

Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School Newsletter

Strong Together In All We Do



September, 2019

News from the Principal



Like us on Facebook

Gilakas'la,

Welcome to the 2019/2020 school year! We are off to a wonderful start and into full swing at the school. It's been great to reconnect with our students, staff and colleagues after a well deserved summer break. September was a busy month with lots of school events and most importantly lots of learning!

At the school we continue to strive to meet the diverse needs of all our students. Offering a safe and nurturing environment while providing quality instruction in small classes with a high level of support helps with this goal. The foundation of this learning starts with a strong language and cultural base along with the teachings of maya'xala. We are also excited to work in partnership with parents, elders, families and community to continue to support our students.

After lots of planning and many meetings with the federal government it does look like we will be moving ahead with our school expansion. This is great news because we will be getting the space we desperately need but a little scary at the same time as we will have to live most of the school year through construction. But in the long run having new classrooms, a library and a cafeteria will all be worth it.

All the best to our families and I encourage you all to stop by.

Reed Allen

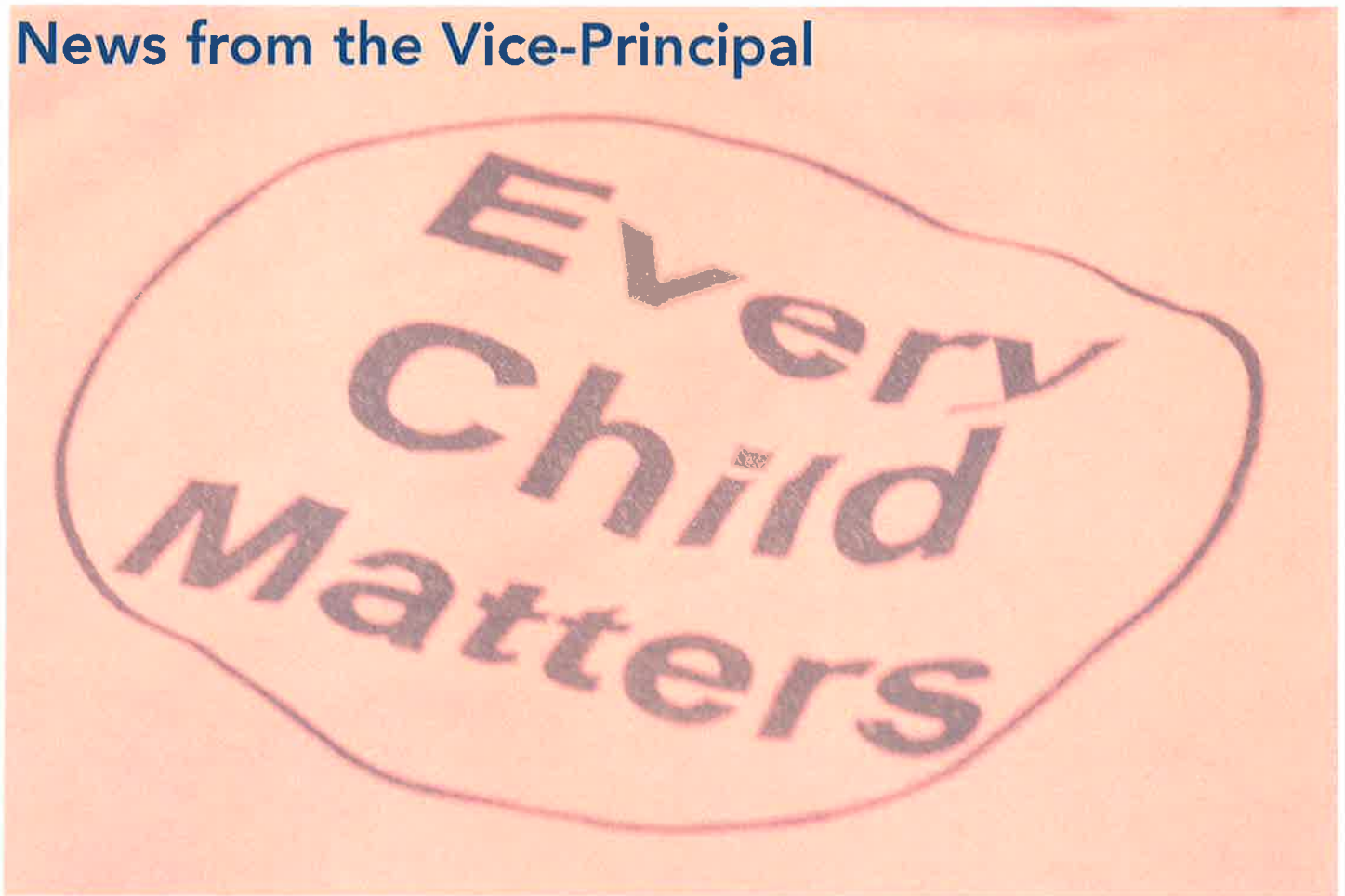


Gilakas'la to the Port Hardy Lions Club for their donation to our Parents Club.



It's been so valuable to have our elders and knowledge keepers at the school.

News from the Vice-Principal



Gilakas'la. It is good to be back in the swing of things this school year. Each month this year is full of planned experiences for the students, experiences that reflect our beliefs about education. Here is a shortened version, highlighted by the Education Assistants, of what we believe to be our highest priority each school year.

