

Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School Newsletter

Strong Together In All We Do



February/March 2023

News from the Principal



Gilakas'la

I was sure that we had seen the last of winter but with the most recent blast of snow, we were reminded that we may not be fortunate with an early spring this year. That being said, I know our students will love another opportunity to sled and enjoy playing outside in the snow!

Well, February just whizzed by! We are now through over half of the school year and spring break is just around the corner. This past month it was nice to see our overall attendance improve and see classrooms full of students learning. When students regularly attend and receive consistent instruction it often translates to increased learning. This was evident in our most recent school-wide reading assessments as many of our students showed exceptional growth!

A number of notable events happened including Valentine's Day, Pink Shirt Day, Student Led Conferences and the Fun Fair! It was wonderful to see so many families supporting the school and celebrating your children's learning this month. Staying "Strong Together in All We Do" was clearly on display this past month.



March is a shorter month as we will have our two-week Spring Break. However, we invite you all to our Yayuma: T'seka (Red Cedar Bark Ceremony) on Thursday, March 16. We can't think of a better way to go into our break!

Reed Allen - Principal

News from Karen

Happy March to everyone. February was such a wonderful month with so many great opportunities for our students and community to share together. The return of the Fun Fair was a great highlight for the month. Our professional development was an opportunity for our staff to learn more about the development of the gukwdzi, view the house posts being used for the gukwdzi and have a trip to the Kwa'lilas to have an oral history lesson about the copper wall from Richard George. Have a wonderful month!



News from Shannon

I am still thinking about the Fun Fair and how exciting it was to have so many community members in our school! We would love to welcome more parents and families visit more regularly. What kinds of events would you like to see at our school? What kind of activities brings you to the school? Would you be interested in parent learning events where we share a meal and a workshop? If you have any ideas you can message us on facebook, give us a call, email us at manager@gwanak.bc.ca or drop by and chat.



News from Dianne's Grade 6/7 Class



Yo Friends! What a wonderful month of exciting learning! The students had the opportunity to dig and shuck clams, learn about the new gukwdzi with Trish and Walter, sewing regalia, roasting hotdogs at Suquash, special Valentine treats, skiing and snowboarding at Mt. Cain, student led conferences, MERS presentation about whales, special message and power-saw carving from Junior Henderson, sledding and snowshoeing in the snow, learning about chemistry by making rock candy and bread, writing biographies and learning about the history of the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nations...we are so grateful...mulan! ❄️



News from Nic's Grade 5/6 Class



Short and sweet and jam packed! That was our February and will be our March.

Smiles shone through in some of the wettest, windiest, and coldest weather we've faced on our Outdoor Learning adventures. Shelter building, fire making, clam digging, snowshoeing, and sledding were all skills we built on these outings.

We've learned about natural resources and our solar system, we've practiced our storytelling, and we were so pleased to share some of our learning with you during Student Led Conferences. We somehow also fit a Fun Fair and a Valentine's Dance into February.

March will be busy too, with report cards going home, the Yayuma around the corner and Spring Break right behind. Also, please note, we will be having a **parent meeting March 7** after school to discuss the field trip to Strathcona Park Lodge.



News from Leslee's Grade 4/5 Class

Gilakas'la. The school year is half over and the kids continue to grow in so many ways.....their personalities shine through the cold wintery days and we are starting to think about what lies ahead this spring: Our class will be joining the Grade 3/4 class for a 2 nite field trip to Camp Homewood!! The permission forms have been sent home and need to be returned with \$20 as soon as possible! If you need another form, I am happy to send another home with your child. The class is "buddy reading" with Jackie's Grade 1/2 class once a week which is great to see and hear! The class continues to work on showing MAYA'XALA to earn their stars! It was great to see them show and tell what they have been doing this year during the student led conferences. What a blast seeing families play games and eat good food during the FUN FAIR this year!

FUN FAIR PERMISSION SLIP HAS GONE HOME



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Website: www.gnschool.ca

February 22, 2023

Dear Parents and Caregivers:

We are now preparing and getting very excited about our upcoming overnight field trip to Camp Homewood.

Who? Divisions 3 & 4
(Jen's and Leslee's Classes)

When? Leaving April 4 at 8:00 am
Returning April 6 at 3:30 pm

Where? Camp Homewood is on Quadra Island:
<https://camphomewood.com>

How? We will travel all together by bus.

For students to attend field trips they must demonstrate the following:

1. Respectful behaviour (Maya'xala)
2. Excellent work ethic and participation
3. Excellent attendance

If students are not able to meet these expectations, they will not be able to attend the trip.

In addition to our fundraising events, each student needs to provide \$20.00 to help cover some of the trip cost.

Feel free to call us if you have any questions. More information about the trip will come in the weeks ahead. Also, please see permission slip attached. Please sign this as soon as possible and return the form so that we can get an accurate number of participants.

