

Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School Newsletter

Strong Together In All We Do



November/December 2019

News from the Principal



Like us on Facebook

Gilakas'la. The first term has quickly come to an end and we are close to the holiday break. I am so proud of the work of our students and staff during the first four months of school. It never ceases to amaze me how much learning can happen, in such a short time! A big part of this can be attributed to the work and dedication of our staff, the bridges we continue to build with our parents, elders and families, and the many partnerships we have formed with other beneficial organizations. By working together to support our gangananam, it's unbelievable what can be accomplished.

December is always a busy, busy time with so many activities going on. We recently held our T'seka - Red Cedar Bark Ceremony. UNBELIEVABLE! Our students should be so proud of themselves. This coming week, we hope to see parents and families at conferences with teachers. Next, we are hosting our annual Christmas Concert on December 19 @ 1:00 pm. We hope you can come join us!

As we close out the last couple weeks of school for 2019, on behalf of our Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School family, I wish you a wonderful holiday with lots of family time together.

Reed Allen
Principal



In November we hosted our annual indoor soccer tournament. Three days of non-stop action. In early December, we had our Red Cedar Bark Ceremony. Both were well attended and overall a huge success.

From the Vice-Principal

witness. We look forward to seeing you all at Parent Teacher Conferences, Parents' Club Meeting, Christmas Concert, or just on any old day! I'd also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and safe holiday season, may you make some good memories this Christmas and may you look forward to something good in the new year.

Gilakas'la! What a wonderful month November has been, not to even mention the beginning of December!! I've included a few photos from the recent yayuma, what a beautiful ceremony to

Melissa



Gilakas'la

We would like to wish all of you who made our November memorable and rich with learning, a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Angela and Crystal for coaching the soccer teams.

Pungwidi for taking us hiking and teaching us survival skills.

Bob for checking our water each week to ensure it is safe for us to drink.

All the Grade 4-7 who were open to learning about wood, robotics, metalwork and sewing.

Donna and Anthony for teaching the students cedar bark weaving.

The Grade Gals for spending time in the community garden.

Laura and Pam at the Public Library for their encouraging ways to get students to read.

The movie committee for all their hard work.

To all the wonder students, staff, families and friends of the Gwa'sala - 'Nakwax'da/xw School.

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Gwa'sala - 'Nakwax'da/xw School.

News from Karen's Grade 6/7 Class

Gilakas'la, November is over and we are excited about the Yayuma, Christmas concert and the upcoming holidays. We have been busy with completing the FSA testing for our Grade 7 students, which allowed our Grade 6 students to all work together for a week in Dianne's classroom. We were very involved in the Indoor Soccer Tournament, helping with the clock and music as well as playing games. All the students did great and can be proud of their sportsmanship during the tournament. Big thank you to the coaches - Crystal, Mel, Angela and Dianne. We got to use some carving tools with Davis and we hope that we can continue to make some carvings, and we finished our weaving projects! We have booked our Grade 6 year end trip to Strathcona in May and we will be fundraising very soon. Plans are still being developed for our Grade 7 year end trip. Please check out our Facebook site for lots of pictures as well as information that is sent home on a regular basis. I look forward to seeing everyone at the parent/teacher meeting in December.



Grade 6/7 - Div. 1 and 2 teams!



Davis showing off his carving skills!



Xanius getting the hang of using carving tools!



Robotics used in ADST class and a great maze created by the girls in the class.



News from Jen's Grade 4/5 Class



What a beautiful way to start the month of December. The T'seka Yayuma is by far one of my favourite days of the year. My heart is full of love and admiration for our amazing kids and the heart and soul they put into dancing, singing, and attending. Thank you all for coming and receiving the medicine that our students were giving. I asked the kids how does participating in the Yayuma makes them feel. This is what they said.

Dodie: Dancing makes me feel good and happy and I love dancing.

Lorraine: Dancing makes me feel proud because we're able to learn our culture because it's alive and not forgotten.

Eliza: I feel happy when I'm dancing, it's my culture.

Perrys: I feel calm and happy when I dance.

Jessica: When I dance I feel happy, calm, confident and courageous.