"Our number one priority is the children, their identity, their place in the world, and each one's wellbeing and growth. We strive to focus on the cultural experiences of the children and encompass each one's emotional, social, academic, and physical needs in daily learning. We aim to develop each child as a whole being and help each one to see their role in the community.

We want to inspire them to respect themselves and others.

In our planning and programs, we hope to address the desires of the community and create a feeling of ownership over each child's education and a collective pride in continuous learning."

I know I will see you enjoying events in the school building, supporting learning on field trips, and contributing to the growth of the students of the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School. Every child matters! We hope to live and breathe that in the 2019-20 school year, we hope you will come alongside us and join us in making that slogan a reality. I'm looking forward to a great year with the students, the staff and they community. Gilakas'la, Melissa

News from Dianne's Grade 6/7 Class



Yo Family and Friends!

We are off to a great start this year with 16 eager grade 6/7 students. We would like to welcome Robert to our school this year! *Gilakas'la Robert!* This month we have been getting to know each other and learning the routines and expectations of our class community.

Here are a few highlights this month:

- Learning outdoor survival skills from Pungwidi(Davis)
- Participated in the Terry Fox Run
- Learning about recycling, composting and electricity
- Writing autobiographies
- Studying governments and elections
- Learning about maya'xala from Andrea and Darren in culture class
- Visiting Myra's Farm and the Coal Harbour museum... we saw a Model "T" Ford!
- Learning about where milk comes from with Quintana and her calf Tulip
- participating in Orange Shirt Day

We look forward to another wonderful year full of learning adventures!

