

Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School Newsletter

Strong Together In All We Do



September, 2025

Welcome to the 2025/2026 School Year!

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer! Our staff returned at the end of August to prepare for a smooth start to 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.

This year, we're excited to welcome several new team members to Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School:

- Deb Edzerza – Grade 4/5 Teacher
- Shauna Topper – Education Assistant

We're thrilled to have these talented individuals join our school community!

September has been a vibrant month filled with learning and special events. Students participated in our annual Terry Fox Run, and this year the weather cooperated beautifully, making for an uplifting community event. Our students showed great spirit and determination as they ran to raise funds for cancer research. As part of our cultural programming, students and staff came together to process salmon, working side by side to prepare gifts for upcoming community events. These activities are an important way to connect our learners to tradition, community, and the land.

We closed out the month with a powerful National Truth and Reconciliation assembly, coming together as a community to reflect, honour, and learn.

Looking forward to a great year ahead.

Reed Allen-Principal



News from Karen

Yo, Families – Welcome Back to a New School Year!

I'm so excited to be continuing at GN School as your Vice Principal! It's already been a busy and exciting start to the year, with events like the Terry Fox Run, salmon processing, and lots of amazing learning happening all around the school.



FNSA

This year, we're participating in the First Nations School Association's School Assessment. As part of this process, we'll be gathering input from students, parents, staff, and our governing body to help us shape goals for our school for the next several years.

We'll be asking parents to fill out a short survey during our Welcome Back Dinner on October 8 from 5–7 PM. Everyone who completes the survey will receive a \$10 Co-op gift card, and your family will be entered into a draw for a \$250 Save-On-Foods gift card, to be drawn in November!

We're also looking for a few parents to join our internal committee, which will meet 3–4 times throughout the year. If you're interested, please email me at kaoki@gwanak.bc.ca.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Welcome Back Dinner!



Friendship Braclets!



New Backpacks!

Lyams's Grade 6/7 Class

Gilakas'la

We have had an amazing start to the year. This month we had our outdoor day in Gwadzi where the class learned about the creation story of Matagila (the first ancestor at Gwadzi), and have been learning about how to do research projects and they have completed two of them now. This next month we look forward to going to Hada, and for parents I have started a Facebook page its called Lyam's grade 6/7 Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw 2025/2026. I am also planning a parent meeting this Friday, October at 5 in my classroom for our upcoming field trip expectations, there will be food for any parents who would like to come.

Gilakas'la I look forward to the coming year.



Allyson's Grade 5/6 Class

And, "ACTION!" Gilakas'la to another school year! This month in our Grade 5/6 classroom, we have been focusing on building strong relationships with one another and creating a positive learning

community. On awi'nagwis Mondays, we are deepening our understanding of the land we live on and the histories that connect us to it. Students began their studies of the different regions of Canada, exploring the geographical features and political maps. In Social Studies, we are exploring rights and responsibilities in our classroom and beyond, including learning about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action. Together, these lessons are helping us connect with each other, our history, and our country in meaningful ways. Here is a fun game for you to check out with your child at home:

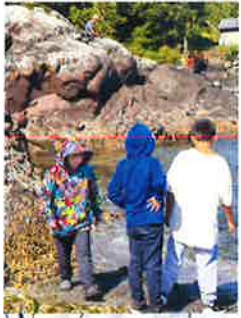
<https://learn.parl.ca/en/games/game1/index.html>



Deb's Grade 4/5 Class

In way of introduction: I am Deb Edzerza, I am Tahltan First Nation from Telegraph Creek BC. I was born and raised in Whitehorse Yukon. Throughout my career, I've taught a variety of grade levels, and I am very excited and looking forward to the year with the Grade 4/5 students.

I am excited to be joining Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School this year and feel so welcomed by the Grade 4/5 students and staff. September has blessed us with beautiful weather, which allowed for outdoor learning at the beach, cook pit, and Atli Wagalis. Students have been actively engaged with indoor learning. In Math, we've focused on place value and multi-digit addition and subtraction, while in Language Arts, students are enjoying *The One and Only Ivan*, which connects to our Social Studies unit on Africa. A highlight has been starting a pen pal project with Roko 20 Academy in Mukuyu- Kambirwa, Kenya—students were thrilled to receive their first letters!



