Enrollment Update: Current enrollment is 1,216.75. Our October official count was 1,207.17.

Since the last School Board meeting:

- Congratulations to the Sitka High School Drama and Debate team who took 1st in State in both Drama and in Debate, and they won the State Sweepstakes title, too! Congratulations to the students who won individual awards!
- Thank you to all of the teachers and families (and students) who met during Parent Teacher Conference week.
- Kudos to Blatchley staff and community volunteers who organized a successful Discover Your Potential week at Blatchley Middle School! There were 53 unique options over 87 sessions where students selected topics to explore in depth – from Coast Guard Boot camp to Subsistence Food to Babysitting 101, there was plenty of engaged learning!
- Kudos to our food service provider, Nana Management, for offering Chef for a Day at Keet, Blatchley, and Sitka High School this year! This is a new program where Nana brought in professional chefs to prepare Japanese Udon Noodle Bowls where the students selected the ingredients for their bowl of food. Chef for a Day was a hit by all!
- Baranof students in Jamie Eells’ and Jeff Hole’s classrooms got to work with Teaching Artist Shelly Toon Lindberg and created stop animations films. Also, Keet Gooshi Heen students in Jennifer Reid’s and Kirsten Karsunky’s classrooms got to work with Teaching Artist Ed Littlefield to create soundscapes of Tlingit Raven stories that were recorded in the 1960’s! Both of these are part of our Arts, Culture, and Technology work that is focused on using Arts, Culture, and Technology as a context for learning academic content.
- I traveled to Arlington, Virginia to attend the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Board Meeting from Thursday, February 7th- Monday, February 11th. ISTE pays all costs for me to attend the meeting, and while there we will discussed policies and practices that set the standards for the use of digital resources to increase learning.
- I travelled to Anchorage to attend the Alaska Society for Technology in Education (ASTE) Conference on Friday, February 16th- Monday, February 18th. As part of my compensation package, I am supported in attending one in-state conference a year. Since I am an ASTE past president, my conference registration is waived, which reduces the overall costs for me to attend. We had a number of our teachers at ASTE, and we learned lots of new information!

Current Happenings:

- Basketball Regionals will be held this week at Mt. Edgecumbe High School. Good luck!
- Diana Browning Wright returns to Sitka next week for the 4th of our 4 Multi-Tiered System of Support for Behavior cohort meetings this school year. She will be back next year, as we continue this vital work.
- Educator Rising is starting at Sitka High School as an afterschool activity. This is a statewide and national program to support high school students to become teachers. We even received a $5,000 check from the Juneau Community Foundation to support our new Educator Rising program!
- We are continuing our negotiations with both the Sitka Education Association (SEA) and the Sitka Educational Support Professional Association (SESPA) unions. Both contracts are expected to begin on July 1, 2019.
- We continue to deal with the potential impact should Governor Dunleavy’s budget be implemented. Thank you to all of the individuals who have been helping to advocate for funding for public schools. We need you more than ever!

Things on the Radar:

- Spring Break is the week of March 18th. I hope families and staff enjoy this annual opportunity to refresh and recharge and gear up for a strong ending to the school year!
- We are gearing up for the annual statewide student academic assessment called PEAKS. The testing window is March 25th – April 25th. Families are encouraged to watch for specific days and news from their child’s school. Rest is critical.
- Business Manager Cassee Olin and I will be traveling to Juneau from Friday, March 22nd to Wednesday, March 27th for the Alaska Council of School Administrator’s Legislative Fly-In. We will be meeting with Legislators and testifying in support of public education in Alaska! Let’s hope we come back with some good news...