

Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School Newsletter

Strong Together In All We Do



April, 2025

Gilakas'la,

Welcome back, and happy spring! We hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable break. After a well-deserved holiday, our staff returned re-energized and have been working hard alongside our students throughout the past several weeks. March and April brought a flurry of exciting learning opportunities—and plenty of chances to enjoy the beautiful spring weather.

We ended our second term with our incredible Yayuma celebration. It was a truly moving event, showcasing the deep cultural learning led by our gang^ananam. Events like this require a tremendous amount of preparation, and we are so grateful to everyone who contributed. Gilakas'la to Latisha for preparing our students with such care, to Lyam for stepping up in support, and to all of our GN School staff for always showing up wherever they're needed. We all left feeling proud, connected, and full of joy.

April also included some amazing field trips. Jen and Em's classes headed to Camp Homewood, and Allyson's class spent time exploring the beauty of Strathcona Park. The weather was on our side, and our students came back with lasting memories and lots of stories to share.

We capped off the month with our annual Fun Fair—a fantastic community event filled with laughter, games, and school spirit. Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a success. Not only was it a great evening of family fun, but we also raised important funds to support future field trips.

Another highlight was our participation in the Student Vote, which mirrored the recent federal election. Giving students the opportunity to engage in the democratic process is an important step in developing thoughtful, active citizens. We were so impressed by their enthusiasm and understanding.

Every day, I'm reminded of how special our school community is. The energy, care, and dedication shown by our students, staff, and families is truly inspiring. Thank you for being part of this journey with us.

Reed Allen
Principal



Gilakas'la to Walter and Talon for designing and carving our beautiful new sign, both former students!

News from Karen

Hello everyone,

April flew by in a flash, but what a wonderful month it was—filled with learning, laughter, and memorable moments!

One of the highlights was our annual Fun Fair, which was a huge success. A big thank you goes out to all the staff who generously donated their time and energy to make the evening so special for our school community.

April Fool's Day brought a surprise twist for the students: our teachers did a classroom switch! Our Grade One teacher jumped into the Grade 4/5 class, while our Preschool teacher took the reins of the Grade 6/7 class. The students were both shocked and delighted!



Over the past few months, we've also been celebrating the many wonderful things our students do for each other, for the school, and for the environment with GOTCHA! cards. So far, we've had over 580 entries recognizing these good deeds! Each week, we randomly select five students to receive a prize and celebrate their amazing efforts. Keep up the fantastic work, kids!

GOTCHA!

**Gilakas'la for showing Maya'xala for the
Learning Environment, Self, Others!
You are doing great!**

Dianne's Grade 6/7 Class



storytelling
creating
giving thanks
connecting
learning
cheering



sewing regalia
singing
voting
hiking
planting
sharing



April
showers
brought many
beautiful
moments...



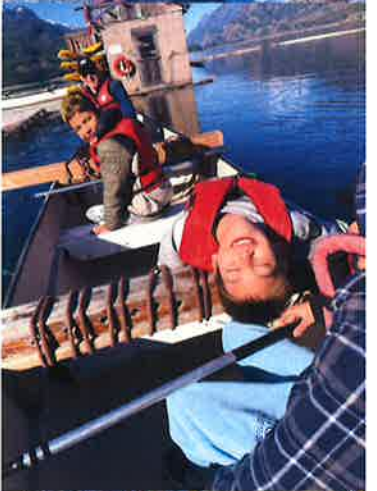
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Allyson's Grade 5/6 Class



It's been a full and exciting month in Div 2! April brought us sunshine and unforgettable memories. It also brought some surprise Percy Jackson easter eggs... Early this month, our class had the incredible opportunity to spend a few days at Strathcona Park Lodge (which suspiciously bears a strong resemblance to Camp Half-blood). Students participated in team-building and cooperative games that encouraged communication, leadership, and a lot of laughter. One of the highlights was the thrilling zipline experience—many students challenged their fears and soared through the forest canopy with pride!



