

Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School Newsletter

Strong Together In All We Do



May/June, 2025

Gilakas'la,

As we come to the end of another school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible growth and connection we've experienced together as a school community.

Our students have shown amazing progress—not only in academics like reading, writing, and math, but also in their social and emotional development. They've learned how to support one another, speak with confidence, and approach challenges with resilience. We are proud of their efforts and achievements.

Cultural learning has remained a central part of our journey. This year, students took part in land-based learning, language revitalization, traditional teachings, and community ceremonies. These experiences have helped strengthen their sense of identity and pride in who they are.

Our dedicated staff have worked with care, compassion, and a strong sense of responsibility. Every teacher, support worker, and Elder has played a role in guiding and encouraging our students. Their commitment to each child's success—academically, emotionally, and culturally—has been truly inspiring.

We are also deeply grateful for the support of our families. Whether you joined us for cultural events, attended meetings, or supported your child's learning at home, your involvement made a difference. When school and families work together, our children thrive.

As we move into summer, we thank you for walking alongside us this year. We look forward to some amazing summer camp opportunities for our students.

Wishing you a safe, restful, and joyful summer and continuing this important work together in the fall.

Reed Allen
Principal



News from Karen

Happy June, Everyone!

This year has once again flown by! As we head into the final weeks of school, it's wonderful to see the sun shining and our students enjoying the warm weather and outdoor activities. We've had a busy and fulfilling year filled with learning, growth, and connection. Some personal highlights for me include the incredible Indoor Soccer Tournament, our beautiful Yayuma celebration, and the always exciting Fun Fair. These events showcased the energy, creativity, and spirit that make our school community so special. To our graduating students: we are so proud of you. As you prepare to begin your high school journey, we hope you carry forward the friendships, values, and confidence you've built here. We can't wait to see all you will achieve in the years ahead.

Looking ahead to next year, we have a few important changes to share. Our beloved Dianne Harris will be retiring, and Emma Langley will be returning home to be with her family out east. We are grateful for their contributions and wish them the very best in their next chapters.

We're also excited to welcome Lyam Donetz as our new Grade 6/7 teacher and to welcome back Sara Grover, who will be returning as our PE teacher. We look forward to the energy and expertise they will bring to our team.

As summer approaches, we wish all of you a safe, restful, and joyful break. Thank you for being part of our school community—we look forward to seeing you again in the fall!



Dianne's Grade 6/7 Class

♥ Lasting Memories ♥

Dear Families and Friends!
Here are our students' special moments.

Albert's favourite memory was watching Theo fall off the bed in Hada.

Blaire's favourite memory of May was beating Cason's soccer team.

Carey's favourite memory was going to Huson Caves.

Cason's favourite memory in May was tying Alert Bay in the Aftershock tournament.

Evette loved the bumpy boat ride from Doyle Island to Port Hardy.

Fred will never forget kissing a fish at Hada.

Hope enjoyed making a drum at Hada.

Inez will remember going to Hada with her Auntie Carroll and cousin, Evette.

Kendra was thrilled to plant strawberries and take them home.

Mia enjoyed travelling to Doyle Island with her mom and classmates.

Mason loved fishing at Bear Cove with his classmates.

Mitchell will always remember playing soccer and sliding to check Cason.

Orie was sewing and hiking Clexewe Beach.

Quorbin's favourite memory was catching a lemon flounder at Hada.

We thought **Storm** would remember skating and playing hockey with his classmates.

Theo will never forget falling off the bed in Hada.

Willie loved dancing and singing at Hada.

We would like to wish the Grade 7 grads all the best as they venture into Grade 8.



Well, folks, it is also time for me to "graduate" into my next chapter in life. I want to say a huge *gilakas'la* to all the students, staff, elders and community members over the years who have taught me so much. I will hold all the teachings and beautiful memories close to my heart. Love, NaNaLaU - Dianne ♥

Allyson's Grade 5/6 Class

As we wrap up the school year, I want to take a moment to celebrate all the learning, laughter, and growth that has happened in our classroom during May and June. These guys have demonstrated a true passion for the dance floor and for practicing language.

We dove underground to explore the Huson caves, mined for gold on the beach at Cluxewe, and wiwa'mis. We also got hands-on with simple machines, culminating in the creation of our own imaginative Rube Goldberg machines—what a fantastic display of creativity and teamwork.

We've been tackling decimals, budgeting, and real-world applications. Students have been managing their very own "Million Dollar Project," where they've been tasked with spending a million dollars thoughtfully. They've learned about cost comparison,, and how to stick to a (comfortable) budget.

