Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School Newsletter

Strong Together In All We Do

November/December, 2024

It's hard to believe that three months of school have already flown by! We've officially wrapped up our first term, and before we know it, the holiday break will be here. This semester has been a wonderful journey of learning and growth, and we're incredibly proud of all that our students have accomplished. The hard work and dedication of both our students and staff have made this an unforgettable start to the school year.

November was filled with exciting learning opportunities, but the highlight of the month was undoubtedly our annual indoor soccer tournament. Over the course of three days, students from Grades 2-7 came together for some friendly competition. Organizing such a large event requires tremendous effort, and we want to extend a huge thank you to our staff and volunteers for making it such a success. Many schools have shared that the tournament is the highlight of their year, and it's clear that this event holds a special place in the hearts of our students.

Looking ahead, we're excited for our Christmas concert on December 17. This event, which always brings together music, dance, drama, and a sense of community, is a favourite tradition. And of course, Santa will be making a special appearance too!

Be sure to check our calendar and Facebook page for updates on all the events happening in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

All the best to our families and Merry Christmas,

Reed Allen-Principal

News from Karen

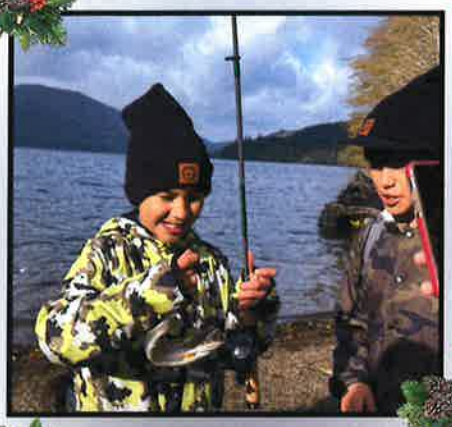
Yo, Happy December

Thank you to all the families that came out for Family Literacy Night. It was great to spend an evening with so many families. Congratulations to the winners of our door prizes. Thank you to the staff that were able to help and make the evening special.

I want to wish everyone a fantastic holiday and we are looking forward to seeing everyone at our Christmas Concert on Tuesday, December 17 @ 1:00 pm.

Happy holidays from my family to yours.

Dianne's Grade 6/7 Class



Meli Kis Mis

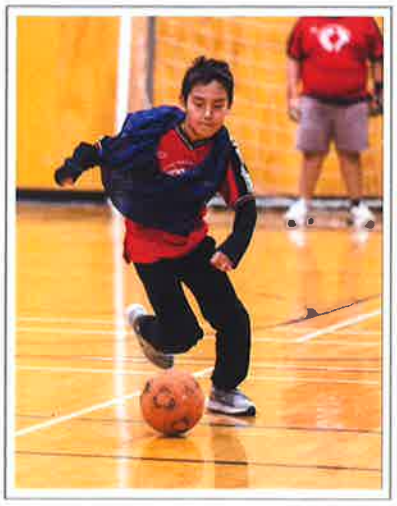
Mu'lanu'x̱w (we are grateful) to come together to learn and build strong relationships with each other and the a̱wi'nagwis(the land). May you all have a peaceful holiday and we look forward to an amazing New Year!

Allyson's Grade 5/6 Class

Check out a tiny snapshot of your Div 2 kiddos leaning into their passions this month…

