# Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School Newsletter

*Strong Together In All We Do*

January, 2025

Gilakas'la,

All of us a the GN School hope everyone had a great holiday season and want to wish our community a great 2025! I can't believe that with the end of January, we have officially passed the half point of the school year!

As our students settled back into their classroom routines it was great to welcome our families into the school for our family breakfast and our first Parents Club meeting. The relationship between family and school is one of the most critical factors in a student's education. It's so important that our parents and families, teachers, and other members of the school community work together to support our students. We look forward to more regular opportunities for families to share their support and ideas.

During the past few weeks, we've seen an increase in illness for both students and staff. Just a reminder to stay home when sick, wash hands regularly and get lots of rest. Communicable diseases can circulate quickly in a school so let's work together to reduce transmission.

We are really looking forward to February, as we start with an unbelievable opportunity for our students as Missoula Theatre will be at the school. Check out our advertisement on Page 19 for more details. Be sure to take a look at our monthly calendar for everything happening.

Lastly, with the recent passing of an elder and close friend to the school we would like to extend our thoughts and condolences to family and our community.

Reed Allen

Principal

# News from Karen

Yo, Happy New Year!

It's hard to imagine that a month has passed since our Christmas holidays. The students have been busy getting back into routines and working towards their own goals.
We were excited to have another very successful Parent Breakfast on January 28 and our first Parents Club meeting was on January 30.
Next month we have student-led conferences on Thursday, February 13 afternoon and we hope to see everyone there.
The students are getting very close to celebrating reading 500 books and getting a chance to put a pie in the face of Mr. Allen and Karen, maybe even a few teachers!

Parents club meeting - Jan 30

Puppet Making in ADST

# Dianne's Grade 6/7 Class

This month has been full of exciting learning experiences to kick off the new year! Five members of the Canadian Coast Guard visited to share their insights about life on a boat, including what it's like to work at sea for 28 days. Students also enjoyed quality time with their little buddies, attending a basketball game at PHSS, working on their regalia, and exploring the North Island through canoeing and hiking adventures. Wishing you a fantastic February.❤️

# Allyson's Grade 5/6 Class

Gong xǐ fā cái! Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year! We have many Snakes in our class looking forward to their lucky year. Students have been learning about human body systems and continue to practice preparing for awinagwis Mondays. When they get to school on Mondays, they are responsible for preparing and packing their own lunch, packing their water bottle, and wearing their outdoor gear. With the chilly weather, our goal is to keep their core body temperature warm.

Yayuma in the works!

We finished our first adventure with Shade and Marina from the novel Silverwing. The next two books in the series were snapped up by our class. Check out some of our favourite characters:

"Shade" - Lennox
"Goth" - Linden
"Marina" - Alice
"Zephyr" - Perry
Be sure to ask why!

