

A graphic of a spotlight shining from the top left corner of the page, illuminating the title area.

Alaska School SPOTLIGHT

Haines Elementary School

April 2024

Haines Elementary School, led by K-12 Principal Lilly Boron, has implemented a significant amount of change and shifts for success over this past year. These changes include topics like professional development, curriculum, IRIP management, literacy events, and plans for summer school to name a few. Principal Boron attributes movement in the right direction to the incredible staff she works with. She indicates how willing they are to collaborate and grow, which makes all the difference.

For professional development this year, Principal Boron was able to work with DEED and Keys to Literacy to enroll nearly all their K-5 educators into the same cohort, including herself. Principal Boron emphasized, "I thought it was important for us to learn together." Some had done prior Lindamood-Bell LIPS training; others were new. They met up once a month. The team approach and building common language was key. She expressed how helpful it was as an administrator to take the course at the same time as the teachers.



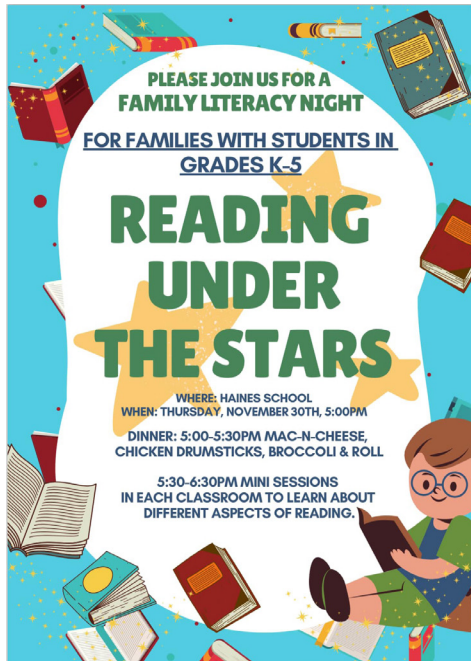
Haines Elementary School teachers knew an updated literacy curriculum was needed and they really supported that. CKLA was chosen as the new curriculum, with Kindergarten piloting it for half the year during this school year. All K-5 teachers participated in CKLA training to begin the process of preparing for full K-5 implementation. This training occurred simultaneously with the Keys to Literacy coursework. K-2 teachers participated as

a group with the assistant principal, and the 3-5 teachers as a group with the principal. This provided a good sneak peek into the curriculum in preparation for the total K-5 implementation in the 2024-2025 School Year. They feel ready!

Another big lift for the staff was the writing and management of the IRIP's. Fortunately, Haines Elementary School had a PowerSchool tech support specialist on call who assisted with the creation of the IRIP's in PowerSchool. The first big job was transferring all the hard copies over to PowerSchool.



Our Mission: An excellent education for every student every day.

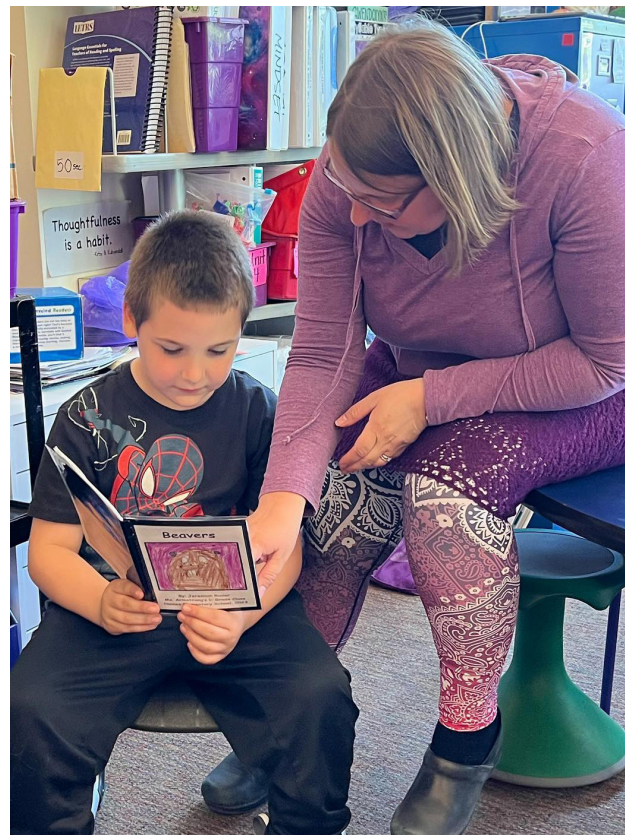


Learning to import was surprisingly easy according to Principal Boron. Time is set aside for teachers to be able to go through the documents. Once the IRIP's are in the system, then it's mostly a focus on the new ones in K-1. It is seamless to export from DIBELS and import to PowerSchool, which really makes work easier. Currently, there are RTI/MTSS meetings once per month, where data and updates are reviewed. The thought for next year is to make those check-ins a standing weekly meeting agenda item and calendar all the deadlines to stay in compliance.

Principal Boron and staff are pleased with their progress and continue looking for ways to get students excited about their own growth. This year they promoted a literacy night called, "Reading Under the Stars." Each classroom used turned into a component of reading focus with an activity for families to do.

Families rotated through the classrooms for the presentations and activities on vocabulary, fluency, letter names, etc. This was all to onboard parents as to how they can support reading/literacy at home. The event was a hit!

With Haines Elementary being such a small school, it has been most beneficial to utilize staff talents wherever possible to benefit students. One example mentioned was about the STELLAR school librarian on-site who assists with enrichment classes for those students who are above the benchmark. Another effective strategy was providing substitutes for teachers during the MOY benchmark window, allowing them to be able to complete the assessments in a more appropriate time frame, provide consistency in administration, and basically creating a more comfortable timeline. This strategy will continue for EOY and into the upcoming school year for BOY, MOY, and EOY.



Now, Haines Elementary looks toward summer and how to support those students who need extended school year opportunities. The plan already has three teachers slated to offer summer school. Students have been identified by teachers and those recommendations made to parents, all prior to the 45-day notification window. The list will be generated based on the parent approval of participation in the program. Principal Boron is excited about seeing how the end of the year looks and is motivated in planning for full implementation of all the hard work put into making the necessary shifts for success over the course of this school year.



Most recently, at the 2024 Alaska Science of Reading Symposium, educator Sophia Armstrong from Haines Elementary School was named as one of the 2024 Alaska Science of Reading Ambassador awardees. Congratulations to Ms. Armstrong, Principal Boron, and each of their staff for their focus on the right work!



Has your school proven great success increasing student reading proficiency utilizing evidence-based curriculum and materials? Do you have something you are really excited about as an outcome of a shift to Science of Reading best practices? We are interested in hearing what amazing things are happening in your school to positively impact student reading proficiency and achievement. Please submit your story to the e-mail below. You may be chosen as the next school spotlight in a future edition of the Alaska Reading Newsletter.

Please e-mail your submissions or questions to: Jenn.Miller@alaska.gov

You can view all editions of the Alaska School Spotlights here:

<https://education.alaska.gov/Alaska-Reading-Resources/alaska-school-spotlights>