

Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School Newsletter

Strong Together In All We Do



September, 2022

News from the Principal



Gilakas'la,

Welcome back to the 2022/2023 school year! We were so excited to see new and returning students and families after the summer break. We look forward to getting to know each child and their family and creating a strong partnership that will enhance your child's educational experience. Language and culture, collaboration, engaging learning opportunities and innovative practices will continue to be infused into all areas of instruction in the year ahead.

This year most of our teachers and support staff have returned, but we also welcome several new faces to our school team. These include Nic Roggeveen (Grade 5/6 teacher), Leslee Holland (Grade 4/5 teacher), Paige Walkus (Support Worker), Katerina Jolliffe (Support Worker), Carol Ellingson (Support Worker) and Bob Cadwell (Bus Driver). We are so fortunate to have honoured and dedicated staff to serve our learners and community.

September was a busy month with students settling into new routines and classroom spaces, lots of learning and school events. It was great to see so many attend our Welcome Back Dinner. We are looking forward to having the community at the school much more this year. Be sure to read through the newsletter to see all that has been happening. Joining our school Facebook page, checking out our website (<https://www.gnschool.ca/>) or checking us out our Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School YouTube are all avenues to keep in touch with the school.

Looking forward to a wonderful year ahead.

All the best to our families,

Reed Allen
Principal



News from Karen

Yo Parents and Guardians, I am so excited to be starting my 5th year at Gwa'sala-'Nadwaxda'xw School. This school start up has gone by quickly as we are excited to have our first month completed and we are looking forward to all the excitement of October.

It was wonderful to all get together at our first Welcome Back dinner since 2019! So nice to see familiar faces as well as reacquaint with old friends. I look forward to many more occasions to get together. We have reinstated our Parents Club and look forward to creating opportunities to come together this year.

Our library is now open for our students to take books out to enjoy in their classrooms. We are excited for this opportunity for our students to find books that they will enjoy. We have the Scholastic Book Fair later this month which will be held in our library, this is a great opportunity for students and community members to purchase books for their home enjoyment.



October 17 - 20th



New library! Perrys was the first student to take out a book!



First Day of school!



Welcome Back Dinner!

News from Shannon



Gilakas'la! Welcome to the 2022/23 school year. Once again I am fortunate to be at the school in the roles of Vice Principal and Director of Student Services. I am so happy to see all of our returning students and new faces this year! I would like to welcome Paige Walkus and Katerina Joliffe to our school's Student Services Department, working in grade 2/3 and in Kindergarten. Another exciting change this year is having Dea-ta Dawson supporting our students with their speech and language.



In my role of Student Services, I am in the process of scheduling Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings and getting consents signed for our students in order for us to best support their learning needs at school. I am hoping to see many of you at the school for those meetings, but if you prefer, we can still use Zoom.



If you have any questions about your child or about Student Services, you can reach me at the school through Facebook, email, text or phone at the school. Looking forward to a fantastic year!



News from Dianne's Grade 6/7 Class



♥ Gilakas'la Families and Friends ♥

We would like to dedicate this page to all the survivors of residential school and to those who never made it home to their families.

We have had an amazing start to 2022-2023 school year! We have 16 wonderful students this year. We have been blessed with many learning experiences in many beautiful spaces. Thank you to Kayak/CanoeBC's instructor's Wes, Abbey, Alex and Caleb for bringing us 5 new canoes and instructing us in learning canoeing skills. Gilakas'la



News from Nic's Grade 5/6 Class

Welcome to the new school year!

Oh my, where has September gone?! Despite the month flying by we managed to pack a fair amount in during our first month together. Getting to know each other and creating our classroom culture has been our big focus for September, and in the process we've made some amazing memories. Highlights include touring Nic around the community, berry picking, STEM Challenges, building our classroom playlist, and canoeing at Beaver Lake and Storey's Beach. We've had Allycia and Ben as our excellent EAs helping us along the way.

We're looking forward to an awesome year! (Teacher Nic)



News from Leslee's Grade 4/5 Class

A big Hello from Leslee to all her students, parents, guardians and families!!

The grade 4/5 class has been very busy this month getting to know each other, making our classroom rules, learning new procedures, reviewing concepts from last year and even getting outside to play a few games while the sun is shining.



In Math, students are using the Saxon Math program and have been reviewing the rules of addition, counting by 2's, 5's, 10's, practicing single digit addition problems, problem solving and even doing a few math drills (we are timing ourselves and aiming to improve each day!). In Literacy, students have dipped their toes into spelling, reading, writing, thinking, discussing to get our brains back into the school year. We also practice our printing (even Leslee!).

In Science, students have informally touched on some topics of interest to them. The very last week students started a unit on The Seasons which is trickier than it sounds as we live in such a mild tempered place (no minus 30 degrees Celsius here!!). We will be starting Social Studies after our first Science Unit is complete!