McKayla: I feel good when I'm singing at the log. I know all of Uncle Walter's songs.

Hunter: I like being an attendant and I look forward to doing it again.

Reuben: I feel happy because I get to dance with my sisters.

Brae-Lynn: The songs are so beautiful and I want to dance it again.

Hayden: I feel great when I dance because my papa came and watched for the first time.

Faith: It makes me feel good knowing that there are a lot of people watching me. I hope I get to dance it again. I feel like I belong. The songs are so beautiful.

Brae-Lynn: The songs are so beautiful and I want to dance it again.

Dusty: I feel happy when I dance, because I'm helping people and giving them medicine.

Hayden: I feel great when I dance because my papa came and watched for the first time.

Clyde: It was scary because there was lots of people.

Jake: It was awesome. Next year I want to try the Buk'wus dance.

Dusty: I feel happy when I dance, because I'm helping people and giving them medicine

Clyde: It was scary because there was lots of people.

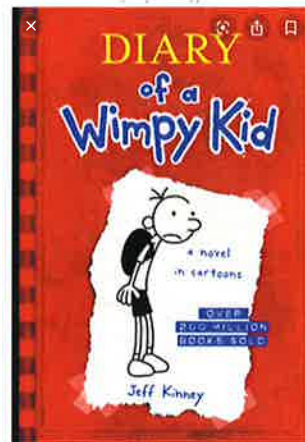
News from Allyson's Grade 4/5 Class

Yo! Our class has been on a reading kick this month. Are you looking for a good book to cozy up with this holiday season? Check out these book recommendations from our Hive... I hope everyone has a great Christmas and we will connect again in the new year.

Stephanie's Pick:



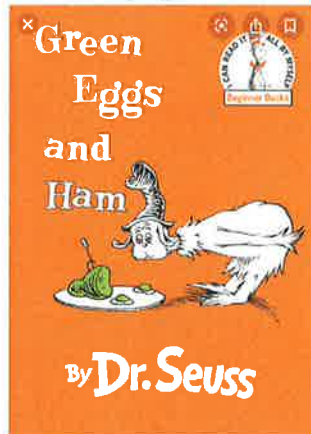
Avery's Pick



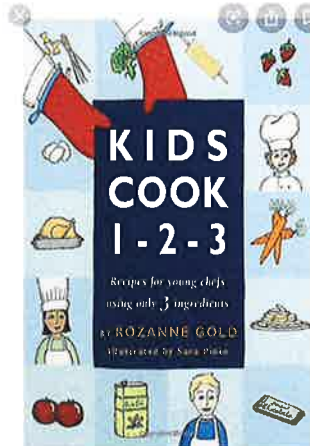
Mackenna's Pick:



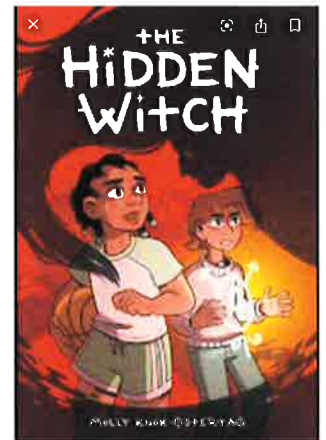
Maison's Pick:



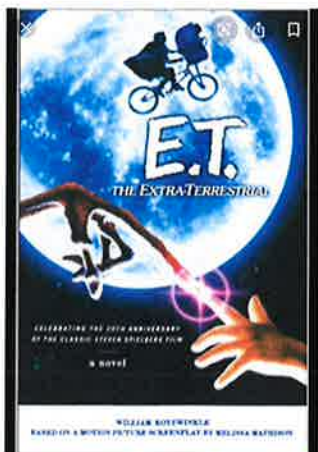
Francine's Pick:



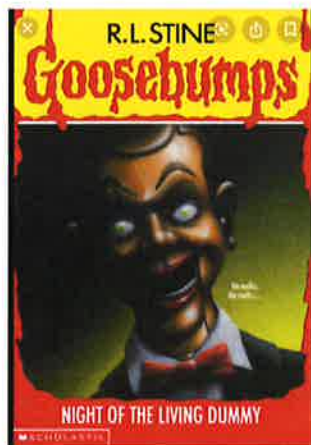
Anna's Pick:



