



Seldovia Gazette

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Thursday, Dec. 10, 2009

Just another day in paradise

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Susan B. English School News



Did You Know? from Principal Sherry Hingley

Girl's High School Volleyball are Region Champions. They are going to the State Competition. Congratulation Girls and Coach Ila!

Matthew Gain is traveling to state as a wrestler. Congratulations Matthew and Coach Blodgett!

Mr. Chissus' 7-8th grade class have each designed their CO2 race car. Cars were designed for speed. Students learned how to use different tools in the shop while studying the forces of aerodynamics. The CO2 car races were held Tuesday in the Ottertorium hallway.

Levi took first in with his CO2 Aerodynamic designed car .78 seconds to blitz down the 56 feet run way. His speed was 48.95 mph. Way to GO Levi!! Thanks 7-8th graders and Mr. Chissus!



Practice is underway for the Christmas Program. The program will be held on Tuesday, December 15th at 6:30 p.m. in The Commons.

Trees are being decorated. Songs are being sung. Mice are scurrying and teachers are looking a little frazzled.

RECENT NEWS FROM SUSAN B. ENGLISH

The following articles were featured in the Gazette on November 14, 2009

SBE Sports Update *by Chelsea Suydam*

Last weekend, the junior high basketball teams and the high school volleyball girls traveled across the bay to give the Sea Otters a good name. The junior high basketball players went over to Homer and played Homer Middle School's JV team. Both the guys' and girls' team landed their first victory, and, according to Nathan Suydam and Rosalia Purpura on Homer JV, "they were easy." The twelve boys on the team must have felt exhilarated after winning their first game, having played two strenuous teams – Cook Inlet Academy (twice) and Aurora Borealis – in the past few weekends. It was also the girls' first win, and, having only 6 players for away games (5 being the minimum), their hard work was greatly rewarded.





The junior high teams got to play this Tuesday, too: Nikolaevsk made it over on the ferry to fit in some afternoon games. The girls played first, but against Nikolaevsk's strong and height-advantaged line-up they unfortunately lost. On the other hand the boys were able to win by a few baskets, as the teams were more evenly matched in ability.

In high school sports, last Friday, November 6th, the high school volleyball girls drove up the highway to attend CIA's Invitational tournament. Their first game was against Lumen Christi, a team they'd struggled with earlier in the year, and, to their disappointment, they lost in two sets (matches were two out of three). Treating that game as a warm up and something to only move forward from, the team was ready to play CIA an hour later, and they beat them with gusto.

The next day, with two seniors taking SAT's early in the morning till 11:00 and 1:30, the JV team had to step it up and play Wasilla Lake without the seniors. Although one senior did make it back just in time, Coach Ila let her JV team start and play most of the game on their own – of which they did extremely well, beating their opponent in just two sets. Next up was Ninilchik (for the fourth time this season), but by this time the Otters knew what to do and did it – taking Ninilchik with the energy and power they knew they had. Finally, they were in the championship game against Tok, and did all the warming up they could (and energizing out on the playground!) to be sure they were ready. This game, which was three out of five, did take an extended fourth set– but the victory was on the Otters' side, and they placed first at the tournament!





Chelsea Suydam and Katrina Hecks - our two Senior Volleyball players honoring their parents
Photos taken and submitted by Jenny Chissus

Let's hope these victories will give the teams a boost for their games to come: Good luck to the junior high boys and girls at Ninilchik this weekend and Regions next weekend! The volleyball team will also be having their annual Dad's Game on Saturday at 7:30, so feel free to come and cheer on the dads and girls and have some pizza.

Christmas Comes Early To Seldovia!

SATURDAY - NOVEMBER 21st!

Saturday, November 21st there will be a Christmas Bazaar in the Multi-Purpose room, with crafts and products to assist you with your Christmas shopping - right here in Seldovia!

At 4:00 p.m. we will hold the Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at the gardens in front of the clinic! Please come and join us in welcoming in the Holiday season!



The Booster Club is having a HUGE garage sale in the retail space beside the Post Office, where you may come to "Make an offer" on all kinds of useable items, from TVs, Coffee Pots, Coats and Toys!

Please know that you may also drop off donated items at that location between 11:00am and Noon to help the Booster Club with their fundraising efforts! The sale begins at Noon and will be open until 4:00pm! Thank you Dianne Gruber and Tamara Blodgett for coordinating this event and to Dick and Sammie Reason for donating the space for the sale!



