



Seldovia Gazette

Serving Seldovia, Alaska and Kachemak Bay southeast

Seldovia, AK

34 °F / 1 °C

Clear
at 3:53 AM



[Click for Forecast](#)

Thursday, Oct. 15, 2009

Just another day in paradise

[Local News](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Opinions](#)

[Spotlight](#)

[School](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Archives](#)

[Seldovia.com](#)

[Gazette Services](#)

Susan B. English School News





Did You Know? from Principal Sherry Hingley



The jr. high class has been acting out scenes from ancient Egypt in Social Studies class, so if you see Devin, Ginger, or Kaitlyn, ask them to describe the process of mummification for you.

Also, the jr. high class made digital self portraits and poems in Explorations class this week. They read their poems and recorded them on Photo Story software so that we have a "Class Introductions" movie.

The meal worms in the K-4 class are changing to PUPA and Beetles. Ask a student about what experiments they are doing with the meal worms.

Some of the shop students are building bridges, making fish, and various other projects. Keep an eye out for fish appearing around town.

RECENT NEWS FROM SUSAN B. ENGLISH

The following articles were featured in the Gazette on September 24, 2009

News From Susan B. English School

by *Chelsea Suydam*

Open House reveals what's going on at SBE

Last week, on Wednesday, September 16th, Susan B. English hosted Open House, in which students' parents could go up to the school and learn about what is going on in their student's lives. SBE's principal Mrs. Hingley gave a Power Point presentation, going over various subjects that included school goals, yearly progress, the onset of a new era, and information on the H1N1 flu virus.

First of all, she explained that Susan B. English met AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) last year, with 91% of the students proficient or above in Language Arts, 86% in Math, and a 100% graduation rate. Compare these percentages to the minimum required by the state: 77% in Language Arts, 66% in Math, and a 56% graduation rate.

Mrs. Hingley also elucidated on the goals of the school board, district, and Seldovia's school, all of which SBE is doing well in trying to fulfill. The school board goals consisted of all students being prepared to pursue the educational and/or vocational pathway of their own choice; increased parent, student, and community engagement; improved communication; and an increase in student graduation rates. Some district goals included an increase in the level of collaboration among teachers, principals, and classified staff, along with improved student learning opportunities through the use of technology. Finally, our own school goals were to increase the percentage of students who are proficient and advanced, and to ensure students are prepared with the skills needed for the 21st century.

When the "21st century" is envisioned, one may picture using cell phones, computers, and other modern technology very extensively and efficiently. But in her presentation, Mrs. Hingley referred to the 21st century as something above and beyond this, calling it a new era titled "The Conceptual Age." Whereas the 18th century was the Agricultural Age, the 19th century the Industrial Age, and the 20th century the Information Age, the 21st century is now about creators and empathizers, people who are more collaborative, mobile, and productive. According to a graph from Apple Computers, it has been found that the demand for various skills has changed, and instead of needing "routine cognitive" and "routine manual" skills, we are now in greater need of "complex communications" and "expert thinking." The school goals reflect this need for cooperation, teamwork, and creativity, and should prepare students for this conceptual age.

To better understand why teamwork is so important, parents then took Multiple Intelligence tests to see the intelligences they were strong in, such as visual-spatial, verbal-linguistic, and body-kinesthetic. These tests showed people their strengths, and how some people are stronger in some skills than others. When a group of people is put together, with each person having his unique strengths, it is my guess that great things can be accomplished.

After taking these tests, parents visited three different classrooms, according to what classes their students are involved in. This allowed them to get acquainted with their children's teachers and what their children are learning.

All in all, Open House seemed to be a successful evening, enlightening us of what our school is doing to make sure that the youth of Seldovia can enter this world with the skills needed to accomplish and succeed.

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!

The Mealworm's Life

By *Alliah Wheeler*

2nd Grade

The K-4 class is working with mealworms. Mealworms are brownish with an exoskeleton. They have six legs and two antennae, and they have a tiny claw on each leg. Their eyes are on the side of their head. The mealworms eat bran. They drink apple juice.



The critters on Alliah's right are mealworms and on her left are pupas.

When they're done being a mealworm they turn into a pupa. The pupas are white. They don't move much. Then they turn into an adult beetle. Then they lay their eggs. The eggs are so small you can't even see them.

Never release a mealworm in Seldovia. They will take over because they are an invasive species. There are many mealworms in the Philippines. My mom said that when they are stepped on they make a crackling noise.