We have a master checklist and will keep track of permission slips and the \$20.00 as you send them in. Thanks!

Teachers: Jen and Leslee



News from Jen's Grade 3/4 Class

Looks like mother nature is fooling us! This snow seems to be sticking around. Thankfully the kids are in their glory having fun in the snow! So nice to see so many of you at our FunFair! So happy that we are able to bring this community event back! It's been too long! February is one of those months that fly by at school. Even though it's a short month we still end up packing lots in. Valentine's day was a hit. Student leadership had a dance in the gym for all students. Pink shirt day was soon after. Students were each given a "Dała xi ik noke'" shirt. This may be my favourite word. The message is clear, carry a good heart. Our Coho salmon are now fry and are soon ready to be released into the Quatse River. Our upcoming trip to Camp Homewood is on April 4-6. We will be having a Pie fundraiser with help from our amazing Chef Robert. Order a pie and pick up will be on March 9. Have a wonderful Spring Break!



Recently, students wrote their top 10 things about themselves. Here are the
Top 10 Things About Our Class!

10. We are all readers
9. We are all writers
8. We appreciate our language and love learning our culture
7. We demonstrate Maya'xala in and outside of school
6. We're curious and ask questions about the world around us.
5. We are active and have lots of energy
4. We all love music, our gym time, and art.
3. We care about each other
2. We love our teachers

And the most important thing about our class is.... We are FAMILY!

Our special guest Luigi was here all the way from Italy. He came to learn how to make a peanut butter and jam sandwich. He had very limited English and has never ever made a sandwich before. Students learned how to add extra detail to insure their instructions would result in a sandwich that Luigi could eat. Lots of laughs today! Leslie was the successful candidate to finally write a recipe that resulted in a sandwich! Way to go Leslie!

News from Jackie's Grade 2/3 Class

Where did February go??? The grade 2/3 class was sure busy fundraising, celebrating Valentine's day, Pink Shirt Day, the Fun Fair and the 100th Day of School. And we can't forget that we went skating and cosmic bowling as well! We'd like to give a huge THANK YOU to Chef Robert for helping our class fundraise by baking the most delicious cookies and cupcakes! Pink Shirt Day reminds us that our community and school are a safe, supportive, welcoming, and inclusive all all people!



"Kindness is Free, Sprinkle it Everywhere."

Valentine's, Fun Fair, Bowling



Celebrating the 100th Day of School

The highly anticipated 100th Day of School is a major accomplishment and gives us reason to celebrate all day long! The students dress up as 100 year olds, have an Elder's breakfast, make 100 Fruit Loop necklaces, send 100 kisses, participate in Elder's aerobics, make 100 year old portraits, and write about what they think life will be like as a 100 year old!



News from Melanie's Grade 1/2 Class



Data xa ik noke'

February was a very fun month for us! From bowling to skating to the Fun Fair, there was never a dull moment! We are really growing in our learning as well. The students really loved sharing the learning with their parents. I really enjoyed having a chance to speak with families too! This month we focused on "Kindness". The children were encouraged to carry out random acts of kindness each day. It was inspiring to watch them go above and beyond to care for each other. We learned that kindness is contagious. The more kindness we give, the brighter our light will shine.

News from Sheri-An's K Class

Gilakas'la! What a wonderful February we've had. Our salmon eggs hatched and are now fry, we will release them to the Quatse River after spring break. This month was filled with lessons of love and, learning about salmon and eagles. This cold snap has really been nice for the kids to have fun in the snow. However, we are looking forward to all of the new life and warmth that spring will bring.



Snow what fun!



Catching snowflakes.



Pink shirt day



Heart carving



Balloon room fun!



Shadow and Jackie



Truck jumps



Salmon food preparation at Eke me-xi



News from Michelle's Pre K Class



February in Pre-K was full of kindness, friendship, family, fun fair and SNOW! Pink Shirt Day was an opportunity to highlight how to be a good friend to everyone. We all received these beautiful pink T shirts printed by our staff that say, "Data xi ik noke" (Carry a good heart). Our student-led conference afternoon was an exciting time for the gąŋaŋaŋam to share their learning and demonstrate our progress with Bakwamkala. The children love to ask the elders questions and are listening carefully when they speak. We are so lucky to spend time with Grannies Kathy, Mary R, Mary and Gertie! Kevin C turned 5 this month, and the snow brought so much joy and sensory fun.



News from Robin's Bakwamkala Class

Gilakas'la! Febuary was a wonderful month here at the school. In bakwamkala class we have been learning about animals and actions. We play games, follow commands, sing songs, listen to stories and practice speaking. The students are absorbing more and more bakwamkala and I am so proud to witness their learning.