Jen's Grade 2/3/4 Class



I matter because I am.....

CONFIDENT, funny, kind, loved, different, sweet, special, awesome, safe, happy, friendly, talented, me, smart, protected, helpful, cool, loving, caring, super



September is always one of my favourite times of the year! I get to meet the new crop of students that I will be spending a whole ten months with! Already we have had so many amazing learning experiences! Fish processing for the whole school, outdoor learning, Terry Fox Run, language, culture, honouring our residential school survivors, reading, writing, math, art, music, ADST, gym, and swimming. Big themes for the month have been accepting differences, friendship, kindness, Maya'xala, and creating a safe and welcoming space so that every student in our class feels like they belong and are a part of our school family.



Jackie's Grade 2/3 Class



Welcome back to school!

Nugwa'am Jackie. I am so excited to begin this learning journey together. This year will be full of opportunities for everyone to grow, explore, and discover new skills!

Our Education Assistants this year are Katerina, Hannah A. and Sarah L. We look forward to building strong classroom routines and creating a positive learning environment where every student feels valued and feels confident to take risks.



Melanie's Grade 1 Class

We've had such a wonderful first month together! Our class has settled into routines and is becoming a caring classroom family. In just a few short weeks, we have visited Storey's Beach and Connaty Farms, gone swimming, participated in the Terry Fox Run, and honoured 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 tasting delicious farm grown food and picking their own apples for snack. 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 visited elders in the library and gifted them a card made with love to honour their survival. Fall is now upon us and we are looking forward to the excitement that October will bring.



