

# Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School Newsletter

*Strong Together In All We Do*



January 2023

## News from the Principal



Gilakas'la

Happy New Year and welcome back to school! I hope everyone had a safe and healthy winter break. Our staff has returned refreshed, rejuvenated and ready to jump right back into our second term. The first term saw us getting back to more of our typical school calendar of events and we finished December with our wonderful Christmas concert.

As we move into the new year, it is important to remember the significance of consistent student attendance. We've had many students away this January. Missing a day here or there may not seem like a problem, but absences add up quickly. It has been linked with a multitude of adverse student outcomes, from early to late childhood: poor academic achievement, lower emotional well-being and early termination from high school.

We understand that illness and COVID-19 are still prevalent and students should stay home when they are unwell, however, supporting your child to attend school can have a huge positive impact on your child's learning and overall health. Missing days on end should not be the norm for our children.

February looks to be a busy month full of events so please stay informed by following our school or class social media, as well as looking for notices sent home. We can't wait for Fun Fair to return on February 9 from 5:00 - 8:00 pm!

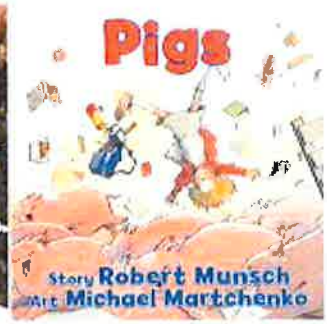
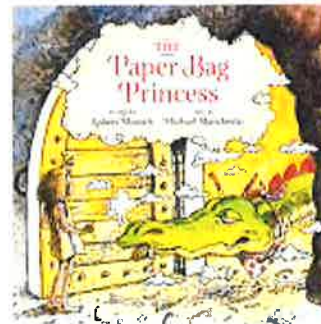
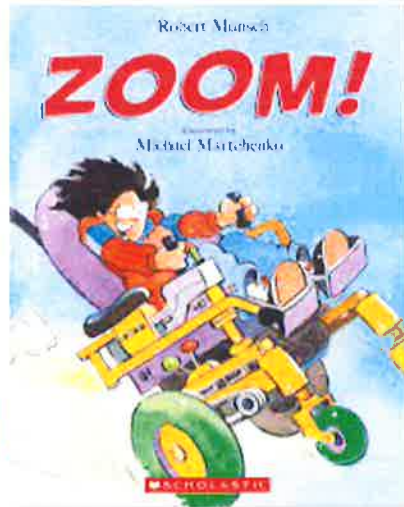
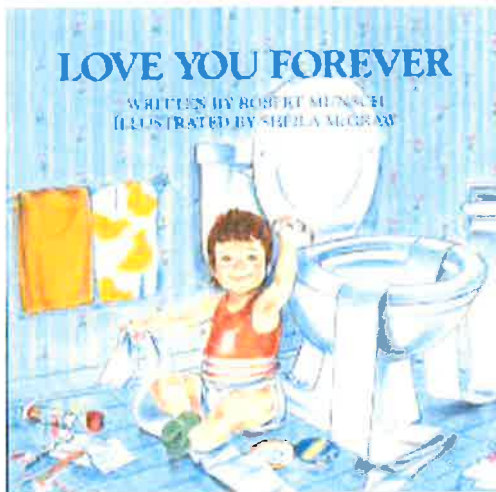
Reed Allen - Principal



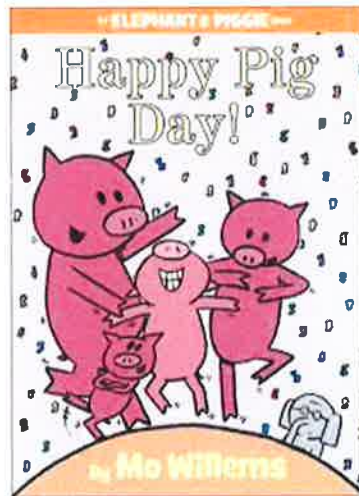
# News from Karen

Happy February to everyone. January is now done and we are excited to get through another month with very little snow!! Getting back into the routine of the year the students are attending library once a week. I get the pleasure to read some of my favourite stories with the students and help them check out books to enjoy in their classrooms. Our library is a busy place and we are planning on a literacy evening with parents and children in the near future. Stay tuned for details. Some of our favourite books are:

## Robert Munsch



## Mo Williams



## Raina Telgemeier





# News from Shannon

Happy New Year to our GN School Families!

