

Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School Newsletter

Strong Together In All We Do



September, 2024

Welcome to the 2024/2025 School Year!

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer! Our staff returned at the end of August, preparing to ensure a smooth start for September. Their hard work has truly paid off; we've enjoyed a fantastic few weeks getting to know your children while establishing routines and expectations for the year ahead.

New Staff Members

This year, we're excited to welcome several new staff members:

- **Em Langley:** Grade 4/5 Teacher
- **Latisha Wadhams:** Culture Program Teacher
- **Lyam Donetz:** P.E. and Art Teacher



These talented individuals are fantastic additions to our school team!

A Hub of Activity

Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School has been buzzing with activity this September, filled with amazing learning experiences and events. Classes have taken advantage of the beautiful weather with outdoor adventures, including a visit to Connaty Farms in Coal Harbour. Students also participated in our annual Terry Fox Run to raise funds for cancer research, showing great resilience despite the wind and rain.

Last week, we hosted a Welcome Back Dinner for families—what a wonderful evening! We concluded the month with a powerful National Truth and Reconciliation assembly.

Our Focus

This year, we will continue to develop a strong foundation in culture and language, and maintain high academic expectations while instilling the values of Mya'xala. We are also dedicated to strengthening our relationship with families and the community as partners in education. Together, we can make this a year filled with growth, achievement, and unforgettable experiences!

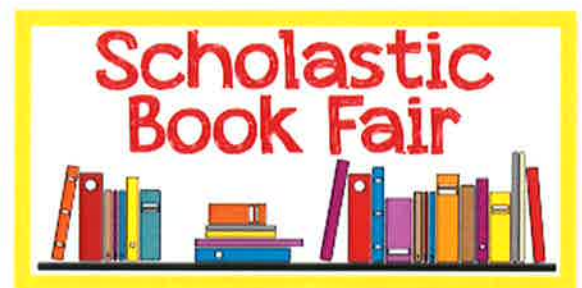
Looking forward to a great year ahead,

Reed Allen-Principal

News from Karen

Welcome back to all the students and families for the 2024/2025 school year. I am excited to continue my role as Vice Principal and look forward to spending time with our students throughout the year. In addition to my Vice Principal role, I get to teach a great math class and support students and teachers in the library.

Our library is open three lunchtimes a week for students to enjoy. We have many books, puzzles, games, art for drawing and even Lego. We are continuing our goal to read 500 books this year. We started this challenge late last year, and we are currently at 150 books read. Once we have read 500 books, the students get to throw some pies at Mr. Allen and myself and maybe a few teachers!



ANNUAL BOOK FAIR
MONDAY OCTOBER 21 -
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 23!
COME AND SHARE IN THE LOVE
OF READING

Meet Dianne's Grade 6/7 Class



Evette enjoyed staying home, sleeping over at Inez' and hanging out with cats this summer.



Quorbin loved dirtbiking and fishing with his friends with summer.



Mason had fun going to the mall in Vancouver, jumped off the dock and caught a big coho!



We were unable to interview **Fred** but this is what we know about him. He loves Benny the dog, is a great storyteller and loves oranges.



Orie enjoyed watching T.V., going to the beach and staying home with family this summer.



Willie went swimming, biking, fishing, had sleepovers with his cousins. He caught a coho this summer.



Storm did lots of biking, hung out with his friend, Anthony and went to Vancouver this summer.



Mia went on a boat ride and saw lots of ocean life. She slept lots and played manhunt with 30 people this summer.



Albert enjoyed sleeping over at Storm's and Anthony's house and he saw a bear this summer!



Mitchell went fishing and hung out with Linden. He caught his first coho in the Tsulquate River by himself and gave it to his grandpa.



Theo played soccer with kids in South Africa, went to Man City Stadium and caught fish this summer.



Blaire played in the Golden Wings and June Sports tournaments and his favourite was the Duncan tourney because they won every game!