Fish Camp Week



Smokey Bear visit

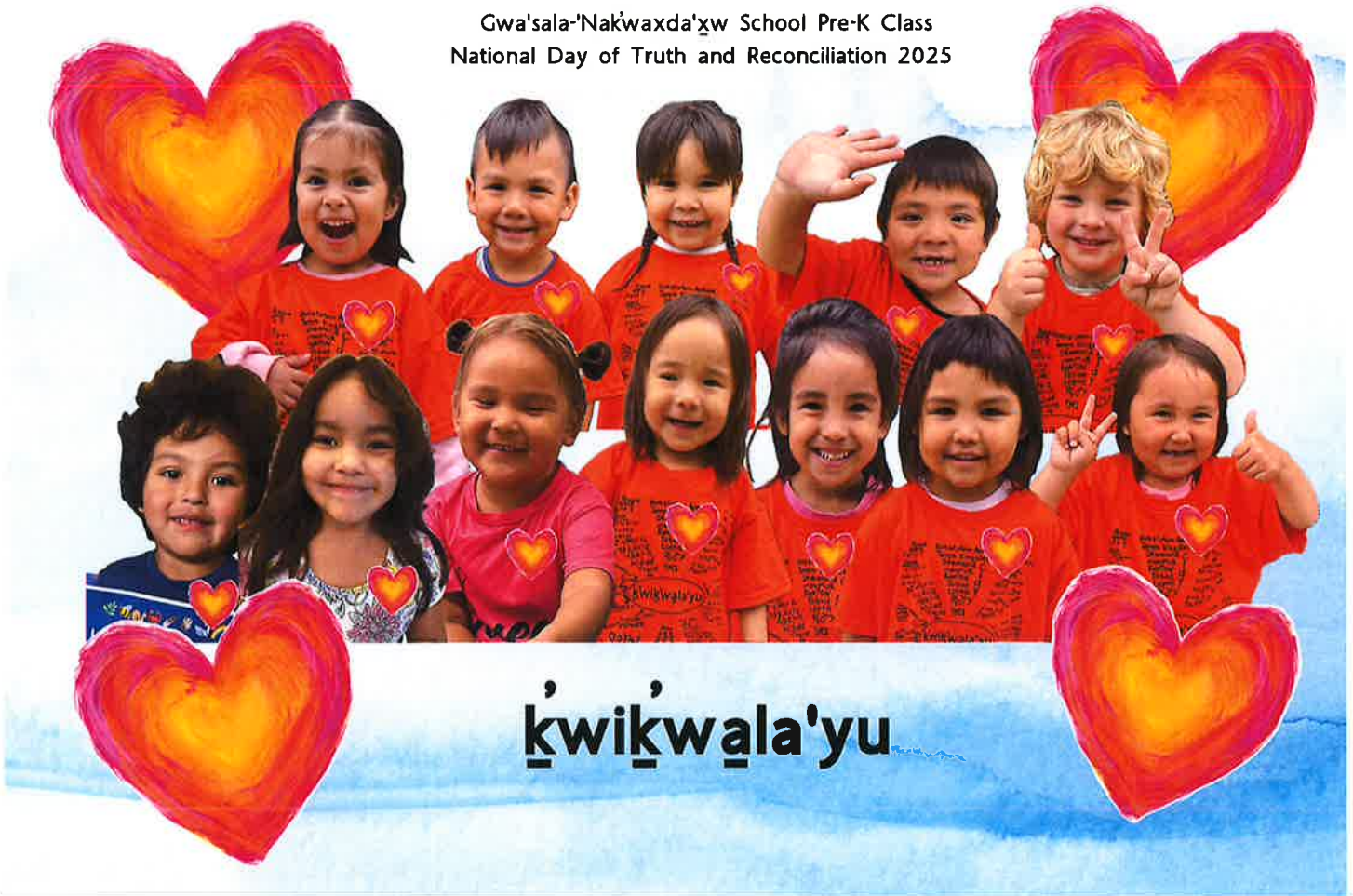


Connaty Farm Fun and Learning



Michelle's Pre-K Class

Gwa'sala-Nakwaxda'xw School Pre-K Class
National Day of Truth and Reconciliation 2025



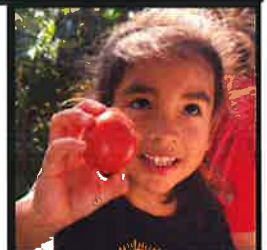
**Gilakas'la Devaya, Joey, Mason, Noah, Rudy,
Alex, Star, Nellie, Kaiya, Faith, Christine, Avery**



We are so grateful for time
with the grannies twice a
week.

September filled our school with this beautiful new group of little learners, each with their own unique gifts. The children have enjoyed playing, painting, storytelling, gym time, and using their imaginations.

We visited the garden and were excited to find pumpkins, tomatoes, herbs and flowers growing. We close out the month by honouring elders and families affected by residential schools, by uplifting them and sending out love.



Robin's Bakwamkala Class

Gilakasda'xw'la. We are so excited to be back for another year of learning. Singing is a big part of Bakwamkala class, and we are learning a few new songs to reinforce the learning that has been happening. The students are enthusiastic about learning their language and it makes us feel optimistic about the future. On Monday afternoons I have been joining classes in outdoor learning sessions. Bringing bakwamkala into nature is another great way to learn. It's great to watch the students interact with nature and enjoy themselves in the beauty that surrounds us.



Latisha's Culture Class

Gilakasda'xw'la li'laxwax!

It has been wonderful to welcome your children back into the Culture Room this fall. After a long summer apart, we eased into singing and dancing again. Though there were a few nerves at first, the students quickly showed their excitement, and it was heartwarming to see how naturally they stepped back in.

These next few months coming up to the winter, our focus will be on learning more deeply about our **origin stories** and the **winter ceremonial**, and how these teachings connect to the ways we acquire songs, dances, and names. Alongside this, we are preparing ourselves for the **bighouse opening**. Students are practicing how to carry themselves with respect inside and outside the bighouse, remembering that these teachings are not just for special occasions; they are part of who we are as Bakwam people, carried with us wherever we go.

We are continuing our **language learning** as well. Building on last year, we are practicing place names — the places in our territory that we visit and talk about often. This month, we have also begun studying the **birds of our area**, learning their names in bakwam'kala. Our conversations often focus on the natural world and the things we see every day, so the ginginanam can begin to say in our language where they are going, what they are doing, and what they might see along the way.



The practice may feel repetitive at times, but repetition is how we strengthen and hold onto our language. The more we hear it and say it, the more it becomes part of our hearts and spirits. Together, we are helping the children grow up with these teachings rooted deeply in their everyday lives.

Gilakas'la!

Sara's P.E. Class



Lola ready to "skate" in the gym!



Terryn practicing her balancing!