This month we also had our Funfair. It was so great to see many familiar faces and welcome some new ones. Looking forward to our Yayuma that is coming up next week.



Lesson 9: Animals 1



kwikw



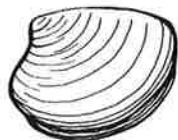
ku'mes



gwa'wina



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gawa'kanam



kwa'ma



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'me



gadzak

tsiginaga

Lesson 10: Actions 1



ka'kadaxwsila



kata



ikwalita



amta



daxala



yaxwa



tsutsankwa



ha'map



galsa

News from Lauren's Culture Class

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

It has been so exciting and nice to see and meet more of our families during the Fun Fair and Student Led conferences. :)

The gangananam have been putting in so much love into the dances they have been practicing and are getting excited to share what they've been learning with their families.

It has been so nice to have our Gigame' Pangwidi Walter George in to sing with us and prepare not only for our Yayuma but the Big House opening!

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



Łaxwalapa
Mayaxalapa



News from Heather's Physical Education Class



Happy *almost* SPRING....even though it is currently snowing, sleeting, hailing, totally frozen, full of ice, etc.!!!

The gym is always a lively place to ~MOVE~ and ~GROOVE~.

We have been having fun as usual in the gym. We have been swinging on ropes, playing basketball and soccer, oodles of running and chasing games, and most recently have pumped up a LOT of exercise balls to bounce, throw and play around with!

Fit Nation with Stephanie Bernard happens every Tuesday at 4pm, for 30 minutes. Everyone welcome, please join us for a great workout!!

The countdown to Spring Break is on :)

- Heather



News from Chef Robert

February, wow what a month it has been! From om Valentines bake sales to the crazy snow falls and Pink Shirt Day then finishing off the month with my first Funfair .

The energy in the school has been amazing with all the events going on and as always the kids are full of energy and having fun being kids. Some of the best things are in the morning when they are still waking up and Dea-ta and myself have some pretty good laughs with the students in Breakfast Club. As I always tend to say it is such a blessing to be a part of the team here at the school and everyday is a gift. All the love and support from the community is always amazing and this month has been no different. Watching the kids lick their plates clean has to be one of my favourite things to see and there is no doubt that they loved the meal

A big thank you needs to go to Cathy Swain for all the delicious Bannock that she made for the Fun fair and to Vanessa and Buddy for not only their Bannock but for all the help in the kitchen during the event.

I hope you enjoy some of my favourite pictures from this month.



More February Fun



Fun Fair

It was so great to have our Fun Fair return after 3 years! So a wonderful family evening supporting our kids field trips!



Starts at 10:00 am
Lunch provided



Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School

March 16, 2023

T'seka Yayuma
(Red Cedar Bark Ceremony)



**March
20 - 31**

Birthdays this Month



Happy February Birthday to: Amelia, Albert, Cason, Kevin and Kenneth!



Happy March Birthday to: Jenna, Cameron, Nicole, Royce, Bailey, Bentley, Rita, Simone, Shaylene, Spruce, Daemon, Kevin C., Carla, Louisa!





MARCH 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>			1	2	3 <div>Div. 1-4 Skating AM</div> <div>Div. 6-7 Storey's Beach 1:00</div> <div>Happy Birthday Jenna Nelson</div>	4
5 <div>Happy Birthday Cameron Hunt</div>	6 <div>Div. 1/2 Outdoor Learning 10:00 am</div> <div>Happy Birthday Nicole Jacobson-Mark</div> <div>Happy Birthday Royce Fox</div>	7	8 <div>Happy Birthday Bailey and Bentley Joe</div>	9 <div>Earthquake Drill</div> <div>Happy Birthday Rita Anderson Nelson</div>	10 <div>Div 1-4 Skating AM</div> <div>Div. 6-7 Storey's Beach 1:00</div>	11
12 <div>SPRING FORWARD! Daylight Saving Time</div>	13 <div>Div. 1/2 Outdoor Learning 10:00</div>	14	15 <div>Happy Birthday Spruce Wamiss, Shaylene Jacobson, Simone Charlie and Daemon Wilson</div>	16 <div>School Yayuma 10:00 am Everyone Welcome</div>	17 <div>Div 1-4 Skating AM</div> <div>Div. 6-7 Storey's Beach 1:00</div> <div>Happy Birthday Kevin Walkus and Sarah L</div>	18
19	20 <div>NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK</div> <div>FIRST DAY OF Spring MARCH 20</div>	21	22	23 <div>Happy Birthday Carla Charlie</div> <div>Happy Birthday Teacher Sheri-An</div>	24	25 <div>Happy Birthday Louisa Williams-Paul</div>
26	27 <div>NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK</div>	28	29	30	31 <div>School Reopens on Monday April 3rd</div>	