Cason went fishing with friends, travelled to the West Coast with my family and caught a spring salmon with his uncle this summer. **Carey** did a 180 backflip on his trampoline, played Stumble Guys and saw my dad on his birthday in this summer.



Hope enjoys fishing with her family, hanging out with friends and moved into her new house this summer.



Kendra enjoyed going to Beaver Lake, played Roblox with Mia and sleeping with Pickle Rick this summer. **Inez** watched Tik Tok videos, played games, and fed 9 cats with Evette this summer.

Allyson's Grade 5/6 Class



Gilakas'la and welcome back to this group of innovators, collaborators, musicians, comedians, investigators, readers, storytellers, gardeners, mathematicians, dancers, singers, and problem solvers. Looking forward to the year ahead!



Em's Grade 4/5 Class

We have had an exciting and fun-filled first month of school in Division 3. We have been building our classroom community, learning about our strengths, and setting goals for the year. We have started learning in the Atli and made our first outdoor education trip to Tsaxis with Division 4. Students ran their hearts out during the Terry Fox run and had their first swimming day. We ended the month by coming together as a school to honour the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Division 3 is a creative, kind, and brilliant group of learners!



Jen's Grade 3/4 Class



What an amazing start to a new school year! We are learning about each other and building our classroom family. We are learning that we all have special gifts and talents to share and learn from. September is always a heart felt month because we take special care and time to remember the children who had to endure suffering from Canada's Residential School System. We wore our Orange shirts and assembled in the gym for a powerful assembly. September was also Terry Fox Run, as well as an amazing trip to Connaty Farms! Thank you Teacher Myra. On top of all that we continue daily to ferociously read and write like real authors! Looking forward to a great year!



Jackie's Grade 1/2 Class

Gilakas'la, Nugwa'am Jackie Hunt. I am excited to teach, learn and make many adventurous and epic memories with all the students. We have 2 incredible Education Assistants (EAs), Jane and Katerina (Kat) in our classroom.

September has already been a busy month of learning our classroom/school routines, exploring the outdoors, creating, designing, building and experimenting!

We've had 3 field trips: to the local Pet Store, Telegraph Cove/Cluxewe and the walkway to Hardy Bay Estuary. We are excited to have 6 guppies and 1 bottom feeder as our classroom pets! The students will continue to build their stamina throughout the year to explore more of our local community.

We are forever thankful to our elders for sharing their experiences about Residential School to help our understanding of Truth and Reconciliation.

~ EVERY CHILD MATTERS ~



Melanie's Grade 1 Class



We have had a great first month! We have now settled into our routines and are continuing to build our connections as a classroom family. In just a short month we have visited Storey's Beach and Connaty Farms, went swimming, ran in the Terry Fox Run, and honoured and observed Truth and Reconciliation. I so look forward to all of the memories we will create this year and to watch these gangananam flourish and grow!

Sheri-An's Kindergarten Class

Gilakas'la! What a wonderful September we've had in Kindergarten. We have had a busy month getting into the routines and expectations of school. We had a blast visiting Connaty farms. The kids loved eating carrots right out of the ground and picking their own apples for snack. We picked tsutsaltsam (blackberries) on a beautiful afternoon which we will make into jam for families. Swimming began and all of the kiddos had a blast in the pool. We always remember and honour loved ones who attended residential schools. We read many books about residential schools and participated in discussions at a level appropriate for Kindergarten. We were witness to a lovely ceremony in the gym honouring our survivors. Fall is now upon us and we are looking forward to the excitement that October will bring.



EVERY CHILD MATTERS.

every feeling matters
every history matters
truth matters
reconciliation matters



'Wi'la'man's awilagila xi gangananam



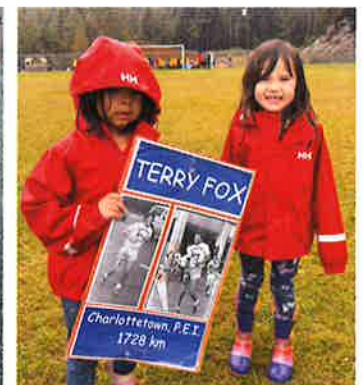
EVERY CHILD MATTERS.



