

# Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School Newsletter

Strong Together In All We Do



February/March 2020

## News from the Principal

Gilakas'la



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It's hard to think that the second term is almost completed. February flew by and before you know it spring will be here! Bring on the longer days and hopefully nicer weather:)

There has been a lot going on at the school this past month. Our school expansion project has officially started with the removal of the old portable and demolition of all the concrete beside the gym. Unfortunately with all the noise, there will be some disruption to learning, but we feel that the short term pain will be worth it for long term gain. February we hosted our annual Fun Fair which was a huge success! Gilakas'la to all our families who came out to support our kids, to our volunteers and our amazing staff. The Fun Fair is always highlight for us! We also had our Pink Shirt day assembly to reinforce our teachings of Maya'xala and to "Lift Each Other Up". We continue to teach, reinforce and encourage our gagananam that kindness shouldn't be on just one day or when someone is watching. Treating each other with respect and love needs to happen ALL the time, in our actions, thoughts and words.



I look forward to seeing many of you at our Student Led conferences on March 11. All the best to our families and prayers to all those who have suffered losses this past month. The school will be here to support the students during this difficult time.

Reed Allen-Principal



# From the Vice-Principal



The time between Christmas and Spring Break seems shorter every year. Nothing has changed this year with the speed of time, but there are many changes happening all around us. There is so much happening for the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw People, it is so exciting. From small changes like the new water fountain at the school that counts how many plastic bottles we are preventing from polluting the environment to bigger changes like getting rid of the portable to make way for new library and cafeteria spaces, the school is no exception to this beautiful forward momentum. That is why it is very difficult for me to announce another change that will be coming this year. At the end of this school year, I will no longer be Vice Principal of the school. I'm moving home to be closer to my mom. And although I plan to stay connected through a variety of ways, I will miss the daily interactions with students, staff, elders and parents. 13 years ago this month I came to this school and I'm grateful for the teachings and experiences I have been given as a result. Gilakas'la and my noke will always be full of awe for your trust in me over the last 13 years. With much love and respect, Melissa Marsh.





# News from Dianne's Grade 6/7 Class



Yummy treats for Valentine's!

Learning to start a fire!

Fun Fair Singers!

Clean-Up Crew!

Million dollar smiles!

Skating Rocks!

We made a drum!

Beading Experts!

A toast to the Portable!

Best Buds!

Pink Shirt Day Guests!

*A Fun Filled February*



# News from Karen's Grade 6/7 Class

Spring is around the corner and we are excited about the next few month, construction, talent show, spring break, field trips, tournaments etc. Over the past month we have enjoyed Fun Fair, Pink Shirt Day, walks in the forest, skating, sewing in culture class, learning about ancient civilizations and so much more. I asked the kids two questions and they got to choose. One question was about Fun Fair and the other about Pink Shirt day.

**Tom** - The Fun Fair was so much fun, you get good food and lots of fun stuff

**Jace** - My favourite part of the Fun Fair was everything!

**Miley** - Pink Shirt Day is important there should be no bullying, name calling, show maya'xala.

**Jaycee** - Pink Shirt Day is important because it helps to stop bullying and that everyone can wear whatever they want, they should not get to choose what other people wear!

**Alfred** - Pink Shirt Day is important because we need to support the kids who get bullied.

**Hazel** - Pink Shirt Day is important because bullying is not nice and I don't like it when people bully!

**Destiny** - The Fun Fair is fun, my favourite is the game with gym Sarah, because it is like hopscotch, you have to do it under 10 seconds, I was in 2nd place my score was 9.53 sec.





# News from Jen's Grade 4/5 Class



Friendship



Working together!



Kindness

Encouraging each other!



Speaking out!

February 26, 2020

Pink Shirt Day

Let's all stand up

Helping each other!



My biggest dream for this school is that there is no bullying. Everybody belongs in this school. Nobody should feel like they don't belong, because that is not right. I love everybody in this school and I hate seeing anyone getting bullied. It hurts my heart to see people crying. I'm against bullying. I will no longer be a bystander. To see other people wearing pink shirts today, I feel like everybody thinks about others and not just themselves. I hope everybody will no longer be a bystander either. Stand up for people and yourself. If you see someone getting bullied. Stop that bully because bullying is not nice. Dala xa ik noke' all the time. Pink shirt day is my favourite day. Gilakas'la. Thank you for listening to my speech. - By Lorraine George



# News from Allyson's Grade 4/5 Class

Division 4 leapt into February and March. Here is a peek at what our class have been up to...



Passions ignite for the Hamsamala and the Weather dance.



Rihanna leads a science demo about positively and negatively charges ions.



Give these guys 15 minutes and they can keep you sheltered in the wild!



Our class has been exploring electricity and circuits with conductive play-doh and insulating clay.