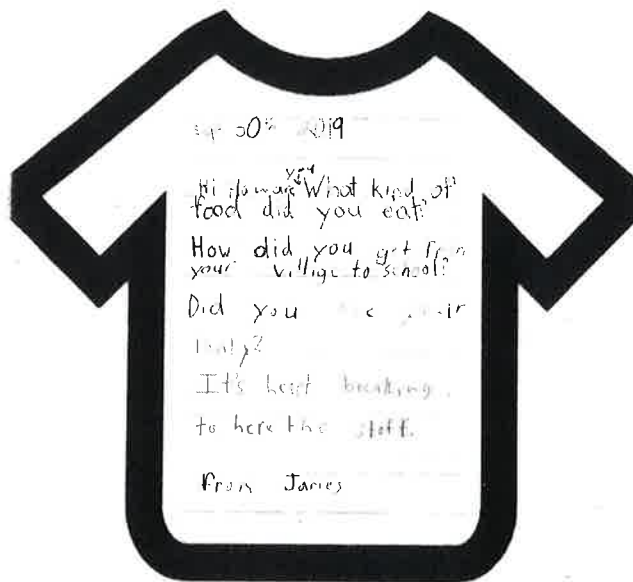
Gilakas'la, Na'na'la'u -

Teacher Dianne 😊



News from Karen's Grade 6/7 Class

Welcome to a new school year! I am very excited to be starting my second year with my wonderful class. Although I missed a few weeks in September, I am back and we are working hard. We have had two field trips, one to storeys beach and another to Connaty Farm and the Coal Harbour Museum. Students have been reading, writing and working hard in math, learning more about Terry Fox and understanding more about Residential School and the effect that this had on our family and loved ones. Below are some letters the students wrote to the survivors of residential school. We are excited about our new school year and we are starting October off learning about energy and participating in the BC Hydro Boost Your Power Smarts activities. Additionally we are learning about the upcoming Canadian elections and the importance of voting! If you have a child in my class please join our facebook page called Division 2 Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School please join so you can keep up with the happenings in our classroom.



News from Jen's Grade 4/5 Class



Belonging and Friendship - We feel belonging in our class of beautiful friends.

Our Seven Strengths

Belonging, Curiosity, Friendship, Kindness, Courage, Confidence, Hope

Gilakas'la! I am so happy to be teaching this group of amazing kids! The first month of September has brought us so many learning opportunities. The above seven strengths are attributes that we will learn and together we will achieve. When students feel and believe in the seven strengths they have the tools to grow and ultimately succeed in anything they attempt to do. They are keen and already have demonstrated these strengths themselves, as well as, identify these strengths in others.



Kindness - We kindness in Kelly Strongitharm, founder of Reuben's Shoes, to donate 500 pairs of shoes to our school.

Confidence - We had confidence in ourselves to run for Terry Fox.



Curiosity - We demonstrated curiosity when we visiting Connaty farms and asked questions about what we were wondering.

Courage & Hope - Hearing stories of our Elders in Residential school and how they had courage. Hope for their future and the future of our children.



News from Allyson's Grade 4/5 Class

Gilakas'la! September has been busy exploring Connaty farms, the beach, the Kwalilas copper, and fundraising and running for the Terry Fox Foundation. We have an inspiring group of students with tons of questions and we are building an impressive Wonder Wall in our classroom. Happy birthday to our September babes, Stephanie and Malakai!



Rhyan tries a copper rubbing.



Group shot!



Picking the perfect cherry tomato.



Rain won't deter us!



First day of school vibes.



Checking out the chickens.



Bubs learns about cattail starch.

News from Michelle's Grade 2/3 Class

Gilakas'la. Nugwa'am Michelle Hinatsu. I'm really happy to be teaching grade 2/3 again this year. We have 11 Grade 3 students and 2 Grade 2 students. It's so wonderful to see all the children again. **Lixam** -wide faced moon time (September) was filled with many fun school outings, getting to know each other and making big efforts to use more **bakwamkala** every day. The students amaze me with how fast they learn and how much pride they have in their language and culture. I'm looking forward to a fun year together!



Wi'laman's 'ni'namukwa.
We are all friends.

Orange Shirt Day

Honouring residential school survivors and everyone affected. We are learning from our Elders and spending precious time together.



A visit to
Connaty Farms



Wi'xan's hamsa.

Let's go berry picking.

We picked **na'kwat dlu**
tsutsa'tsam (salal berries and blackberries).

We dried them and soon we will try dipping
the dried berries in **ti'na** (eulachon oil).

News from Jenn's Grade 1/2 Class

Yo! Gilaska'la. It's been an amazing first month! We went to the Connaty Farm and Coal Harbour museum. We saw a live cow! We had STEM bins from the library and we started swimming.



What is your favourite part of school right now?

Ezra: Deer Ears

Storm: That we went to the a'thi and playing LEGO

Alice: Math and reading

Linden: Going to the forest

Mia: Reading and playing outside

Carla: Playing

Mitchell: Playing outside and playing inside and wearing our orange shirts

Quorbin: Going home, going with Nicole, giving hugs and singing with Norman Foote

Darryl: Math, playing and colouring

Konner: P.E., swimming, Culture, and recess

Justice: Eating

Perry: Playing LEGO and having fun at the gym. I like the whole school. I like all the teachers. I like recess and even when it's play time. I like the snacks.