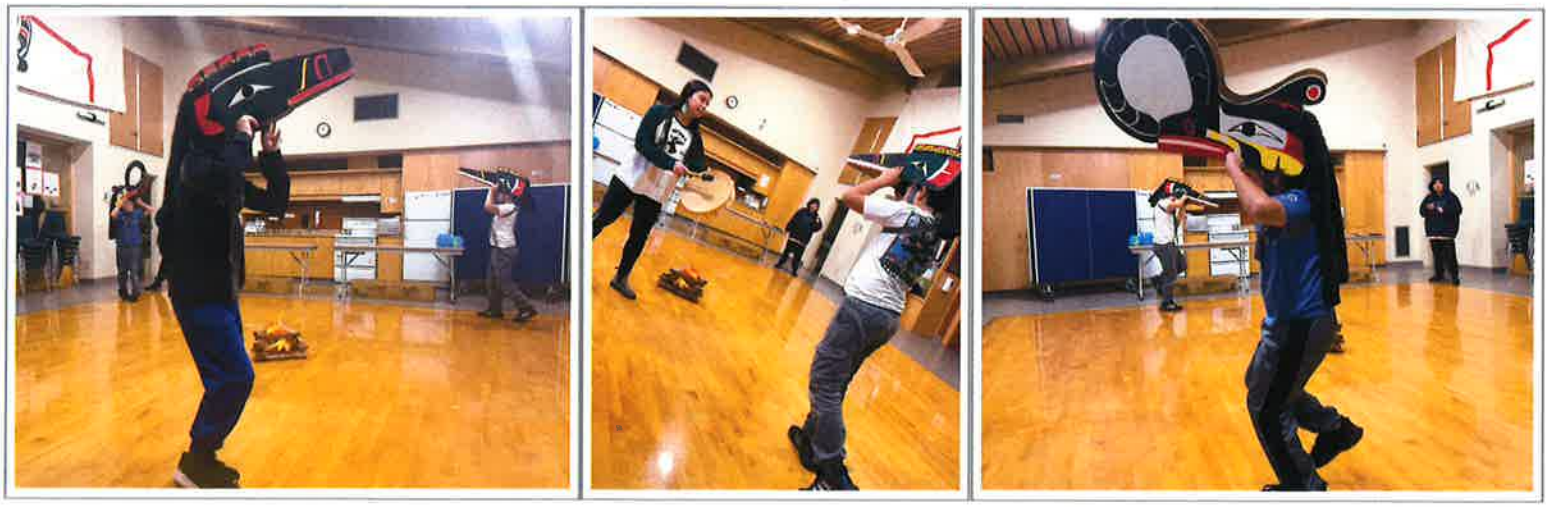
On the lookout for a new roost to xus'id

Helping ik̓akila x̱is k̓wa̱lsk̓wa̱l'yakw



We practice our passions

Div 2 ga̱nga̱nana̱m living their passions



The Ga̱nga̱nana̱m ya̱x̱watła̱n's the hamsamala

Em's Grade 4/5 Class

We had many adventures in Division 3 in November. Students absolutely loved playing and cheering during the soccer tournament. We hiked the Commuter trail and the Cluxewe marsh trail. Our wonderfully artistic class just loves to create — whether that be songs, puppets, or paintings. To end the month, we had a fantastic time at literacy night!

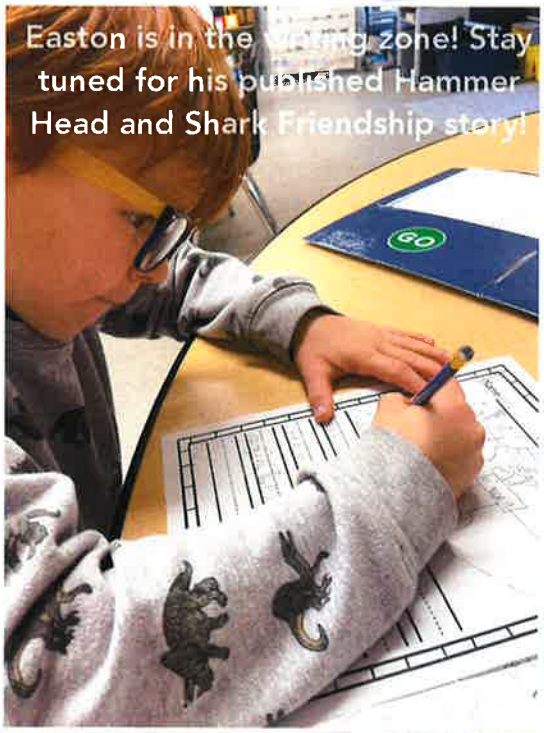
Jen's Grade 3/4 Class

Another month has gone and now we are into our Christmas month. We have had so many special days at school together. With the time moving so fast it is a good reminder to savour all of those special moments. This page is dedicated to all those special moments that I get to witness throughout the days at the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw school. I feel so blessed to work with these amazing kiddos! I want to wish each and every family a very Merry Christmas and all the best in the new year!

Lanc Eve partner up for a math challenge

Kwol using his sewing skills and made himself his own shirt!!!

Commute



Easton is in the Waring zone! Stay tuned for his published Hammer Head and Shark Friendship story!