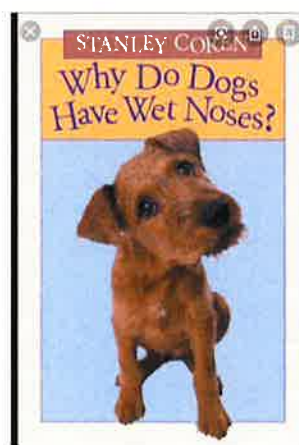
Rhvan's Pick:



Keagon's Pick:



Aurora's Pick:



Buddy's Pick:



News from Michelle's Grade 2/3 Class

Gilakas'la. The month of **Gwaxsám - Dog Salmon Time** (November) was a great month of cultural learning, painting our drums, reading, writing, weaving, indoor soccer and time outdoors. We are so lucky to be able to have small class sizes where we can truly get to know each student's strengths.

I'm still very proud of how our students are rising to the challenge of understanding and using bakwámkala every day, guided by our elders. In their own words, here are some of their personal bakwámkala goals:

- I want to learn how to count to 100
- I want to learn how to say, "I want to go to the park."
- I want to read in bakwámkala. We can make books.
- I want to learn how to say all the words.
- I want to help the little kids learn.
- I want to help my parents and my mom speak.



yapa to weave
hamyatsi berry picking basket



yapaxdanu'x ga hamyatsi
We wove this berry picking basket.



It was amazing to watch the carvers at work!



News from Jenn's Grade 1/2 Class

Yo! Gilakas'la November flew by! We had many rich learning opportunities this month. We started the month off with a visit to the Library with Mother Goose. Then we created mats with masters in cedar weaving Anthony and Donna. The Grade 2's had an amazing time at the Soccer Tournament with the Grade 1's cheering them on. We then had STEAM bins from the VIRL visit our classroom bringing a robot caterpillar! For the next few Fridays we will have artist Danny Coon sharing his creative vibes with us while we make cards.



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



Gilakas'la!

November has been a busy month. We now have two EAs supporting the students in our class: Allycia, who has been with us since September and Tiffany, who just started with us in November. We've been doing a lot of outdoor learning during November's cold snap as some of our favourite places to explore are getting frosty and icy. We were fortunate to participate in weaving cedar bark mats, which we will use to make boats. In the classroom, we've been doing a lot of work on our reading and writing and are looking forward to sharing our progress with parents at the upcoming Parent Teacher Interviews. Next month, we will begin to learn about animals who live in and around the ocean and our rivers and we'll be practicing for our Christmas Concert!



News from Sheri-An's Kindergarten Class

Gilakas'la! What a wonderful November we've had. As a part of our nature kindergarten class we are constantly engaging in issues that affect our surrounding environment. We have been learning about bears and discussing some of the reasons the bears are resorting to garbage, such as berry and fish shortages. Recently a habituated garbage bear has been causing problems in the village. It was unafraid of people and posed a threat to humans. As a result the bear was captured and euthanized by Conservation. When they examined him, he was missing all his front teeth from trying to get into garbage cans and unnatural food sources. He wouldn't have survived the winter. His death provided an opportunity to partake in a traditional healing ceremony to show proper respect for the tla'yi. Trish lead a beautiful ceremony that sent the tla'yi to the spirit world. She explained the importance of giving thanks to the bear and how its spirit will live on in the medicine that will be made out of the fat, and out of the hide, which will be used in dances.

This month we learned about clams and clam gardens and how to gather them. Uncle TK came and talked to us about the importance of clams as a healthy food. We were fortunate to have Uncle Johnny take us out clam digging. He even showed us how to make a clam garden. We were not able to keep the clams but it was good practice for when we go out again. He also took us to Chief David Knox's carving shed. The kids are excited about the coming Yayuma. December will be full of fun as we get ready for Christmas.



