

# Hoonah Schools Newsletter

May-June 2022

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

*June—At Kadax̄eet Dísi: increasing month*

## ***Congratulations, 2022 Hoonah Graduates!***

Hoonah High School's Class of 2022 received their diplomas June 13<sup>th</sup>. Class speakers were Salutatorian Hallie Wilson and Valedictorian Sierra McClement.

This year's Commencement Speaker was Ralph Watkins, former Superintendent/Principal of HCS. Mr. Watkins spoke of how each of the graduates have inspired him.

A special thank you goes to Libby Stoltzfus and David Austin for providing music for the occasion. Along with scholarships and gifts given to the graduates were handmade quilts made by Kris Skaflestad. Gunalchéesh to Kris for carrying on this tradition. This year's graduates, shown in the picture are, from left to right: Hallie Wilson, Kaida Irvin, Izaac Jacobsen, Sierra McClement, Jermaine Johnson, Olivia Morrison.



The Eighth Grade Class had their promotion ceremony on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Pictured at right with their teacher Renée Gray are the members of the Class of 2026: Carlos Sandoval, Gerred Garrison, Allie Howard, Paige Woitte and Chloe Lane. Not pictured is 8<sup>th</sup> grader Cayenne Boe. As a part of their ceremony, each of the 8<sup>th</sup> graders made a short speech, which included their Tlingit introduction.



# Superintendent's Message



Students, Staff, Families and Hoonah Community Members,

We have come to the end of the 2021/2022 School Year! I would like to express my sincerest gratitude and admiration to the students, teachers, and classified staff of Hoonah City School District.

Your commitment to education and your continued resiliency as we marched forward through the past 9 months has made this year like no other! You have kept a positive outlook while successfully navigating through in-person learning, online learning, virtual classrooms, social distancing, Covid testing, masks, new hires and more.

You held another successful herring derby, engaged students through events and activities, got back to full sports programming, held prom, participated in drumming/dancing sessions, attended Celebration 2022, and had SIX seniors graduate! I know the community joins me in recognizing each of you for these achievements!

Take time to refresh over the summer. We have so much to look forward to when school starts in the fall. We welcome Nicolle Egan as the School Principal for the 22/23 school year. See you in August!

*Heather Wheeler, Interim Superintendent*



## Principal's Message

Hello Hoonah!

I am excited to be returning to school next year as your Principal! Since I arrived in Hoonah in February of 2021, I have known this is where I want to be. I look forward to continuing to learn from students, colleagues and the Hoonah community, allowing me to help provide an educational environment that promotes Tlingit values that are held so dear.

As we wrap up the year and launch into the summer, keep in mind, our learning never stops. Take these months to rejuvenate. Learn from those around you by listening to and sharing stories. Take time to read when you can. Unplug from technology as often as possible. Please know how much I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of the community and look for your guidance in making HCS the thriving school that the students deserve.



Gunatchéesh,  
Nicolle Egan

Hoonah City School Board of Education Members:	
<b>Harold Houston</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Jamie Erickson</b>	<b>Vice-President</b>
<b>Dillon Styers</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>Karen Hinchman</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>Geri Cheslock</b>	<b>Member</b>




*School Board Members: Geri Cheslock, Karen Hinchman, Jamie Erickson, Harold Houston  
Missing from photo: Dillon Styers*

# First Day of School for the Next School Year: August 17, 2022



**Seniors in the Spotlight**—our graduating seniors of the Class of 2022 were honored at their commencement exercises June 13<sup>th</sup>. Here are pictures and a few thoughts from each of them. Gunalchéesh to their class Advisor, Renée Gray, for gathering this information, and to Alexandria Tannehill-Smith for several of the Senior portraits.

<p><b>Kaida Irvin</b></p>  <p><b>Plans for after high school:</b> To start college and to figure out a career that I enjoy.</p> <p><b>My favorite memories</b> are all the outdoor activities: outdoor art, berry picking, Hudson Bay Tea picking, animal dissection, Field Day, and the end of the year picnics.</p> <p><b>My advice to freshmen</b> would be to not flunk any classes.</p> <p><b>Favorite quote:</b> “You’ll figure it out.”</p>	<p><b>Jermaine Johnson</b></p>  <p><b>Plans for after high school:</b> My plan is to work in Hoonah for the next two years and then move to Tuscon, Arizona.</p> <p><b>My favorite memory</b> is of the State basketball trip.</p> <p><b>My advice to freshmen</b> is to play sports.</p>	 <p><b>Hallie Wilson</b></p> <p><b>Plans for after high school:</b> to go to college.</p> <p><b>My favorite memories:</b> I don’t really have a favorite memory, but it might be when at volleyball, I had an accident during practice.</p> <p><b>My advice to freshmen</b> would be, you only live once, so live it to the fullest and take charge of your life.</p> <p><b>Favorite quote:</b> “This too shall pass.”</p>
<p><b>Olivia Morrison</b></p>  <p><b>Plans for after high school:</b> I hope to pursue becoming an auto-mechanic, but before that, I want to work for a while to gain some personal experience and possibly look into a branch of the military.</p> <p><b>My favorite memories:</b> Honestly, I have no favorite memories of high school because I enjoyed all of it, especially sports --- winning and losing together as a team. I also have enjoyed all the close friends I was able to make.</p> <p><b>My advice to freshmen:</b> would be to work hard. Anything can be achieved if you just work hard at it. Enjoy high school because, after this, life really kicks into gear. Put yourself out there, and do things that are out of your comfort zone. Most importantly, LIVE, LAUGH, LOVE!</p> <p><b>My favorite quote:</b> “Never let someone who did you wrong make you think there’s something wrong with you. Don’t devalue yourself because they didn’t value you. Know your worth.”</p>	<p><b>Sierra McClement</b></p>  <p><b>Plans for after high school:</b> I will be attending the UAS campus in Juneau and am undecided on what I am going to major in.</p> <p><b>My favorite memory</b> from high school was my first basketball game back with my team. I had been injured the previous season and was unable to participate. It was definitely a great feeling to be back out there.</p> <p><b>My advice to freshmen</b> would be: don't take it for granted or just focus on when you grow up and the future, you are only young once!</p> <p><b>My favorite quote:</b> " I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." - <i>Maya Angelou</i></p>	<p><b>Izaac Jacobsen</b></p>  <p><b>Plans for after high school:</b> I want to get into a community college or a trade school in Alaska or out of state if it has low tuition. I want to get into Information Technology (IT), especially if it is working on the computer’s hardware.</p> <p><b>My favorite memories</b> are of our School’s Celebration (Ku.éex’), every one of them that I have been a part of.</p> <p><b>My advice to freshmen:</b> to do all the sports you are able to in high school, especially starting with freshman sports.</p> <p><b>My favorite quote:</b> “You’re doing great.”</p>