I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful winter holiday full of relaxation and creating memories together. The last few years have shown us what is truly important...family, culture, connections, and enjoying the surroundings around us. It was fantastic to have our Christmas concert in person in December and it was great to see such a wonderful turnout for our students.



January felt like a very long month this year with all the storms and darkness. In less than 6 weeks we will see the spring flower starting to pop up and our days will be getting longer and brighter. Flu and cold season is starting to decline finally. Thank you to families for keeping your kids home when they are sick and helping to stop the spread of germs.

When everyone is healthy it is good to remember that going to school every day is the most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day and we miss them when they are not here!

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Fun Fair on February 9 - our first in 3 years!





# News from Dianne's Grade 6/7 Class



Happy New Year Families and Friends! January 2023 has been filled with many fun learning activities. Students had the opportunity to experience our community by hiking Scooter's Trail and adventuring to Link River. We have been blessed by the gifts of special people this month! Gilakas'la, Walter and Ernie, for sharing your incredible singing and drumming talents with us. Gilakas'la, Richard, for teaching us about the button blankets. Gilakas'la Robert for sharing his knowledge of food preparation and knife skills with students. Last but not least, Gilakas'la Dodie Sr. for the delicious birthday cupcakes! We greatly appreciate all those who help guide and support our students. ❤️





# News from Nic's Grade 5/6 Class



2023! New year, new learning!

After two weeks off, the 5/6s have gotten back into the swing of things, reacquainting ourselves with our routines and diving into some really rich learning.

A focus of ours throughout the year has been reading, and this month we have set some new reading goals. We have started going to the school library every Wednesday to help us achieve these goals.

We have also been fortunate and honoured to have had the chance to go out and learn in and from the community this month. Exploring Tsulquate, learning knife skills from Chef Robert, and visiting the Quatse River Hatchery and G-N Mill are just a few highlights.

If this month is any indication, 2023 is shaping up to be a great year!

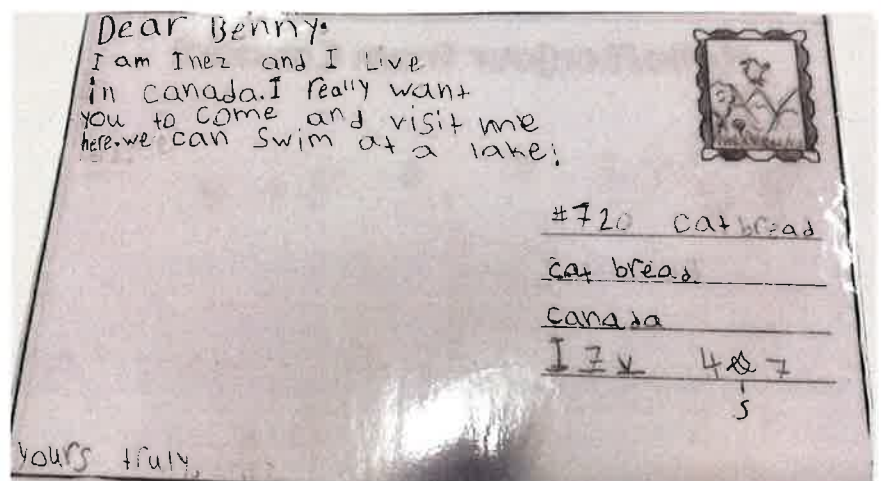
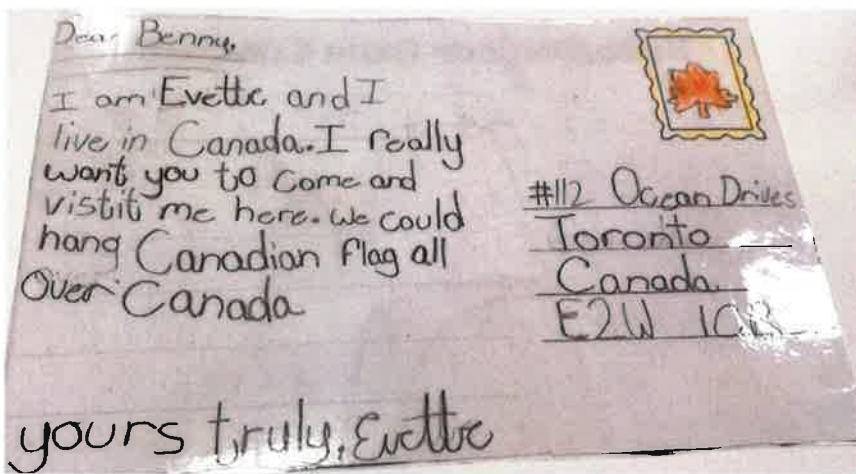