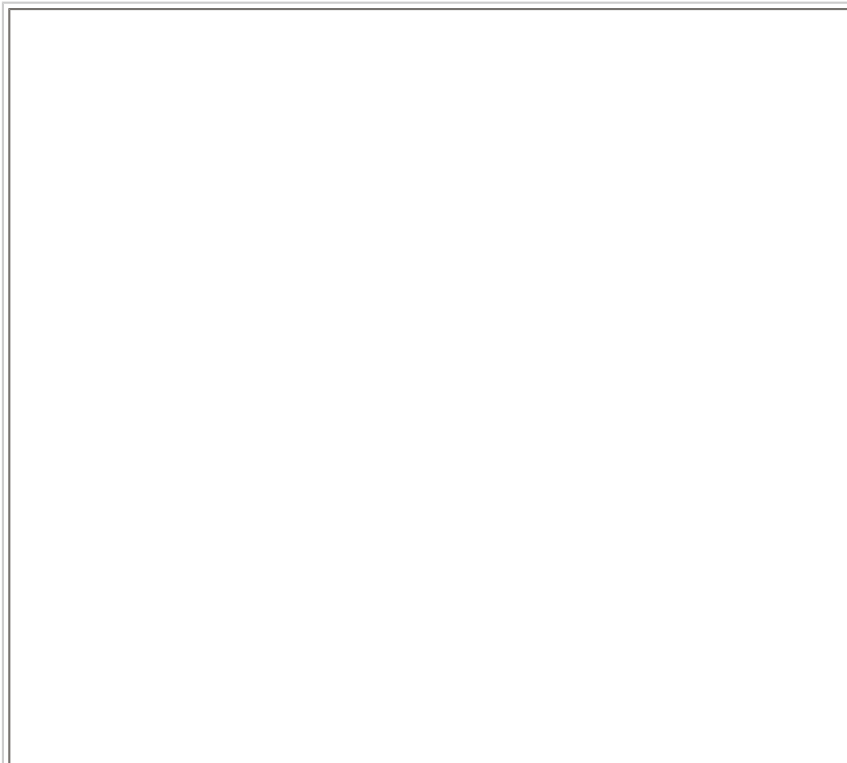
There will also be Pumpkin Pies and other baked goods available for purchase at the sale to raise funds for the Close Up trip - so please stop by and purchase your Saturday night dessert! You are also welcome to donate baked goods to the cause!

At 2:00 p.m Santa has agreed to make an early stop in Seldovia! He will be at the Main Street Market until 3:00 p.m! Please stop by in your Christmas outfits where we will take FREE photos of the kids with Santa! We are also happy to offer to email parents the photos, so they can use it for Christmas! (Thank you to Darlene Crawford for offering that generous gift!)

