

# Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School Newsletter

*Strong Together In All We Do*



January 2020

## News from the Principal



Like us on Facebook

Gilakas'la and Happy New Year!

Welcome to 2020, a new year and decade! I hope you had opportunities to connect with those special to you during the holidays. In January, we have hit the ground running and our students are back into the routine that school provides. Some unexpected winter weather slowed us down slightly with a couple snow day school closures. Although kids were not in class, I know many kids enjoyed the snow and took advantage of being outside sledding and spending time with their families.

Looking forward to the coming year the high expectations in academics and for behaviour set from the beginning of the year will continue. We also look at growing the partnerships and relationships with our families, elders and community. As these relationships evolve we know undeniably that student achievement will improve.

February is also a busy time with a number of activities and events for our school community. We have our Valentine's Day Dance, Fun Fair and Pink Shirt Day. Stay tuned for information via our school Facebook page and notices coming home regarding these events.

It also looks like our much anticipated school expansion will be happening. This includes building two new classrooms, a library and a cafeteria. Unfortunately, the construction will bring some disruption to learning but we will do our best to mitigate these disturbances.

All best and we look forward to seeing you this month,

Reed Allen  
Principal



A group of our parents attended the FNSA Parents Club Conference this past month.

## From the Vice-Principal



CRAB makes for curious children and elated elders!



Gilakas'la! Happy New Year everyone.

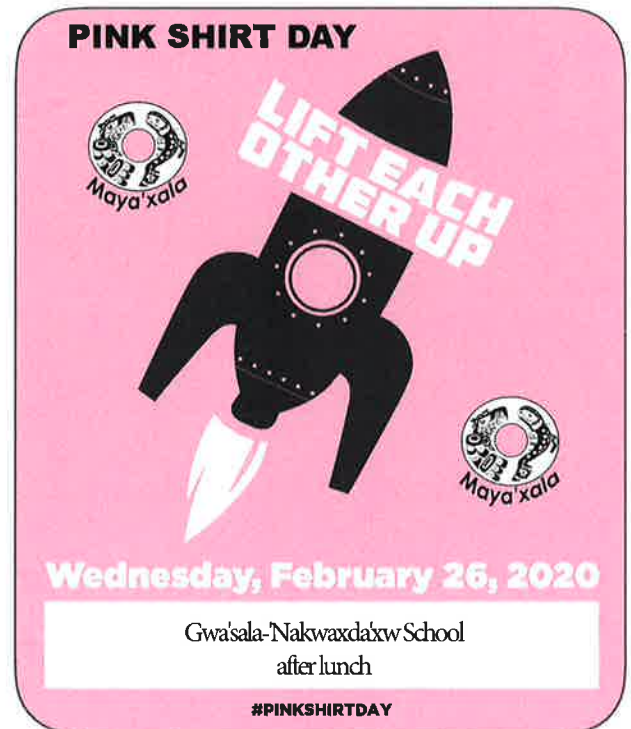
January has been a great month, and we've been lucky enough to have some snow to make it extra fun! We continue to enjoy having the elders in the school on a daily basis. The students are getting out into the forest and onto the beach everyday. All our regular programs continue, like LEGO club, sports club and breakfast club, in addition to some extra special events, like skiing at Mt. Cain. All great experiences for the students, and our staff seem to really like these as well!

February is a much busier month. As you'll see by the calendar, there are a few dates to note school-wide, and I'm sure there will be many things happening in classrooms that will keep the students curious and the elders ecstatic! Hoping we will see you for Fun Fair on the 20th, for Pink Shirt Day on the 26, Parents' Club Meeting on the 27th, or for any event that might interest you in the school.

*Melissa*

Other than the calendar, some other things to pay attention are:

1. Construction is beginning on the expansion...it's been a while since we announced it, so if you need a refresher, just ask!
2. We are continuing along with a project that is building language audio files and organizing files we already have, you might be asked to participate in an interview sometime before the end of the year.
3. Field trip fundraising is going to be kicking into high gear. Two classes to Camp Homewood, one grade to Strathcona Lodge, one grade to Ba'as, along with others that have yet to be determined. In addition to the Fun Fair, be prepared for some bake sales, candy sales, or other fun ways to support paying for trips.