## Goodbye and Gunalchéesh to Staff

The end of the school year means that, not only do we send our graduates out into the world beyond high school, we also say goodbye to staff members who will be moving on. We want to say gunalchéesh and best wishes to all who will be leaving.

**Renée Gray** will be going to work in Washington State next year. She has been a very active staff member during her tenure in Hoonah. From taking a group of high schoolers to Close Up last fall, to chairing our last School Carnival and everything in between, Renée has been a positive force at our school. Sally Dybdahl, former HCS teacher and Board Member, said "Renée



Renée Gray, third from right, with the 8<sup>th</sup> Graders at their Promotion Ceremony.

is an all-around asset to a school; besides teaching well, she sees what needs to be done and does it! Her communication skills, deep caring for all students,



mentoring other staff members, and behind-the-scenes work will be sorely missed." *Left: a poster made for Renée by her students.*



**Ed Snow**, will be leaving after one year in Hoonah. He will be taking another administrative post in the Southcentral area of the State.

Another staff member who is leaving is Fifth Grade Teacher **Ben Mettling**, who is going back home to Minnesota. He is building a house here, so he will likely be spending some time



Ben Mettling, with the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders on Beach Day.

here in the summers. Ben has taught here for three years, and was the Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach this year.

**Elizabeth Mair**, our School Social Worker, left in April, and wrote this goodbye message:

It's your friend Ms. Liz here! April marks my last month with the Hoonah City School District, a departure that has weighed heavily on my chest for some time. I am terrible at goodbyes, but as I am quickly learning, we do not say "goodbye" in Hoonah. Instead we say, "see you later."



As many of you know, Orlando, Florida is my first home and it is where I will be traveling when I leave Hoonah. I am eagerly looking forward to spending time with my mom and dad, and our dog Oliver!

In June I will be returning to Alaska to take up a job in Seward as a clinical counselor. I may be stepping out of the role of School Social Worker, but I will not be stepping out of my role as your friend. I cannot leave without thanking you all for the fond memories I've made while working in Hoonah Schools. One of the memories that stand out are the times I have observed and participated in drumming sessions with Auntie Heather. Seeing the culture come alive through song and dance has aided me in understanding the values and traditions of the community.

Another memory is the first time I went sledding! I can't believe I'd gone 25 years without slipping and sliding down a hill! I look forward to doing it again :) I hold so many treasured memories in my heart, but they are difficult to put into words— how do you put into words a hug? The feeling of belonging? A friendly smile? The truth is this: you can't. You must appreciate it in the moment.

So that is what I would like to do now: appreciate each of you. Thank you. See you later. XOXO  
*Elizabeth Mair*

**Joan Martin**, this year's First Grade Teacher and last year's Elementary Special Education Teacher, is taking a year off from teaching. Joan hopes to stay around Hoonah and Southeast, and may be back teaching at HCS in the future.



Joan Martin & Halie Mahoney at the End-of-Year school picnic

**Halie Mahoney** has been the High School Social Studies Teacher for the second semester of this school year. She is heading north, and will be working as a traveling Graduation Coach for the Iditarod School District in the fall.

**Erik Hanson** has taught High School Math and Middle School P.E. this year. This was his first year in Hoonah.





# Elementary Tlingit Classes

Taught by K'ashGé Daphne Wright and ShaaDeik Cristina Smith



In the PreK-Kindergarten Class and in First Grade, students learned the Tlingit names for different kinds of regalia. They also got to wear some regalia and use paddles while they danced. The paddles were made for us by Mr. Derenoff's 6<sup>th</sup> grade woodshop class.

Right, Ms. Cristina and some of the First Graders take turns whipping up xákwl'i (soapberries), and the students got to sample them. Gunalchéesh to Mrs. Wright's Canadian friends for giving her the jarred xákwl'i, and for giving preparation tips via email. Gunalchéesh, Yéil T'ooch Tláa, Yeidulatseen ka Ch'et Wu!



During our Tlingit Language classes, we try to include games and songs as much as possible. Below, left, second graders were all smiles during a lively game of Kadu.uuxu.át (Balloon Volleyball). The rules are simple: don't let the kadu.uuxu át hit the t'áa ká (floor). And, whenever you hit it, you are to say a Tlingit word or phrase. The picture on the right shows the fourth graders playing the same game. If your side loses control of the kadu.uuxu át, your group has to answer a Tlingit question.





## Tlingit Spelling Bee Winners

Hoonah City Schools held our First Ever Tlingit Spelling Bee in June. We had a Practice Round and Rounds One and Two on June 7<sup>th</sup>, but were not able to determine the winners until the following week, when we continued the competition.

Final results were: First Place: Ava Hinchman, Second Place: Payton Smith, and Third Place: Charlie Jack. All three girls are Fifth Graders.

Ḳúnáx yak'éi (Good Job) to all three, and to all who were brave enough to enter the competition. Tlingit words are hard to spell; not only do you have to have the correct letters in the right order, you also have to know if the word has a high tone, and if so, where is it? And is that "x" underlined, or pinched (with an apostrophe), or both?

