

Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School Newsletter

Strong Together In All We Do



November/December, 2025

Gilakas'la,

The past two months at Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School have been full of exciting learning, community events, and opportunities for our students to shine. As we move toward the winter break, I want to share some of the highlights from November and December.

We were proud to host our annual Indoor Soccer Tournament for grades 2–7. The gym was full of energy as teams from across the district competed and supported one another. It was wonderful to welcome so many visiting students, families, and staff into our school. Our own athletes showed tremendous teamwork, effort, and respect throughout the three-day event.

Our students trained hard for the District Cross Country Meet, showing great commitment and perseverance. We are proud of every student who participated, pushed themselves, and represented our school with pride. Their effort and positive attitudes were truly inspiring.

In November, our school underwent a Ministry of Education inspection, which went very well. The visit highlighted the strong learning, supportive relationships, and dedicated teaching happening every day at Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School. A big thank you to all staff for their ongoing commitment to our students and community. We also had the honour of hosting the GNN Band Annual General Meeting at the school. It was a great opportunity to connect with community members and share the positive work happening in our education programs. We look forward to continuing this collaboration in the new year.

As we prepare for the final weeks before the winter break, we look forward to upcoming seasonal activities, learning celebrations, and time spent together as a school community.

Thank you for your continued support in making Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School a place where children feel safe, connected, and excited to learn. If you have any questions or ideas to share, please reach out at any time.

Reed Allen - Principal



News from Karen

Yo Parents and Guardians,

It's officially December, and the halls are buzzing with excitement as our students gear up for the Christmas concert! The past few months have flown by, and with the chill in the air, it's beginning to feel a lot like winter—and a whole lot like the holiday season.

November brought a few staffing changes. Jane has chosen to spend more time with her family and has resigned from the Grade 4/5 class. We send her warm wishes as she begins this new chapter. We're also thrilled to welcome Jenni Walkus to the Grade 4/5 class! Jenni has been an on-call education assistant with us for the past few months, and we're delighted to have her join our team in a permanent role.

Our School Assessment work is also moving forward. Thank you to the 72 parents and caregivers who completed the survey—your voices truly matter. Congratulations to Cheyenne Jensen for winning the \$250 gift card! We're now diving into the next stage, exploring opportunities and gathering evidence of learning. Once this is wrapped up, our committee will begin summarizing the findings and shaping goals to share with you in the new year.

Christmas Tree

How many words can you make out of
Christmas tree?

C H R I S T M A S T R E E



_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



Did you find?

Something you wear.
Something you drink.
Something you drive.
Something you breathe.
Something to put on the tree.
A number.
A planet.
A subject in school.
A month of the year.
What a teacher does.
Someone who paints.

A place where you sit.
A place where you drive.
A place where you go up.
Another word for clever.
The opposite of stand.
Mix milk in your coffee.
Three of your senses.
A small river.
A group of athletes.
Bonus: Can you find four verbs with
both past and present tenses?

December is filled with festive fun!



Family Breakfast: Tuesday, December 16



Christmas Concert: Thursday, December
18 at 1:00 PM

We wish all of our families a joyful, restful,
and safe Christmas break. May your
holidays be filled with warmth, laughter,
and time with loved ones. We can't wait to
see everyone back on Tuesday, January 6,
2026!

Lyam's Grade 6/7 Class

Gilakas'la Everyone,

This past month we were busy with many different activities both in and out of the classroom. We took part in the soccer tournament, went on our Hada trip, and finished the month with a visit to the Dłaxsiwe salt marsh. Each of these experiences gave students a chance to learn in new ways through being active, working together, and spending time on the land.

It was great to see students building connections to their culture and community and showing pride in their learning. Many students were engaged, curious, and respectful during our trips and activities. These experiences helped bring our learning to life and created positive memories for the class.