# Em's Grade 4/5 Class

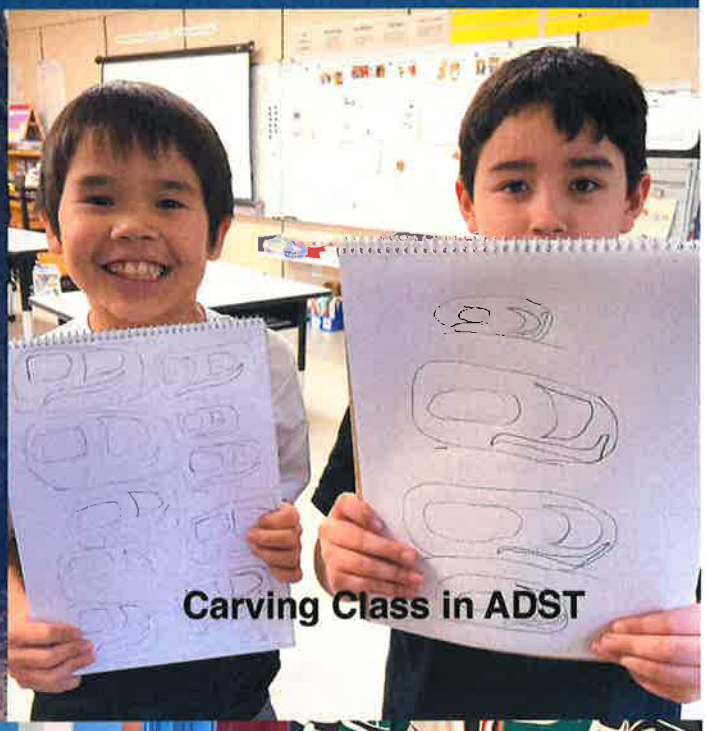
Gilakas'la,

Happy new year! It's been great to get back at after our winter break. The students have settled nicely back in to their routines and we've had a great start to January. We've be fortunate to take advantage of the mild January weather and continue with our weekly outdoor learning adventures....thankfull just before the snow hit!

The second term is moving along very quickly, but there are so many wondreful learning opportunities ahead with this great group of students. Looking forward to having our students paticipate in the Missoula Theatre production and connecting with our families in the coming weeks at the Student Led Conferences.

# Jen's Grade 3/4 Class

Quatse Loop Trail


Carving Class in ADST

Coho Salmon Eggs

erfect Pet Animal Project

Culture classes

Happy New Year! January is always a special time of the school year. We received our Coho salmon eggs and are learning about their life cycles as we continue to watch them hatch and grow. Outdoor learning adventures to the Quatse River, as well as, their favourite outdoor spot, the Cluxewe sandpit. Culture, drawing, drumming, dancing and language classes continue to be the forefront. Non-fiction writing and animal research projects are also well underway!

Cluxewe Sandpit

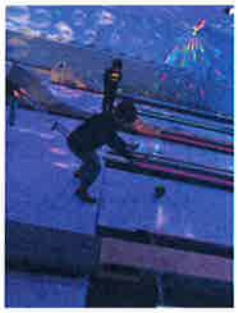
# Jackie's Grade 1/2 Class

"Every child is an artist; the problem is staying an artist when you grow up"
- Pablo Picasso

Happy New Year from the Grade 1/2 class! Our class attended a Zoom workshop with Canada's Nature Museum in Ottawa and explored tide pool sea creatures up close! We have been very busy learning to read, learning new math concepts, as well as, building structures, playing with friends, and exploring different career options in our community.

## Visiting Save-On-Foods

## Bowling



# Melanie's Grade 1 Class

We began January by setting personal wishes for the year ahead. It was inspiring to see the students create meaningful goals for themselves. A major focus in Grade 1 is learning to read, and these young learners have been making incredible progress! It has been a joy to watch them develop their skills, gaining confidence and taking risks in both reading and writing. I am so proud of their hard work and perseverance.. This month, we also explored how animals survive the winter by studying hibernation, migration, and adaptations. The students were fascinated by how local animals cope with the cold and had fun creating cozy hibernation dens for their special bears.

# Sheri-An's Kindergarten Class

Gilakas'la! Happy New Year! What a wonderful January we've had. We started the year reading a book called "The Magical Yet". It is a story that helps students understand the importance of trying, even when things feel challenging. If things do not go right the first time, that doesn't mean they can't or won't. All primary students read the story and set goals for themselves. Come check out our hallway to see these amazing goals they set for themselves. It We received our Cluxewe river coho eggs which have just hatched into alevin. The kiddos love observing their changes. Before spring break we will release them into the Cluxewe River. We have also been observing the kwikw Jackie and Shadow who are incubating 3 kalxa'mina.