# News from Leslee's Grade 4/5 Class

## Happy New Year!

It's 2023 and the students have been busy learning in all our subjects! The New Year also means the class now has Music every Monday with teacher Jen! Students have done some pretty interesting Art projects and showing what they have learned so far in Social Studies. It was great to see their postcards that they designed and wrote to BENNY telling him why he should "visit us in Canada"!





# News from Jen's Grade 3/4 Class

Happy New Year! The Grade 3/4 class is in full swing after the Christmas break. In writing students are doing animal research projects in pairs. They are reading, taking notes, and then writing and displaying their research to share. Our Coho Salmon eggs are here and have now hatched into the alevin stage. Students love checking on them every morning and through out the day. In Music students have been learning to play the recorder and are learning about the Orchestra family and all had the opportunity to play the Violin! Our upcoming trip to Camp Homewood is approaching in April. Pay close attention to the School Facebook page as we will be selling School Swag to raise money for our trip! See you all at the Fun Fair!

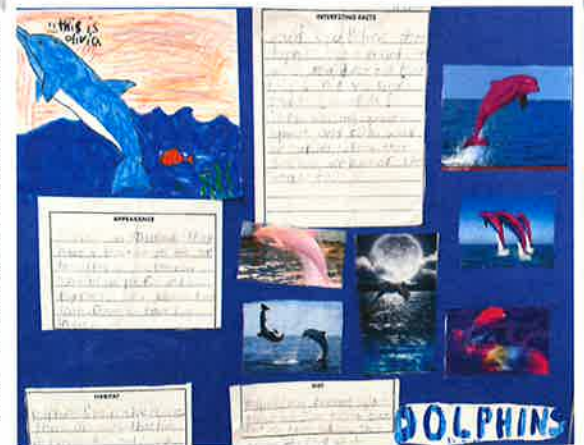


Kevanna, Simone, Carla and Kendra work on their animal research projects.



Brendan is surprised with the sound he made on the Violin!

Nicole's Dolphin Project



Placing our Coho Salmon eggs into our tank and receiving a lesson from Quatse River Stewardship Centre





# News from Jackie's Grade 2/3 Class

Happy New Year from the Grade 2/3 class! We were super fortunate to have members from I-SPARC visit our class to teach us physical education activities that we can do in the class! We have been very busy learning to read, learning new math concepts, as well as, exploring light and sound, playing with friends, and seeing what we can find at the beach.

## I-SPARC Physical Activity in the Classroom!



## Buddy Reading with Leslee's Grade 4/5s!



## Exploring Light, Sound and the Beach!





## News from Melanie's Grade 1/2 Class



We jumped right back into our learning and exploring this month. We started off by coming up with wishes for our year ahead. It was inspiring to watch the students come up with goals that were both meaningful and personal to each and every one of them.