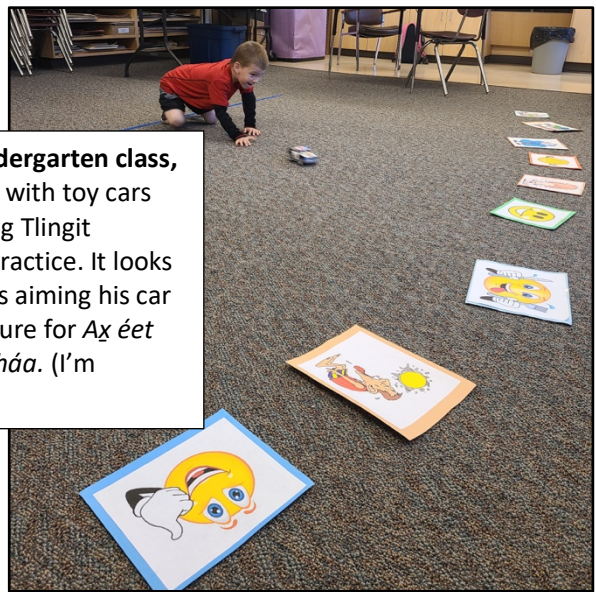
Gunalchéesh to Satóok' Linda Belarde for donating cash for the first place winner's prize. Gunalchéesh also to everyone who came to watch. We hope to make this a tradition at our school, so be watching for our Second Annual Tlingit Spelling Bee next spring.



← **Tlingit Beach Books** were made by students in the Second-Third Grade Class. The Beach Books are titled *Éekdei Naḵtoo.aat!* (Let's Go to the Beach!) and have illustrations of beach critters that we see on our local beaches, along with the Tlingit name for each one, and some short Tlingit phrases, such as *Daa sá iyatéen?* (What do you see?") and *\_\_\_\_\_ xaatéen.* (I see \_\_\_\_.)



**First Graders** made take-home books called *Wáa Sá Sh Teedinook?* (How Are You Feeling?) These books reinforce a year-long activity in which the students were asked that question and had to choose one of the feelings we were studying. Photo at left: the students are practicing reading their Tlingit book. They were instructed to take the books home and share them with their families.

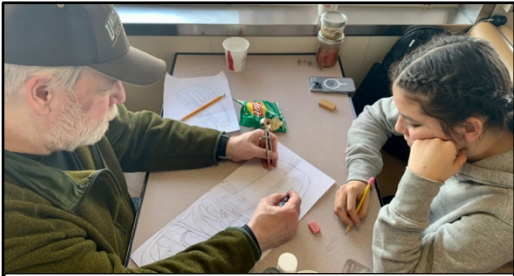


**In the Kindergarten class,** we played with toy cars while doing Tlingit listening practice. It looks like Trigg is aiming his car at the picture for *Aḵ éet yaan uwaháa.* (I'm hungry.)



**News from Middle School and High School Tlingit and STEAM Classes**  
*Taught by Lgéik'i Heather Powell*

Right: HS Lingit Language class visits with Gordon Greenwald and his current project, and sings over the work to breathe life into all they come across. Shown: Gordon Greenwald, Alona Howland, Lgeik'i Powell, Cultural Educator, Shgen George of Angoon, and Kylie Kookesh, and Armando DeAsis, Isaac Jacobson, Susan Bradford, Jermaine Johnson



Seiya Éesh Jeff Skaflestad has joined Lgéik'i and her students for traditional Tlingit Formline instruction. It's been an amazing opportunity to have such a wonderful Tlingit artist share time, stories, and help students create one-of-a-kind designs for their regalia. Above: Seiya Éesh works with Krista on formline drawing.



Left, Izaak Jacobsen working to finish his moccasins in STEAM regalia class. Right, Kaash and Krista learning to age clam shells with a recent visit from the Rasor program from Sitka.



Above: Sixth grade students and TA Alona Howland perform at ISP Theatre to learn about stage presentation and how sound and dance together on stage are important. Students are pictured here with ISP staff Grace Villarreal and Johanna Dybdahl.



Left: April 2022 Trip to Homeland—The focus was on Traditional Tlingit Formline, and Traditional Ecological Knowledge. The students also learned the history of the traditional lands of the Hoonah Tlingit throughout our migration from Glacier Bay to our new home in Xunaa. Our group was joined by Jeff Skaflestad, Seiya Éesh, Chookaneidí and Wayne Howell, Wooshkeetaan, and graciously supported by Huna Heritage Foundation and Executive Director Amelia Wilson, Tlaagoonk.



## Looking Ahead to Close Up 2023

In April 2023, five high school students will be traveling to Washington, DC and New York City to participate in the national Close Up program. Close Up allows students to come face-to-face with the people and places that shape our nation. Through this opportunity, the students will learn what it takes to become an engaged citizen and discover how to use their voice in our American democracy.



Ted, Cheyanne, Emily, Teresa and Kaci



Ted Elliott, Cheyanne Jack, Emily Hurtado, Teresa Lewis and Kaci

Jewell, will spend five days in Washington, DC, and then they will travel by bus to New York City for another two days of exploration. They will visit monuments and memorials, walk the halls of Congress, meet with our members of Congress or their staff and participate in a Mock Congress Workshop where students can debate, amend and vote on issues. They will witness the Changing of the Guard at Arlington National Cemetery and explore museums in both cities.

The total cost for the program is \$2600 per student. Transportation costs will be covered by the City tax of 1% for

## Debate Club

For a couple of months this year, three girls, Kali Membreno-Harris, Rosanna Lackey, and Abigail Stevenson, met two afternoons a week for Debate Club. This club was started to provide the opportunity to have critical discussions about topics that are relevant to today's young people. They spent time researching both sides of the topic, critically listening to each other's points, and questioning each other's thinking. All three of the girls were very respectful of opinions that may have differed from theirs. Thank you to Liz Mair and Mr. Browning for coming and joining our discussions. *Pictured: Abigail, Kali and Rosanna*



HCS activities. Each student and their family is paying \$500 of the total cost. In order to raise the remaining \$2100 per student, we are engaging in many fund-raising activities as a group. In April, we raised \$800 when we sold halibut lasagna take-out dinners.



In May a 50/50 raffle helped us raise \$230, and in early June we had a car wash/bake sale and raised another \$868.