# News from Dianne's Grade 6/7 Class



Yo Readers! January was jam-packed with amazing learning experiences for our sa'am. We started January off with snow by travelling to Mt. Cain for some skiing and playing in the snow. We were blessed to have our cultural teachers Andrea's mom, Elder Verna, Elder T.K. and Davis share their wisdom with us this month. This term the intermediate students have an opportunity to experience hands on learning with sewing, robotics, metalwork and woodworking. A big thank you to Mady Harris for coming in and helping the students. To wrap up our month the students cooked meatballs (as part of their chemistry learning) and enjoyed a meal of sweet and sour meatballs and rice. Thank you, Jason, fo the delicious recipe! Have a wonderful February! Fung Hei Fat Choy - Happy Chinese New Year





# News from Karen's Grade 6/7 Class

These past two months have been filled with wonderful memories, new experiences and a rare chance to enjoy the snow! Upon reflecting with the students we talked about what was their favourite time was these past few months, here is their reflections:

James - Snow Days!

Ethan - I enjoyed skiing, I haven't went skiing in a long time so it felt fresh. The snow was way better. I have a lot of fun during skiing this year!

Miley - Christmas concert and girls group - they are fun!

Jaimee - I enjoyed going to the library to pick out books, I can't wait to go back pretty soon. I also like snow days.

Jace - Snow Days!

Tavis - Snow Days because we had no school on Thursday and Friday.

Lucille - I enjoyed the Yayuma because I love to dance. It just calms my spirit down and it's one of my favourite things to do.

Hazel - I enjoy girls group and snow days.

Alfred - I liked skiing, I fell 10 times, I wish I can do it again!

Jaycee - I enjoyed doing the Christmas Concert. The reason why is because people could not see our faces.

Neshaun - Snow days, skiing and our novel - *Island of the Blue Dolphins*





# News from Jen's Grade 4/5 Class

Student learn to sing in Kwak'wala with Marion and Lorraine.



Student inquiry on Koala Bears of Australia. Researching and learning about these cute animals and how we can help the fire rescue efforts.

## January Learning!



Debbie Anderson from the Quatse Hatchery delivers Coho Salmon eggs. We will watch them hatch and grow. When they are fry we will release them into the river!



The sea is our grocery store! Davis demonstrating how to clean and cook Ku'mis.





# News from Allyson's Grade 4/5 Class

Gilakas'la, Welcome back. We are thankful for amazing learning opportunities over the past month! We got to build some ozbot-robot code with Josh from Science World and shuck the biggest (and coldest!) bucket of clams. We got to play bakwamgala games with Auda Vera and make snow angels, build circuits and scout trails. Happy birthday to our January sasem Gwen and Mackenna!





# News from Michelle's Grade 2/3 Class

Gilakas'la. January has been a wonderful month for our class. We had all kinds of weather and practiced talking about the weather in bakwamkala.

kwisaluxw - It's snowing.

ṭhisaluxw - It's sunny.

'yugoxw - It's raining.

yoluxw - It's windy.

pālxaluxw - It's foggy.

The students are amazing with the language. They have goals of being fluent speakers! They practice with our lovely Elders every week.



More highlights of our month at school:

- Happy Birthday Takoda! He's our oldest student.
- Outdoor classroom time with Kindergarten students is full of science, language and togetherness.
- My dog Rosie came for special visit!
- We have been visiting the carving shed every other week to learn about the progress of the poles.
- Special shout out to Walter Brown who takes the time to answer all of our questions and share his gift.





# News from Jenn's Grade 1/2 Class



**We saw Mother Goose Emily at the library.  
We built trees with connectors!**

**Yo! January has been perfect for our weather unit! We have seen rain, snow, sun and wind. We have discussed clouds and the water cycle. We went to the beach during a high tide. We had lots of fun jumping over the waves.**





## News from Erin, Mary Louise, and Sara's Grade 1/2 Class



Gilakas'la! January has been full of fun and learning. We're welcoming Sara as our Monday afternoon and Friday teacher. Our gangananam know Sara as our lovely PE teacher and are pleased to have her in our classroom.

We are continuing to learn about animals and their babies and seasonal changes in our world. It is beautiful to see our children's sense of joy and wonder as they explore our wonderful home.

Indoors, our students have been enjoying reading favourite books and working on writing. All of our students are able to choose books they like and many are reading little books all by themselves!

Next month, we will be learning more about living and non-living classifications and continuing to investigate how plants and animals grow.





# News from Sheri-An's Kindergarten Class

Gilakas'la! In our Awi'nakola Kindergarten program we wholeheartedly try to teach children the value of being connected to land and place. Teaching Maya'xala towards Mother Earth represents a vital part of their history and their future. They are becoming stewards and caretakers of the land. It is beautiful to witness their connections to the earth and how they experience it through play, inquiry and outdoor immersion. Here is what they have to say about what our atli was to them:



In the atli...

