



Seldovia Gazette

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Thursday, Sep. 24, 2009

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[Opinions](#)

[Spotlight](#)

[School](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Archives](#)

[Seldovia.com](#)

[Gazette Services](#)

Susan B. English School News



Did You Know? from Principal Sherry Hingley



Mrs. Zinszer worked with the 7/8 class last week on an integrated writing/ movement lesson.

This week Mrs. Zinszer's class will create a tableaux.

Ms. Bornheimer's students are learning about scientific method.

Ask any K-4 student about the meal worms in their room.

The digital photography class has been documenting Seldovia in photos.

Shop students are busy working on projects every morning.

RECENT NEWS FROM SUSAN B. ENGLISH

The following articles were featured in the Gazette on September 10, 2009

Introducing The Gazette's New Student Reporters, Kathleen Gruber & Chelsea Suydam

I am so excited to announce the two new reporters from Susan B. English who will be assisting The Gazette this year with school and other local news! Both Chelsea and Kathleen are Seniors at SBE, and are working to develop their writing skills and gain some fabulous volunteer hours!

Both of these ladies are exceptionally hard-working and dedicated to their education and are excited about participating with the Gazette. Please congratulate them on their new position, and encourage them in their public endeavor to show Seldovia from the student's perspective! Our kids are our future - and I'm so pleased to have both of these young ladies willing to volunteer their time and energy in such a public way for the community's benefit! Way to go - awesome community spirit!

I offered out a few questions to both the gals about working for the paper and going to school here in Seldovia, and here are their responses!

Introducing Kathleen!

1. I wanted to be a reporter for the Gazette because I wanted to have some experience in journalism before I go to school for my writing degree.
2. I really hope to focus on writing about the high school sports this year. That way, on out of town games everyone will have easy access to how things turned out.
3. I just hope for my last year to be as fun and full as I can make it. I want everyone to have a great time and be able to remember this year as one of their best in high school.
4. I would love for people to come up to me and inform me on what they'd like to hear about. Sometimes I'm at a loss for what to write so if you know something awesome that will be going on and want the details, I'd love to help in getting the information out there.
5. I'm hoping to go to the lower 48 after school. Maybe for college or maybe just to see what's out there. I love Alaska but the rest of the world looks awful tempting right now.
6. The low part of going to S.B.E is the constant worry as you see the school shrinking more and more that things like sports and electives will disappear. The high of going to S.B.E is that it forces you to get out of your shell. You've got to play sport or your friends won't have a team, you have to take classes, like art or shop, or it won't be offered again, you have step up and do more than you thought you would or even really like because if you don't it won't get done. It makes people try things they wouldn't normally and in the end you might find something new to love.

And here's Chelsea!

- 1) I would like to portray to the community in a clear, interesting way how SBE and the people there are doing throughout the year, giving a good picture on what goes on up here and what the students, teachers, or community may think about it.
- 2) I hope to cover a broad spectrum of school-related events and ideas, especially other people's perspectives and opinions on these things.
- 3) My hopes are to learn as much as I can, as this will be my last chance for free education, to support my school in various ways, and to also enjoy what I'm learning and savor the last days I have here.
- 4) The school and community can assist in writing with the paper by giving any ideas they might have on good articles or telling me what events they'd like to hear about. Also, not being afraid to speak their minds in case we ever come around with any questions...
- 5) I'm not sure on where I want to go yet, but I do know I'd like to attend a college out of state and am thinking about studying fields in the maths and sciences, possibly learning something like biomedical engineering. If anyone has any suggestions, I'd love to hear them!
- 6) I would say the high has been the one-on-one help I get from my teachers; I could never have learned so much without the care they give to each student's education. The low might be the limited amount of classes and extracurricular opportunities due to the very small student population.

The Sheep Theory by Kathleen Gruber

Everyday teens are bombarded with vast quantities of information that tell us everything from what to wear to how we should talk and think. The thing is just because we're told to do something doesn't mean we're going to. It's always irked me when people get on the news and blame the media and celebrities for the failings in the underage population. It seems like every other week there's some news anchor talking about the negative effects of all the drugs, violence, and sex on television and in magazines.

Here's the hard truth.