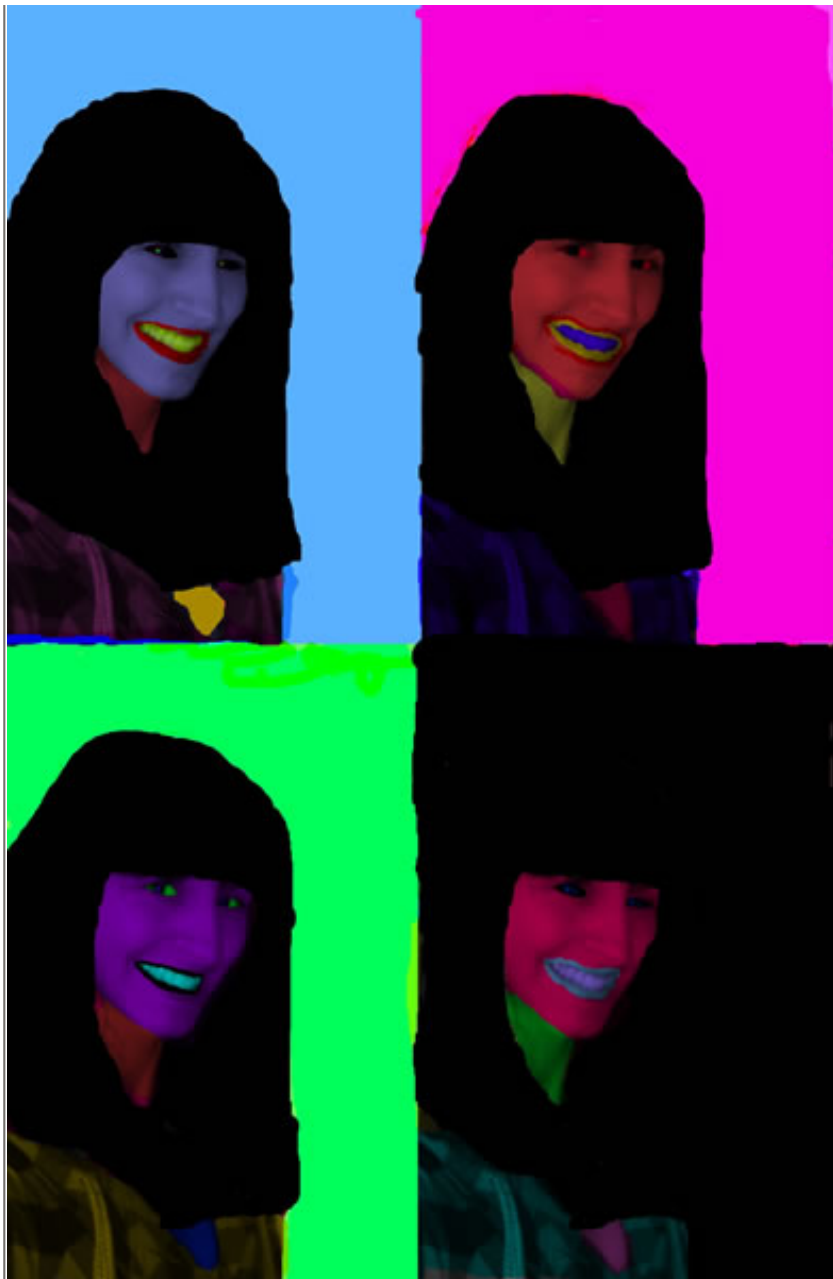


SBE Digital Photography Class

Tim Winter's Digital Photography Class wanted to share a few photos that have been taken recently by the students at SBE. Enjoy! Amanda, Devon, and Victoria were the models and photographers for these unique shots and use of color!









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!