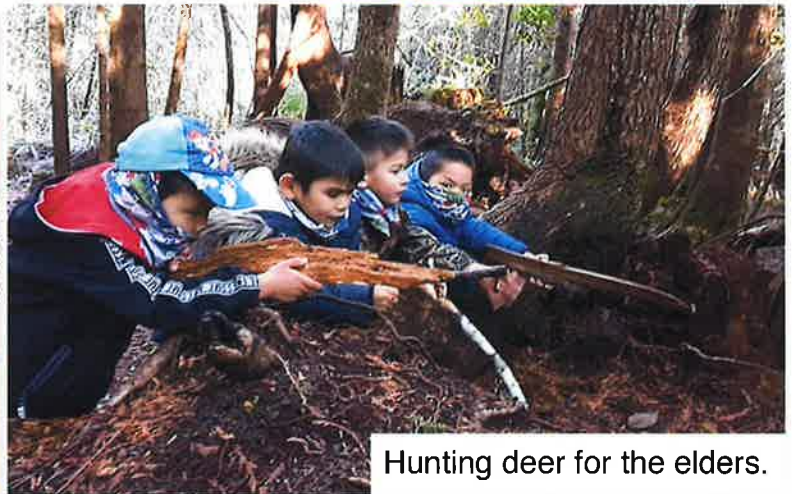
3 Generations



Cozy by the fire.



Drum making with Davis.



Hunting deer for the elders.



Tla'yi ceremony



Beach Fun!

News from Robin's Preschool Class

Yo! Winter has arrived and we are getting excited for the holidays. The students have been practicing for the Christmas Concert. They are super cute and ready to put on a great show for you all. We have also been preparing for Yayuma. For many of the Preschoolers, it will be their first time performing a traditional dance in front of others. We are so proud of them for being brave and trying new things. In our class, language is a huge part of the learning. We do our best to speak bakwamkala to the children throughout the day. We sing, play, give directions and communicate in our language. It is amazing to witness their increased understanding and knowledge the language. Our elders have been a huge part of this journey and we are so thankful to share our days with them. Much love and appreciation to Mary Henderson, Mary (Peewee) Johnson, Gertie Walkus, Kathy Walkus and TK Henderson. The time we spend with you is precious!



News from Culture Class

Gilakas'la tiliawala on be half of Gwasala Nakwaxda'xw school we would like to that those that have come out to witness yayuma. We as a whole have showed our strength and shared our medicine. As the cultural teachers we have a privilege to witness the beautiful work of the children.

Andrea and Darren



News from Physical Education Class



Teaching Maya'xala and sportsmanship is an important aspect of learning in PE class.



Sports Club skating.

Parental and Community Engagement



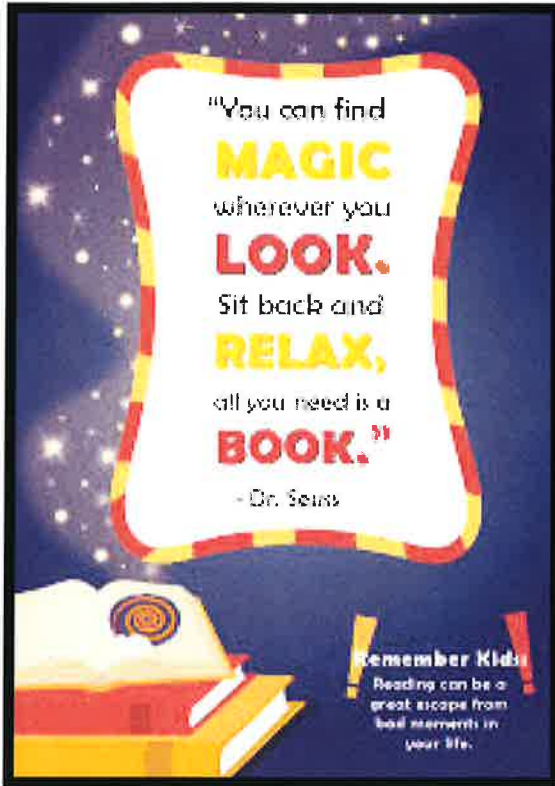
It's been amazing to have more elders in the building this year. We (students and staff) have so much to learn from our knowledge keepers!