Our adventure continued with a field trip to the Huson Caves. Students learned how these caves were formed over thousands of years and witnessed the powerful effects of erosion.

In the spirit of Earth Day and spring renewal, our class planted lagu. Interestingly, camp Half-Blood is disguised as a strawberry farm to mortals. We've learned about plant care and pollination, and the importance of local food. Students are now eagerly watching blossoms pop up. We started writing letters to our new pen pals from Dodd's Class (honestly we couldn't make these coincidences up if we tried) in Hope, BC! It's a wonderful way to make new friends, practice writing and learn more about life in another BC community.



Em's Grade 4/5 Class

The highlight of April for our class was our incredible trip to Camp Homewood. We enjoyed three beautiful sunny days of canoeing, horseback riding, hiking, and more. We ate delicious meals together. Back at school, in math class, students have been feeling proud of themselves for all of their hard work learning long division. Wow! We are working on a puppet show together as a class and having a great time with this project.



Jen's Grade 3/4 Class



Camp Homewood 2025!



Camp Homewood never disappoints. We were blessed with amazing, sunny weather, which only highlighted the smiles on the student's faces. Thank you to all our parent volunteers and staff for dedicating three days of fun with these kiddos. They are now left with long lasting memories!

I never wanted to leave - Landon

1 million stars! The food is so good and it is so fun much fun!!! The people are so nice. - Oakley

5 stars! The food I think is the best. - Kwol



Camp Homewood is an amazing place that makes memories that last a live time. 10 stars! Camp is amazing! - Eve

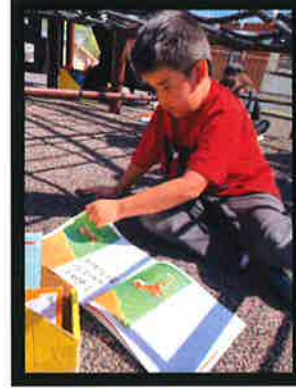
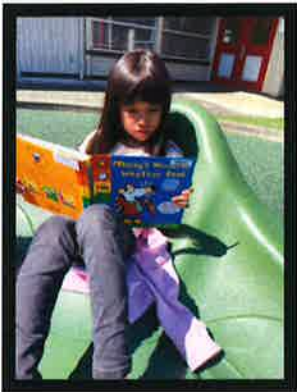
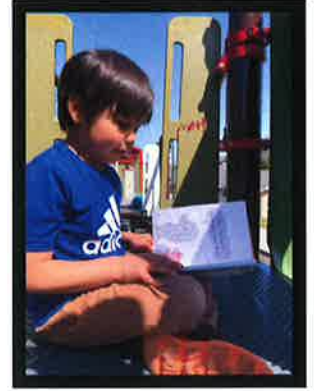


5 stars! It is so awesome. Don't miss it. But it is a long ride but it is an amazing place that will stick with me for a long time. - Rita



Best time I've ever had in my life! - Nolan

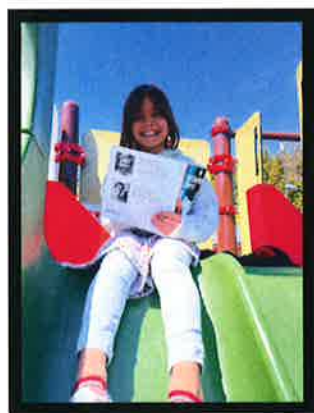
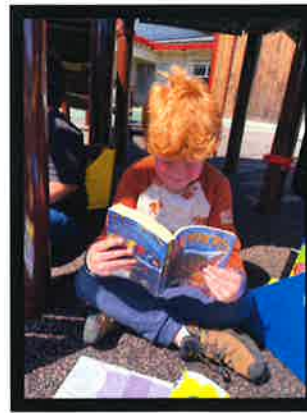
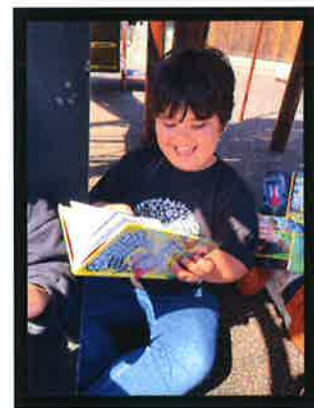
Jackie's Grade 1/2 Class