# News from Michelle's Grade 2/3 Class

Gilakas'la. February has been a wonderful month for our class. We are so lucky to learn with Elders, knowledge keepers, and artists as part of our school life. The students continue to impress us all with their efforts to learn bakwamkala. They have inquisitive minds and very good listening skills.



## Highlights:

- Happy Birthday to Albert, Cason and Dennis!
- Gilakas'la to Danny Coon for sharing his love of art and the book published in 1971, about himself as a young artist.
- Gilakas'la to all the carvers for allowing us to visit and watch the amazing progress with the gukwodzi poles
- Gilakas'la to Davis for taking us clam digging!
- Gilakas'la to Johnny Henderson for sharing his knowledge of the land and stories of the past.
- Gilakas'la to Chelsey Walkus for baking a birthday cake for the birthday





# News from Jenn's Grade 1/2 Class



Yo! February was the month of love and kindness which culminated with Pink Shirt day on February 26th. Top left: Ezra makes the number 6 with sticks and connectors. Top right: Our class during Pink Shirt Day! They were all here! Bottom left: Darryl and Mitchell are the same size as their puzzles! Bottom right: Doggie pile on Davis!





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

## Gilakas'la!

The second term seems to be flying past in a big hurry.

In the afternoon we have continued to focus on math and Blitzing! Blitzing is a fun and engaging way to focus on learning the alphabet letters and sight words. We will be learning more about telling time and skip counting by 2's 5's and 10's in the coming weeks.

Last week was Pink Shirt Day. The whole school looked fantastic in their sea of pink shirts. Kindness and respect are things we work on all year at our school - not just for the one day. Next term the grade 1/2's will be doing a unit on caring for and respecting animals. I am looking forward to a third term of learning fun after Spring Break.





# News from Sheri-An's Kindergarten Class

Gilakas'la! A chilly February has flown by and Spring is just around the corner. This month we have been busy with exploring new forest spaces, adventuring along Beaver Lake trail and on Storey's beach. February was a month of learning about Groundhogs and their shadows, clam digging and always placing an emphasis on friendship and love. Our coho eggs arrived and we are observing their transformation into fry before we release them into the river. Spring break will be a wonderful time for families and for children to grow and rest up for the final term in school. Enjoy this precious time with your children.



Clam digging.



New friends.



Alevin emerging.



Marshmallows at the beach.



A longer winter.



On top of the world.



At the carving shed.



# News from Robin's Preschool Class

Yo! It has been a great month for the preschoolers. We really enjoyed the Valentine's Day activities. There was a dance in the gym, with lights, music and beautiful outfits and we had a class party where we exchanged cards and snacks.

Funfair was another highlight from February. There were so many fun games and activities to try out. In the preschool classroom we played bakwamkala bingo. It was great to share some language with the community. Here are a photos of the children learning about masks, eating ku'mes, baking a cake and walking.

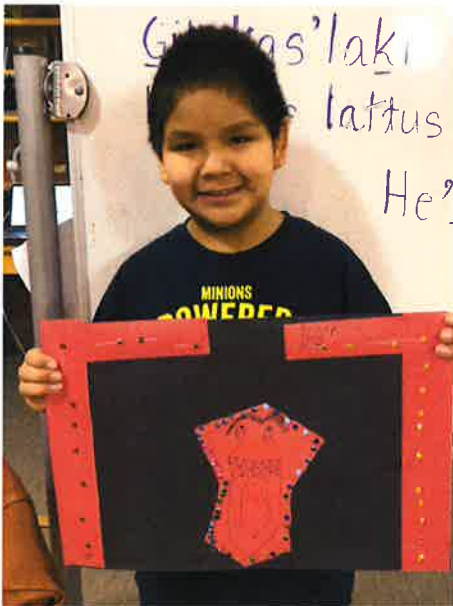




# News from Culture Class

Gilakas'la li'faxwala, This month we have been working on with all our sasam playing Kwakwala/Bakwamgala games and Kwakwala/Bakwamgala play songs. We start our classes with our Hawa'x'ala - giving thanks for the day.

Our sasam love to learn our tseka and tla'sala dances and traditional songs. Every time we beat on the drum it calms their bakwine (spirit) of our sasam, they focus on singing and beating together.



We explain to all the sasam our Gwayi'le'las (our bakwam ways) is a way of life, singing and dancing and ceremony is a part of our rich culture however, our Gwayi'le'las (our bakwam ways) is in everything we do, how we conduct ourselves, how we treat one another everyday. Every class we talk a lot about our teachings of maya'xala, hutlilala. The learning never stops.

The sasam are working diligently on their Kangextola - their small paper blanket.

We have had our Elders & Chiefs, spend time with us sharing their knowledge and stories. Gilakas'la to our ni'noxsola and ni'nogad.