Many thanks to Marlene Duvall for letting us borrow her car washing tools & for donating two delicious strawberry Angel Food cakes and to Easton Ross for her yummy No Bake cookies. And thank you to Sally Dybdahl for her donation of Chex mix & cups of jello.



Thank you also to Dodie and Bob Lunda, Jamie Erickson and Karen Mills who have already donated money to our cause. We so greatly appreciate the support we have received from the community. Gunalcheesh!

If you have any questions about the program or wish to help with fund-raising, please contact me at (907) 957-3915.

*Glenda Hutton  
Close Up Advisor*



# Water Safety Program Provided for Hoonah Elementary Students

**May is National Water Safety Month, but Water Safety is a year-round activity.**

The City of Hoonah realizes the children in Hoonah are at a high risk of drowning. It is vitally important to teach our children to swim at a young age. For the past few years, our school has not provided the children with a swim program. Thanks to our mayor, Gerald Byers, we were able to offer the Hoonah elementary students a 4-week Water Safety & Swimming Skills program during late April and early May.

Also, Parks and Recreation Director Louie White Sr. has supported our swimming program and offered an Open Swim for our community to use the pool on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00-7:00 pm. There is also a morning Lap Swim Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6:00-8:00 am. for exercise and rehab. Currently there is no fee charged for using the pool during these scheduled times.

A special 'Thank You' goes out to the volunteers who worked in the water with classes during lessons. This program could not have been as effective if Sally Dybdahl, Mary Larsen, Kelli Gretsinger and Bryce Tyler had not volunteered to work with classes where one-on-one supervision was needed. More thanks go to our school staff, including Principal Snow, classroom teachers, paras and aides.

Learning to swim involves more than just the basic swim strokes. It encompasses a healthy respect for the dangers of water, as well as floating and swimming.

The four goals we focused on during our Swim lessons were to teach:

1. Water safety education to encourage safe behavior in and around the water.
2. Comfort in the water, so individuals can relax, enjoy the water, and think with a clear head while in the water.
3. Survival floating and related skills; and,
4. A progressive program of mastering swim strokes and swim techniques.

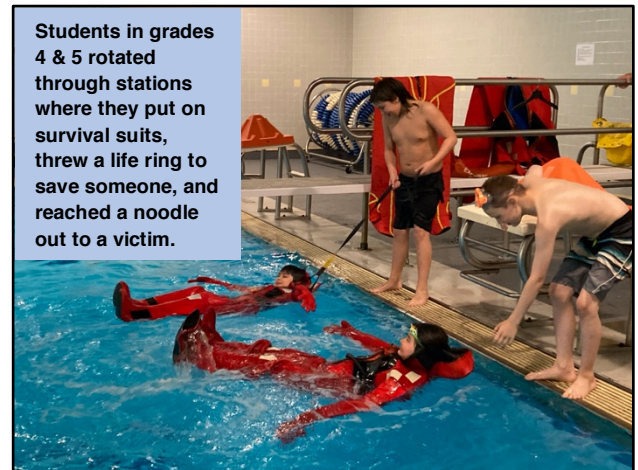
Materials and skills we have used to provide a progressive level of swimming competency has been with The American Red Cross and Water Safety focus used Longfellow Whale's Tales.

Many thanks for letting me be a part of this program. I still hear a first grade girl jump in the water during the last swim squealing, "THIS IS THE BEST DAY OF MY WHOLE LIFE!"

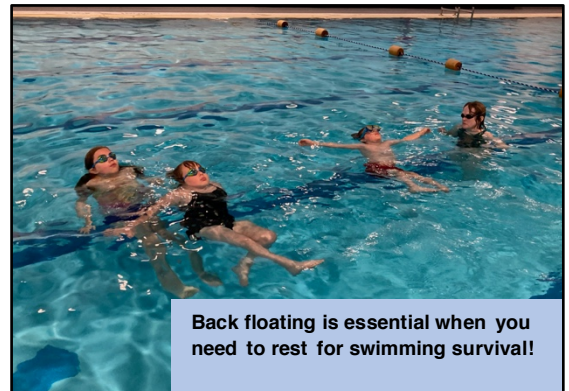
Have a SAFE and fun summer!  
*Kathie Deitering, Water Safety Instructor*



Practicing head-first water entries.



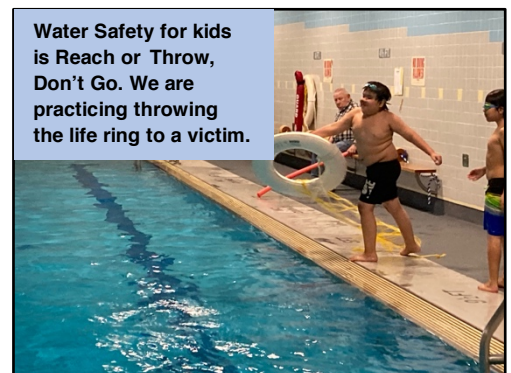
Students in grades 4 & 5 rotated through stations where they put on survival suits, threw a life ring to save someone, and reached a noodle out to a victim.



Back floating is essential when you need to rest for swimming survival!



2nd Grade swimmers with Kathie



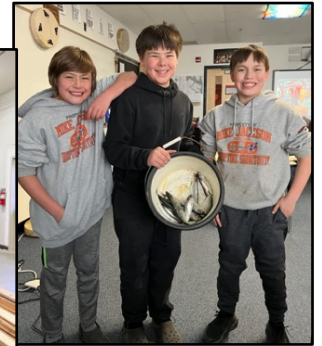
Water Safety for kids is Reach or Throw, Don't Go. We are practicing throwing the life ring to a victim.



## Mini-electives in Middle School and High School

While the secondary students were participating in the State Assessments in April, the teachers put together awesome mini-elective classes, to enrich their afternoons after testing all morning.

Thank you to any member of the community who helped make this happen. We had classes like Tlingit formline with Jeff Skaflestad, photography, outdoor adventures, photography, Russian, nature journaling and more!