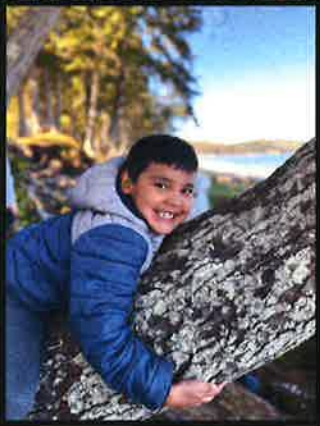
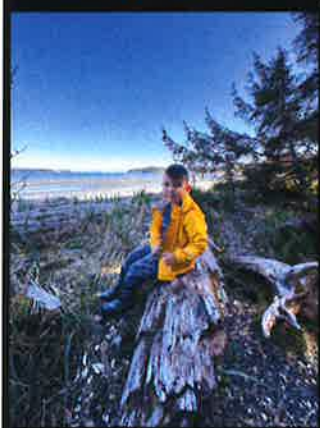
I Can Read

Studies show that reading together go far beyond learning to read!

Reading builds language skills, helps children to develop empathy (to gain an appreciation for other people's feelings, cultures, lifestyles and perspectives.)



Melanie's Grade 1 Class



This month, our theme focused on our planet Earth. We learned how important it is to keep our awinagwis healthy and balanced for the well-being of all living things. Together, we explored ways we can help protect and heal the environment. We also spent lots of time in nature, embracing our connection to the awinagwis and relishing in all of its wonder. How lucky we!



Sheri-An's Kindergarten Class

Gilakas'la! I can't believe that May is upon us. This month *gangananam* have been learning about turning fish skin into leather. This process has been used historically by coastal peoples of the world to create clothing and shoes. The kids had a real arm workout softening the leather. We had fun hunting Earth day is every day and we cleaned up some of our wild spaces. We are looking forward to getting our duck eggs in may and learning about oviparous animals.

Scraping



Scrubbing



Stirring



Stretching



Drying



Culture



Forest Bathing



Daffodils



Michelle's Pre K Class: April

Students returned from Spring Break with so much enthusiasm and much taller! This month, their imaginations were filled with travelling on vacations together on our homemade airplane, and all things related to finding eggs. We coloured eggs in a fizzy science experiment and the children bunny-hopped through the halls on a scavenger hunt adventure. With the sunny weather finally here, we got back into the school garden and were delighted to discover 19 potatoes! The students helped dig them up, and we baked them in the oven for a tasty garden-to-table treat. Looking ahead, we have 7 more weeks of



Robin's Bakwamkala Class

Gilakasda'xw'la

What a beautiful month! We hosted a workshop for youth to engage in language learning and interact with fluent speakers. It was a huge success, with 19 learners attending and 2 fluent speakers. We are looking forward to hosting another workshop in the coming months.

In Bakwamkala class we have been learning place names. Students have learned to ask and answer the question, "Where are you going", or 'witlas le?

We are also working on introductions.



Youth Engagement Workshop Participants

Latisha's Culture Class



Gilakasda'xw'la! Ikuxda
Kamkamdzakwanx (it is good salmon
berry time)

The gangananaṃ have been learning
and practicing language that goes
with the growing nature that
surrounds us during this time of year!

We have also been working hard in
culture, learning the songs to sing for
the girls, staying on beat, projecting
our voices and familiarizing ourselves
with the origin and meaning of each
song so that we will always have a
strong log of dis'danxinuxw manixw
(young singers.)



The kids continue to work hard in
their cultural learning everyday
building their confidence with
singing, dancing and speaking our
language! Gilakas'la!