We've continued our journey through *Percy Jackson and the Olympians*, and students are becoming more confident in their typing and formatting skills, using word processors to draft and share their lagu penpal letters like pros.

This class has shown tremendous growth, curiosity, and heart. We're so proud of each student. Thank you for your continued support this year—it's made all the difference.



Em's Grade 4/5 Class

The month of May has flown by in Division 3. It has been a bittersweet time, witnessing each student's growth and how far we have come as a collective, while knowing our time as a class is soon coming to an end. This year, our class of creative artists, outdoor adventurers, and growing leaders has had some brilliant moments: students emerging as confident readers; working together towards shared goals; and meeting new challenges like the Blinkhorn trail with positivity and laughter! This is a very special group with big, open hearts. We have so many beautiful memories to cherish from our year together. Gilakas'la.



Jen's Grade 3/4 Class



What a wonderful year with this crew of Grade 3 and 4 kiddos! The month of May was filled with many outdoor adventures as well as our famous Cardboard Arcade. I'd like to take the opportunity to wish a special teacher the best of wishes! Thank you Teacher Dianne for all of your love and your wisdom! We will miss you!



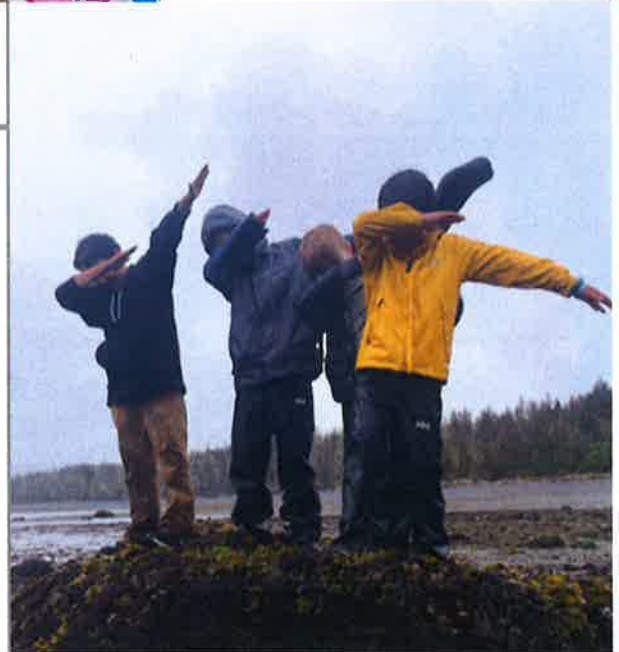
The Oilers hockey team have made their way to the Stanley Cup playoffs! Bentley, Bailey and I are huge fans and we look forward to cheering this team on all the way!! Let's go Oilers!

Did you know king crab pinchers are bigger than humans? - Landon

The big kids and the little kids came to play our cardboard games! They all loved it and said we were creative and awesome!
- Eve



Did you know?? Bull heads are actually tide pool sculpins and tidal eels are actually black prickly fish.



Jackie's Grade 1/2 Class



Wow – what a month it has been!

We've been busy learning, growing, and having fun together. From splashing in the pool to hiking through nature trails, the students have had a rich variety of hands-on experiences that promote both personal and social development.

Throughout the month, we've been focusing on building self-awareness, cooperation, and teamwork. These themes have been woven into all of our activities, encouraging students to reflect on their strengths, work together respectfully, and celebrate one another's successes.

One of the highlights this month was our visit to **Sunny Sanctuary**, where students explored the natural beauty around them and captured stunning photos of a wide variety of flowers. Their curiosity and creativity truly blossomed during this nature photography activity!

We also took a trip to **Storey's Beach**, where the students used twigs, bark, and leaves to create imaginative little dens for small animals. It was inspiring to see their problem-solving skills and sense of wonder at work as they collaborated and connected with the environment.

We're so proud of the learning and growth we've seen this year and look forward to more exciting adventures ahead!



Melanie's Grade 1 Class



I can't believe we're already at the end of the school year! It has been an absolute joy to watch these students grow in so many ways. It's truly amazing to see how far they've all come.

The month of May has been full of exciting events, including the RCMP Bike Rodeo, Culture Celebrations for both Fort Rupert and Eagle View Elementary, and our explorations in our local aṭi and ḱasagwis. We are also looking forward to our big trip to Ba'as in June.

It's wonderful to be able to celebrate all of the students' hard work and accomplishments!