## Library News

It is summer, school is out, and kids are ready to spend more time outside. We know kids need plenty of fresh air and exercise to continue to grow as they should. But did you know they also need something else in the summer? Kids need to spend some time reading, doing a little math and some writing too. If a child will spend 15 – 30 minutes a day reading, they will retain the skills they have learned. Doing 3 or 4 math problems a day will keep their math abilities sharp. Writing a paragraph a week, or a few sentences for younger students, will help to improve their writing.

There are many resources available to parents to help make this happen. The Juneau Public Library will check out books to Hoonah residents for free. Call them at 907 789-0125 and they will help you get the books you need and even provide postage for their return.

You can also log on to our World Book account at: [worldbookonline.com](http://worldbookonline.com), Username: [hoonahcsd](http://hoonahcsd), Password: [worldbook](http://worldbook). This site contains learning games and many interesting articles to read.

To access the learning games **Brain Pop**, **Brain Pop Jr.**, and **World Book**, log onto the school website at: [hoonahschools.org](http://hoonahschools.org), Go to: **HCS D library, Online Resources**, and click the icon of your choice.

There are other sites online that will help like, **Epic Books**, **Starfall**, and **ABCYA**. I hope everyone has a great time outside this summer and I hope you enjoy some reading, math and writing with your child as well.

*Mrs. Lee, School Librarian*





## Herring Derby 2022 Report

Clear, bright and sunny days are a small treasure in Hoonah. A few Saturdays back



was just one of these days, and with all the herring filling up the harbor, there were bound to be some fisherpeople down at the docks.

Hoonah City Schools 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Herring Festival brought people in on this particular Saturday morning. Hoonah City Schools kids and some brave parents met at the Park to check in and then went herring fishing for stacks of prizes.



After signing in and checking out poles strung with too many hooks to count, we made our way down to the City Docks to have a fish. Some families stayed behind and fished the Harbor. We would go for the next 5 hours. Rolling down the City Ramp onto the docks, tents, poles, and donut frying tools fell from

every door of the the car and onto the float. The water was running clear after a number of days of sunshine, and there was but a ripple on the water.

Forty-one students came down to fish Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. There were also another 20-30 parents. The docks were full of fishermen and fishing hooks. Inevitably we began to catch fish. The action was hot in the harbor. Of the 35



pounds of Herring caught, far and away the majority came from the Harbor. However, we had donuts on the City Docks. Deep-fried donuts came out of the fryer faster than kids could eat them—just barely. It looked like Bubble Net Donut Feeding!



Among the prizes given out were: a 60-foot Slip and Slide, a long Board, an Espresso Maker and Grinder, Hydroponics growing equipment and numerous fishing poles. Thanks to Huna Heritage, all participants received a \$10.00 gift card to get smoothies.

Among our other donors this year were Sealaska and Tlingit & Haida as well as Hoonah City Schools and the Hoonah Indian Association. Thank you all for the support. Thanks to those families that made it out. We hope to see you again next year!  
*Mark Browning,  
Herring Derby  
Organizer*

Final weight in was held at 5:00. And the results went as followed:

### Grades K-3 Bracket:

Smallest Herring: Thayr Williams

Biggest Herring: KC James

Most Herring: Matthew Mills

### Grades 4-7 Bracket:

Smallest Herring: Savannah Marvin

Biggest Herring: Taylour Mills/ Ashley Johnson

Most Herring: Ashley Johnson/ Taylour Mills

### Grades 8-12 Bracket:

Smallest Herring: Izaak Jacobsen

Biggest Herring: Izaak Jacobsen

Most Herring: Izaak Jacobsen





## Fifth Graders Take a Trip to Glacier Bay

The Hoonah fifth grade class participates each year in the First Bloom/First Plume program presented by the National Park Service. This year it was First Plume; we learned about the birds that live in Glacier Bay and the surrounding area. The fifth graders had six Zoom meetings with two of the rangers at Glacier Bay National Park. The students researched a bird of their choice and wrote a report on it.

As part of the First Plume program, the students are invited to Glacier Bay. This year we traveled with Darlene See and Sonya Johnson from the Hoonah Indian Association. These ladies showed us how to harvest spruce roots, and later showed us how to roast the roots and strip the bark, to prepare it for weaving.



This trip was special because we got to spend the night in the Tribal House in Bartlett Cove. We were up early the next morning to be at the dock to get on the day boat for a trip to the head of the Bay. We got to see most of the birds we learned about on the way, as well as whales, otters, bears, and mountain goats. Some of the 5<sup>th</sup> graders shared their bird reports with other passengers on the day boat. They also sang (and danced) three songs when we were stopped by Margerie Glacier.



Digging for spruce roots

*Here is a trip summary written by 5<sup>th</sup> grader Payton Smith:*

*A week ago, the whole fifth grade class got to go to Glacier Bay for two days and one night and I'm gonna tell you about the fun,*

*interesting things we got to learn, do and see.*

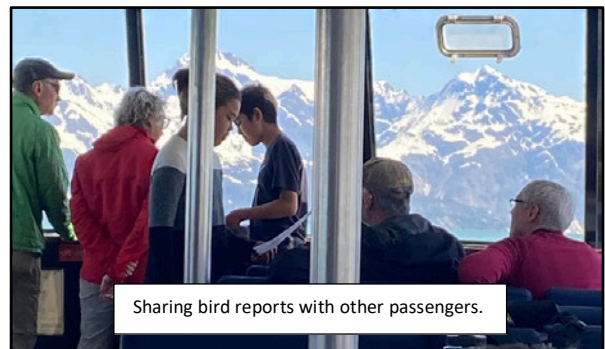
*When we first got there, we went to the beach by the ferry terminal and Darlene and Sonya taught us how to dig up spruce roots. "First you have to thank the spruce tree for taking their roots" Darlene and Sonya told us. Then when you are done, you cover up the ground with the moss and dirt you dug up. Digging spruce roots was really fun and something I will never forget and I would love to do it again. It was also pretty fun because me and Taylour got to teach Ranger Megan how to do it once we got the hang of it. Me, Ava and Taylour found this big long thick spruce root, it was about 8 feet maybe and while we were digging that, we also found a jackpot of other good roots.*



Roasting and stripping spruce roots



Singing, drumming, and dancing at the head of the Bay.



