

As we near the close of another successful school year at Charles R. Leask Sr. Middle School, I would like to take a moment to highlight several outstanding student activities and accomplishments from the past few weeks.

Academically, the preliminary data we are receiving from state testing is showing very encouraging growth in both math and reading achievement. Our students and staff worked extremely hard throughout the testing window, and we celebrated their efforts with a schoolwide root beer float party at the conclusion of testing. It was a great way to recognize the dedication and perseverance our students demonstrated.

Our 7th Grade Survival Trip was a tremendous success. Students hiked over six miles out to Boy Scout, where they practiced outdoor survival skills, including shelter building, teamwork, and wilderness preparedness. Students overnighted at the site before hiking back the following day. This experience provided students with valuable life skills, resilience-building opportunities, and memorable outdoor learning experiences. A tremendous thank you goes to Lorna Porter and Daniel Williams for their hard work and dedication in making this trip possible.

Our Hunter's Education class recently completed their field day and end-of-course celebration. Students demonstrated the knowledge and safety skills they developed throughout the course. We are incredibly grateful to Joe Henry, Chelsea Martinez, Drew Yliniemi, and Nick Yliniemi for the time and support they provided to ensure the success of this program.

Our promoting 8th Grade class recently participated in both their Allen Marine trip to Crab Bay and their annual 8th Grade class trip. Both experiences were extremely enjoyable and created lasting memories for our students as they prepare to transition into high school. Thank you to Jamie Guthrie, Sarah Denney, Gamaas Bolton, Colton Fagerholm, Shauna Fagerholm, Frank Guthrie, Lili White, and all of our parent volunteers for helping make these opportunities possible for students.

We also had the opportunity to participate in a Youth Leadership Summit hosted in partnership with the Alaska Association of School Boards at the Long House. This summit provided students with valuable exposure to leadership development and demonstrated what positive leadership within a community can look like. We are thankful for the opportunity to participate and for the meaningful experiences our students gained through the event.

Finally, I would like to thank the School Board for its continued support throughout the school year. Your support has helped create meaningful opportunities and positive experiences for our students and staff. I am very proud of the progress we made this year and look forward to continuing to build upon that momentum next year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Josh Gifford