A huge part of Grade 1/2 is learning to read. These kiddos have been doing just that! It has been such a joy watching the children learn and practice these new skills. I have really noticed their confidence grow as they become more comfortable and begin to take risks in both their reading and writing, I am very proud of their hard work and perseverance. This year I have been lucky to learn alongside the children in Teacher Lauren's Culture classes. Watching the students sing, dance and drum is such a beautiful honour. I am really looking forward to my first yayuma in the spring.



# News from Sheri-An's K Class

Gilakas'la! Happy New Year! What a wonderful January we've had. We received our Quatse river coho eggs which have hatched into alevin. The kiddos love observing their changes. Before spring break we will release them into the Quatse River. We were especially excited to see conjoined coho that are attached at the bottom of their egg sac. February will be filled with lessons and activities of love in anticipation of Valentine's Day.

Friends



Library



Peek-a-boo



Bear dance



Music class



Yoga with Martina



# News from Michelle's Pre K Class: January



Happy New Year to our families! All the children grew over the holidays and we're noticing how talkative and interactive they are with each other. Novah and Naiomi turned five this month and we had fun celebrating together. Our days are filled with Bakwamkala, culture class, P.E. gym time, outdoor play, learning about healthy food, following our interests in art, building and role playing. Thank you to the Kindergarten class for allowing us to take a peek at the growing alevin in the aquarium, inspiring us to learn about the salmon life cycle and practice the salmon dance. We have started yoga and mindfulness with Martina who is guiding the children in breathe and awareness of our bodies. As always, we are so grateful to the elders who visit and bring so much care, love and rich language learning.





# News from Robin's Bakwamkala Class

## Lesson 8: Classroom Objects



kadayu



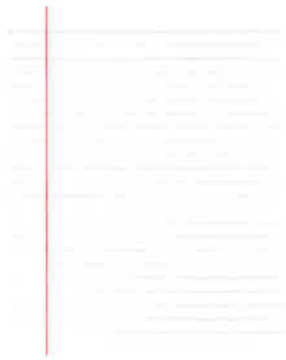
di'yu



k'wadayu



kabayu



kwagayu



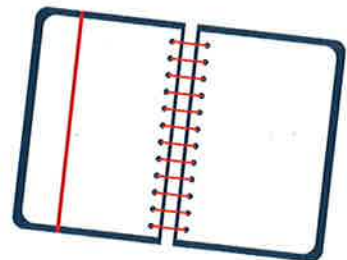
'manyayu



ka'kadaxwsiladzu



amlam



kadadzu



# News from Lauren's Culture Class

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

I hope that your new year has been well and that your holidays were well spent with your loved ones!

This new year has our Cultural program super busy and fun! This year we have developed a great routine for our class, starting with a prayer in bakwamkala and practicing our "word of the week" in bakwamkala relating to Pasa words and the gangananam are doing so well with our beautiful language.

We have started sewing our kangextola dlu tsep with the grade 6 and 7's students. The gangananam are doing so well at threading a needle, sewing buttons, and are enjoying making their own regalia. The grade 5 students are working on art, starting with ovoids, and creating their own art piece on paper. We have some great artists! The whole school has been working hard at learning our Kwakwaka'wakw culture ways, our legends, the hand movements of the dances they are learning in depth, the regalia that is used for each dance, and all of the important details of our beautiful culture. The gangananam have great Maya'xala and love for our culture and it shows with every class they attend.

I continue to be proud of our Gangananam for their pride in who they are as Kwakwaka'wakw and their motivation to learn! Keep it up Gangananam!

Gilakasda'xw'la,  
Gwanti'lakw





# News from Heather's Physical Education Class

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

There is no slowing us down!

Our gym has been a very busy place, and, we have been having fun as usual!

ISPARC brought two physical literacy coaches to our school for our second week back to school! They spent time in each classroom and in the gym helping to add in more opportunities for fitness into our days. Pauline and Dwayne were a great duo and all of our students and staff enjoyed their time with us.

Also, we have welcomed Stephanie from FitNation into the school every Tuesday at 4pm for a 30 minute power workout! She has been leading us into fun workouts, and we have students, staff and community members participating weekly. Everyone is welcome to join, if you haven't come yet, please do soon!!