Sheri-An's Kindergarten Class

Gilakas'la! I cannot believe that June is upon us. We have had another amazing month of learning and fun. We have been incubating duckling eggs this month and everyone is beyond excited for them to hatch on June 1st. June is full of many fun activities culminating with our trip to Ba'as. It is always wonderful to reflect and see how much the children have grown this year. Our year will soon be over and I really want to express how proud Martina and I are of all the kids. We have truly been blessed to be able to be a part of their journey this year. Have a wonderful summer!

Cultural Celebration



Duck eggs



Bike Rodeo



Eagle Watching

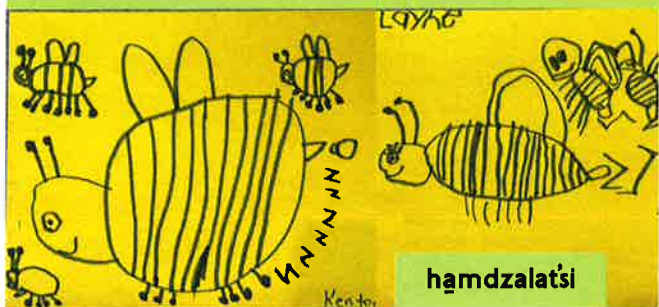


Salamander



Friends

Michelle's Pre K Class: May & June



ice cream kalwilas



We are family.



We love the grannies.



Granny Gertie always says that the month of May is halibut fishing time at Desserters. Our month has been full of garden prep, learning about bees, playing in the ałłi, wearing our rainsuits, low tide beach adventures and strengthening our friendships with one another.



garden time



low tide beach fun

Dear Gangananam, congratulations on completing Pre-K at the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School! We have truly loved getting to know your unique personalities and seeing you explore your interests. Everyone has grown SO much in one year and I can't wait to see how you share your gifts and love of Bakwamkala with the world as you continue to grow up. Ġilakas'la to elders Kathy, Gertie, Mary and Mary V for bringing so much love, care and language learning to our mornings. This very special class is ready for Kindergarten and each child gives us hope and inspiration for the future. We will always remember your beautiful smiles and entertaining stories. We all wish you an adventurous summer filled with sunshine and family fun. -Michelle



Robin's Bakwamkala Class

Gilakasda'xw'la

Mu'lan - I am grateful

As we approach the end of the school year and I am feeling grateful. So thankful for our beautiful elders who share their knowledge so graciously. I am thankful for the kids who are eager to learn and speak our language. I am thankful for the community that supports our school and the work we are doing with the children.

We recently welcomed elders into the school to share about fish processing and memories from the homelands. The students were so attentive and full of questions. We are looking forward to processing fish and learning more of our bakwam ways in the coming days.



Our Elders with the Kindergarten Class

Latisha's Culture Class

Gilakas'la from the Culture room!

This past month has been full of energy, growth, and connection in the culture room. The students have been singing and dancing with full spirit, embracing the transition into learning of our Dłuwilaxa ceremony — our spring and summer season.

Our language learning continues to be woven into everything we do. Through games, repetition, and movement, students are building on the vocabulary and phrases they've been practicing all year long — and it shows!

We've also launched a new unit centred around the traditional practices of cutting, barbecuing, and preserving fish. We're focusing on the language portion of these teachings — learning the names of the fish body parts, what they do, and how we describe them in our language. We've introduced key vocabulary related to traditional tools and methods, like barbecue sticks, cross-sticks, and canning supplies, which are helping students build a strong foundation for hands-on learning and future community involvement.



Lyam's P.E. Class

Gilakas'la everyone,

What a great year it has been working with al of the children. Throughout the year we have been working on all different sports, working on participation and learning sportsmanship and learning Maya'xala while playing sports. I hope everyone has a great summer and I can't wait to see the kids in September.



News from Heather

Another amazing year, finishing up like a blink of an eye! Thank you for all the learning, good times, and fun memories :) As the weather turns sunnier and school lets out, my summer wish for you is to keep having fun and making memories!

Save this list so that you're NEVER bored! And tell me all about what you did from this list when we reconnect in September :)



1. Read
2. Read a book to a sibling
3. Write a story
4. Learn to draw an animal
5. Create something cool from the stuff in the recycle bin
6. Write a letter to a grandparent
7. Write a letter to a missionary
8. Write a letter to your favorite teacher
9. Paint with watercolors
10. Paint with fingerpaint
11. Do sidewalk chalk
12. Create a treasure hunt for the little kids
13. Baby-sit a sibling \$
14. Wash the car inside and out \$
15. Bake cookies
16. Plan the menu for the week
17. Fill up the baby pool and play in the water
18. Run through the sprinklers
19. Put a sprinkler under the tramp and jump
20. Weed \$
21. Play kickball or wiffleball
22. Work on your favorite sport
23. Get soccer, basketball, or football game going
24. Call a friend
25. Play hide and seek or sardines
26. Play tag
27. Play board games
28. Play a card game
29. Play a dice game
30. Make up your own game
31. Shoot a bow and arrow
32. Perfect the slackline
33. Play 4-square
34. Play bocce ball, bean bag toss, or spikeball