The events we host for our kids and community only work with the support of our volunteers! Their dedication to helping out at a moments notice does not go unnoticed.



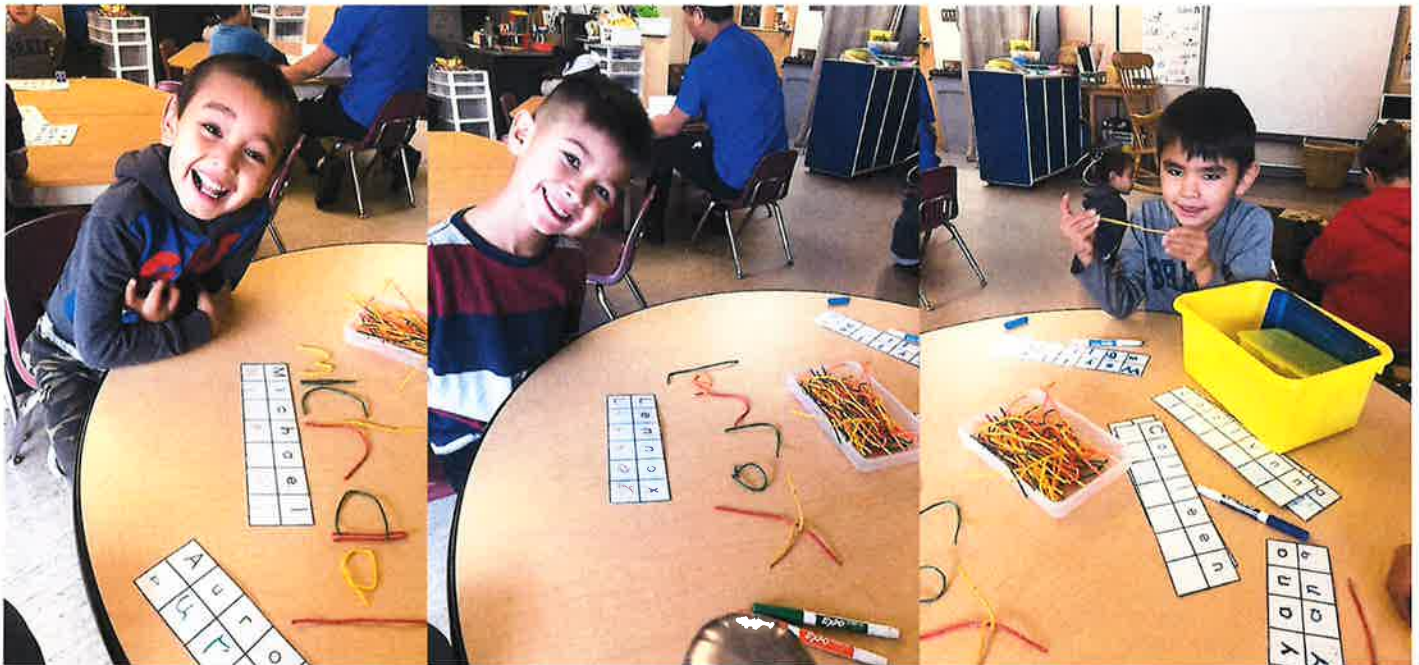
News from Jackie



Children learn to **love** the sound of language before they even notice the existence of printed words on a page. **Reading** books aloud to children stimulates their **imagination** and **expands** their understanding of the world. It helps them **develop** language, **listening** skills and prepares them to **understand** the written word.



Learning in Action



Check out our K students hard at work!

More Learning



Every Friday afternoon our intermediate students are learning applied skills and design curriculum. They are learning woodworking, robotics, metalwork and sewing.



Many of our intermediate girls are participating in a weekly lunch time Girl's Group.

**GIRL
POWER**

Indoor Soccer Tournament

Our annual soccer tournament happened for three days in mid November. It was great to see our kids demonstrate sportsmanship and team play! Great to see so many parents!



