working on math facts, place value, and using place value strategies to add and subtract.

As a class we are learning about social skills, being respectful, responsible and safe, as well as what it means to be a true friend and to treat everyone with kindness. I am looking forward to an amazing school year with your students and getting to know each of you better. Thank you for welcoming our family into this beautiful community!

Warm regards,
Mrs. Smith

News from 5th Grade

The school year has gotten off to a great start in the 5th grade room! The students have transitioned back to school nicely. I can hardly tell we had an extended break from school.

We are settling into a good routine. On Mondays and Tuesdays for language arts we focus more on whole group instruction. On Wednesdays and Thursdays, we rotate through three groups working more at students' individual levels. We work on fluency on Fridays.

The fifth graders have been working hard at finding the volume of rectangular prisms in math. We also do a timed multiplication fact sheet every day. Students keep track of how many they get correct each day and can see that number grow as they get more familiar with their facts.

Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe are things we are asking students to remember while they are at school this year. I must say, that the 5th graders have been doing a great job following those guidelines. I am very happy with how this year has started and am looking forward to the rest of year.

Mr. Mettling



Fourth Grade Class News



Mr. Browning's class has been working hard the last three weeks to learn to write about and identify in their reading: Setting, Characters, and Detailed Plot Events, which satisfies Standards 4RL4.3 in Reading and Narrative Writing Standards as well. As a summary activity to this, we rolled on down to the harbor early in the crisp morning of October 16th. The sky above was clear, and wispy clouds lay up against the mountains. Our class sat up against the moss-covered rocks down by Gus's Marine and looked out across the harbor and towards False Point spending the morning writing about what we saw. We organized our Setting Description into 3 categories: Far Away Setting, Middle Distance Setting, and Very Close Up Setting. Following are examples of student work that they produced. See if you can identify it as Far Away, Middle

Distance or Close Up setting. If you can, then our 4th Grade Writers did their jobs.

"The grass has maybe millions of drops of rain right by the grass is a spider web and as the sun reflects on to the web and..." *Ava*

"Black as a rock on a trail of a green island in the distance. Rest in peace. A light shade of green covers the trail to Graveyard Island..." *Tank*

"...mountains in the distance collide with the misty clouds. They run across the horizon." *Taylor*

"I can see the ripples in the water from the rocks up and down they look like fish. I can see the water reflect the trees and the sky and the clouds." *Ashley*

It was a fun and educational morning we spent down at the harbor that fall morning. Upon our return to the cluttered and busy classroom, we pulled our freezing hands out of our pockets, sat down at our desks piled high with work to do and just warmed our paws in the toasty air the boiler pumped in from some unknown room deep within the belly of the Hoonah Schools.

Potato Adventure, continued from front page.

Charlie's gloves were covered in the dark, rich muddy soil that held the potatoes. As the shovels drove into the ground again and again, potatoes were flying everywhere. Then the voles started popping out of the holes. The little creatures were spinning off in every direction. I don't know who went more crazy- the dogs or the kids. Eleven Hoonah School kids and another 6 kids from the farm all joined together and picked 1,250 pounds of potatoes. We were exhausted by 2:00 that afternoon -- 2 hours of pickin' 'tators. Gabe was thinking to himself- "this is taking forever." But there was more in store. Brenda took us on a tour of their greenhouse and served us hot cocoa and popcorn. Bob explained to us their process of vermiculture and growing food in the greenhouse.

At the end of our day, we drove the potatoes back to town and played the ABC game with road signs all the way back to Hoonah. We only made it to the letter J. Not too many signs out there in them woods. But we made it back with the potatoes, and now they are curing in the wood shop at school. The kids dumped all the potatoes on a big tarp and spread them all out. We will take them and pass them out to the Hoonah community once they are cured in a few days. We are happy to help feed the community of Hoonah with the help of The Farm. It was a great day.



This story was written by Mr. Browning and his Fourth Grade class.

After School Program Report

On October 5th, the After School Program went to check on Invasive Species with HIA Coastal Resiliency Program Manager Sean Williams, Resilient Alaskan Youth AmeriCorps member Rebekah Sawers, and Auntie Elana Cranston, with Hoonah City Schools Tlingit Tundatáani program.

What is an invasive species? Well, the best way we could explain it to the kids was by spotting a moose rack on the dock. We asked: Do we have moose on our island? The answer was: no, not normally. But they have been spotted, and aren't usually here, so they are a species that comes and lives here that usually doesn't live here! (That is how we explained it.) But the actual meaning of the term "invasive species" is: a non-native species that spreads from the point of introduction and becomes abundant. The invasive species label attaches only to populations of species whose impact upon introduction has altered their new environment.