Allyson's Grade 5/6 Class

Meli Kismas,

As we move into the winter season, our class has been busy with meaningful learning, community connection, and plenty of festive fun. Here's a look at what we've been working on over the past two months: Our classroom has been filled with music as students practice their Christmas concert song. They have shown wonderful teamwork, enthusiasm, and confidence as they prepare to perform for families and the school community. We can't wait for you to hear them! Students continue to build their spelling skills through weekly practice, games, and activities. We've been focusing on patterns and strategies that support confident reading and writing. Their effort and growth have been fantastic to see. In November, students participated in gathering wood for their Elders—a meaningful act of service that helps them to give back to the community. They worked hard, learned about responsibility, and felt proud to support those around them. In math, we have been learning various division strategies, including equal grouping, repeated subtraction, area models, and long division. Students are developing confidence as they explain their thinking and solve real-world problems. Our unit on human body systems has sparked a lot of curiosity! Students are exploring the circulatory, respiratory, digestive, and nervous systems, learning how each part works together to keep us healthy. Expect lots of fascinating facts being shared at home! To celebrate the season, our class has been running a Christmas Music Madness bracket—an energetic tournament where students vote on their favourite holiday songs. Debates have been lively, and we're excited to see which festive tune will win the title of "Top Christmas Song of 2025" for our class!



Deb's Grade 4/5 Class



November has been a busy and exciting month! In Outdoor Education, we walked the Fort Rupert trail, explored Stories Beach, and continued learning Bakwamkala language with Latisha. We also enjoyed having Jenni and Corey join our outdoor lessons.

In the classroom, students worked on seasonal art projects and continued building their reading comprehension skills. A major highlight was the G&N Indoor Soccer Tournament, which had great participation from students, families, and schools.

We said farewell to our Educational Assistant, Jane Cook, on November 28th and wish her well on her next adventure. We are happy to welcome Jenni Walkus to our class as our new Educational Assistant.

As we head into December, we will be busy preparing for the Christmas Concert and enjoying the festive spirit with crafts and other seasonal activities.



Jen's Grade 2/3/4 Class



School-wide skate and Outdoor learning.
Making winter homes for our mice.



Soccer Tournament
- Grade 2/3 on Wednesday and Grade 4/5 on Thursday! The students demonstrated team work, camaraderie, and sportsmanship. They represented our school proudly and had the most fun!

Quote of the month
"Kindness is heard, felt, and seen. It uses all of our senses!"
Learning to play rhythms in music Class, using a variety of instruments!



Jackie's Grade 2/3 Class

Benefits of Outdoor Education

Students develop a deeper connection to and respect for Mother Earth

- Increased physical activity
- Improved focus
- Improved problem-solving skills
- Better social-emotional health



- Increases feelings of well-being
- Overcome challenges
- Increases confidence
- Encourages curiosity

- Fosters teamwork
- Improves communication
- Encourages collaboration
- Increases motivation



- Reduces stress
- Increases Vitamin D exposure
- Improves concentration
- Improves memory

Melanie's Grade 1 Class



This month, we focused on peace. Together, we learned what peace means and discovered how it can look and feel different for each of us. We also explored simple ways to practice finding peaceful moments in our day. Some other highlights from the month included cheering on our friends at the soccer tournament, enjoying our skating trips, and spending time learning outdoors. As we head into December, excitement for Christmas is definitely growing. There is 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 and hibernation. 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 gingerbread 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.

Peace feels like Mommy,
Baba and Auda.
Peace smells like pumpkins.
Peace tastes like spaghetti.
Peace sounds like the wind.
Peace looks like Mavrick
doing Yoga.

Tyla- Age 5



Peace feels like Spider-Man.
Peace smells like cotton candy.
Peace tastes like ice cream.
Peace sounds like watching TV.
Peace looks like playing
Spider-Man.

Layne- Age 5



Peace feels like Captain America.
Peace smells like pizza.
Peace tastes like muffins.
Peace sounds like Mommy saying
"Love you."
Peace looks like playing cars.

