Xena Cortez’s speech upon receiving the regional Hartzog award on behalf of the Dollar Bay High School SOAR Team. (Student Organization of Aquatic Robotics) This award for outstanding volunteer service was presented by Phyllis Green, Superintendent of Isle Royale National Park, who also announced that the team will be awarded the national award this February in Washington, DC.

It is beyond my vocabulary to describe the absolute honor it is to receive these awards for our team and our school. These awards symbolize all the hard work and determination our team has put into all the things we do, from working in the classroom to training the rangers with our underwater ROVs in Isle Royale. That hard work does not end here. We have met many of our goals but we are always setting new ones. We want to make new developments with our ROVs, such as adding temperature and depth sensors, as well as a digital compass and possibly on board power. We want to work with MTU undergraduate teams to develop an Android app to control and drive our ROVs. We look forward to possibly gaining new community partners to work with and provide ROVs to, as well as improve our service and ROVs for Isle Royale. And above all to keep the good work up, to keep working hard, making improvements and become efficient at what we do to help those who need it. Now on behalf of the SOAR team I present this award to our principal, Bill Rivest, on the condition that this great accomplishment be displayed on the road sign for all to see who enter our small but vibrant community.

I want to thank Isle Royale National Park for nominating us for this award.

For more information on the award: http://www.nps.gov/aboutus/hartzog-awards.htm

Both the newspaper and the TV station were there, so we’ll post that information later.
Students at assembly

Isle Royale National Park Superintendent Green, Volunteer Coordinator Valencia, and Ranger Valerie Martin, who is attached to the Dollar Bay Soar team.

Pinning on the volunteer pins.

Principle Rivest with students.

On to the next project.
Discussing 3D printers and how they might be used in a high school setting.