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



Gilakas'la,
I am very happy to be back at the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School this year. And back in the classroom too!
This year I will be working with the intermediate students in the morning and with the grade 1's and 2's in the afternoon.
I am looking forward to a wonderful year of teaching and learning.
We have already had fun learning songs with Norman Foote.

Mary Louise



Gilakas'la families! We are so pleased to be working with your beautiful children this year. We've had a busy September adjusting to our new routines and getting used to working as a team. We're getting outside everyday and are starting to feel very connected to our forest classroom behind the school.

Erin



News from Sheri-An's Kindergarten Class

Gilakas'la! What an wonderful September we've had in Kindergarten. The children are busy learning "big" school routines and expectations. We have had a busy month and have been spending a part of every day outdoors in nature. We have been berry picking and made blackberry jam for the elders. The children are learning how to observe their surroundings by using their senses and share what they notice in the environment. We had a blast visiting Connaty farms. The kids loved eating carrots right out of the ground and packing a baby goat. We ended the month of September remembering residential schools. We read many books about residential schools and participated in discussions at a level appropriate for Kindergarten. We were very fortunate to spend time with Uncle Willy, Gran Gertie and Gran Kathy who shared some of their experiences with us. We created collages together and shared some food. We are looking forward to the excitement that October will bring.



Beautiful, Resilient Elders: Willie, Gertie & Kathy.



Cheeeze!



Picking blackberries.

every child
matters



First day in the A'ti.



Goat fun!



Terry Fox Fundraising.



Jungle gym fun.



Auda Blanche.

News from Robin's Preschool Class

Yo! I am so excited to be teaching the Preschool class this year. Our primary focus is to expose the children to our wonderful language. We are speaking, reading and singing in bakwamkala, and have elders in our classroom everyday. Although Terrisa and I are not fluent speakers, we are working hard to learn and develop our language proficiency. We are also making an effort to spend time in the outdoors and explore the natural spaces in our community. We live in a beautiful area and feel it's important for the children to be connected to the environment that surrounds them.



La'man gu'xw'it lo! - I will help you!



La'man's yaxwit -

We are going to dance!



Musmusbidu - Little Cow



La'man's
amt'aliit -

We are going to play!



Ga'ola's wax gaxan, Mary!
Help me please, Mary!

News from Culture Class

Gilakas'la from the Culture Class. Gilakas'la to all our children and families. We look forward to another year of uplifting our children through our Gwayi'lelas - our bakwam ways. We use our ancient teachings daily - Maya'xala - respect, Hutlilala - listen, Saltidas - calm down, Dala xa ik noke- carry a good heart.



We are introducing a hawa'x'ala (giving thanks) to all our sasam. We have talked with the ni'noxsola dlu ni'nogad of the Gwa'sala and



Nakwaxda'xw to create a meaningful hawa'x'ala. The sasam and teachers are doing great in learning our new Hawa'x'ala.



We have had Aunty Mary and Uncle Willie come and share stories and teachings with our sasam, we are excited to have more elders come share their knowledge throughout the school year.

We are making our Kwakwala/ Bakwamgala a priority, we have been introducing and revisiting words and phrases. The sasam are eager to learn our language. We are excited that we can bring in our ni'noxsola our (wise ones) to teach us more Kwakwala/ Bakwamgala to add to our cultural program .



Our sasam are gaining strength and confidence by learning our Gwayi'lelas (our bakwam ways). The learning never stops. We are committed, dedicated and passionate in teaching all our Bakwam Gwayilelas as best we can for all the sasam of the Gwa'sala Nakwaxda'xw School.

Gilakas'la

Andrea - 'Namnasolaga

Darren - Kwamxala'galis



News from Physical Education Class

It's been an excellent start for our kids in the gym. Sara Grover, our regular P.E. teacher is finishing her last semester at VIU in the teacher education program. In her absence, Darryl Coon has been filling as the P.E. teacher. Darryl's coaching and athletic background and his ability to be connect with our kids have made him a perfect fit!



Parental and Community Engagement



“Welcome Back Dinner”

Our gym was full with many beautiful families. Everyone is excited to start our school year off with a nice dinner and great company!