In Art, students are showing what they like to draw and colour (Minions are a favourite!). We have started our student Art Gallery in our classroom library area!

The Grade 4/5s are working on creating the best classroom ever this year! We talk about what that should look like and sound like. We also talk about how we can be the "best me" so everyone can learn and grow this year. It was great meeting the families of the students who were able to come to the welcome Back Dinner this month!



News from Jen's Grade 3/4 Class



What an amazing start to a new school year! September is always a heart felt month because we take special care and time to remember the children who had to endure suffering from Canada's Residential School System. We were so fortunate to hear stories from Mary, Mary, and Willie about their school experiences when they were young. There was a clear message to us all. Show gratitude for your school and demonstrate love towards your fellow classmates and families. Gilakas'la to these three legendary Elders for sharing your time with us!



September - A month full of learning, exploring, experiencing, and being together!



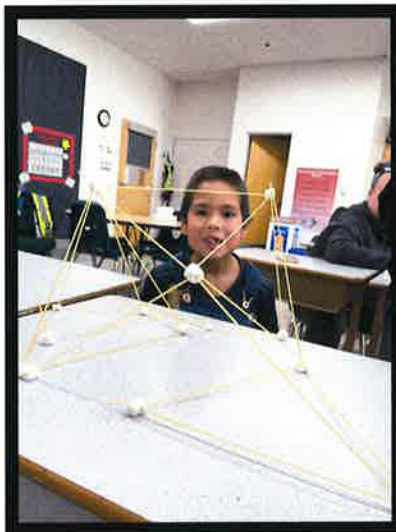
News from Jackie's Grade 2/3 Class

Gilakas'la! Nugwa'am Jackie Hunt. I am very excited to teach, learn, and make great memories with the whole class. We have 3 amazing EA's, Nicole, Paige, and Sarah who will be working in our classroom at different times of the day.

We've had an engaging and awesome start to September ~ learning our new routines, exploring the outdoors, cooking, creating and experimenting. We've already field trips to Story's Beach and the Commuter Trail! The students are starting to build their stamina and getting ready for the longer and more strenuous local trail hikes! The students have read many books and had special elder guests visit the school to talk about Truth and Reconciliation ~ **Every Child Matters**



"We will not forget"



News from Melanie's Grade 1/2 Class



Meet this year's Grade 1/2 class! We have had an amazing month getting to know each other, practicing routines, learning, and having fun. Already we have had the opportunity to engage in Culture, Music, Gym, Bak'wamk'ala, and had our very first field trip to Storeys Beach. Most importantly we have been spending our time building our classroom community and setting our classroom values. In our class we pledge to respect ourselves, respect others, respect our learning, respect safety, respect our school, and respect our environment.



It is going to be fantastic year! I am so excited to watch these students learn and grow!

News from Sheri-An's K Class

Gilakas'la! What a wonderful September we've had in Kindergarten. We have had a busy month getting into the routines and expectations of school. We had a blast visiting Connaty farms. The kids loved eating carrots right out of the ground and feeding the farm animals. They especially enjoyed the ducks. We picked blackberries and made blackberry jam for the children to share with a loved elder in their lives. We ended the month of September remembering and honouring people who attended residential schools and hearing about their experiences. We read many books about residential schools and participated in discussions at a level appropriate for Kindergarten. We are looking forward to the excitement that October will bring.



Fresh apples!



Auda Gertie



Blackberry picking



Precious elder visits with Mary, Mary and Willie.



Auda Blanche

News from Michelle's Pre K Class

Gilakas'la Gangananam! Our hearts are very happy to welcome this wonderful group of children for the 2022-2023 school year. Highlights of our time together so far include: picking blackberries, reading books, Bakwamkala circle time with Teacher Robin, spending time in the atli, and being curious about everything. We made a big orange heart and are decorating it with loving care for our elders and families to help with the sadness from residential schools. These gangananam have a lot of love to share. We are looking forward to inviting elders to our classroom next month!



Ixkasalala xis
ma'yudtamx'damus
San'yas! 🍓



Terry



Elias



Kevin C



Naiomi



Kian



Novah



Paisley



Denise



Royce



San'yas



Aliwas



Kevin W



Jayce



Corey



Dea-ta
ECE, EA



Kristine
ECE, EA

'tsutsan'xw'ida's = Wash your hands.
'tsutsaltsam = blackberries
wixan's hamsa = Let's pick berries.
kakadaxw'silatlan's = We are



Michelle
Pre-K Teacher

News from Robin's Bakwamkala Class

Gilakas'la. I am excited to be starting a new year. September has been a busy month. We have been learning basic commands through the TPR (total physical response) method and have also focussed on berries. We were gifted some naxwaskin (soap berries) from teacher Jackie and Becky Munn. The students were so excited to try bakwam ice cream. Their reactions were pretty funny as it was not the taste they were expecting. We have also welcomed our elders back into the school and classroom. The children love listening to and learning from our elders.