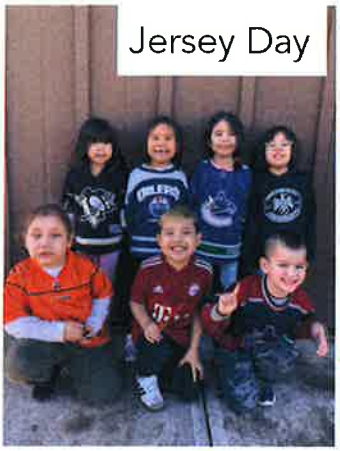
gi'ni

alevin

First Snow

'Me in the classroom

Buddy Skating


Jersey Day

Twinning

Cool colours art

# Michelle's Pre K Class: November/December

Happy New Year! The children returned to school with so much enthusiasm and joy to be together again. Everyone is interacting, solving problems and helping one another. When a student is away, the children all say that they miss them. With incredibly warm and sunny January weather, we spent more time in the atl̓i moving big muscles, playing games and balancing on logs. My dog Rosie joined us for a day and the students took turns holding her leash and cuddling her. As always, Bakwamkala is alive in our world and the elders help us with pronunciation and all the questions we have. We ended the month by making cinnamon roll cookies and trying to catch the first snowflakes of the season, bringing so much joy and laughter.

# Robin's Bakwa̱mkala Class

Bakwamkala Pictionary

Gi̱lakasda'x̱w'la
We have had a great start to the new year. In Bakwa̱mkala class we have been learning words and phrases around food and things you find in the house. Students are quick to pick up new vocabulary and enjoy learning through play. We have a rotation of fun learning games that include pictionary, bingo, kahoot, telephone and sticky ball. Bakwa̱mkala is incorporated into all the games making it a fun, interactive learning experience.
Beading club has also started up again on Thursdays at lunchtime. Intermediate students are invited to come and learn how to bead.

Beading Club Participants

# Latisha's Culture Class

Gan's p̓anxwap̓atida Yayuma! -Yudaxwsgamgustola sa' k̓atła!

How many days until the Yayuma? - Thirty six days!

As you know the heart, spirit and hard work that goes into preparing for a potlatch - the gangananam are busy in culture learning the deeper meaning of their dances and the teachings of our Mi'maya'anł and Potlatch people preparing for the Yayuma. The kids are focused on keeping the beat at the log during dance practice uplifting the teaching 'Naman's nok̓e (we are of one heart).

The intermediate students are beginning a song book projec t - where we will compile the songs that we have learned this year. We are getting started on the K̓amk̓amdam Title pages where the gangananam will draw pictures representing what the culture means to them. It has been a busy start to the year! G̓ilakas'la from the culture room.

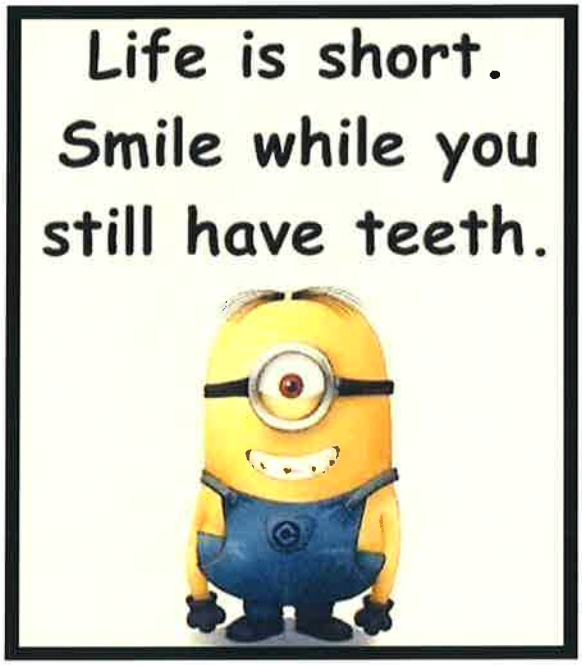
# Lyam's P.E. Class

Gilakas'la Everyone,

Happy New Years to everyone. I hope you have all been adjusting well. In P.E. this past month we have been learning volleyball. The kids are learning the basics such as spiking, setting and passing. To start our unit off with the intermediate kids we have been doing throw volleyball and with the primary kids we have been playing beach ball/ balloon volleyball. In February we will be focusing on badminton.

Gilakas'la

# News from Heather




This month I have been so fortunate to be learning more about the dental services that we are able to access and provide through the school and through the Dental Therapist that visits our community every month!!