Ricky- Age 5



Peace feels like my dog
napping on me.
Peace smells like vanilla pie.
Peace tastes like pizza.
Peace sounds like tweeting birds.
Peace looks like dolphins swimming
in the water.

Kenton- Age 5



Peace feels like Uncle's tickly
moustache when he kisses me.
Peace smells like my baby brother.
Peace tastes like peas.
Peace sounds like Auntie saying
"Love you".
Peace looks like my puppies.

Diamond- Age 5



Peace feels like Dad kissing Mom.
Peace smells like hot dogs.
Peace tastes like chili.
Peace sounds like my heart.
Peace looks like Mom kissing
my cheek.

Tobias- Age 4



Peace feels like playing in
my backyard.
Peace feels like Oma hugging me.
Peace smells like pizza.
Peace tastes like vegetables.
Peace sounds like music
falling asleep.
Peace looks like trees.

Mavrick- Age 5



Peace feels like feathers.
Peace smells like pepperoni.
Peace tastes like pizza.
Peace sounds like KPop Demon
Hunters music.
Peace looks like laying
on the couch.

Terryn- Age 4



Peace feels like Mom calming
me down. She protects me.
Peace smells like flowers.
Peace tastes like doughnuts.
Peace sounds like the ocean.
Peace looks like the sky.

Bobbi-Ann- Age 5



Michelle's Pre-K Class

November has been a beautiful month full of growth and learning. We are really impressed by how the children's drawings are getting more detailed and how much careful effort they take to write their names. Everyone is definitely growing taller, stronger and braver, but the sweetest area of growth is in how expressive they have become with each other. Their conversations are becoming lively, and ideas are flowing. It's really fun seeing the personalities emerging and the friendships forming. We are artists, little leaders, builders, question askers, dreamers, book lovers and dancers. Birthday cheers to Avery and Aziel in November and Alex in December. We are now in full Christmas celebration mode with plans to send letters to Santa, a hot chocolate visit to the Kwa'lilas Hotel, lots of crafting and a Christmas performance. Lots of excitement!



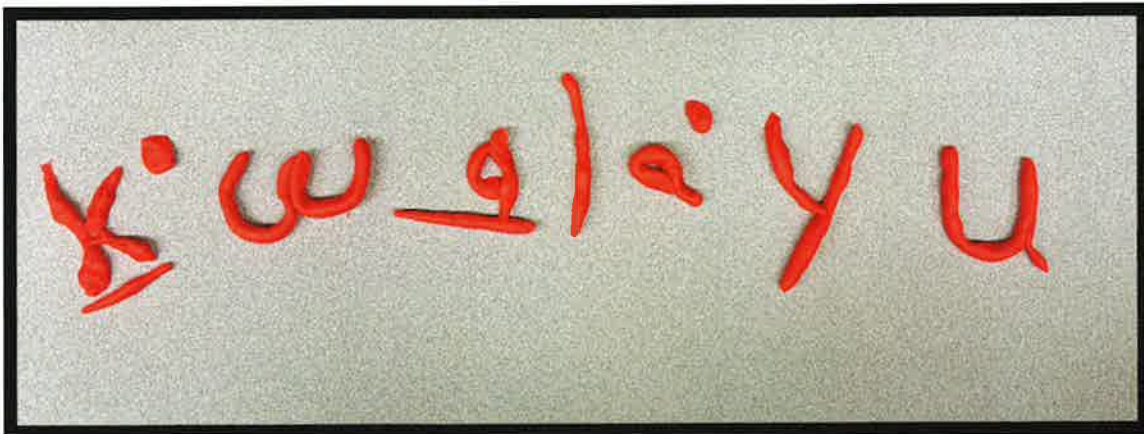
Robin's Bakwamkala Class

Gilakasda'xw'la. November has been a full and meaningful month of learning, language, and connection. I was able to join our students out on the land, taking part in outdoor education adventures along the Commuter Trail and at the Sand Pit. These days are filled with exploration, teamwork, and opportunities to learn from the land around us.