Lyam's P.E. Class

Gilakas'la Everyone,

This past month, we have been working on throwing frisbee's and learning how to play ultimate frisbee. The kids have all enjoyed learning this new game, and we have been getting outside as much as possible with the nice weather.



News from Heather

Can you believe it is already MAY?!?! I hope you're getting some time to enjoy the
sunshine!
Make some time to notice how our world is blossoming around us and please try to
stop and smell the flowers!
Stay safe out there as the bears are all awake and curious as ever!



Spring Word Search

BLOSSOM

BLOOM

FLOWERS

RAIN

SHOWERS

EASTER

SPRING BREAK

GRASS

HATCH

BIRDS

SUNSHINE

SEASON

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

N	L	M	O	R	D	Y	S	M	B	M	O	O	L	B
N	I	A	R	M	E	L	E	S	E	E	A	W	O	G
U	O	Y	E	L	O	S	E	A	S	O	N	M	S	S
L	M	L	I	O	D	N	E	K	L	A	Y	R	P	H
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Y	T	I	S	R	E	T	R	M	D	N	T	R	E	U
V	W	N	A	O	E	P	J	T	G	N	E	D	X	V
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B	A	L	Y	B	A	E	N	O	S	R	E	H	R	T
Y	A	O	I	K	D	O	O	H	R	E	H	O	H	E
U	Y	W	E	M	S	H	O	W	E	R	S	E	D	R
C	H	E	F	A	M	C	L	Y	O	G	D	R	E	S
X	L	R	O	V	Z	R	C	O	J	B	R	I	N	O
F	I	S	E	A	R	A	K	S	L	E	I	O	E	L
B	L	O	S	S	O	M	C	B	J	W	B	M	O	B