Connaty Farm



Amla



Gaga'o



Danxala



Michelle's Pre K Class: September

Gilakas'la ganganānām! We are delighted to welcome this wonderful group of new learners for the 2024-2025 school year. The children are now attending full days and have enjoyed playing, painting, storytelling, gym time, culture, reading and using their imaginations in the atli (forest). We are building up our Bakwamkala immersion time and our elders visit on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They play with the children, offer love and care, and share language teachings. We are looking forward to little learners Clay, Ambrose and Mateo joining us soon!



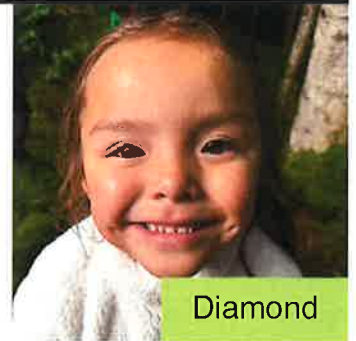
Layne



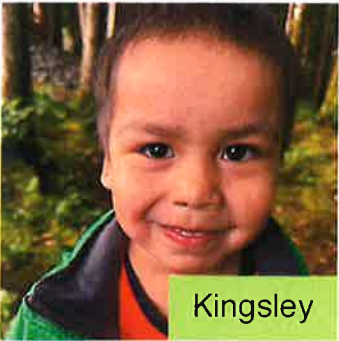
Tyla



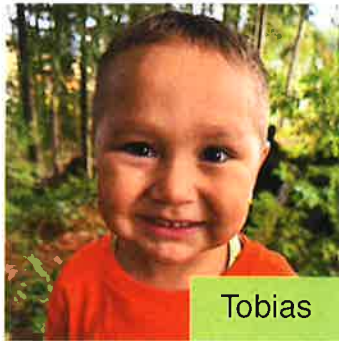
Kenton



Diamond



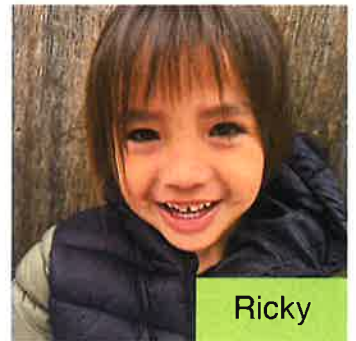
Kingsley



Tobias



Bobbi-Ann



Ricky



Mavrick



PLAY IS OUR BRAIN'S FAVOURITE WAY OF
LEARNING! -Diane Ackerman



Getting ready for the
Terry Fox run



Orange Shirt Day: time with
Granny Kathy and Granny Gertie

Robin's Bakwamkala Class



Gilakas'la! It's so great to be back for another year of learning. In Bakwamkala class we have been learning about emotions and animals. We introduced many new words and the students have been picking up the new language very well. They enjoy learning through games, stories, visual activities, songs and movement. I am super excited about the learning taking place and am looking forward to a wonderful school year.

This month we also launched the First Voices website for 'Nakwala and Gwatsala. It offers words, phrases, songs, stories, leaning videos and games, all in our language. Please utilize this resource for your own learning and if you have any suggestions for content we would be very happy to hear from you. The link for the website is posted below.

<https://www.firstvoices.com/nakwala-gwatsala>

Latisha's Culture Class

Gilakasda'xw'la!

In culture, we have been focusing on drumming, singing and drum log etiquette which consists of keeping the beat at a steady pace, beating as one heart and learning songs together. This is an ongoing and consistent teaching we uplift in the culture room.

The gāngānanam have been learning about the importance of the Potlatch, what it means to our people and why we do it. The students are the future Potlatch people – the future singers, the future dancers, the future backroom ladies, the future speakers, so on and so forth. It is important that we know and remember everyone has a place and a role within our Culture.