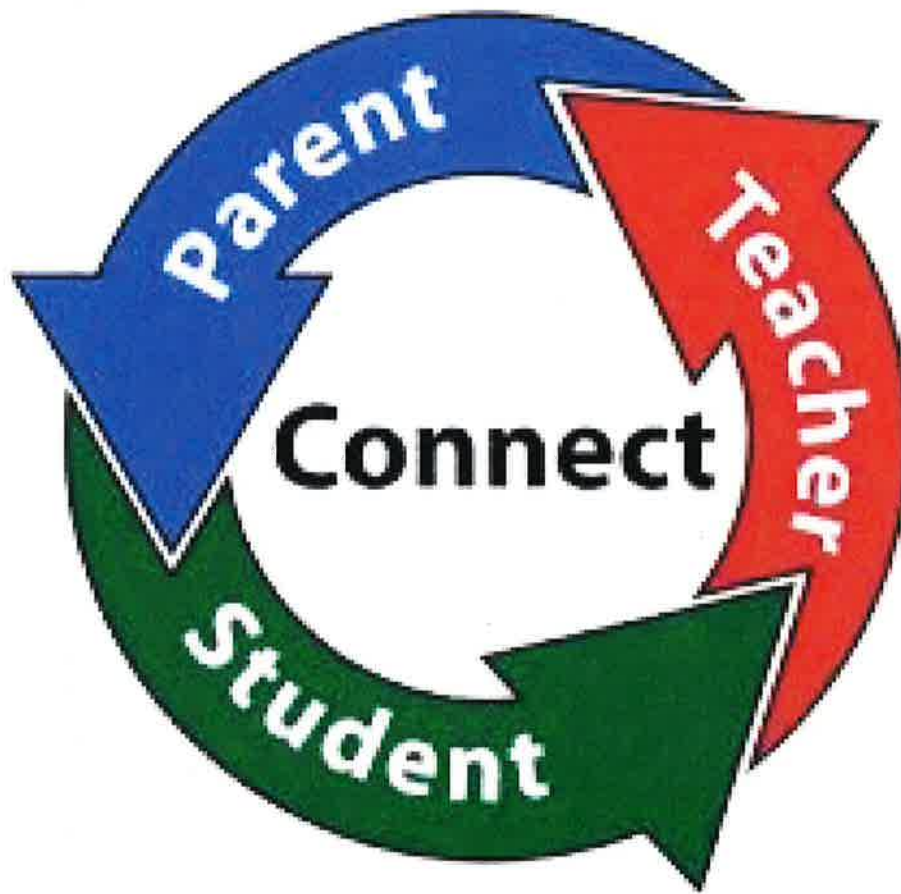
Notices

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Wednesday, December 11 (4:00 - 7:00 pm)

Thursday, December 12 (1:00 - 5:00 pm)

Students dismissed at noon



The Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw

CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2019

**Thursday, December 19
1:00 pm**




Monthly Calendar



December 2019



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 	3	4	5 Div. 3 Post Office @ 1:00	6 Div. 5 Elf on the Shelf @ VIRL	7
	Lego and Running Club	Happy Birthday Tyrell Walkus		PreK & K Swim	Gr. 1-7 Swim	
8	9 Div. 1, 4, 5 Science World	10 Div. 3 Library @ 1:00	11 Parent Teacher Interviews 4:00 - 7:00	12 Parent Teacher Interviews 1:00 - 5:00	13 Gr. 7 Indoor Soccer @ Sunset	14
	Lego and Running Club		Happy Birthday Aurora Walkus	Happy Birthday Brendan King	Gr. 1-7 Swim	Happy Birthday Quorbin George
15	16 Happy Birthday Kadence Walkus Maria Patskovski Scooter Andrew Dodie Rufus	17 Div. 6 Library @ 10:00 PreK - 10:30 & K - 11:00 Swim Parents' Club - 12:00 Div. 2 Library @ 2:00	18	19 Christmas Concert 1:00	20 Gr. 1-7 Swim	21
22 Happy Birthday Annamaria Hill Mya Hunt	23	24	25	26 Happy Birthday Vincent Charlie	27	28
WINTER / CHRISTMAS BREAK Happy Holidays see you Monday, January 6						
29	30 Happy Birthday Vonita Hill	31	JANUARY 1	2	3	4