Earlier in June, The TRAYLS crew set the invasive species plates in the water to gather data for roughly 3 months. Then in October we (the after school program) pulled them up from the side of the dock! (See the end of this article for more information about invasive species monitoring that is being done.)

The After School Program is being supported by the Tlingit Tundatáani Grant with Auntie Elana Cranston and the Resilient Alaska Youth program with Rebekah Sawers, serving in AmeriCorps this year. The program got started a week after school opened.



The pictures here show some of the students in the program who got to help harvest the Tlingit potato crops at the HIA Environmental building.

According to Rebekah and Elana, they plan on doing a variety of things like playing games after school, as well as learning about our coastal

environment. Another thing they will plan on doing is learning some songs and going caroling later on this winter. They will stress positive interactions with peers, and try to provide fun and educational activities (as well as snacks!)

Youth from 3rd to 12th Grade can join by asking your parents, and giving Rebekah your name, your parents name and phone number. Rebekah said, "We are trying to find opportunities every day after school! Join us, together, we can achieve anything!"



On October 15th, a deer was donated to the After School Program by Miguel Contreras. Jeromy Grant cut the meat off of the front shoulder

quarters, and talked about the different ways to process the meat, like jarring and freezing. This time, with the help of the youth, we ground up the meat and vacuum sealed it. Cayenne Boe weighed it out, Mia Smith and Jazzy Sheakley helped cut and transfer meat to the grinder. Charlie Jack and Gigi Quick helped with the vacuum bags and vacuum sealer. Neta and Cece Thein helped



washing the dishes afterwards and Hayden Gallagher helped clean the tables. Each student got one pound of meat to take home. It was a group effort, and we are thankful to Miguel and the deer for bringing us together.

HIA Coastal Resiliency Program Manager Sean Williams explained more about the monitoring of invasive species locally: *The HIA Environmental Program works with the [Smithsonian Environmental Research Center](#) to monitor the harbor for marine invasive species. These invasive species can be very damaging both to boats and infrastructure as well as marine environments that support commercial fisheries and local lifestyles. We are looking for species already recorded in Alaska. Monitoring plates were deployed in June 2020 and retrieved in October. This experience gave the group of Hoonah students the opportunity to see environmental science in action, and to discuss changing marine environments caused by human actions and climate change.*

Please subscribe to the [HIA Environmental Program facebook](#) page for further updates. We are waiting on results to see if any marine invasive species are present in the harbor.



Cross Country Coach's End of Season Report

The 2020 Braves Cross Country season was short, yet fun and memorable. Due to many unfortunate circumstances the Hoonah Braves were only able to travel for one cross country race, which was held in Petersburg. That was disappointing when compared to three races in the 2019 season. Procedures and protocols called for temperature checks and a pageful of symptom-related questions before practice could begin every morning.

The most memorable part of the 2020 season was traveling to Regionals on October 4th. We were supposed to fly out on the 3rd, but weather was not cooperating and made us sit in the airport for 4 hours before our flight was cancelled. The morning of the race we all met at the airport at 9 am for a sixty-five-minute flight down to Petersburg, where a school bus was waiting for us at the end of the runway. We got off the plane and straight onto the bus for a forty-five-minute drive to the race course where we were met by school administration and a few race officials. We then proceeded to get on an even smaller bus to get shown the course and how the race was going to play out. "You will be the only racers on the whole course," the head race official told us. At about every 1K was a marker, and we had to run 5 of them, on curving, rolling hills filled with potholes and some mud and leaves. After being shown the course, we were taken back to the Start.

With a very limited time of 20 minutes to warm up in the rain and wind, the Braves tried their best to find their flow and center. The race began and the Braves were off, trying their best to represent their community. Fortunately, everyone was able to finish the race strongly and a few Braves were selected in the region for awards.

Cooper Ross finished the season with an All-Academic award, given to Seniors who have a cumulative 3.0 or higher GPA. Cooper Ross, Jermaine Johnson, Alona Howland, and Teresa Lewis also received the Good Sport award for the 2020 season. This award is given to those who demonstrate strong sportsmanship during the entire season. I am all around thankful for the opportunity to have a 2020 season, and thankful to have coached the Braves team.