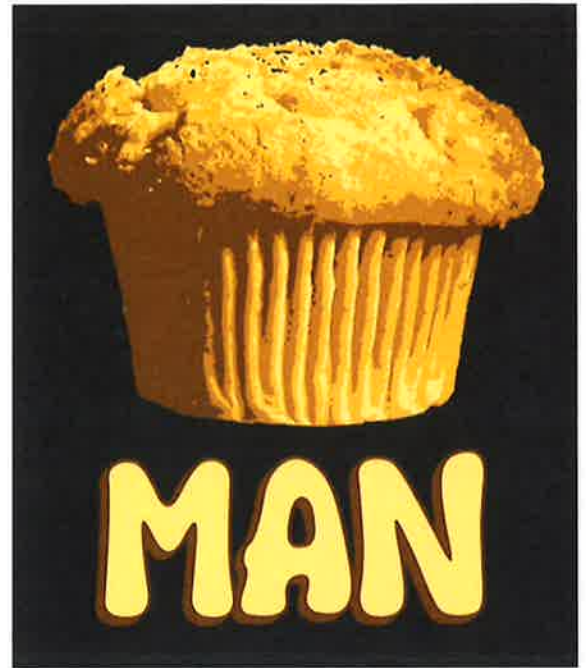




# News from Chef Robert

So many muffins and so Little time !!

Well another month has just flown by and it never stops amazing me at the energy that the kids have. After now being here at the school for a full year I /we have seen a big change happening in the kids. When the simplest of things (food and a caring ear) has such an impact on their lives and behaviour it is such a blessing to be a part of the team here. One thing I have learned is to expect the unexpected as youth and innocence brings about the most amazing conversations with the kids.



I look forward to everyday and am always excited to see what tomorrow might bring. With Covid restrictions gone the school I am looking forward to doing all the regular things that I didn't get to see last year. With the fun fair just around the corner another exciting month is about to begin.

I am thankful for everyday  
and for where I am working.

Gilakas'la





## More Learning



Every Friday students in grades 4-7 participate in Applied, Design, Skills and Technology.



Students vs staff dodgeball game!