35. Make up a dance
36. Make up a song
37. Sing Karaoke
38. Make up a play
39. Listen to music
40. Play M.A.S.H.
41. Make friendship bracelets
42. Make rubberband bracelets
43. Play with Snap Circuits
44. Play with Legos
45. Iron \$
46. Plan the next family outing
47. Plan the next family trip
48. Research a famous person from history
49. Play Laser Tag
50. Have an indoor basketball contest
51. Hide a stuffed animal and play "hot" cold"
52. Have an Easter Egg hunt
53. Find your 10 favorite inspirational quotes
54. Get ideas for designing your own room
55. Clean out the toy room \$
56. Donate all your old clothes and toys
57. Organize the pantry \$
58. Play with bubbles
59. Make your own bubbles and wands
60. Make Harry Potter wands
61. Make stress balls
62. Ride bikes or rollerblade
63. Try to Catch bugs, frogs or snakes
64. Make an ant maze
65. Research the craziest animal and tell us all about it
66. Do family history
67. Water the garden
68. Have a water fight
69. See who can make the ugliest face in a picture

70. Go on a nature scavenger hunt
71. Try Geo-caching
72. Build something
73. Jump rope
74. Organize your books
75. Play wall ball
76. Look through old photo albums or Chatbooks
77. Write a rhyming poem
78. Paint rocks for the garden
79. Do Spin Art
80. Do leaf rubs
81. Make a piece of jewelry
82. Pick veggies from the garden
83. Have a paper airplane contest
84. Do Origami
85. Learn a magic trick
86. Tell jokes
87. Build a fort
88. Use the Straw Builderz
90. Make a marble run
91. Grow Crystals
92. Play in the hammock
93. Make a set of markers
94. Make and play with play-doh
95. Build with Kinetic Sand
96. Make slime
97. Learn some yo-yo tricks
98. Do a puzzle
99. Have a Nerf War
100. Do your workbook
101. Make an obstacle course
102. See what you can knock with a catapult
103. Do a secret service
104. Learn to tie a tie
105. Collect snails