Coach Miguel Contreras



Braves Cross Country Team, back row: Izaac Jacobsen, Jermaine Johnson, Esias Kohler, Cooper Ross. Front row: Teresa Lewis, Olivia Morrison, Leah Moss, Alona Howland

Volleyball Update

Braves Mix Six Volleyball had a fun few weeks of practice before we received word that ASAA would be delaying all Fall sports due to COVID. We had 26 athletes from 8th-12th grade turn out, the largest team since I began coaching in 2013. I look forward to restarting their season sometime in the Spring, when allowed. Thank you to everyone who supported our Braves Gear fundraiser, as those funds helped order some team gear and will also be helpful to our large team for the future! We hope to see you all in the stands rooting on the Braves sooner rather than later.

Coach Jessie Martin



News from Huna Heritage Foundation

Huna Heritage Foundation in the School

Huna Heritage Foundation is proud to provide classroom and teacher presentations in Juneau and Hoonah City Schools. Over the past few years, we have shared information on Hoonah history and culture for the HCS high school Alaska History class. Classroom presentations, school-hosted community events and new teacher orientation are some of the ways that Huna Heritage Foundation has served Hoonah City Schools. As part of our community's welcome to new teachers, Huna Heritage Foundation shares insights and perspectives on our culture, history and environment through discussion, sharing films, and question and answer.



HHF Director Amelia Wilson met with new HCS staff prior to the start of school.

We are Looking for Student and Family Input on your Clan Membership & Tlingit Names

This coming spring, Huna Heritage Foundation will print 1500 booklets documenting Hoonah clans, clan members, and their Tlingit names for Hoonah families who would like a copy. Huna Heritage will provide digital copies for those of you who prefer a digital format. There will be no charge for the booklets. Numerous times a community member has come by our office or called for help locating their Tlingit name or their child's Tlingit name. Sometimes they know who they were named after but cannot remember the name. By documenting our lineage, we will create an accessible record for Hoonah people to draw upon now and into the future.

Some families may remember or may have participated in the 1990's and early 2000's annual Clan Workshops that Huna Heritage Foundation held in Hoonah. A clan workshop book was given to all participants. This valuable resource contained information on various topics such as Tlingit songs, protocols, and other cultural information. This book had a section on the clans of Hoonah, members of the clan, and their Tlingit names. During the gatherings, the book would be updated by participants. Huna Heritage Foundation is excited to update this clan information because we know how essential it is to document our community memory for future generations when we are no longer here to share with them personally.

Project Coordinator Mary Erickson has gathered all existing clan member records formerly published in the Clan Workshop books. She is gathering family information to ensure we have

up-to-date clan membership records. We are asking students' families to contact Mary to verify that you and your family are correctly identified in the appropriate clan and house, your Tlingit names (if known), and to update any English name changes due to marriage and to reflect new births or deaths. Some entries have an English name but not a Tlingit name. If you or your family had not attended the clan workshops, you may not be listed at all. We want to include all families interested in being documented. Please call Mary Erickson at 907-789-8582 or email her at merickson@hunaheritage.com with any information, questions, or to set up a time to meet with her.

New Huna Heritage Foundation Cookbook: Call for Recipes

Would you like to share some of your family's traditional food recipes to be published in the Huna Heritage Foundation cookbook? If at least two of your recipes are selected to be published, you will receive a free copy of the cookbook.

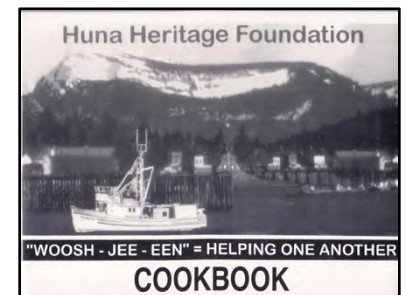
The first cookbook created by Huna Heritage Foundation was nearly 25 years ago, and we are excited to create a new one featuring Hoonah recipes. The cookbooks will be printed this coming spring or early summer. For those who want to buy one, there will be an opportunity to purchase through a donation to our new Huna Heritage Endowment fund which goes towards cultural and educational activities. Please consider contributing to what will surely be an awesome record of our community's favorite traditional food recipes to be enjoyed for years to come.

Details needed from recipe contributors:

Name of Person Submitting the Recipe, Contact Information, Name and Category of Recipe, List of Ingredients, Directions (be sure to include size & type of container – time, temperature, yield). You can also include comments, such as who the recipe came from, who taught you how to do it, etc. This is optional.

Ideas for Categories: Deer, Seal, Fish, Seafood, Plants, Berries, Beach (intertidal, tideland), Contemporary Community Favorites (Chicken Adobo, Sisterhood Stew, Frybread, etc.)

You can submit your recipes by email to Michael Cheslock at mcheslock@hunaheritage.com, by phone at (907) 789-8582, or in person at the Huna Heritage Foundation office. Please contact us with any questions. We look forward to your participation!