Trees are old. -Jazlynn  
 We play on trees. -Irene  
 I like to build forts. -Gage  
 I like the dinosaur. -Aurora  
 I play hunt for bears. -Isaac  
 I like to climb trees. -Michael  
 I like to fish with sticks. -Wayllen  
 I like to play with the leaves. -Kevanna  
 We like to ride the tree horse. -Iliyanna  
 I like to sit down on the bench. -Colleen  
 I play hunting for wolves, deer and bears. -Lennox  
 I play hunt for deer and give it to the elders to eat. -Kaedan





# News from Robin's Preschool Class

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas. It's great to be back at school with the children. They are full of energy and love spending time exploring our community, learning our cultural songs and dances, and enjoying each others company. We have continued to welcome elders into our classroom everyday, and the children really benefit from the relationships they have with their "grannies". Our classroom is enriched with our beautiful language and the children are starting to use and understand the words and phrases that are spoken to them on a daily basis.



Hamsamala James



Art with Danny



Enjoying  
the  
outdoors



# News from Culture Class



Gilakas'la ti'ixwala, Happy New year  
This month we have been working on Kwak'wala/  
Bakwamgala with all our sasam. We start our  
classes with our Hawa'x'ala - giving thanks for the  
day. We had a visit from Ada Vera, sharing her  
cultural wisdom and story with all the classes. The  
sasam were very respectful. Gilakas'la Ada Vera.



We want to thank Global Medics in  
conjunction with Nawalakw Healing Society  
for the kind donation of hygiene products  
for our girls and boys. We shared talks  
about our Ixantsila our coming of age  
ceremony for girls and coming of age for  
boys. We split our class up the girls stayed  
with me and the boys went with Darren. The

sasam were engaged in the  
conversation and  
importance of Ixantsila  
historically and how the  
ceremony is still alive today.  
Gilakas'la NHS- Kodi &



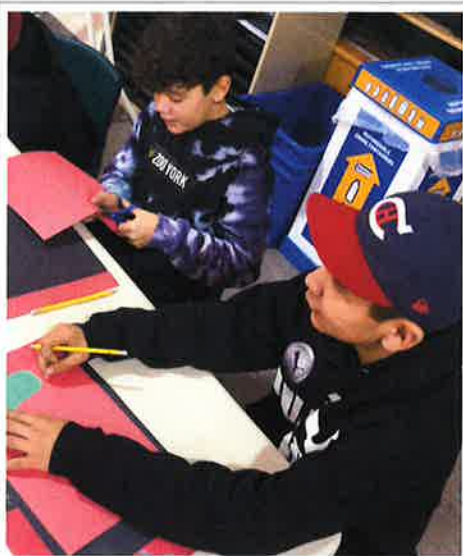
Global Medic.

All the older sasam have been practicing sewing of  
regalia by making a small  
paper blanket, learning to  
thread needles , tie knots and  
sew sequins and beads around  
their crests. So much learning,  
teaching coming out of the  
Culture Class.

Gilakas'la

Andrea - 'Namnasolaga

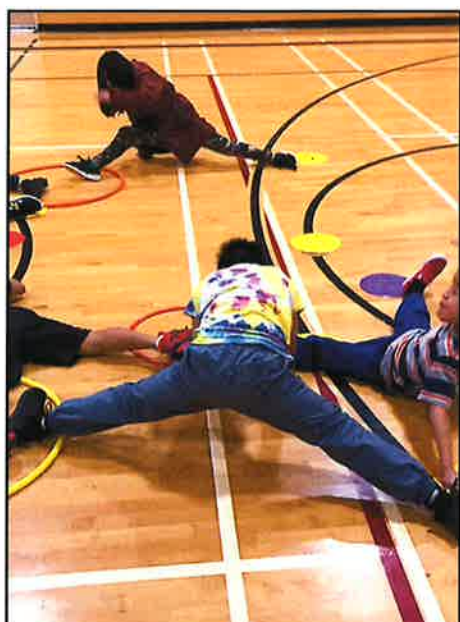
Darren - Kwamxalagalis





## News from Physical Education with Sara

Welcome to PE class 2020! I have been away for school but have been welcomed by smiles and high energy from all the students! I want to thank Darryl for being an absolute rock star in the gym while I was away! The kids have obviously enjoyed having him in the gym and miss him daily! We have been working on many different activities and movements and with all the challenges thrown at the kids, they surprise me by working their hardest and overcoming the challenges with smiles, laughter and encouragement! Here's to a wonderful 2020 year at Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw!