Gilakas'la

Andrea - 'Namnasolaga  
Darren - Kwamxalagalis





## News from Physical Education with Sara

P.E. class has been filled with so many new and exciting games and activities! We had some fun with indoor "skating" by tying scarves onto our feet. This made the gym floor really slippery (even some teachers tried it out!) Our primary grades enjoyed using balloons for different games, which you can see below that two students in particular were having fun exploring static electricity! The students have also enjoyed challenging themselves with different sports. For the month of February we had soccer, basketball, lacrosse, and floor hockey in PE. Below you can see Malakai destroying a cup tower with his awesome accuracy!

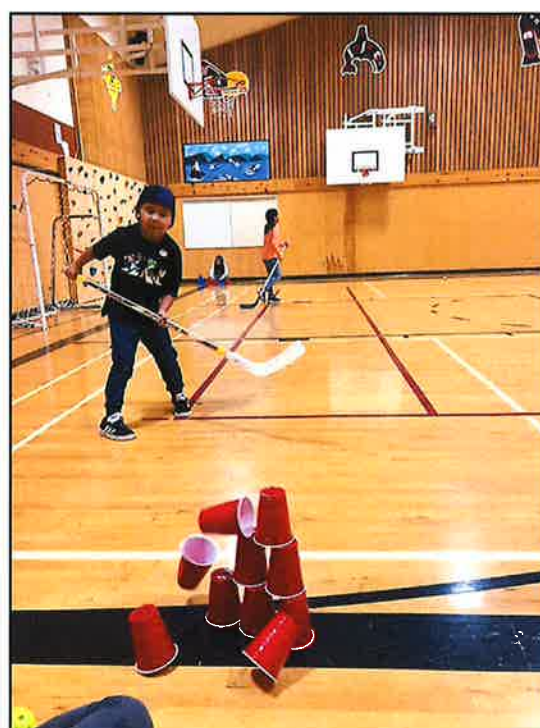
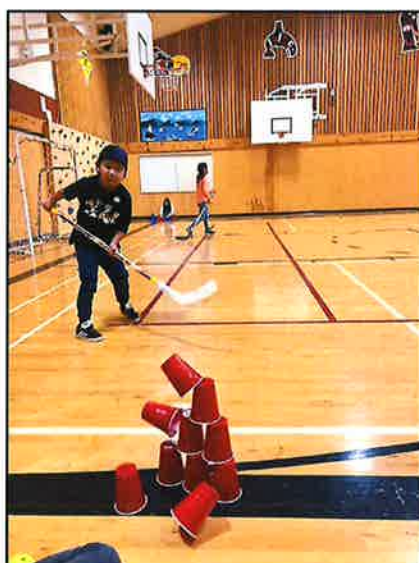


He shoots, he scores!!

Malakai practices his accuracy in hockey by knocking over a tower of cups!



Eliza,  
Lorraine,  
Perrys  
and  
Jessica  
show us  
how to  
skate in  
the gym!





# Parental and Community Engagement



This months Parent Club meeting was very well attended and even included some language learning! Gilaka'sla to all our parents, caregivers and family who were able to make it.



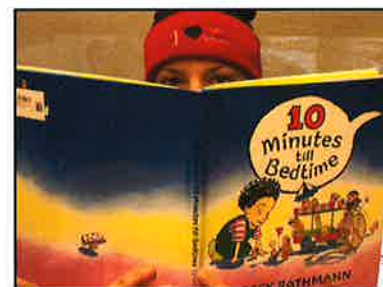
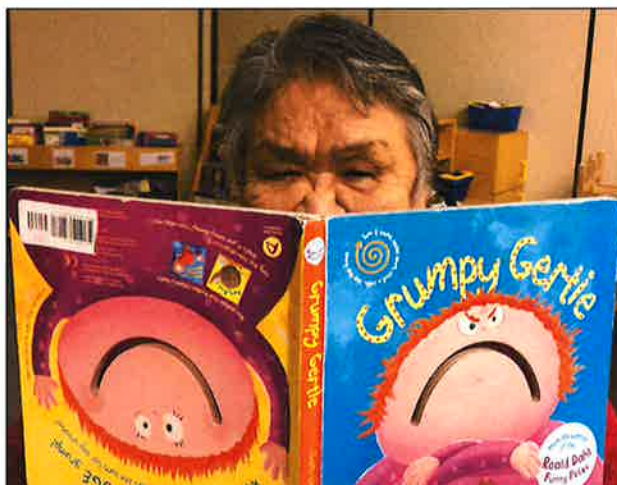
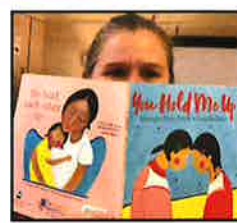
It was great to see our parents support our school by making and decorating cakes for our annual Fun Fair. A big thank you to Terrisa for sharing your decorating expertise with us all!