People's Pets

By Cody Bond

4th Grade

When I was little I had lots of pets, and I wanted to see what pets other people have. I asked all the people in the K-4 class what pets they have and what they like about their pets.

David and Ben said they have four fish and one crab. David likes watching the fish and playing with his crab, and Ben likes his crab crawling on his hand.

Axcenia has one lizard, two fish, two dogs, and two birds. She said she bought them because they're fun.

Sage and Zac said they have four roosters, two dogs, one cat, one chick, and fourteen hens. They like petting them.

Ariana and Ashante' said they have two dogs and one rabbit. They said they like their dogs because they pet them.

Skyler and Trevor have two dogs and some fish. They like feeding and playing with them.

Frankie said he has two dogs and four cats. He likes that one of his dogs is fluffy, and he likes petting his cats.

Alliah has no pets.

I have two dogs and one cat. I like that the dogs always guard me from bears, and I like petting my cat.

Washington DC Close Up 2010

by Vivian Rojas, Washington DC Coordinator

Eight students from Susan B. English School are eager to attend a course in governmental studies offered by the Close Up Foundation in Washington D.C. Close Up is built on the belief that textbooks and lectures alone are not enough to help students understand the democratic process and make it work. Students need a "close up" experience in government. Close Up's national experiential government studies programs strengthen participants' knowledge of how the political process works, increase their awareness of major national and international issues, and motivate them to become actively involved in the world around them.

All individuals deserve the opportunity to be informed citizens of our democracy. Each year, more than 25,000 students, teachers, and other adults take part in Close Up's programs in Washington, D.C. Since the inception of its Washington-based programs in 1971, the Close Up Foundation has welcomed nearly 650,000 students, educators, and other adults to the nation's capital.

The Close Up Program Will:

- * Motivate our students to become an active participant in our democracy,
- * Strengthen their knowledge of how government works and
- * Increase their awareness of major national and international issues.

Close Up Washington brings civic lessons to life by taking students behind the scenes and allowing them to witness their government in action. Students' days are packed from morning to night with activities including study visits to Washington landmarks, seminars with national leaders, peer- to- peer learning workshops, seminars with policy experts, and meeting their legislators on Capitol Hill. In addition, students spend a night on the town at the theater or touring the monuments after dark. They will attend a formal banquet and dance, and are given a day of scheduled independent time for exploring the city. You can find out more about the close-up at their web site: www.closeup.org.

The students will be traveling May 1-8, 2010. They will start their program May 2, Sunday night and wrap up their week on Thursday. The group will be fundraising to have an extra 2 days in the DC area after their Close up experience if possible.



The funding raising efforts this summer started with a beautiful stain glass created and donated by Marcella Suydam. This amazing stain glass piece can be admired and tickets may be purchased at the Tide Pool Restaurant.

Stained Glass Panel Raffle tickets can also be purchased from any Washington DC student (Cameren Blodgett, Amanda Gain, Courtney Collier, Matthew Gain, Kathleen Gruber, Katrina Hecks, Chelsea Suydam or Mariah Turner) or call the school 234-7616 and leave a message for Ms. Rojas, Close up coordinator. Raffle tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. The drawing will be at the Halloween Carnival in October. A date has not been set yet.

The students have also had several bake sales and we have many fundraising plans in the making.

Every student is willing to work to pay for part of their costs, but many of the students and their parents cannot afford to pay the entire cost of the trip. This includes the tuition for the program, travel from Seldovia to Anchorage and flights from Anchorage to Washington DC.

Your tax deductible donation will be a big help in making this trip possible for the students. You will be helping to shape their lives in a positive way. You may make your tax deductible donation payable to "Susan B. English School" for the 2009 Close Up trip and send it to:

Susan B. English School
Attn: Vivian Rojas
PO Box 171
Seldovia, AK 99663

We are also looking for anyone who may be able to donate "companion fares" on Alaska Airlines to the group. Please contact Vivian through the school (907) 234-7616 if you have any questions or can donate in any way.

Thank you for your consideration and support, we will keep you posted on our fundraising activities.

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](#)

[GUIDELINES \(click here for pdf\)](#)

Copyright © 2008 Seldovia.com and Seldovia Gazette. All rights reserved. The Seldovia Gazette is published twice a month by Seldovia.com. Contents of this publication may not be used or reproduced, in whole or in part, in any form or manner without the express written permission of Seldovia.com..