



# Seldovia Gazette

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Thursday, Oct. 29, 2009

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## Susan B. English School News



### Did You Know? from Principal Sherry Hingley



All first and fourth graders got 100% on their spelling tests last week.

Some of the shop students have been working on a "school of fish". The school of fish is now being displayed on the fence around the playground.

We have finished the first quarter of school.

There was a great turn out for parent teacher conferences.

Site Based Council officers were elected.

### RECENT NEWS FROM SUSAN B. ENGLISH

The following articles were featured in the Gazette on October 15, 2009

## News From Susan B. English School

by *Chelsea Suydam*

### October Booster Club Meeting

On Tuesday, October 6th, the Booster Club had its monthly meeting. The meeting started off with the financial report, and we saw that we have a balance of \$16,725. Mrs. Hingley reported that \$3,000 of that was from selling Seldovia Sea Otter sweatshirts and t-shirts down at Herring Bay Mercantile.

Next, Vivian Rojas explained how students are raising money for Close-Up by selling raffle tickets, holding bake sales, and hosting dinners. Given that the tuition for the program and airfare to Washington D.C. is plentiful, she, on behalf of all the Close-Up participants, requested for travel fare from Seldovia to Homer and back (either by plane or boat) and gas money for the roundtrip from Homer to Anchorage. The Booster Club graciously agreed to comply with her request.

In this meeting, an election was supposed to be held, but, given the small number present and the uncertainty of who should and wants to hold the position of president, the election was waived until the next meeting. Lisa O'Leary will continue as president until this election has been made. Dianne Gruber did say she would like to be the vice president, and Lisa O'Leary mentioned up taking the secretary position. Sandy Geagel has always been the treasurer, with Ronene Gain handling the money and making sure it gets to her safely.

The following item on the agenda was the discussion of the Booster Club's annual auction dinner, including who would be in charge of the menu and what date it will be held on. Followed by applause and sighs of relief, it was announced that Pumi Kashevarof has accepted to cook and prepare the menu. Though a finalized date was not determined, it was decided the dinner will be on a Saturday in April.

Ronene Gain explained that Student Council has decided to continue managing concessions at sports events and to maintain the pop machines. Marcella Suydam, Sherry Hingley, and Ronene have agreed to make pizzas so that pizza can be sold by the slice during games.

New fund raisers were discussed next. The first, referred to as "green recycle," proposes submitting anything digital one might have, e.g. cell phones, digital cameras, mp3 players, etc., to an organization that will recycle these while also giving back money. Byron McCord volunteered his time to help in executing this project. Another fundraising idea was to have a garage sale, as some items have been donated to the Booster Club from Sue Jackson. During the garage sale, pumpkin pies may also be sold. Dianne Gruber is working on trying to get this garage sale held on Main Street, either in the space near the post office or some other facility. More items will most likely be solicited.

The final note of the evening was that Ronene is still collecting Box Tops for Education, which help bring money to our school – so if you have any box tops, please bring them in!

Those were the main points of the meeting, and it looks like we're following a good path in raising money for our school's extracurricular activities. Booster Club meetings are always on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 P.M., so if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, feel free to come and share your voice at these meetings.

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## 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!

# Life Cycles and Food Chains

*By Axcenia Waterbury  
4th Grade*

This year we are learning about living things, life cycles, and food chains. One food chain is plankton, krill, penguin, seal, and then a whale. Some different life cycles are a butterfly, chicken, frog, and plants.

We are also learning about mealworms for science. We experiment to see how they react to different things. They didn't like air being blown on them. They moved away. We also tried water, and they moved away. One time we tried to see if they could smell things. It seemed some could smell and some couldn't. It is very fun. Everybody likes it.

One time our teacher let us watch a video called Classification of Living Things. I was really interested in it. So was everybody else. There are five different kingdoms. Cats are in the animal kingdom. Science is cool!

# Everything I Like

*By Ashante Wright  
1st Grade*

I like to hang upside down on the monkey bars. I like ice cream because it melts in my mouth. I like Bruiser because he is cute. I like mealworms, but they are hard, and they eat Bran Flakes. I have one friend, and we play a lot. Alliah is the best friend I ever had. I like her. She is nice. My favorite colors are pink and hot pink. I can count to one hundred, but it takes a long time. My favorite animal is a cat. I like all of the colors in the rainbow. I like doing math. It is fun. I like roses because they are red. I can't wait until December because my birthday is two days after Christmas. After school I like to go swimming, and I sometimes go to the gym. I like to go to Homer and Anchorage. I like to make banana bread. I like my new shoes.

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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.

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## **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](http://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.

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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.
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## **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.

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## **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.

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## **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!)



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