By blaming everyone else, these concerned adults are saying that teens are so easily bent that we can't judge right and wrong. Just because I love Britney Spears doesn't mean I'm going to stop purchasing essential clothing items. I may watch *Juno* but I'm not going to engage in promiscuous behavior. And just because *Project Runway* and magazines glorify super skinny sticks doesn't mean I'm going to develop an eating disorder.

Essentially if people are concerned about the youth they should be talking to them. Make sure teens know the facts then step back. We're not sheep; we can do more than follow the street signs.

That's Elementary!

School news and thoughts from the perspective of Mrs. Bornheimer's Kindergarten through fourth grade class. We hope to see all kinds of blossoming talent from these kids! Stand by, your child, grandchild, niece or nephew might be the next Walter Cronkite, JK Rowling or Ansel Adams!

What's Different

*By Sage Stanish
4th Grade*

School started on August 24, 2009. I was wondering what people thought was different this year than last year. So I went around and asked K-12 students plus teachers the same question. I asked almost the whole school, but I only wrote down some so here's what they said.

Frankie: I'm learning new things. I'm in a new classroom. There are no private areas.

Ben: Harder work and it's fun being in first grade.

David: Learning new things and harder work.

Axcenia: A lot of stuff is moved in the classroom.

Hans: You can use pens, and I have a new teacher.

Dylan: You can make paper airplanes, and you learn faster.

Nathan: We can wear hats and use iPods.

Levi: A new class and there's not much friends.

Xandria: Different classes and harder work.

Serena: I'm doing Rosetta Stone, and I'm in high school.

Mariah: Math for first period and a lot less kids.

Chelsea: More teachers and less students

I bet their answers are changed by now and will keep changing throughout the year.

News From Susan B. English School by *Chelsea Suydam*

Not too much is happening at Susan B. English, as it is only the third week of school, but things are cropping up.

Though not technically a "school event," there was a unique concert on Saturday that consisted of the "world's best mandolin player," a guitarist from Scotland, and a blues couple from Tennessee. I attended with the vague notion that I'd be hearing some acoustic guitar, but was in for a pleasant surprise. These concerts bring a little slice of outside culture to Seldovia, and are great if you want to expand your horizons a bit; I know I ended up enjoying some music I would have never listened to on my own. It is great that these concerts can be held at our school, too, so thank you SBE and Arts Council!

Now, some school news: on Tuesday, we held our Student Council Presidential Election. Who were the candidates, or should I say, candidate? We had only one candidate and his running mate (the vice president) interested in taking on this position, and these were Matthew Gain and Kathleen Gruber.

Matthew gave a very short and sweet speech to make public that he was running and to explain why we should vote for him. The high school and junior high did have the option to write in a different person for both the presidential and vice presidential positions if they could think of more likely candidates. The results were in on Wednesday morning, and, as expected, Matthew and Kathleen won by a landslide.

So what exactly is the significance of the Student Council, and why would anyone bother to hold the presidential or vice presidential position? Kathleen and Matthew shed some light on this subject, explaining the advantages of the council and the reason it needs a governing head. The Student Council is in charge of all the fun stuff – pep rallies, Spirit Week, and holiday activities (Easter egg hunts, Valentine's Day games, etc.). It is also in charge of the snack cart, which raises money for the Booster Club. In addition, the Student Council can help relay students' needs and opinions to the principal or teachers in a more formal way that ensures students are heard and that action will hopefully be taken.

The president and vice president of the council schedule, organize, and oversee weekly meetings where representatives from each grade in high school meet and a junior high representative meet and discuss their ideas and opinions. They are the ones that make sure the fun stuff happens, and that it doesn't happen in a chaotic – or boring – way. New to the Student Council, Kathleen hopes to make this a fun year, getting everybody involved and keeping up our school spirit. Ronene Gain also does a superb job in overseeing the council to make sure everything is running smoothly.

Susan B. English is fortunate to have members of the student body that wish to make school more than just something that needs to be endured, with each day to end as soon as possible. Having the Student Council adds some "pep" where it's needed, keeping up a few SBE traditions and adding new ones in the process.

(Note: Don't forget the tradition of Mrs. Bornheimer's class cooking banana bread, which occurred on Wednesday– not much is more pleasing than smelling the aroma of the baking bread wafting from the Home-Ec. Room while walking through the commons!)



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
SCHOOL DISTRICT
HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES
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