The gāngānanam are practicing foot work on the dance floor, hand movements for the Hamat'sa and Tłalkwała. We have had an amazing start to our year in the culture room dancing, singing, and learning about the ways of our Potlatch people.



Lyam's P.E. Class

Gilakas'la everyone,

For those of you who don't know me I am the new PE teacher Lyam Donetz. My mom is Robin Rosborough, and I am so happy to be working for the Gwa'sala-'Nakwakda'xw School. It feels good to be in the gym as our kids enjoy running, and playing together in the gym. This September we've been working on cooperative games, and teamwork. I look forward to being with the kids in this space throughout the year.



News from Heather



STUDENT SERVICES COORDINATOR

I am the contact person for:

- Counselling referrals
- Health concerns
- Learning challenges
- Organizing outside services; Training, Psychologist,
- Special Education Tasks, like funding
- Conducting IEP meetings and writing IEP reports
- Literacy and Numeracy support
- Anything else that comes up!

To get in touch about any concerns you might have,
please call me at the school @ 250-949-7743

News from Chef Sharon

Welcome Back Everyone!

A huge welcome back to all the students and families. It is great to see how everyone has grown over the summer. Their appetites have grown as well! All the students look forward to the fresh soups and homemade dinner buns. Thanks to the summer program and everyone that helped out in the greenhouse over the summer. We have lots of tomatoes, peas and squash to be picked and used in the cafeteria lunches and snacks. We are having zucchini muffins for snack this week, fresh from the garden. Tomatoes will be picked and used for spaghetti sauce this week as well.

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



Every Child Matters

School assembly to recognize Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day. Remembering those who attended residential schools and those who never made it home.




Every Child Matters

School Events



Great way to start a school year but sharing a meal with our GNN families during our annual Welcome Back Dinner.



Annual Terry Rox run this was a wet one! Regardless of the rain the students ran hard to raise awareness for cancer raise money for cancer research.

September Birthdays

Happy September Birthdays to: Cami-Lynn, Kingsley, Layne, Ryker, Oakley, Colton, Kamaya, San'yas, Kaedan and Phillip



Notices



Lifetouch

October 17

**PICTURE DAY
IS COMING**



**PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
NO SCHOOL**



**Thursday, October 24 closed at noon
Friday, October 25 all day**



OCTOBER 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
29	30 No School National Truth and Reconciliation Observance	1 Swimming for Pre K	2 Div 6/7 Storey's Beach @1:00	3 Div 3/4 Outdoor Ed@1:00 Happy Birthday Mable Munn	4 Swimming for all classes Happy Birthday Nathaniel Phillips	5
6 Happy Birthday Oaklynn Alfred	7 Div 1 & 2 Outdoor Ed 10:00	8 Swimming for Pre K Happy Birthday Ophelia George	9 Div 6/7 Storey's Beach @1:00	10 Div 5 Outdoor Ed@1:00	11 Swimming for all classes Happy Birthday Phillip Nelson Jr.	12
13 Happy Birthday Lola Johnny	14 Happy Thanksgiving - No School	15 Swimming for Pre K	16 Div 6/7 Storey's Beach @1:00	17 School Pictures BC Shakeout Drill - 10:20 Div 3/4 Outdoor Ed@1:00	18 Swimming for all classes Happy Birthday Quinten Coon	19
20 Happy Birthday Debbie Perkovich	21 Scholastic Book Fair - Oct 21 - 23 - Library Div 1 & 2 Outdoor Ed 10:00	22 Swimming for Pre K	23 Div 6/7 Storey's Beach @1:00	24 Pro D @ 12:00 students dismissed Happy Birthday Eve Dawson	25 Professional Development Day No School for Students	26
27	28 Div 1 & 2 Outdoor Ed 10:00 Happy Birthday Blaire Johnson	29 Family Breakfast 8:30 - 9:00 Swimming for Pre K	30 Div 6/7 Storey's Beach @1:00 Happy Birthday Phoenix Charlie	31 Hallowe'en	Nov 1 Swimming for all classes	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