“Honouring Our Elders”

For they have the wisdom to teach what we have not yet learned. - Author Unknown



Parent Advisory Committee

We would love for you to join us. Your input for your child's education is important. Our next parent meeting is Thursday October, 17th in our Culture room. Hope to see you then.

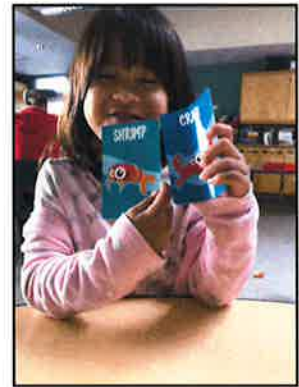


News from Jackie

What a fantastic month of learning! All of our literacy programs are up and running, including: Read Well, Reading Mastery, Corrective Reading, and Novel Studies.

We would like to thank Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society for funding another year of Tutor-Mentoring at our school. We are looking forward to meeting the new Tutor-Mentors starting in October.

As you can see here, our Grade One/Two's are hard at work mastering their alphabet letter names, sounds and high frequency words through fun and interactive games.



Ruben's Shoes

Kelly Strongitharm, founder of Ruben's Shoes came our school in September and delivered over 500 pairs of shoes for our students! Take the time read about Ruben's story at <https://www.rubensshoes.com>. What an amazing organization, doing outstanding work to support education across the globe!



More Learning



We had our Terry Fox assembly and run this month. Our kids did amazing! We also went around the community to collect donations. Gilaka'sla to everyone who gave to such a worthy cause. A special thanks to the George family for their continued support in memory of Alice George. We raised a total of \$834.45.



We hosted our Welcome Back Dinner early in September. It was a great evening of games, prizes, food and companionship. What a great way for everyone to come together and kick off the another school year!

Blast from the Past



Look at Peewee and our elder's coordinator?



Look how cute they are!



Michael and Janelle.



Caroline is crabbing!



Brooklynn and Sydney on the ferry to Camp Homewood.

Notices

1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem like much but...

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years of school
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

How about 10 minutes late a day? Surely that won't affect my child?

He/she is only missing just...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
10 mins per day	50 mins per week	Nearly 1 ½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ year
20 mins per day	1 hr. 40 mins per week	Over 2 ½ weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 mins per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years

EVERY DAY COUNTS

Monthly Calendar



OCTOBER 2019



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Intermediate Homework Club / Reading Club / Sports Club - M, T, Th 3:00 - 4:00</p> <p>Intramurals - T & Th @ 12:20</p> <p>Intermediate & Primary Sports Club - everyday @ 8:30</p>		<p>1</p> <p>Norman Foote - Singer Songwriter</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>PreK & K Swim</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Gr. 1-7 Swim</p> <p>Garden Club - 12:00</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:30 Div 5 & 8 Quatse Loop</p> <p>Lego Club</p> <p>Happy Birthday Hunter Charle</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Div. 1 & 2 10:30 How a People Live - Elder's building</p> <p>Div 6&8 Library 9:55 Div. 5 Library 10:45</p> <p>Happy Birthday Rhyen Isaac</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Fire Drill</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30 Div 8 & 9 Quatse Hatchery</p> <p>PreK & K Swim</p> <p>5:00 - Family Movie Night</p> <p>Happy Birthday Xunius Willie</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Gr. 1-7 Swim</p> <p>Garden Club - 12:00</p> <p>Elders Lunch</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Happy Thanksgiving - No School</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Happy Birthday James Wamiss-Nelson</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>BC Shakeout Drill - 10:17</p> <p>Parents' Club - 12:00</p> <p>PreK & K Swim</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Gr. 1-7 Swim</p> <p>Garden Club - 12:00</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Drum Making Presentation w/ Div 5</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Lego Club</p> <p>5:00 - Movie Grizzlies</p> <p>Happy Birthday Ezra Walkus-Nelson</p>	<p>22</p> <p>No Preschool</p> <p>Photo Day</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Scholastic Book Fair</p> <p>District Cross Country Meet</p> <p>Drum Making Workshop w/Div 5</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Half day for all students Noon Dismissal</p> <p>Happy Birthday Andrew Wallis George</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Professional Development Day No School for Students</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Happy Birthday Elnan Stewart</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Lego Club</p> <p>Drum Making Workshop w/Div 5</p> <p>Happy Birthday Miley Walkus</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Drum Making Workshop w/Div 5</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Div. 5 & 6 Bake Sale</p> <p>PreK & K Swim</p> <p>Hallowe'en</p>	<p>November 1</p> <p>Professional Development Day No School for Students</p>	