In class, we continued our language learning by exploring new songs and introducing terms of endearment. One of the highlights was watching students spell the word in playdoh, which was a fun and creative way to make the language come alive. I've included a photo of the word kwala'yu (reason for living) written in playdoh.

Another big event this month was our Drum Making Workshop, where twelve students created their own elk hide drums. It was a powerful and hands-on learning experience. During the workshop, students also took part in the Oral Histories Project. They listened to our elders share stories in their language and created illustrations inspired by what they heard. These moments of connection between generations are truly special, and I've included some photos from the workshop so you can share in the experience.

Finally, I want to extend my deepest condolences and love to everyone who loved Gixsistalisame' Wa'kas. Willie was a beautiful soul whose kindness, warmth, and gentle spirit touched every person he encountered. He will be deeply missed by our whole community.



Latisha's Culture Class

Gilakas'la Łi'laxwā!

As the winter season begins to show itself, our *ginginanam* have been learning and practicing *bakwamkala* winter vocabulary. So far, we've focused on words like *k'wisa* (snow falling), *gawitsas* (frost on the ground), and *'ne* (snow on the ground). These are just a few from the long, beautiful list of winter words we are beginning to explore together. We take our time with each word, listening, repeating, and becoming familiar with the sounds, so everyone can feel confident speaking our language. Alongside our vocabulary, we've been talking about what winter means to our people. Winter is our richest cultural season, the time of our Winter ceremonial, when our people moved into the *tségatsi* to uphold our ways. It is the season of witnessing, carrying forward our oral history, and tending to the business that keeps our ways and laws alive.

We've also begun creating our mini *tsa'wanx* (winter) books: small, foldable books designed entirely by the *ginginanam*. Each page highlights one winter word, paired with their own artwork: drawings, colouring, stickers, glitter, and all the little touches that make their learning meaningful. These mini books will become pocket-sized guides they can bring home to share and teach their families the winter words they've learned in the Culture Room.



Sara's P.E. Class



November was an exciting month for our students! 11 of our students represented themselves and Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School with maya'xala and determination at the Annual Cross Country Track Meet held in Sointula. All students remained focused and trained hard leading up to the event. Congratulations to Colton, Kian, Merrill, Landon, Calai, Silva, Amelia, Lennox, Karder, Laz, and Oakley!

Thank you to those who came out to cheer on and support our students during the Annual Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Soccer Tournament, as well as those who stepped up and volunteered in the necessary ways! Everyone brought their heart and soul and had us at the edge of our seats! Catch Phoenix sipping his "cup of coffee" in between games! Great work everyone!



Inside, outside, or even upside down, everyone has been experiencing taking care of their body in different spaces. Sometimes we move and play in the gym, other times we learn in the library, and on days when we can take advantage of being outside we learn different skills using our outdoor spaces.

News from Heather

Christmas Word Scramble

1. elbls _____
2. ytFrso _____
3. yrmer _____
4. olNe _____
5. coroeGS _____
6. cksiongt _____
7. ayadecncn _____
8. ngeogg _____
9. isotlteme _____
10. tiposaenti _____
11. lesve _____
12. ylloj _____
13. PthoNrleo _____
14. nedrreie _____
15. hdpIRou _____
16. eilshg _____

Another year coming to a close. With so many wonderful things to reflect on, I want to share my love of working at our school. The children make everyday an adventure and I am so thankful that I get to come here each day and be a part of this community.

I hope the ending of 2025 is filled with family, friends, love and joy for all and everyone connected to our school community!

See you in 2026!!!

Love, Heather

What is an elf's favorite car to drive?

A Toy-ota.



Q: What does Santa use to measure?

A: Santameters!

Q: Where do snowmen go dancing?

A: A snowball!

Q: What does the gingerbread man put on his bed?

A: Cookie sheets!

Q: What do you get if you cross an apple with a Christmas Tree?