Jen Bucks

Christm as Store

Coming soon!

Last day

Jackie's Grade 1/2 Class

Outdoor Education

This month, we went on exciting hikes along the Hardy Bay waterfront and Cougar Trail and explored our local beach. Each student took time to observe their surroundings and asked thoughtful "I wonder" questions about the natural environment. Along the way, we paused to engage our five senses, deepening our connection to the area. These outdoor adventures not only spark curiosity and learning but also promote physical health through walking and movement!

GIANT PUMPKIN

- Thank you to Andrew for donating this pumpkin to our class to investigate!

- 562 seeds
- Even giant pumpkins can float
- Can you tell which seeds are healthy?

Melanie's Grade 1 Class

This month we focused on peace. Together, we learned the definition of peace and how it is unique for each of us. We also explored ways we can practice feeling peaceful. Some other highlights of the month included cheering on our friends at the soccer tournament, mailing our letters to Santa, weekly skating trips, and our time learning outside, We are getting excited for Christmas as we enter December. There is definitely magic in the air! Bring it on!

Sheri-An's Kindergarten Class

Gilakas'la! What a wonderful November we've had in Kindergarten. This month we had many discussions about Peace and friendship and the kids created beautiful poems about peace. They have also been learning about bears. The children are so excited for Christmas. This is a joyful month of fun, crafts and activities. This month we will be reading gingerbread, stories, doing science experiments, along with baking and decorating at the high school. It's such a fun way to end the year. Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas break with your beautiful families.

Bakwamkala with Jimmy

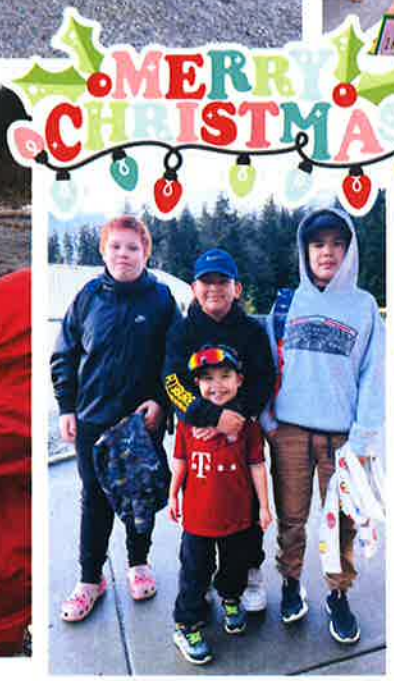
Huuuuge pumpkin

Peace in the a'tłi

Jay Gilday

Frosty morning fun

Nova Dora



Michelle's Pre K Class: November/December

November was filled with incredible leaps in learning. It's amazing to observe the children as they challenge themselves and show pride in their accomplishments. Completing puzzles has been a popular activity that brings the students together for problem-solving and communication. They often ask for the same puzzles and express great satisfaction each time they master it. Everyone has put a lot of effort into their sweet drawings, adding more detail and talking about the stories they are telling. Naming animals in Bakwamkala is becoming natural and it is so encouraging to hear feedback that they are sharing what they know at home as well. What a bright and beautiful group of learners. Now that December is at our doorstep we will be crafting, building a gingerbread house, talking about magical reindeer, mailing letters to Santa and preparing for the Christmas concert. We hope you have a wonderful Christmas holiday together with your families.

Robin's Bakwa̱mkala Class

G̱ilakas'la

It's been a beautiful month at our school. Students have been learning about actions. Here is a sample of a question and a possible answer.

'Wigilas? - What are you doing?
A̱mła̱n? - I'm playing.

We had a great turn out at our literacy evening, where we did a sea otter craft. We have launched a couple new videos on our first voices. Check out the story section.

I hope you all have a great Christmas!

Latisha's Culture Class

Meli Kismis Łi'laxwal!
Gilakasda'xw'la! Please enjoy singing a Bakwamkala carol your ganganannam have been practicing in culture!