Sharing bird reports with other passengers.





## Hoonah City Schools Greenhouse Update

On June 3<sup>rd</sup> your fourth graders had their second annual plant starter sale to raise money for our greenhouse, and Hoonah turned out to support! Thank you. We raised \$300 on our first sale and had another Plant Fire Sale the following Wednesday, raising another \$100. It looks like there will be no shortage of peas being eaten in Hoonah this summer!



After last year's amazing success in growing veggies in our greenhouse, we have bigger plans still. We received a \$2000 grant from Dreamstarter, a Native American Foundation that funds great projects across the Nation. We hope to do much more with the MOBY before it leaves, perhaps as soon as next summer. It has been quite a run with it here in Hoonah. Jennifer Nu from Sustainable Southeast Partnership, who has been organizing the MOBY around Southeast Alaska, said that the things that have



gone on in MOBY over the last 4-5 years are far above and beyond anything she has seen yet. We have made a series of improvements and modifications that are great. We are not done yet!



The fourth graders this year began starters back in late April and tended and grew them every day for 6 weeks. By the time we were finished, we had 1,876 starters ready to plant. Through all of this, all the kids have been having a wonderful time experiencing the growing of plants, and the prospects of eating what they grew. Kids also planted most of the beds in MOBY with a variety of lettuces again, radishes, and peas.

We will see where MOBY ends up, but regardless of where it goes over the summer, Hoonah is invited to come in and feast whenever people want to. Last year, not nearly enough people went in and collected their own leaf greens and peas. Hopefully this year people here will be more

familiar with the Mobile Greenhouse and know to let themselves in for a healthy feed! Stay tuned to learn more, and keep your eyes open for it.

Perhaps this winter, if we are given the opportunity, we will be able to grow veggies all through the winter to explore whether or not we can make LED growing a feasible operation here in Hoonah. All we need is the opportunity; all other pieces are in place. Our plan would be to grow greens and provide them to Kaz in the school cafeteria so that kids are eating vegetables that they grew all year!

Thank you again for your continued support! See you in the dirt soon.

*Mark Browning and the Fantastic 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Class*



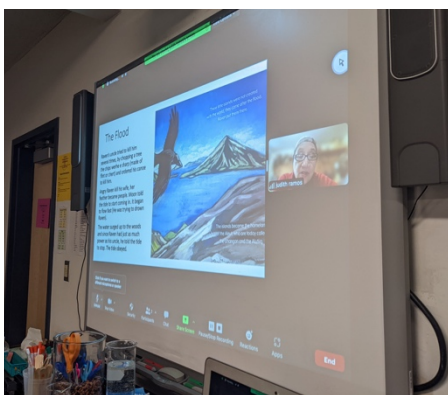


## Dual Enrollment Oceanography Class Offered for HHS Students



The HIA Environmental Program is wrapping up its second semester of partnering with Hoonah City Schools and the University of Alaska Southeast to offer dual enrollment science courses! It's been a great opportunity for students to gain college credit and explore major marine themes relevant to ocean and coastal management. Fisheries Technology 120: Fisheries of Alaska was offered in 2021, and five students were enrolled in Oceanography 101 this year. With a strong basis in both, students set themselves up for continuing education and potential careers in a field under-represented by Native Alaskans.

Students used iPads to watch lectures and modules and our goal was to keep the material engaging with outdoor activities and guest speakers. We've been fortunate enough to be joined by local experts like Judith Daxootsú Ramos



(Professor of Anthropology, and Indigenous Studies at UAS). During a week focused on waves and tides, she told us stories related to Raven and the tides. She shared clips of her father speaking about

understanding the waves and currents, and taught us about some of the traditional tidal technology used historically in the region. Separately, we read eyewitness accounts of the effects of volcanoes and tectonic plate movement. Native voices don't always make their way into science books, making them important to include in a course like this.

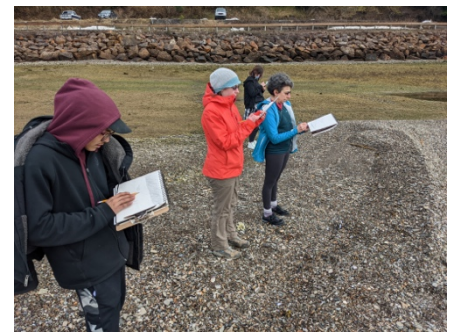
We deployed invasive species monitoring plates with the

help of HIA's Coastal Resilience Manager, Sean Williams, and took water samples to look for the presence of phytoplankton with IGAP Program Manager Jeromy Grant and Assistant Ricardo Contreras. We've also been joined by Neal Schoenfelder (Forest Service), Elise Hartill (Marine Researcher with National Park Service), and Ashley Bolwerk (NOAA Fisheries Biologist) to share their expertise with students and expose them to different career paths in marine sciences. These sessions were also used to get students accustomed to scientific tools and methods. It's also important for them to notice how waters around us are changing. They are always changing on a seasonal level, but also on a larger scale that mirrors changes being seen outside of Hoonah.

In addition to reading and writing assignments, Oceanography 101 students need to complete three creative projects. To assist with this requirement, we



enlisted the aid of Stephanie Harold, Art/Science Integration teacher at Hoonah City Schools. She gave us tips to get sketches of the coast started. Most importantly, she helped us notice some of the features we can take for granted when we see the same landscape time after time. Students used their sketches to label major beach features, and phytoplankton in a separate session.



We're grateful for all the support we've received from HSC, HIA, UAS, and guest speakers. It's been a privilege to work with HSC's High/Middle School Science Teacher Darcy Higgins and UAS Fisheries Tech Professor Laruen Wild. We hope to help continue offering dual enrollment classes next year! Stay tuned for potential college-credit opportunities.