If you have questions or concerns about oral hygiene, please contact me at the school :)

Dental services that we have access to at our school:

COHI visits 4 times per year for preventative varnishes, up to age 7 - *consents forms must be signed for this; if your child brought one home, please return to school asap!*

FNHA Dental Therapist, Angela, visits the Health building once per month. Screening can happen at school (all ages), and dental services (X-rays, hygiene, anesthetic, restoration, crowns, extractions) can be performed in the Health Building's dentistry room!

# News from Chef Sharon

Welcome Back Everyone! I hope everyone had a great Christmas Break. Spring is just around the corner and we are making plans for veggies to grow in the greenhouse. The family breakfast on Tuesday, January 28th was a huge success, the best attendance yet! Thanks everyone for your support. The kids get so excited showing off their school. If you missed it keep an eye out in the monthly calendar and weekly menu for the next one.

As requested we will be having hot and cold cereal on Monday and Friday every week. If you would like to see any new changes to the weekly menu, please let us know and we will try our best to accommodate.

Have a safe month and I will talk to you again soon!

# School Activities

## FAMILY BREAKFAST WAS A HUGE SUCCESS

## JERSEY DAY!!

# January Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Alice, Orie, Willie, Norah, Nickolas, Alfred and Naiomi!

# Notices

**Every family that attends will receive a $50 Save On gift card.**

**Thursday, February 13**
**1:00 - 4:00 pm**

# Notices

CALLING ALL PERFORMERS!
*OPEN TO ALL NORTH ISLAND K-7 STUDENTS*
PINOCCHIO
MISSOULA
CHILDREN'S
THEATRE
AUDITIONS:
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 4,
3:30PM AT
GWA'SALA-'NAKWAXDA'XW
SCHOOL
DATE CHANGE FOR AUDITIONS
REHEARSALS:
FEBRUARY 4-7 (TUE-F) AT THE GWA'SALA-'NAKWAXDA'XW SCHOOL
3:30-7:30 (REHEARSAL SCHEDULE DEPENDS ON ROLES)
PERFORMANCE: SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 8 AT 3:00 AND 5:30 PM
PORT HARDY CIVIC CENTRE
For more information contact Karen Aoki at 250-949-7743 or
cell number 250-230-2394

# FEBRUARY 2025

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Div 1 Dianne<br>Div 2 Allyson<br>Div 3 Em<br>Div 4 Jen<br>Div 5 Jackie<br>Div 6 Melanie<br>Div 7 Sheri-An<br>Div 8 Michelle | | | | | | 1 |
| 2<br> <br> | 3<br>Div. 1 & 2 Outdoor Learning 10:00 am | 4<br>Swimming Div 8 and 9 in PM | 5<br>Div. 7/8 Outdoor Learning PM | 6<br>Div. 3/4 Outdoor Learning AM | 7<br>Swimming Grade K-7 | 8<br>Missoula Theatre Performance Civic Centre 3:00 and 5:30 |
| 9 | 10<br>Div. 1 & 2 Outdoor Learning 10:00 am | 11<br>Swimming Div 8 and 9 in PM | 12<br>Div. 7/8 Outdoor Learning PM<br>School Spirit - Dress In Red for Team Canada | 13<br>STUDENT LED CONFERENCES 1:00 - 4:00 PM *Early dismissal @ noon* | 14<br>pro-d day<br>NO CLASSES | 15 |
| 16 | 17<br>Happy Family Day<br>No School | 18<br>Swimming Div 8 and 9 in PM | 19<br>Div. 7/8 Outdoor Learning PM | 20<br>Div. 3/4 Outdoor Learning AM<br>Ala'xwa Tournament | 21<br>Swimming Grade K-7 | 22 |
| 23 | 24<br>Div. 1 & 2 Outdoor Learning 10:00 am | 25<br>Swimming Div 8 and 9 in PM | 26<br>Div. 7/8 Outdoor Learning PM<br> <br> | 27<br>Div. 5 Outdoor Learning PM<br>Earthquake Drill | 28<br>Swimming Grade K-7 | |

**Missoula Theatre - afterschool for students Grade K-7**
**Auditions on Monday at 3:30- Practice every day after school**