The Little Drummer boy

Niksa'wan kan gaxe' pa rum pum pum pum
Xa alumas gi xan duxw'atłex pa rum pum pum pum
Gaxsa ikt̓sawex pa rum pum pum pum
Kan axamlilam xan's gi pa rum pum pum pum
rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum

Kan maya'xalex, pa rum pum pum pum
Kan su gaxtł

Wi'yugwamala bidu', pa rum pum pum pum
Wiwusilagegan babagwam, pa rum pum pum pum
Kiyo san t̓sawe'x, pa rum pum pum pum
rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum

Kan danx'ide' ka's, pa rum pum pum pum
Laxan manat̓si

Kayaxidi meli, pa rum pum pum pum
Tamsalida galga'omas, pa rum pum pum pum
La'man danx'id ka'e, pa rum pum pum pum
Xan ik̓anxe' k̓odłał, pa rum pum pum pum
rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum

La'am manxw'id gaxan, pa rum pum pum pum
Dła'wan manat̓si

Lyam's P.E. Class

Gilakas'la Everyone,

It has been a busy and exciting month at our school with the Annual Cross Country Run in Sointula and the Indoor Soccer Tournament held here. I'm proud to share that our students did exceptionally well at both events. I was particularly impressed with the sportsmanship and Maya'xila shown by our students during the soccer tournament—they truly represented the school with pride.

I'm looking forward to meeting with parents during the upcoming Parent-Teacher meetings this week!

News from Heather

Are you ready for 2 weeks of NO SCHOOL?!

After the longest term of the school year wraps up, I know that we will all be ready for a break :)

I hope that everyone gets a chance to relax and enjoy the extra time together making wonderful memories to close out the 2024 year.

I wish you all warm homes, full bellies and a special visit from the jolly big guy in the red suit!!

Happy and Safe Holidays,

Heather

News from Chef Sharon

Hello everyone,

The soccer tournament was a great success as always. Thanks to Cathy Swain and Brenda King for making us over 300 bannock. That's a lot of tacos!! Thanks also to Robin and Wynter for volunteering to serve in the cafeteria over the three days. We could not have done this without your help.

The busy season will be the next three weeks. We have lots of activities and baking planned for the next few weeks. Its so great to see the excitement in the kids faces at this time of year. Hopefully we can get enough baking done that they can bring home some treats.

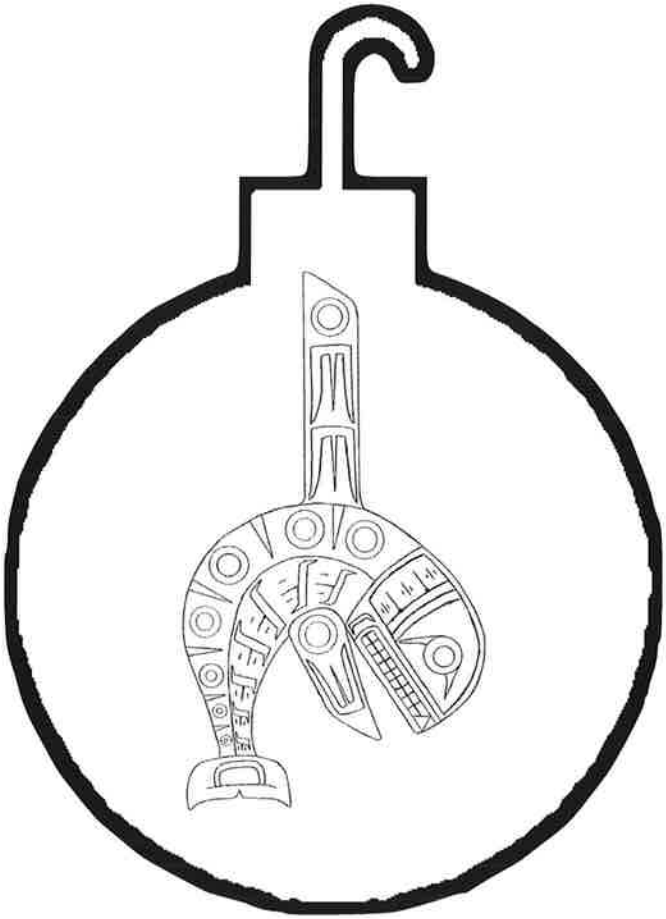
Have a great Christmas season. Wishing you a season full of joy and laughter for you and your family.