The first HHF Cookbook ➔



News from Hoonah Recyclers

Hoonah Recyclers is a small group of volunteers who recycle metals to benefit our community, our planet, local youth-friendly projects, and Alaska Native Sisterhood Camp #12. We have been open SOME Saturdays with Social Distancing and Masks Required.

We pay for metals: aluminum, brass, copper, zincs, bronze, radiators, etc. Donations are also welcome. Many thanks to Jessie & Jeremy Martin, Marj & Floyd Peterson, Red Wynn, Eleanor Davenport, Daphne & Frank Wright, Jr., Paul & Sally Dybdahl, Thursday Troopers, Minnie Dalton, Diane & Rod Morrison, Mike Mills, Sr., Nicki & John Shelton, Mark Browning & Ollee Kloeckner, Paige, Larry, & Dianne Woitte, Pete Schneeberger, and Debbie Wright.

We are grateful to the City of Hoonah for a donation of culvert. Also, the US Forest Service and Hoonah Native Forest Partnership removed and donated many pounds of fish pass material to us.

Alaska Marine Lines generously provides free freight for our container to & from Seattle at least twice yearly. Thank you AML!

We appreciate the help of AML employee Brian Lackey and volunteer Paul Dybdahl.

Hoonah Recyclers partnered with ALPAR (Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling) to host six **Thursday Trooper Litter Patrols** throughout the summer. There was less litter because of fewer cruise ship guests and great bearproof trash cans throughout town. We still found gazillions of cigarette butts and junk food & plastic drink containers. Please don't be a Litterbug!

Hoonah Trading Company Manager Laura Hinchman provided us with a box of 50 disposable masks. We received

donations of money for snacks from Koosh (Paul Smith, Jr.) and Juli See & Lorenzo Florendo. Phyllis & Sean Grant donated 40 Capri Suns as well.

Once the pool opens again, these **Thursday Troopers** will receive a FREE SWIM for each time they volunteered: Dietrich Lewis, Ava & Carter Hinchman, Neta & Cecelia Thein, Aurora & Addison Lee, Mitchel Michel, Jora Savland, Cayenne Boe, Charlie & Jenna Jack, Leah Moss, Isaiah & Corbin Budke, Will & Davina Dalton, Dominic Martin, Renee Gray, Judy Brown, Owen James, Xiuyuan Farley, Teresa McConnell, Marti Lee, Glenda Hutton, Daphne Wright, and Sally Dybdahl.



Hoonah Recyclers partnered with Americorps RAY (Resilient Alaskan Youth) and HIA on **World Cleanup Day September 19th** to do a litter sweep through town.

The Hoonah Recyclers group welcomes a new volunteer to our ranks: Mr. Mark Browning, the new Fourth Grade teacher, is very interested in the recycling effort, and brings new energy to the group. Any other interested persons are invited to contact Sally Dybdahl at 209-9326.

Boxholder

Hoonah City Schools Newsletter
September-October 2020

In this issue:

Welcome to 2020-21	1
Great Potato Adventure	1 & 11
Superintendent/Principal's Message	2
School Board Members	2
Library News	2
Welcome to New Staff	3-4
Update on Close Up	4
Family Engagement Night	5
Boxtops for Education	5
Elementary Tlingit Classes	6
MS Tlingit Classes	6
NW Coast Art Elective	6
Broadcasting Class	6
Carpentry Elective	7
MS Language Arts	7
MS/HS Science	8
Cosmetology Elective	8
Pre-K and Kindergarten	9
First Grade	9
Second-Third Grade	10
Fifth Grade	10
Fourth Grade	11
Potato Adventure, cont'd.	11
After School Program	12
Cross Country	13
Volleyball	13
Huna Heritage Foundation	14
Hoonah Recyclers	15

Dates to Remember

Thanksgiving Vacation	Nov. 26-27
Christmas Vacation	Dec. 21-Jan. 1
School Resumes	Jan. 4, 2021
End of 2 nd Qt./1 st Sem.	Jan. 19
Teacher Workday	Jan. 20
Teacher Inservice	Jan. 21-22, 25
Spring Break	Mar. 22-26
End of 3 rd Qt.	Apr. 8
Teacher Workday	Apr. 9
Memorial Day Holiday	May 31
Last Day of School	June 10



Photos from Middle School/High School Elective classes: top, Carpentry; far left, NW Coast Broadcasting; left, Cosmetology. See articles inside this newsletter about these classes, and watch for more Elective classes featured in future issues.