Dear Students and Parents,

It is hard to believe that December is upon us. As the holidays approach and the spirit of giving surrounds us, I would like to encourage parents to give their children “tools for success” at school. Research shows that a child’s success is closely linked to parent involvement, outstanding attendance, involvement in activities outside of the school day, and school preparedness. Let’s all work together to give our students what they need to experience success this year.

- **Parent involvement:** When teachers and parents have open lines of communication, students are more likely to be successful in school. Also, to help promote the value of education to children, parents can find opportunities to volunteer on field trips, in the classroom, during lunches, or at recess.

- **Outstanding attendance:** The importance of having your child at school each and every day cannot be stressed enough. School routines are very important, and students who are on time and who have excellent attendance have an increased chance of experiencing success.

- **Involvement in activities outside the school day:** Give your child the opportunity to learn outside the school day in activities such as clubs, camps, or sports teams. These will allow them to learn valuable life lessons such as sportsmanship, teamwork, commitment, and spark other interests.

- **School preparedness:** Help your child be prepared for school each day by having “school” routines at home. Make sure your child is well-rested with a set bedtime each night. Also, make reading an important part of life at home. Set aside time each night to complete homework and send your child to school each morning with a full tummy and dressed for the weather.

I hope each of you find yourselves surrounded by loved ones during the holidays and that you find time for rest, recreation, and family.

Sincerely,

Casey Demmert
Principal
Lunch account balances can be paid online;
https://sitka.revtrak.net/School-Lunch-Payments/

Check out Facebook for upcoming events and information
https://www.facebook.com/KeetGooshiHeen/
The Keet Gooshi Heen page on the District Website is also a great place for information
https://www.sitkaschools.org/Page/3337

The P.E. Playbook

Welcome to the gym!
Where sportsmanship and safety are the most important aspect of everything we do!
In December we will have our Basketball Unit. Jingle Bell gym will run for three classes with indoor snowball fights with white, fluffy balls, stations including building snowmen with hula hoops, and a few other holiday themed activities.

Please call 966-1239 or email ross@sitkaschools.org with any questions or concerns.
Holiday Concert Transportation
Keet has taxi vouchers available to family’s for rides to and from the concert. For a voucher call Ramon Quevedo at 966-1213.

Winter Concerts!
The KGH Winter Concerts will again be held in the Sitka Performing Arts Center (PAC).
Feel free to contact our music teachers, if you have any questions or concerns.

Susan Brandt-Ferguson (966-1237 or brandts@sitkaschools.org)
(3-, 4-, and 5- grade Music Teacher)

Kathi Jones (966-1318 or jonesk@sitkaschools.org)
(2- grade Music Teacher)

4th - Grade Winter Concert: Monday, December 9th at 7:00 p.m.
3rd - Grade Winter Concert: Thursday, December 12th at 7:00 p.m.
2nd - Grade Winter Concert: Monday, December 16th at 6:30 p.m.
5th - Grade Winter Concert: Tuesday, December 17th at 7:00 p.m.

Assistance during the holidays!
The Sitka Salvation Army offers extra support during the holidays. If your family is in need of a little something extra this holiday season, the Salvation Army can help.

The Salvation Army offers a holiday dinner basket and gifts for children.
Hel-lo 2nd Grade!

"Take some sugar and some spice and just a bit of flour" and you have "A Gingerbread Christmas!" That is our program for 2nd grade this year. We will have the performance at 6:30 P.M. on Monday, December 16th at the Performing Arts Center. On Friday the 13th, we will have a rehearsal in the Performing Arts Center and families are welcome to attend, especially if you are unable to make the Monday evening performance. It will begin at 8:30 a.m. and last about an hour. Notes and speaking parts were sent home before the Thanksgiving break.

Thank you and please feel free to call or email if you have any questions.

"We're stirring up some fun, we've only just begun!"

Kathi Jones 966-1318 (message phone) or jonesk@sitkaschools.org

This holiday season we are excited to grow our hearts three sizes bigger, just like the Grinch! To make this happen, our school will be participating in the #GrinchforGood campaign by organizing a seasonal food drive. Food collected will be donated to the Salvation Army. Please work with your student to collect cans and bring them to school by 12/16/ Every can will make a difference in our community.