Year Calendar



Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School 2019-20 School Year



2019

August - 0 days

Monday, August 26-Friday, August 30 - Staff School-based In-service - No School for Students

September - 18.5 days

Monday, Sept. 2 - Labour Day Holiday

Tuesday, Sept. 3 - School Opens - 8:55-10:30 and

Wednesday, Sept. 4 - 8:55-3:05 for Grades 1-7

Monday, Sept. 9 - School begins

1/2 day for Kindergarten - 8:55-12:00

& 1/4 day for Preschool(PreK) - 8:55-10:30

Thursday, Sept. 12 - Welcome Back Dinner - 5:00

Friday, Sept. 13 - Staff Inservice - No School

Monday, Sept. 16 - School continues

Full day for Kindergarten - 8:55-3:05

& 1/2 day for PreK - 8:55-12:00

Monday, Sept. 23 - School continues

Full day for PreK - 8:55-3:05

October - 20.5 days

Monday, October 14 - Thanksgiving Day Holiday

Monday, Oct. 21 - Wednesday, Oct. 23 - Book Fair

Thursday, Oct. 24 (pm) & Friday, Oct. 25

- Provincial Pro-D - No School for Students

November - 19 days

Friday, November 1 - School Based Pro-D -

No School for Students

Monday, Nov. 11 - Remembrance Day Holiday

Wednesday, Nov. 13 - Fri., Nov. 15 - Soccer Tourney

December - 15 days

Tuesday, Dec. 3 - Winter Yayuma -

T'seka Red Cedar Bark Ceremony

Wed., Dec. 12 - Fri., Dec. 14 - Parent Teacher

Interviews-schedule to be determined

Thursday, Dec. 19 - Christmas Concert

Monday, Dec. 23 to Friday, Jan. 3 - Christmas Break

73 days

Prescribed Minimum Hours of Instruction

In accordance with the School Act, a school under the supervision of the BC Ministry of Education must offer not less than the following hours of instruction in a school year to students enrolled in the school:

853 hours of instruction for students in Kindergarten

878 hours of instruction for students in Grades 1 - 7

2020

January - 20 days

Monday, January 6 - School Re-opens

February (leap year) - 18 days

Monday, February 17 - Family Day Holiday

Thursday, Feb. 20 - Fun Fair - 5:00 - 8:00

Friday, Feb. 21 - District Pro-D - No School for Students

March - 12 days

Thursday, March 5 - Talent Show

Wednesday, Mar. 11 - Student Led Conferences

Monday, Mar. 16 to Friday, Mar. 27 - Spring Break

Monday, March 30 - School Re-opens

April - 20 days

Friday, April 10 - Good Friday Holiday

Monday, April 13 - Easter Monday Holiday

Thursday, April 30 - Cultural Fair

May - 19 days

Friday, May 8 - Professional Development with District

- No School for Students

Monday, May 18 - Victoria Day Holiday

June - 16 days

Wednesday, June 17 - Graduation Ceremony

Thursday, June 18 - Education Celebration

Friday, June 19 - Last day of School

Sunday, June 21 - National Indigenous Peoples' Day

Monday, June 22 - School-based In-service

Tuesday, June 23 - Community Picnic

Wednesday, June 24 - Friday, June 26 -

Staff In-service

104 days

Summary of 2019-2020 Calendar

Instructional Days 176.5 days

Professional Development/In-Service Days 15.5

Total Days in Session 193 days

Days of instruction are different from "days in session". Days in session are days that school is "open" but the students are not necessarily in attendance. On a "day of instruction," students are in attendance and under supervision for the purposes of receiving instruction in an educational program.

"Strong Together in All We Do"