Lesson 20: Berries



gulali



nakwał



tsagał



gwadam



t'sutsałtsam



lagu



salam



kisina



naxwaskin



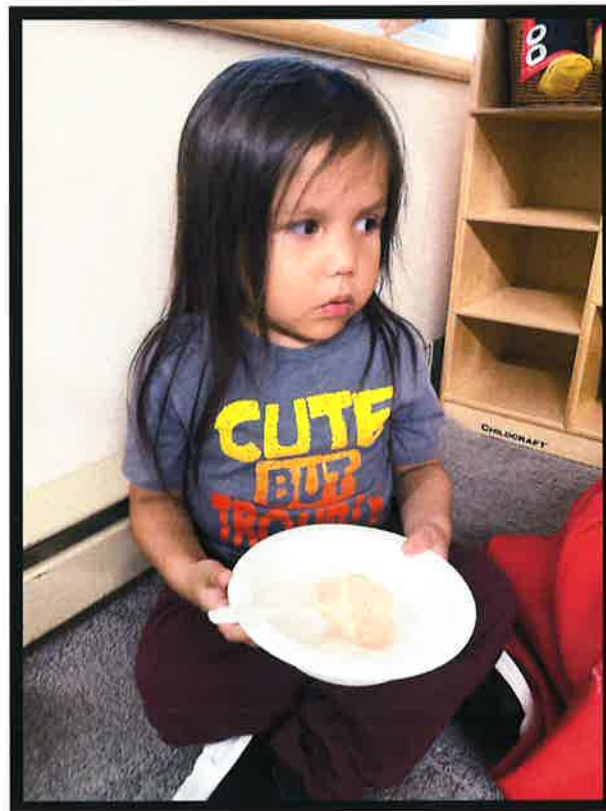
kixkalis



Gran Gertie with the Kindergartens



Gran Mary sharing with the Grade 6/7s



Working up the courage to try his naxwaskin

News from Culture Class

Gilakasda'xw'la to all our Families and Sasam:

I hope that you all are having a great start to the school year! I am so happy to see our sasam again! So far, we have had a great start to the year with our wonderful Culture class. We started off with introductions in bakwamkala and all about me activities. Then we started learning and conversing about the Residential School. We invited some of our beautiful elders in to share their story. It was so nice to have our ti'faxwal in for the day.

We learned how to make tsutsaltsam dzam with Chef Robert in which was gifted to our elders.

We are bringing more and more bakwamkala into our class and in hopes that our sasam bring it home to teach/share their knowledge with their families.

Our Sasam are so excited to get moving with our singing and dancing. It's so beautiful and exciting to see their pride when they step into our class. They are so eager to learn!

Gilakasda'xw'la

Gwanti'lakw



News from Heather's Physical Education Class



Welcome to the new school year!

It has been so much for me to be back in the gym, while Sara is on maternity leave. The school year is off to an excellent start with all classes getting along, having fun and leaving the gym red-faced and sweaty each day—They really work hard in here!

We have begun our training for cross-country running; the district meet will be in Sointula in November.

Corey started intramurals recently, and students who've signed up are already having a blast!

The gym continues to be a bustling place! Stay tuned for more action :)



News from Chef Robert

A new school year has begun and we started off the new year with an abundance of blessings. After receiving sockeye for the kids, I began the jarring so that through the winter months we would still be able to use traditional ingredients. Then the blackberry harvesting began and Lauren, Leslee and Hannah came and brought the kids in to see how blackberry jam was made and they all got to take a jar home as a reward for their hard work as well.

It is such an amazing gift to be able to work in a school where the passion for culture and the hands on learning is a daily ritual that everyone embraces. I am looking forward to the year to come and will make sure to share some of the kids favourite recipes in the news letters to come .

Gilakas'la



Every Child Matters



Students have been learning about the history of residential school system, and its impacts on Indigenous people. It's been a powerful and emotional few weeks of learning and understanding.

Learning in Action



Students in grades 5-7 participated in canoe training for two days last week at Beaver Lake and Storey's Beach. A huge thank you to CanoeKayak BC for this training opportunity.