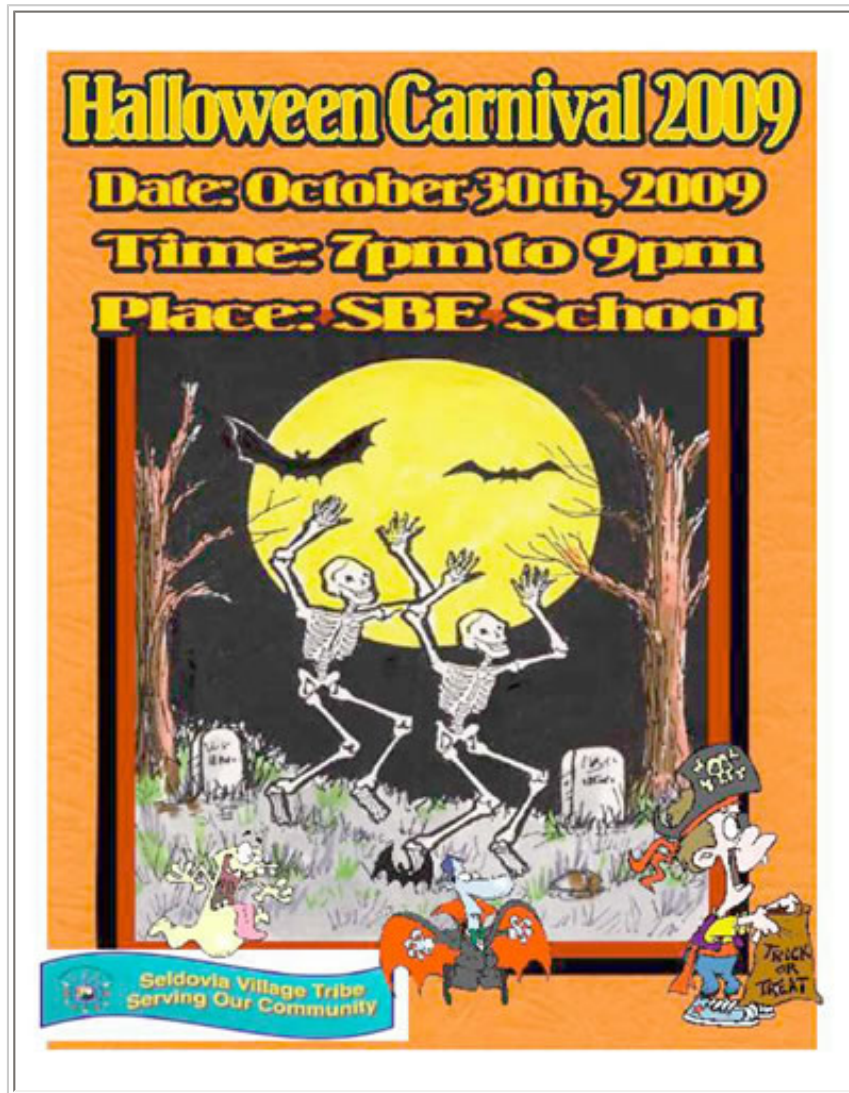
Italian

*By David Botero
3rd Grade*

My class has been doing Italian for a month now. It is hard to remember the words. We learned colors and some other words. It is fun to do Italian. I like to do Italian. It is kind of like Spanish, but not really. Some colors like red, blue, and green are almost the same as Spanish. We learned words like boy, girl, computer, shirt, pants, and desk and a lot more. The Italian word for computer is kind of like English. In Italian a boy is un bambino and a girl is una bambina. They speak Italian in Italy.

The following articles were featured in the Gazette on October 29, 2009

Annual Halloween Carnival Friday Night!



Parade and Halloween Trick or Treat bags!
7pm to 9pm in the Ottertorium

Lots of good FOOD.....pizza, fresh pumpkin pie, caramel apples, popcorn, fudge, snow cones
and more good things to eat at the concession stand!!

GAMES, GAMES, GAMES.....
Sponsored by the following groups:

BOOSTER CLUB: Paddle Wheel, Lollipop Pull, Concessions

LIFEGUARD: Trick or Treat

CLOSE UP: Fish Pond

SENIORS: Cake Walk, Balloon Darts

SOPHOMORES: Mini Free Throw, Free Throws
(split the pot)

FRESHMAN: Pin the Wart on the Witch's Nose, Ping Pong Toss

7-8th GRADE: Duck Pond

Join us for a fun filled evening and a chance to visit with friends and enjoy dressing up and seeing all the kids in costume!

News From Susan B. English School

by *Kathleen Gruber*

Volleyball Pulls Together With Focus

The Susan B. English volleyball girls have played two tournaments so far this season and are gearing up to play Ninilchik this Friday in their only home court game. The first tournament the girls competed in (hosted by Ninilchik) went very well. They were able to beat three of the five teams. Their next tournament that took place in Anchorage did not go as smoothly.

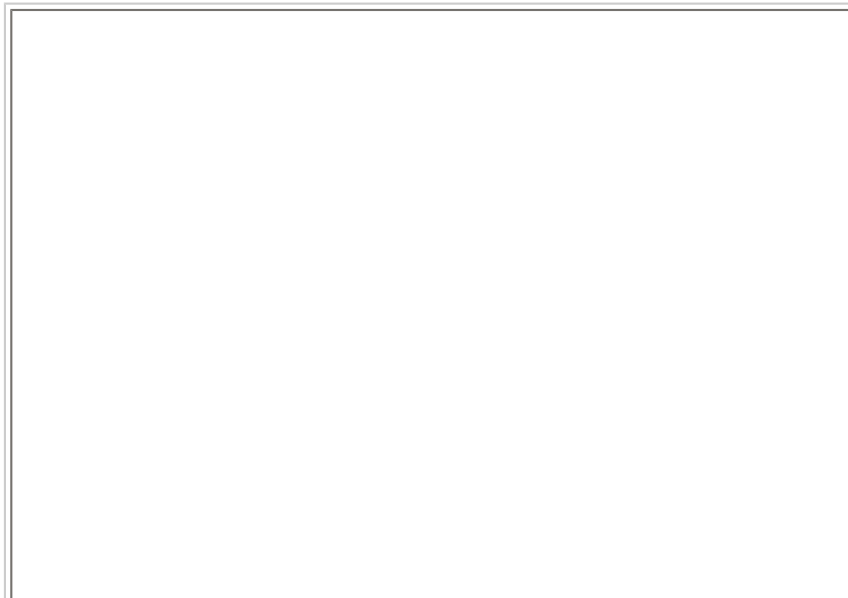
Ila Dillon, the coach of the S.B.E. volleyball team, says that the main contributor to their not so great performance in Anchorage was 'lack of focus, and very little working together'. Ila also says that as long as they talk they do well. From what she saw in the Ninilchik tournament she knows they have it in them.

With a team of mainly freshman and sophomores this adjusting period, personally, doesn't surprise me. Any new blood is going to take time to start circulating well with the rest of the team. From what I witnessed looking in on their scrimmages against the community, the team can come back from a loss as long as they pull together and bring in the focus and unity they've already proven they are capable of. It looks like they've got a lot of talent and desire to win and I doubt they'll disappoint this Friday.