*Please make sure cans aren’t past their use-by-date and are undamaged

“Toys For Tots”

The Marine Corps League of Sitka is sponsoring the annual Toys for Tots donation toy drive. Please donate new and unwrapped toys by placing them in the box at the school office. The deadline is Friday, December 13th.

The Sitka School District students traditionally are very generous in their donations. In the past, we have collected more than many of the stores and businesses in the community. Make a child happy this Christmas and donate a toy. Thank you, students!

Marine Corps League

Robert B. Johnstone Detachment, Sitka, Alaska

Contact Bernie Gurule for questions or information at 966-3202 or 752-0811

Winter Break

*NO SCHOOL*

December 23rd-January 8th

Back to school January 9th
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**1st Grade Winter Concert 7pm**
Performing Arts Center

**2nd Grade Winter Concert 6:30pm**
Performing Arts Center

**3rd Grade Winter Concert 7pm**
Performing Arts Center

**4th Grade Winter Concert 7pm**
Performing Arts Center

**5th Grade Winter Concert 7pm**
Performing Arts Center

**New Years Eve**

**December 1st Grade Fun Run 10am**
Centennial Hall

**December 7th Grade Winter Concert 7pm**
Performing Arts Center

**December 15th Grade Winter Concert 6:30pm**
Performing Arts Center

**December 23rd Grade Winter Concert 7pm**
Performing Arts Center

**December 31st Grade Winter Concert 7pm**
Performing Arts Center
From the Library

New Books—With the help from Assistant Superintendent Sarah Ferrency and an ELL grant, our school received a number of new books in Tagalog and English/Tagalog. Thank you to the ELL department for providing these materials and all are welcome to check them out!

The book fair was a huge success! Thank you everyone for supporting the library. The funds raised will provide more books and supplies for the library. Not only did you get great books, you helped support our school! Thank You

Remember: Read every day!
Set a good example and let your children see you reading!

Books Make Great Gifts!

Boys on the Run...December 14th

All are invited to cheer on participants of Boys Run I toowú klatseen as they complete the program’s sixth annual 5K fun run following a season of hard work and learning about healthy relationships and lifestyle skills. The arcade-themed event will begin in Harrigan Centennial Hall room 6 at 10:00am on Saturday, December 14. Community is a primary pillar of the Boys Run program, so please come show these 30 third to fifth grade boys that they have the support of the community as they strive to accomplish their goals! Interested in bringing food or volunteering to help out at the event? Please visit tinyurl.com/
2nd Grade Tlingit Celebration

The annual 2nd Grade Tlingit Celebration took place before the break at Keet Gooshi Heen. Students have been learning about the Tlingit Culture since the beginning of the school year.

Before the celebration, students made their very own regalia (or you could say Octopus bags, but we all did a different variation) with a Keet Whale! Beginning the program was a dance performance by the 2nd – 5th Grade SNEP dancers. Afterward, Chuck Miller told a story to the 2nd grade audience. Students then rotated through four stations including: making headbands, making wearable pins (materials donated by Pauline & Al Duncan), eating traditional Tlingit foods, and coloring salmon.

The Second Grade teachers would like to thank families for food donations and help. The staff would also like to thank SNEP Tutor, Erin Rofkar, Pauline Duncan, Chuck Miller (SEARHC), and SNEP staff: Nancy Douglas, Charlie Skultka, Lillian Young and Jamie Bradley.

Sigóowu yoo at kooteek! Happy Holidays!

We are going to space!

All grades will visit Starlab in January!!

Save this date: KGH Project Fair will be February 26th & 27th
We are happy to announce our 2nd annual Polar Pals student holiday shopping opportunity. This is a service we are offering the students. It is not a fundraiser. Your student will get to shop with their class December 17th-20th here at Keet! This is a wonderful time for your student to purchase affordable gifts for their holiday celebrations and an opportunity to learn about handling and budgeting money.

If you have questions contact;

Mrs. Keaveny or Mrs. Charlton 747-8395