News from Chef Sharon

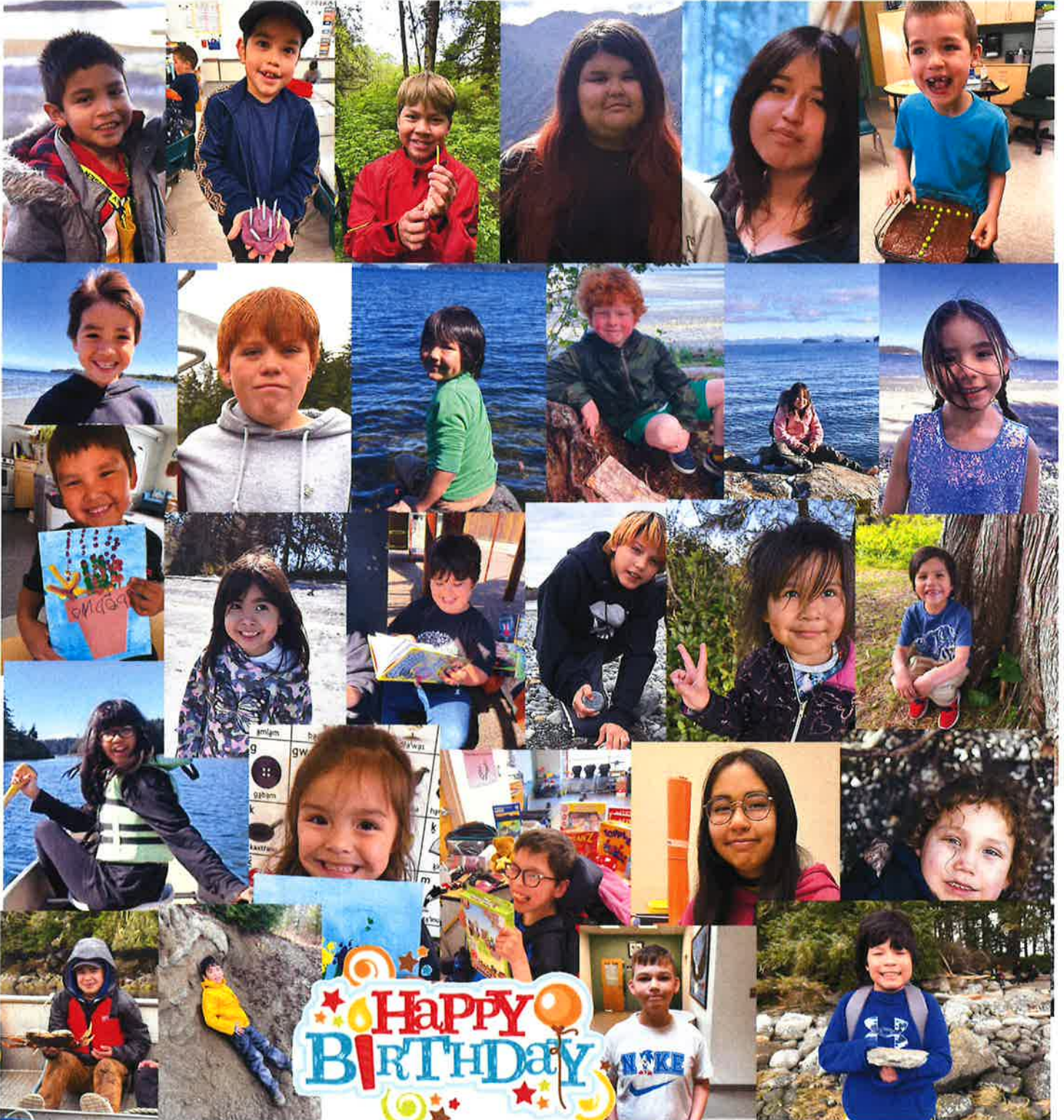
Hi Everyone,

Summer is just around the corner, this will be the last newsletter till September. It's been a good 2024-2025 school year. This year we have introduced the students to some new menu items, Baked Halibut, Caesar salad, Chicken Caesar Wraps, Homemade Pizza. Even Pre-K and Kindergarten love some of these menu options! The kids tastes are always changing so we will be trying new things in the fall. Until then, have a safe and happy summer and we will talk again in September.



May & June Birthdays

Happy May Birthdays to: Charlie, Elias, Gage, Irene, Hope, Inez, Mavrick, Merrill, Novah, Patricia, Ricky, Theo, Tyson and Willis. Happy June Birthdays to: Aliwas, Carey, Ta'nis, Carlynn, Colleen, Damien, Diamond, Elijah, Evette, Legend, Mitchell, Nolen, and Veikko



July & August Birthdays

Happy July birthdays to: Satiya, Mason and Ambrose

Happy August birthdays to: Blaze, Kwol, Landon, Calai, Jayce, Storm, Karder, Kendra, Maddox, Denise, Corey and Sirah



GWA'SALA - 'NAKWAXDA'XW SCHOOL



EDUCATION CELEBRATION

Wednesday, June 18 @ 10:00 am

KENNETH HENDERSON PUBLIC SPEAKING
ROBB SWAIN AWARD
GRADE 7 GRADUATION

LUNCH PROVIDED

**THURSDAY,
JUNE 19**

FAMILY EVENT

Kids need to be accompanied by an adult



BOUNCE-A-RAMA

**Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School
11:00 am - 3:00 pm**

Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw families come join us for an afternoon of fun!

Free event including hot dog bbq



JUNE 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				Grade 3 + Soccer afternoon	Swimming K-7	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Div 1 & 2 Outdoor Learning leave at 1:00	Fish Processing Swimming Div 7 & 8	VIRL Summer Talk	Closed for Funeral	Swimming K-7 Div 5 - Campbell River Class Trip	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Div 1 & 2 Boat Trip to Homelands Earthquake Drill	Pre-K Grad 1:30 Science Venture Class Photos	Div. 6/7 Boat Trip to Ba'as 9:00 am	Track & Field @PHSS Div 4 & 5 Outdoor Ed Beach Day	Swimming K-7 Grade 7 Transitions 11	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Happy FATHER'S Day	PHSS Grad High 5 11:00 Sports Fun Day 1:00 - 3:00	Div. 4 Jen's House/Beach FRES Softball Tournament	Education Celebration @ 10:00 am. Students dismissed after lunch	Bounce-a-Rama @11:00 - 3:00 Family Fun at field - kids to attend with families	Div. 3 to Port McNeill Pool Last Day of School - Students dismissed at noon	
22/29	23/30	24	25	26	27	28
	National Indigenous Peoples Day	HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER! SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!				