Join us for the Game
Friday the 30th at 5:00pm
before the Halloween Carnival!

SBE Digital Photography Class

Tim Winter's Digital Photography Class wanted to share a few photos that have been taken recently by the students at SBE. Enjoy! Devon, Amanda and Axcenia were the models for these! Watch out - you may be next!







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 Catapult Contest

*By Skyler Bond
2nd Grade*



Photo by Karen Bornheimer

Cody, Sage, and Cheyenne entered a contest to build a catapult. Their first step was to figure out what design. They built their tiny models. Cody said they should build a trebuchet. Sage thought they should build a regular catapult. Then they went to Cody's house to build the trebuchet. When they tested it, it did not work. Then they went to Sage's house to build a catapult. It worked. Then they named their team The Shooting Stars.

Next they had to get ready for the contest. For the contest they had to shoot a tennis ball into a gray school trash can. The trash can could be anywhere from one meter to eleven meters from the catapult. They had to adjust the catapult. They kept testing and writing down the adjustments.

The contest was on October 10th but it was too windy to fly to Homer. They had to miss the contest.

They had fun building their catapult. They want to enter the next contest.

The NIEA Convention in Milwaukee

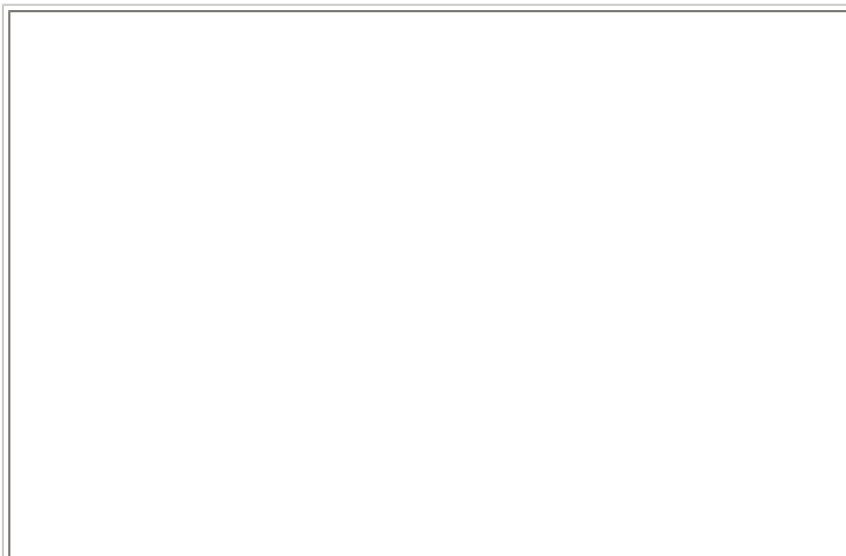
by Chelsea Suydam



Last week, through our school district's Title VII Indian Education program, I was able to attend the National Indian Education Association Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Along with three other students from the Kenai Peninsula School District and two chaperones, one being SBE's own teacher Mr. Giroux. The convention offered a wealth of information, with each day having a General Assembly, two hour-and-a-half workshops, and an event in the evenings. In the three days I was there, the evening events were a culture night, a Pow Wow at the Potawatomi Casino, and an awards banquet. Speakers, educators, and administrators were at the convention from all reaches of the country, including recruiters from Yale, Harvard, and many other colleges; managers of certain Native American scholarships; people coming to present their research on the effects of different types of education; and those just there to share their heritage.



In my three days there, I was able to gain a bit of inspiration and insight by attending four workshops, listening to well-known speakers, and attending Culture Night and the Pow Wow. Two of the workshops – Preparing Students for Selective College Admission and the Gates Millennium Scholars – were particularly educational. One of the General Assemblies had a lecturer from Harvard Graduate School who talked about an alternative way to teach Native Americans. At Culture Night, we were able to learn how to make a dream catcher, and there was also some traditional dancing going on. We also saw traditional drumming, dancing, and ceremonial dress at the Pow Wow, which was filled with people's sense of pride for their heritage.





Overall, the trip was a nice change of pace from the repetitive motions of daily life, and this educational experience consisted of more than just the convention – we also got to see part of Milwaukee, walking among the old, historic buildings, visiting the university of Marquette, and seeing an Andy Warhol exhibit at the Milwaukee Fine Arts Museum. I encourage those interested in the convention to check out NIEA's website at www.niea.org. Next year, it will be held in San Diego!

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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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.

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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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 antennas, 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!)



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