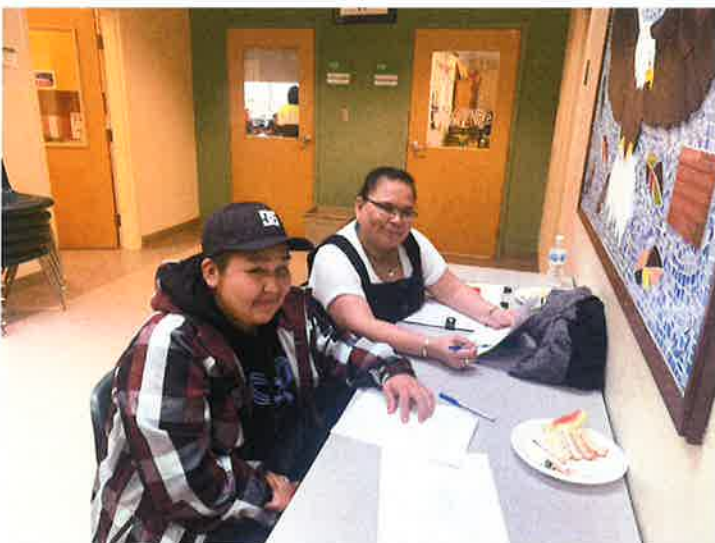
# Parental and Community Engagement



**“Children are the Priority.  
Change is the Reality.  
Collaboration is the Strategy.”**



**Building relationships  
with our elders.  
Our staff is fortunate to  
have lunch and share a space  
for learning from our wise ones.**



**My role at the school is Parental and Community  
Engagement Coordinator.**

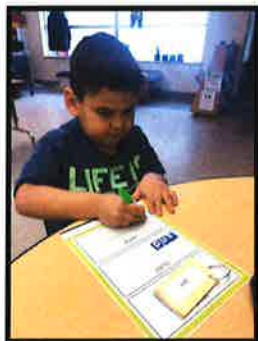
**I am here to:**

- support families in advocating for their child
- support families to access community and school supports
- support communication between families and school staff
- co-ordinate elder and community involvement in the classes and school events
- engage and co-ordinate the Parents Club



## News from Jackie

January has been a very busy month for literacy. We are in the busy stages of planning our annual Literacy Fair, co-hosting with Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society. The date has been set for Tuesday March 3, 2020 from 5-7pm. There will be a free book for every child! Look out for our advertising flyer in the near future and save the date!



### The Parts of a Parent Reader

**A Smart Mind,**  
to understand  
the importance of  
reading  
with their child daily.

**Eyes,**  
for seeing their child  
and showing how  
engaged they are.

**Ears,**  
to listen to  
their child's  
questions.

**A Mouth,**  
for reading books  
to their child,  
20 minutes  
every day.

**A heart,**  
to love and  
desire a good  
education for  
their child.

**Hands,**  
for hugging  
their child  
close while  
reading a  
favorite book.

**Books,**  
to share every day  
with their child  
to build their  
language and  
literacy.

**Feet,**  
for walking to the  
library each week to  
discover new books.



## Fun in the Snow!!





## More Learning



Danny Coon has been working with our primary students every Friday on art projects. It's so wonderful for our students to have him share his gifts with them.



# CONGRATS!!!

Sara Grover is back at the school after graduating with her teaching degree from VIU this past December. Job well done!!!!