Ophelia, Carlynn, and Cami-Lynn stretching together!

Thank goodness we are back and filling the gym with the student's energy. A goal this year is to leave the gym feeling better than when you entered. We are working on cooperative games and building a welcoming and inclusive culture in the gym. I look forward to seeing the kids and community members in this healthy space throughout the year!



Mavrick practicing his balancing!



Kian hiding in a hula hut!



Amelia and Silva at the start of the Terry Fox run!

News from Heather

WELCOME
BACK!!

The beginning of the school year is always such a buzzing time! It is so fun to see how much everyone grows over the summer and also so nice to meet our new PreK's!!

My position at the school is very multi-faceted!! I can help you and your student with many learning and health concerns. Some things that fall under my scope at school are:

- Counselling supports
- Health concerns
- Learning supports
- Dental connections
- Neurodiversity supports

If you have any concerns about your student, please don't hesitate to reach out :)

~Let's stay healthy together as flu season comes upon us!!~

Cheers to a wonderful year ahead :)

HealthyCounts

A health routine kids can count on.

8



More than eight
hours of sleep
a night

7



Breakfasts
a week

6



Home-cooked
meals a week

5



Servings of fruits
and vegetables
a day

4



Positive self
messages
a day

3



Servings of
low-fat dairy
a day

2



Hours or less
of screen time
a day

1



Hour or more
of physical
activity a day

0



Sugary drinks
a day

News from Chef Sharon

Welcome back, students and families!! We have Richard back with us this year in the cafeteria. Richard and I are excited to serve the students and community for another school year. We will still be serving some of the kids favourites and introducing some new foods for the kids to try! We have a Welcome Back Dinner planned for October, there will be some new menu options for the night. Lasagna, Caesar salad, Cheesy Garlic Bread & Desserts. Hope you can make it out!!

See you there,
Sharon



School Activities



Terry Fox Run 2025



Always so much happening at our school!

September Birthdays

Happy Birthdays to Cami-Lynn, Kingsley, Faith, Layne, Ryker, Oakley, Nellie, Colton, Kamaya, San'yas and Kaeden!



GWA'SALA-'NAKWAXDA'XW SCHOOL



WELCOME BACK

Lasagna Dinner

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

5:00 - 7:00 PM



**Come join the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw staff for a fun filled,
family evening! Get to know our staff, play games, win
prizes and enjoy a great meal!**

All family members of GN School students are welcome!

Kids included



GWA'SALA-NAKWAXDA'XW SCHOOL
**INDOOR SOCCER
TOURNAMENT**

**NOVEMBER 12:
GRADE 2/3**

**NOVEMBER 13:
GRADE 4/5**

**NOVEMBER 14
GRADE 6/7**



**CONCESSION
AVAILABLE**





OCTOBER 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
	29	30	1	2	3	4
	Orange Shirt Assembly @ 1:00	No School National Truth and Reconciliation Observance	Div 3/6/7 Storey's Beach @ 1:00	Div 2 - Skating @ 2:00	 Swimming for all classes	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	School Pictures @ 1:00	 Swimming for Pre K & K	Welcome Back Dinner 5 pm - 7 pm Div 3/4/6/7 Elk Drive @ 1:00	Div 6/7 - Hatchery 9:00 am Div 8 - Hatchery 1:00 pm	 Swimming for all classes	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	 Happy Thanksgiving - No School	Division 1 - Hada Trip				
		 Swimming for Pre K & K	Div 3/6/7 Quatse Loop @ 1:00	BC Shakeout Drill - 10:20	 Swimming for all classes	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Scholastic Book Fair - Oct 20 - 22- Library			Pro D @ 12:00 students dismissed	Professional Development Day No School for Students	
	Div 1/2/5 Outdoor Ed 1:00	 Swimming for Pre K & K	Div 3/4 Wagalus Trail @ 1:00			
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	Div 1 & 2 Outdoor Ed 9:30 Div 5 Outdoor Ed 1:00	 Swimming for Pre K & K	Div 3/4/6/7 Storey's Beach @ 1:00		 Hallowe'en	Div 1 Lyam Div 2 Allyson Div 3 Deb Div 4 Jen Div 5 Jackle Div 6 Melanie Div 7 Sheri-An Div 8 Michelle