News from Chef Sharon

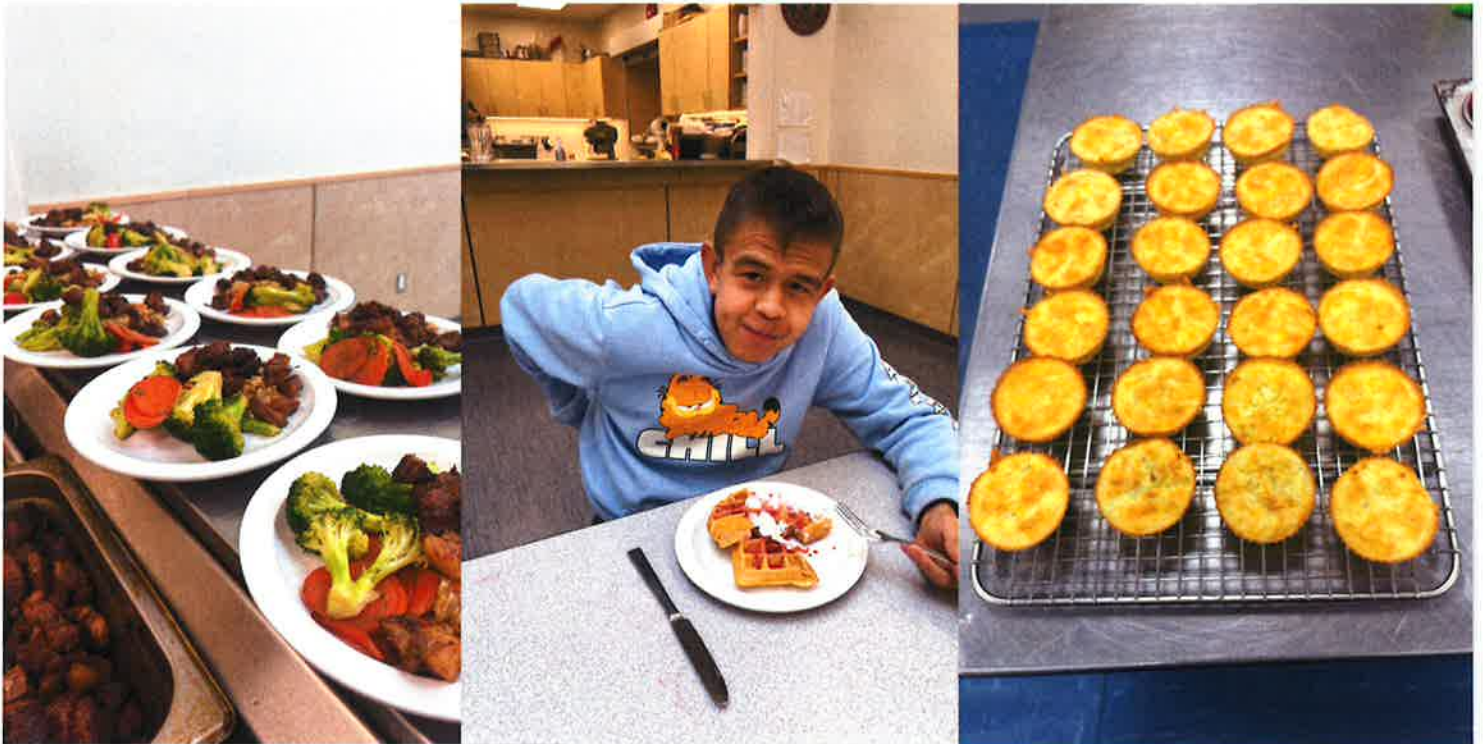
Happy spring everyone,

The school year is flying by! It's been a busy and exciting couple of months since our last newsletter. We've had Spring Break, a fantastic Yayuma celebration, lots of birthday fun, the always-popular Fun Fair, and of course, Easter festivities.

The children are settling in well with our morning menus—pancake and waffle days are definitely favorites, and we always see great attendance then! It's wonderful to see them trying new foods, especially vegetables.

Keep an eye out for our upcoming Family Breakfast in May—it's always a favourite event, and the kids love showing off their school and cafeteria.

Enjoy the photos, and we'll be in touch again in May!



FUNFAIR



YAYUMA



April Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Tris, Tyla, Justice, Lennox, Skylar, Terry, Darryl, Paisley and Mia!



Notices

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT NO SCHOOL

Friday, May 9

FIRST NATIONS



**Do you want to have more input
and more involvement at your
child's school?**

**We are starting a Parents Club
again!!**

**YOU ARE INVITED to our first
meeting on Thursday, May 22 @
noon!**

Prizes!

PARENTS CLUB



MAY 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Div 1 Dianne Div 2 Allyson Div 3 Em Div 4 Jen Div 5 Jackie Div 6 Melanie Div 7 Sheri An Div 8 Michelle				1 Div. 3/4 Outdoor Ed Student Vs. Staff Lahal @ lunch	2 Swimming KEDC Career Fair 10:00-4:00	3
4	5 Div. 1 & 2 Outdoor Learning 10:00	6 Pre-K & K Swimming Fire Drill	7 Cultural Celebration @ Kwakiutl Big House - SD #85	8 Div. 3/5 Outdoor Ed	9 Pro-D Day No School For Students	10
11 Mothers Day	12	13 Pre-K & K Swimming	14 Div. 6/7/8 Storey's Beach 1:00	15 Div. 3/4 Outdoor Ed	16 Swimming	17
18	19 Happy Victoria Day No School	20 Pre-K & K Swimming	21 Div. 6/7 Storey's Beach 1:00 RCMP Bike Rodeo	22 Div. 3/5 Outdoor Ed Parents Club Lunch meeting	23 Swimming	24
25	26 Div. 1 & 2 Outdoor Learning 10:00	27 Grade 7 PHSS Trades Day Pre-K & K Swimming	28 Outdoor Soccer School Tourney - Grade 3+ Div. 6/7/8 Storey's Beach 1:00	29 Div. 3/4 Outdoor Ed	30 Swimming	31