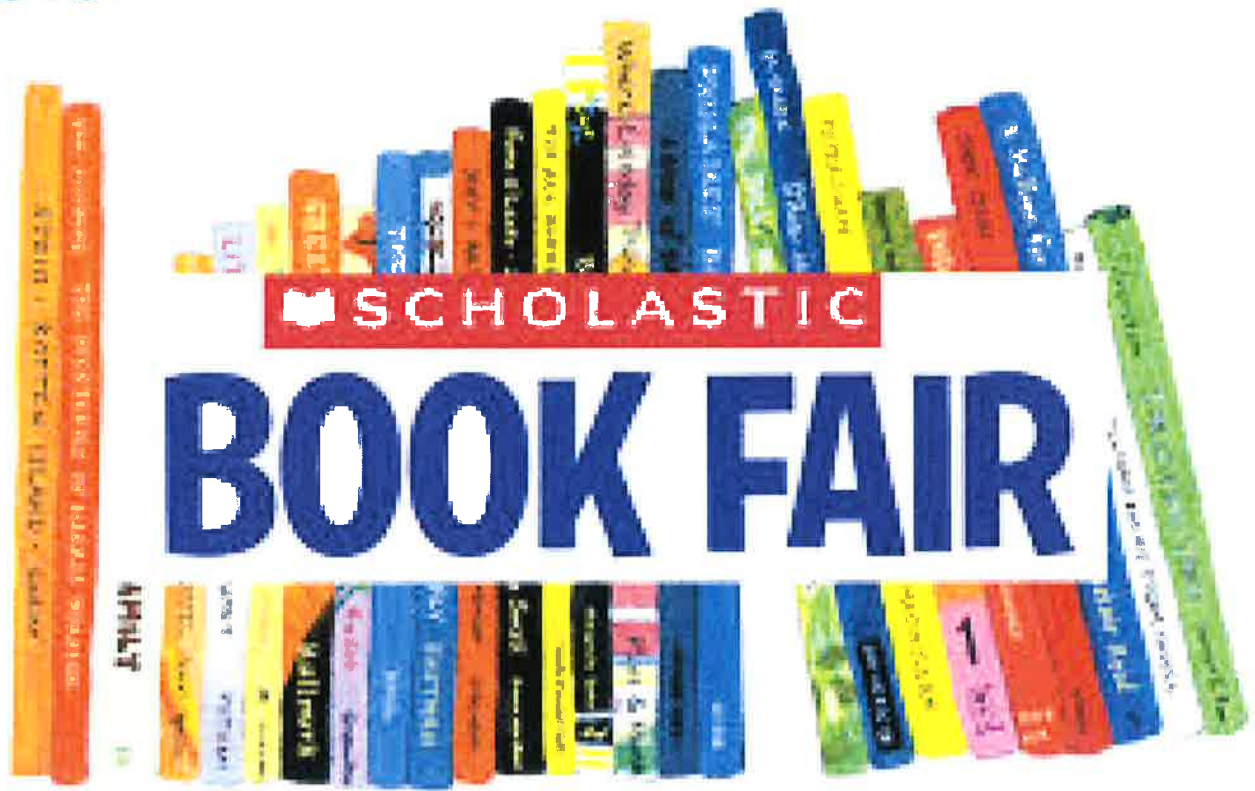
All kinds of learning happening... in the classroom, outside and even in our garden.

Birthdays this Month

Happy September Birthday to Victor, Eli, McKenzie,
Derek, Ryker, Oakley, Kamaya,
San'yas, and Malakai



Notices



October 14 - 20

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY



No School for Students Friday, October 21



OCTOBER 2022



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
Div 1 Dianne Div 2 Nicolas Div 3 Leslee Div 4 Jen Div 5 Jackie Div 6 Melanie Div 7 Sheri-An Div 8 Michelle						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Div 1 & 2 Outdoor Ed 10:30	COHI Dental Pre-K to Grade 3	Fire Drill	 Terry Fox Run	Div. 1- 4 Skating (am) Div 5 Quatse Trail @1:00 Div 6/7 Storey's Beach @1:00	
9	10	11	12		14	15
 Happy Thanksgiving - No School Happy Birthday Lazarus Henderson Happy Birthday Lauren Smith		Happy Birthday Phillip Nelson Jr.		Picture Day Class & Individual Happy Birthday Lola Johnny	School Spirit - P.J. Div. 1- 4 Skating (am) Div 6/7 Storey's Beach @1:00	
Div 1 - Nawalakw Language and Culture Camp						
16	18	19	20	21	22	
Div 1 & 2 Outdoor Ed 10:30			BC Shakeout Drill - 10:20	Professional Development Day No School for Students		
Scholastic Book Fair - Oct 17 - 20 - Library						
		Happy Birthday Quinten Coon		Happy Birthday Debbie Perkovich		
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29
Happy Birthday Phoenix Charlie	Happy Birthday Eve Dawson  Hallowe'en		LOCKDOWN DRILL		Div. 1- 4 Skating (am) Div 5 Elk Drive Trail @1:00 Div 6/7 Storey's Beach @1:00 Happy Birthday Blaire Johnson	