# Prom 2022

## Notes from Prom Chair, Heather Powell

Prom Weekend was a fun-filled few days! Students from Angoon and Yakutat came to participate in our Youth Leadership Gathering that weekend. Activities included ISP's Adventure Course, Leadership Meals, Prom, and Movie Nights to bring our Youth Leaders together and strengthen our relationships through the region.



Students from Angoon on their arrival for Leadership Gathering and Prom Weekend.

Gunalchéesh to all the folks who helped put Prom together this year:

**Door Prize donations:** Kathy Mills Marvin, Travis Lewis, Teresa Lewis, Frank & Daphne Wright, Cristina Smith, Ladonna Byers-Huna Grind, Debbie Picken, Candy Keown

**Food:**  
Mark Browning's fabulous Sushi Crew: (Ollie Kloeckner, Julian Narvaez, Darcy Higgins); Amy & Emily Hurtado, Ariana Drobot, Debbie Picken



**Shout Out to Prom Chaperones;**  
Levi Mills, Billy & Esther Mills, Rebekah & Miguel Contreras, Chenara Johnson, Melissa James, Julian Narvaez & Darcy Higgins, Mark Browning & Ollie Kloeckner, Shawna Howland



**Photographer:** Cory Hill

**Hair/Makeup:** Terri Rae Mills, Esther Mills

**Dress/ Suit Donations:** Kristi & Dillon Styers, Gus Mills, Sherry Mills, Levi Mills, Miguel Contreras, Joe Coronell, Rachel Moreno, Mary Beth Moss & Owen James

**Alterations:** Kris Skaflestad, Darcy Higgins



**Gunalchéesh** to Mr. Derenoff's 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Woodshop Class, for making a couple of goals for soccer, gym hockey and lacrosse. Shown in the picture above left, are the 4<sup>th</sup> graders with Mr. Browning. Mr. Derenoff's 6<sup>th</sup> grade made a set of inter-connecting wooden blocks for the Kindergarten/PreK class. Above, right, Tayla and Riley play with the blocks. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders also did finish work on paddles that the younger classes will use in Tlingit song and dance.



## Creative Writing

From Renée Gray's Sixth Grade



### Turtles

By Jenna Jack  
4/28/22

Oh, turtles, how calming you are!  
You are what I think about day and night  
You provide me with so much comfort.  
The way you swim  
Feels like I am in a deep sleep,  
The way you taste  
I can feel the salty water in my mouth.  
The sight of you gliding in the water  
Reminds me of a plane in the air.  
Your shell as rough as a road  
Your color like a jungle  
The smell of the sea awaits me  
Your yoga actions slowly and slowly  
Your calmness is no error  
Oh, turtles, if only you knew.



### My Boots

By Neta Thein  
4/28/22

Oh, Boots!  
I feel ready to walk outside.  
I feel excited when you go  
On the boat with me.  
You are like gum  
That won't come off.  
I feel happy when  
You keep my feet warm.  
Oh, I am so thankful  
To have you, Boots!



### Ode to Fireworks

By Owen Johnson  
4/28/22

Oh, Fireworks!  
How your beautiful  
And huge designs come every year  
That are as big as the sky!  
Your wonderful sounds  
Like gunshots in the night  
So loud everyone could hear it for miles  
And your whistle so high pitched  
It practically breaks windows!  
Oh, and how I love your pretty colors  
That make rainbows jealous.  
Nevertheless  
I still love watching your  
Wonderous glow.  
Brighter than all the stars  
In the night sky!  
Oh, Fireworks!  
Thank you for the joy that you  
Give me and my community!



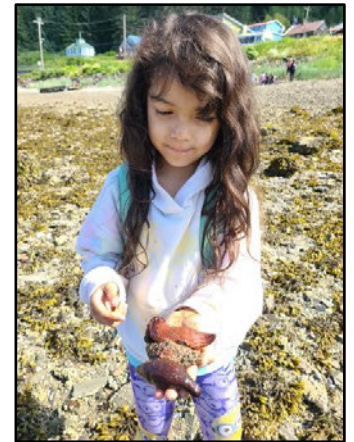
Hoonah Kids at Celebration 2022



# Beach Day 2022



*Gunalchéesh to Cristina Smith for the Beach Day photos*



← NOAA Sea Grant Fellow, Ashley Bolwerk, was a guest teacher at our school June 2nd. She is a scientist working out of Sitka presently. She and Sean Williams from HIA went diving the previous evening and found a lot of very interesting sea creatures to show us. She set up her mini sea environment outside the school, and the classes all got to meet with her and learn about many different kinds of sea critters that we have in our area. The students got to see and learn about sea cucumbers, gumbots, sea stars, sea urchins, and many other things that live in the ocean. Ms. Bolwerk also spoke to the secondary Career Exploration class about her job and the path she took to get there.

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***This newsletter*** is a project of the Native Education Program at Hoonah City Schools. It was started in 1986 as a way to increase parent involvement in the school by “getting the word out” about school activities, programs, students and staff. As this is the last issue of the 2021-2022 academic year, I want to say *gunalchéesh* to everyone who has submitted articles and photos for the newsletter this year. I appreciate your taking the time to help spread the good news about our school. *Gunalchéesh* to my faithful volunteer proofreaders, Sally Dybdahl and Karen S. Mills, who scour each final draft for spelling errors and other mistakes, and who seriously consider some important questions, such as, does that sentence really need a comma?

For everyone else, *gunalchéesh* for sitting down and reading what is on these pages. FYI, you can also find the electronic copy of all of our newsletters on the school website at [hoonahschools.org](http://hoonahschools.org). And you can contact me with any questions, suggestions or comments at [wrightd@hoonahschools.org](mailto:wrightd@hoonahschools.org).

Aatlein *gunalchéesh*,  
Daphne Wright, Newsletter Editor



## Girls' Vitality Program Report

### from Hoonah Indian Association

The Hoonah Indian Association (HIA) received a grant from 7<sup>th</sup> Generation Indigenous Peoples Fund called Girls' Vitality. The primary focus of the program will be to build confidence and empower young woman and girls with traditional knowledge and skills. Participants will learn and practice subsistence processing, preparation and preservation of our traditional foods.