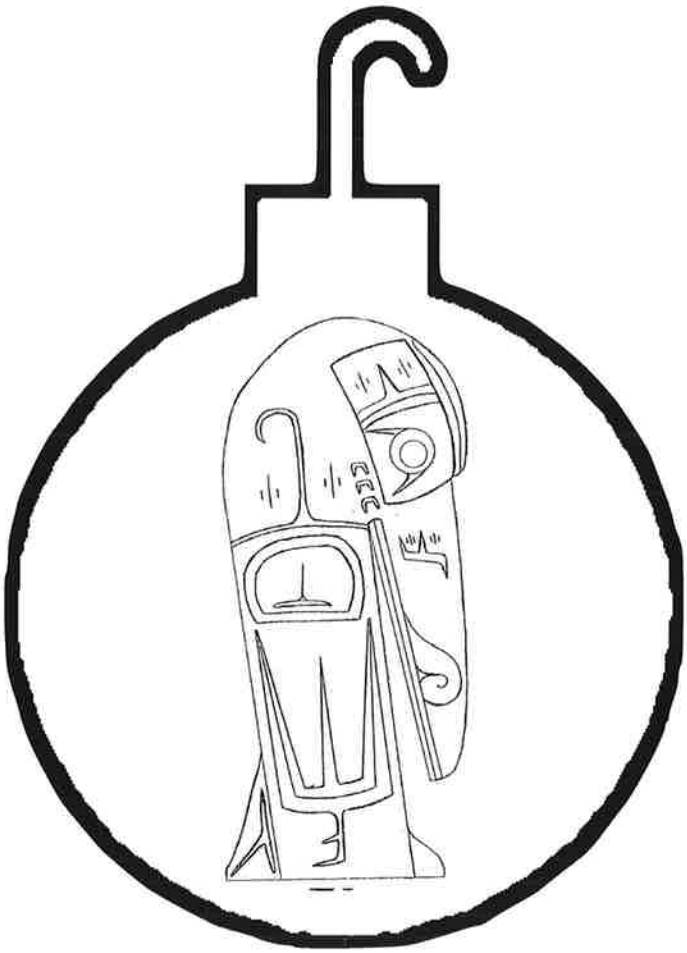
Sharon

November/December Birthdays

Happy November Birthdays to: Phoenix B, Illiyanna, Silva, Frederick, Konner, James, Kaelyn, and Perry. Happy December birthdays to: Sophia, Ezra, Brendan, Quorbin, Linden, Zoey, Emelia, Kian, Tobias and Easton.

JANUARY 6, 2025





SAVE THE DATE

Christmas Concert

GWA'SALA-'NAKWAXDA'XW SCHOOL

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17 @ 1:00 PM

DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 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	2 Div. 1/2 Outdoor Learning 10:00 - 3:00	3 Swimming Preschool	**Parent Teacher Conference Report Cards sent home** Div. 6/7 Skating 1:15	Students dismissed at 12:00 *Happy Birthday Sophia Pictin*	Swimming AM- Div 1/2/3/4 PM - Div 5/6/7 Musical Performance @ 9:30	7
8	9 Div. 1/2 Outdoor Learning 10:00 - 3:00	10 Swimming Preschool *Happy Birthday Ezra George*	11 Div. 6/7 Skating 1:15	12 Div. 3/4 Outdoor Ed 9:45 - 12:00 Div 5 Outdoor Ed 1:00 *Happy Birthday Brendan King*	13 Swimming AM- Div 1/2/3/4 PM - Div 5/6/7	14 *Happy Birthday Quorbin George*
15 *Happy Birthday Scooter*	16 Div. 1/2 Outdoor Learning 10:00 - 3:00 *Happy Birthday Linden Jack*	17 Christmas Concert 1:00 @gym	18 Div. 6/7 - Going to PHSS for Ginger Bread making PM	19 Christmas Craft Afternoon - Primary wing	20 Last day of school Student Dismissed at Noon	21 *Happy Birthday Tobias Wiks-Charlie Zoey Johnny-Orsi*
22 	23 WINTER BREAK - ENJOY THIS TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY *Happy Birthday Martina and Teacher Heather*	24	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27 *Happy Birthday Emelia Dawson*	28
29	30 WINTER BREAK - ENJOY THIS TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY *Happy Birthday Kian Nelson, Easton Nastrom and Carrol*	31	1	2	3 School begins on the Tuesday, Jan 7, 2025	4