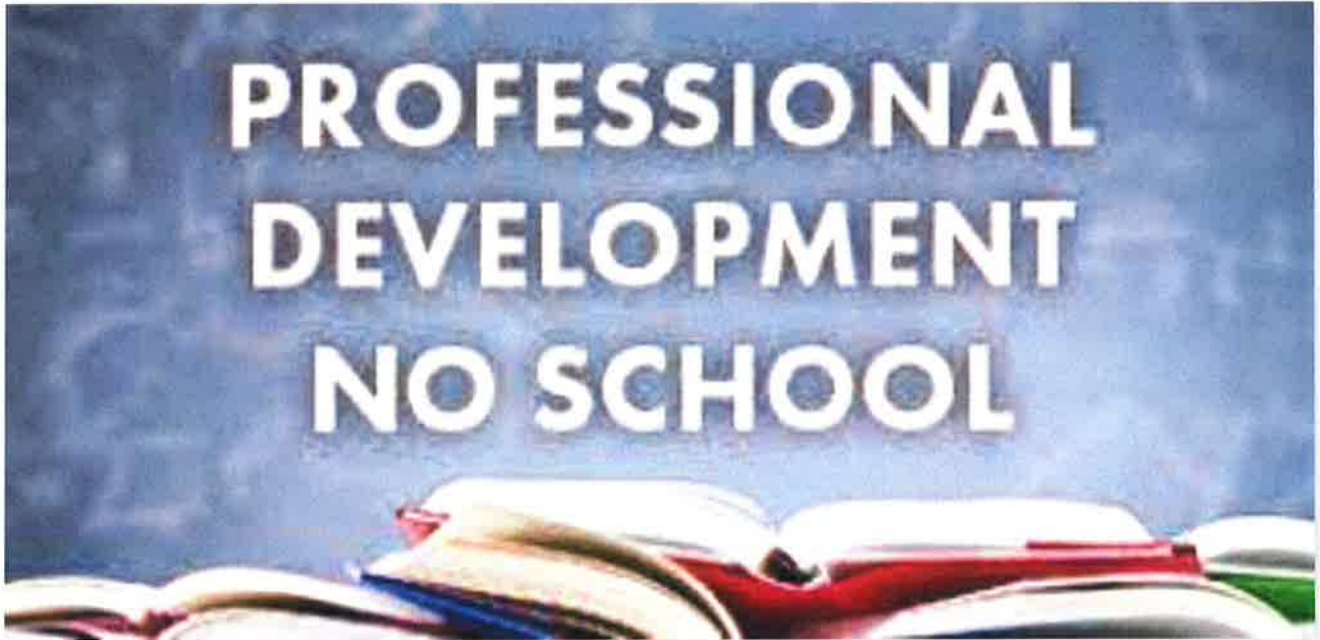


## Birthdays this Month

Happy January Birthday to: Takoda, Alice, Willie, Wesley, Orie, Perrys, Dodie and Novah, and Naomi!







# February 10

---



**February 22**  
**1:00 - 4:00 pm**

**\*Students dismissed at noon.**



# FUN FAIR



Gwa'sala-Nakwaxda'xw  
School  
Annual Fun Fair Ticket

## Tickets

\$5 for 10  
\$10 for 22  
\$20 for 45



Cash Concession

## GWA'SALA-'NAKWAXDA'XW SCHOOL

**Thursday, February 9**

**5:00 - 8:00 pm**

\*\*Ticket pre-sales can be made directly at the school or through  
e-transfer before February 7 \*\*

\*\*Contact Debbie at the school for more information\*\*



**FEBRUARY 2023**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div>Div 1 Dianne</div> <div>Div 2 Nic</div> <div>Div 3 Leslee</div> <div>Div 4 Jen</div> <div>Div 5 Jackie</div> <div>Div 6 Melanie</div> <div>Div 7 Sheri-An</div> <div>Div 8 Michelle</div>			<div>1</div> <div>Happy Birthday Jen Hunchuk</div>	<div>2</div> <div>Happy Groundhog Day!</div>	<div>3</div> <div>Div. 1-4 Skating AM; Div.5-7 Skating PM</div>	<div>4</div>
<div>5</div>	<div>6</div> <div>Div. 1 &amp; 2 Outdoor Learning 10:00 am</div> <div>Dental screening for K</div> <div>Happy Birthday Amelia Charlie-Galis</div>	<div>7</div> <div>Hearing screening for K</div>	<div>8</div> <div>Lockdown drill</div>	<div>9</div> <div>FUN FAIR 5 pm- 8 pm</div> <div></div>	<div>10</div> <div>pro-d day</div> <div>NO CLASSES</div> <div>Happy Birthday Albert Wamiss</div>	<div>11</div>
<div>12</div>	<div>13</div> <div>Div. 1 Skiing Mt. Cain Leaving at 7:00 am</div>	<div>14</div> <div>HAPPY Valentine's Day!</div> <div>Happy Birthday Allycia</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Fundraising Bake Sale Feb 14 Div 5 Bake Sale at Recess and Lunch</div>	<div>16</div>	<div>17</div> <div>Div. 1-4 Skating AM; Div. 5-7 Skating PM</div>	<div>18</div>
<div>19</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Happy Family Day</div> <div>No School</div>	<div>21</div>	<div>22</div> <div>WEAR PINK</div> <div>STOP BULLYING</div> <div>Happy Birthday Cason Charlie</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Div. 5 &amp; 6 Bowling 1:00 pm</div>	<div>24</div> <div>Div. 1-4 Skating AM; Div. 6/7 Storey's Beach 1:00 pm</div>	<div>25</div>
<div>26</div>	<div>27</div> <div>Div. 1 &amp; 2 Outdoor Learning 10:00 am</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div> <div>STUDENT LED CONFERENCES 1:00 - 4:00 PM *Early dismissal @ noon*</div>			