The girls signed an agreement to:

- fully participate
- be respectful
- have a good attitude
- be helpful
- and to keep phones, ear buds and other electronics put away, so they can fully participate in the program.

The Girls' Vitality Program participants are Alona Howland, Krista Howland, Jenna Jack, Cheyanne Jack, Kaci Jewell, Sophie Didrickson, Ava Didrickson, Olivia Larsen and Nevaeh Campbell.

We had a late start due to Covid and other conflicting events. In April and May 2022, the girls started to weave a red and yellow cedar bark basket and cedar roses, projects which some have completed. Some of the participants went herring fishing.

Three girls were selected to go to HIA's Rural Cap Leadership Culture Camp at Tidelines Institute Campus at Inian Islands.

Upcoming opportunities to come together and learn: berry picking, smoking salmon, making dry fish, and gathering kelp. Most of the bounty will be distributed to our elders and others.

Girls' Vitality staff: Nathan Moulton, HIA's Tribal Administrator/Grant writer; Julie Jackson, Cultural Program Director; Darlene See, Cultural Program Manager/Culture Bearer; Sonya Johnson, Culture Bearer

Other culture bearers that have helped us so far are Debbie Picken and Gordon Greenwald. We will be asking others for help as the opportunities come up. Honoraria will be paid for their time and expertise. We appreciate your support and willingness to assist us in this endeavor to strengthen our youth in our traditional way of life.

Aatlein Gunalchéesh!



Participants at HIA's Rural Cap Leadership Culture Camp with Tidelines Institute Campus staff at Inian Islands included students: James Erickson, Cheyanne Jack, Jermaine Johnson Jenna Jack, Olivia Larsen, Ted Elliot, and Isaiah Budke, with adults: Julian Narvaez, Gordon Greenwald, Julie Jackson, Sonya Johnson and Darlene See.

## HIA'S RURAL CAP YOUTH CULTURAL LEADERSHIP RETREAT AT INIAN ISLANDS

*This special Retreat fostered the students' connection to their ancestral homeland, helped build relationships, provided gathering and harvesting opportunities, and included leadership lessons from elders. We saw the youth be empowered by their experiences and friendships; their confidence was heightened by their surroundings.*

*What a magical opportunity for all participants!*

*While at the Camp, they gathered seaweed (which will be distributed during HIA's Food Fair) and gumboots (which were eaten at dinner); they gathered spruce roots and learned how to process them; they wrapped a rock for a keepsake of the trip to ancestral homeland; they received Tlingit form line instruction; went kayaking, and some fished from their kayak.*

*- Gunalchéesh Tidelines Institute for hosting our group!*



The youth learned firsthand how to harvest spruce root from Master Weavers, Darlene See and Sonya Johnson. They participated in the harvest, the burning and then weaving of spruce roots. It was an experience they will always remember: they experienced the whole process from start to finish.



## Earth Day Clean-Up 2022 Report

Earth Day City Clean-Up was held April 23<sup>rd</sup>, with a great crew of 59 Litter Busters signing in to help. Hoonah Recyclers had a lot of partners this year, which made it one of our best Clean-ups yet: HIA Environmental, US Forest Service, Icy Strait Point, ALPAR (Alaskans for Litter



Prevention and Recycling) and City of Hoonah.

A total of 493.6 pounds of trash was collected and deposited at the dump that day, along with several large bags of aluminum, which went to our Recyclers van.



Names were drawn for prizes at the end of the day, for either a Papa Murphy's Pizza or a Hoonah Trading store card. Cash for the store cards was provided by Hoonah Recyclers and helped by cash donations from the following: Glenda & Bob Hutton, Julia See &

Lorenzo Florendo, Daphne & Frank Wright, Jr., and Paul & Sally Dybdahl. Other prizes were donated by Icy Strait Point and Hoonah Trading Company.

Ed Williams, Sr. donated the ten Papa Murphy's Pizzas, which were awarded as prizes.



Gunalchéesh to all who donated, and to all who helped with this clean-up effort!



Vacation Bible School kids and adults at Abundant Life Church pitched in to help with Clean-Up.

## More Earth Day News



Students in grades 6-12 had the opportunity to show their love for the earth and for their community on Earth Day, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. One group helped HIA with their potato beds,

one group cleaned up around the Park, and another group pulled little trees along the cannery path.



## Hoonah Recyclers Update

Our van is back in town, so expect to see some open Saturdays during the summer. Remember, we take all kinds of metals and will pay for them, or will gladly accept your donations. Thanks to **Alaska Marine Lines**, who have for many years been transporting our van to Seattle and back for free, we are able to pay for the metals and make a little bit of profit. Those profits are used to support Clean-up efforts and community events and programs, such as the Fishing Derby, Christmas Program, 4<sup>th</sup> of July and others. We partner with Alaska Native Sisterhood Camp 12.

Recyclers want to thank the following for donations of metals:

Earth Day crew	HCS D trash can of cans
Elena & Howard Diamond	Nicki & John Shelton
Duffy & Frank Wright	Jessie & Jeremy Martin
Karen the Great	Miryam Frances
Teresa & Shawn McConnell	Paul & Sally Dybdahl
Anony Mouse	Terry Fiske
Julian Narvaez and Darcy Higgins	Glenda & Bob Hutton

Another thank you to the local **AML** crew and the **City of Hoonah** crew for their help with our van as well.



## Boxholder

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### Dates to Remember

Haa Too Yéi Yatee Culture Camp	July 17-20
First Day of School	August 17, 2022
Thanksgiving Break	November 24-25, 2022
Christmas Vacation	December 22-Jan. 4, 2023
Spring Break	March 20-24, 2023
Last Day of School	May 17, 2023



**A Community Concert** was held at the school May 12<sup>th</sup>, featuring world-renowned cellist, Zuill Bailey. Students and community members enjoyed a live performance of classical music, sponsored by Juneau Jazz & Classics and hosted by Hoonah City Schools. At the end of the concert, the students had a jam session of their own, sharing Tlingit singing and dancing with their special guest.