# News from Jackie

We READ too!  
Can you guess who?





# Fun Fair

The Fun Fair this year was another huge success!! A great family evening of fun and games was had by so many! It's so wonderful to see everyone enjoying themselves while supporting our kids. The money raised from the Fun Fair goes directly to our student field trips. This year we raised just over \$4000!!









Look what's happening...

kindness  
**MATTERS**

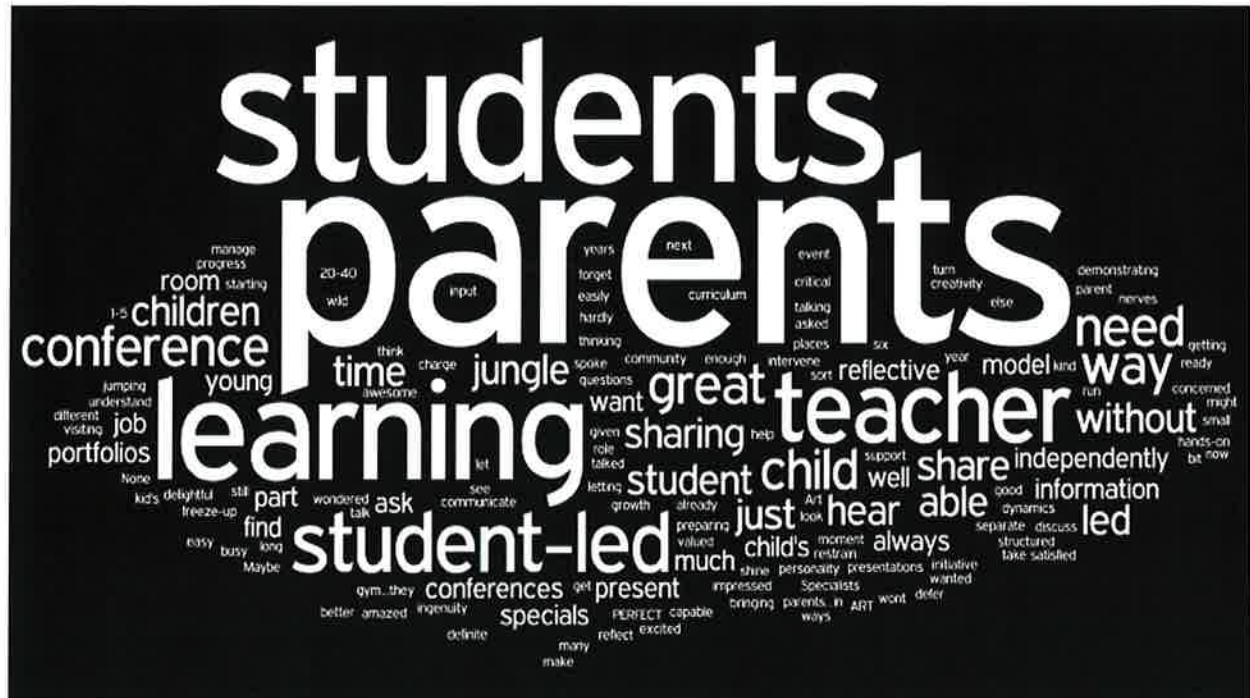


Staff language learning with Robin and Michelle.



## Notices

# STUDENT LED CONFERENCES



# Wednesday, March 11

**1:00 - 4:00 pm**

# SPRING BREAK

## March 15 - 27



# Monthly Calendar

## MARCH 2020



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1       Happy Birthday Preston Charlie- Walkus	2   9:30 - Div 5 Kwa'ililas	3       Happy Birthday George Hill	4  9:30 - Div 7 & 8 Storey's Beach  9:30 - Div 4 Airport  Elder's Lunch - 12:00   Happy Birthday Hazel Nelson Weldon Sheard	5  PreK & K Swim   Div 1 Library 1:00 - 1:45	6    Gr. 1-7 Swim     Happy Birthday Clyde Walkus	7
8	9  9:30 - Div 5 Storey's Beach	10	11  9:30 - Div 7 & 8 Storey's Beach  Student Led Conferences - Students dismissed at noon   Happy Birthday Isabella Whonnock	12  Gr. 6/7 Basketball @ PHSS  PreK & K Swim  Div 1 Library 1:00 - 1:45	13  Gr. 1-7 Swim  Division 3 & 4 Hot Dog Lunch Fundraiser	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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	Happy Birthday Carla Charlie Sheri-An Nicholson		Happy Birthday Louisa Williams-Paul			Happy Birthday Blaze Charlie-Walkus Jenn Hogeweide
29	30 First Day Back after Spring Break  9:30 - Div 5 Storey's Beach	31	April 1	2	3   Happy Birthday Allyson Lowery	4   Happy Birthday Bob Bajwa Kristine Bratosh