# FUN FAIR



**Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw  
School**

**February 20, 2020  
5:00 - 8:00 pm**



# CKNW KIDS' FUND PINK SHIRT DAY

PRESENTED BY



LIFT EACH  
OTHER UP



**Wednesday, February 26, 2020**

Gwa'sala-Nakwaxda'xw School  
after lunch

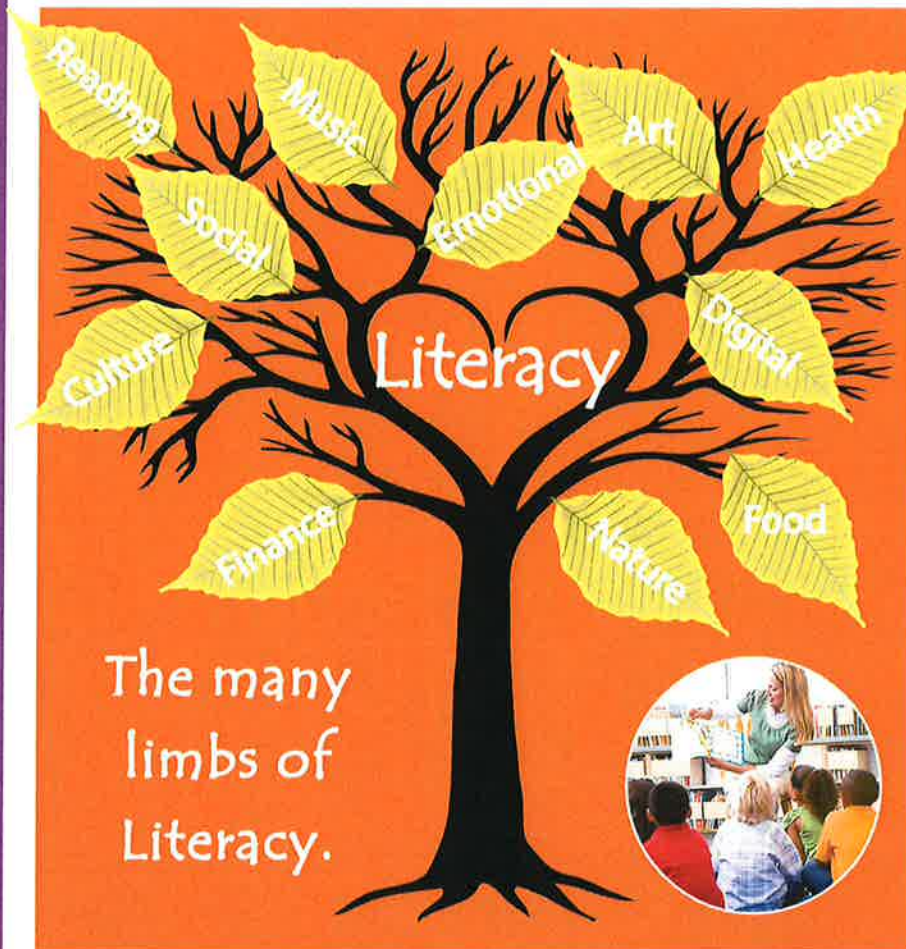
**#PINKSHIRTDAY**



# Port Hardy Literacy Fair

*Tuesday, March 3, 2020 5-7 p.m.*  
at Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School

## Enchanted Forest Theme



**All North Island Residents Invited!**

Join us for fun, crafts, interactive activities, music, food, a treasure hunt, door prizes and a free book for every child.

*Featuring* LOCAL programs related to reading, digital, health, mental health, art, music, cultural, food, and financial literacy, and more!

**FREE Admission! Everyone welcome!**



**Decoda**  
LITERACY SOLUTIONS

To reserve a free table or for more information contact [mwfamilyliteracy@gmail.com](mailto:mwfamilyliteracy@gmail.com)



# Monthly Calendar

love

## FEBRUARY 2020



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>CLUBS:</b> 	Lego Girl's Group	Intramurals Girl's Group	Girl's Group	Intramurals Garden Club		<b>1</b>  Happy Birthday Jen Hunchuk
<b>2</b>  Happy Birthday Carmen Charlie	<b>3</b>  Div 5&8 Beaver Lake Trail - 9:30	<b>4</b>  Parents' Club Conference  Div 6 Library 9:45 - 10:45	<b>5</b>  9:30 - Div 8 Storey's Beach	<b>6</b>  9:30 - Div 7&8 Storey's Beach  PreK & K Swlm  Div 1 Library 1:00 - 1:45  Happy Birthday Amelia Charlie- Galis	<b>7</b>  Gr. 1-7 Swlm	<b>8</b>  Happy Birthday Ravena Coon
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  Div 5&8 Beaver Lake Trail - 9:30  Happy Birthday Albert Wamiss	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  Jordan Tootoo - Parents' Trip  9:30 - Div 7 Storey's Beach	<b>13</b>  Clam Digging Division 5 & 8 9:00 - 12:00  PreK & K Swlm	<b>14</b>  Happy Valentine's Day  Dance @ 11:20  Gr. 1-7 Swlm  Div 5 Library 10:55 - 11:30 (bus)	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  Family Day NO SCHOOL  Happy Birthday Mary Louise Walsh	<b>18</b>  Div 8 Library 10:45 - 11:15	<b>19</b>  9:30 - Div 7 Storey's Beach	<b>20</b>  PreK & K Swlm  Div 1 Library 1:00 - 1:45  FUN FAIR 5:00 - 8:00  Happy Birthday Dennis Charlie Jr.	<b>21</b>  District Professional Development Day NO SCHOOL	<b>22</b>  Happy Birthday Cason Charlie
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  Div 8 Beaver Lake Trail - 9:30  	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  9:30 - Div 7 Storey's Beach  PINK SHIRT DAY after lunch	<b>27</b>  PreK & K Swlm  Parents' Club Meeting @ 12	<b>28</b>  Gr. 1-7 Swlm  Div 5 Library 10:50 - 12 (Van)	<b>29</b>