A: A pineapple!

Q: Where does a snowman keep his money?

A: In a snowbank!

Q: What do road crews use at the North Pole?

A: Snow cones!

Q: What happens if you eat Christmas decorations?

A: You get tinselitus!

Q: What do you call Santa when he stops moving?

A: Santa Pause

Q: What does an elf study in school?

A: The elfabet

Q: What should you give your parents at Christmas?

A: A list of what you want.

Q: What goes oh, oh, oh?

A: Santa Claus walking backward!

Q: What kind of bug hates Christmas?

A: A humbug!

News from Chef Sharon

Hello families!

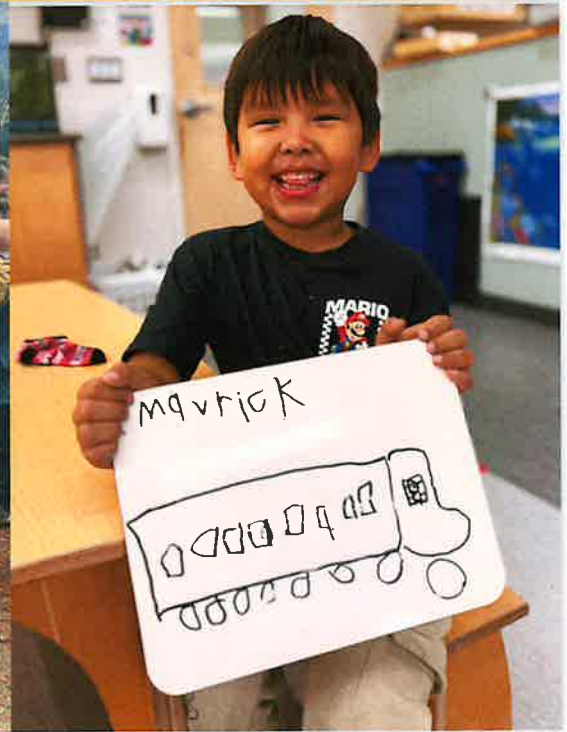
December is here, bringing excitement, celebrations and lots of warm, comforting meals. Keep a look out on the menus for seasonal favourites. Christmas cookies, gingerbread, Hot chocolate days, Christmas themed lunches. December 16th, we will be having Christmas family breakfast, pancakes, sausages, Hash browns, orange juice and hot cocoa. Don't miss it, its a favourite for students and families!

Wishing all families a warm and wonderful Christmas and winter break.

Sharon



School Activities



November/December Birthdays

Happy November Birthdays to: Cristian, Avery, Phoenix B, Illiyanna, Silva, Celenia, Konner, Aziel, Clay and Perry.

Happy December Birthdays to: Terryyn, Alexander, Sophia, Ezra, Brendan, Linden, Zoey, Tobias, Grayson, Emelia, Kian and Easton.





FAMILY CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School

 Tuesday, December 16

 8:30 AM

 School Cafeteria

Please join us for a warm, festive family breakfast
as we come together to celebrate the holiday season.
All families welcome!



SAVE THE DATE



CHRISTMAS CONCERT



**GWA'SALA-NAKWAXDA'W
SCHOOL**



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT 1:00 PM



DECEMBER 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div>Div 1 Lyam Div 2 Allyson Div 3 Deb Div 4 Jen Div 5 Jackie Div 6 Melanie Div 7 Sheri An Div 8 Michelle</div>	1 <div>Div. 1/2 Outdoor Learning all day Div 5 - Outdoor PM</div>	2 <div>Swimming Preschool/ Kindergarten</div>	3 <div>Parent Teacher Conference Report Cards sent home</div> <div>Students dismissed at 12:00</div> <div>Happy Birthday Teryn Paul</div>	4 <div>Happy Birthday Alexander Coon</div>	5 <div>Swimming AM- Div 1/2/3/4 PM - Div 5/6/7</div> <div>Happy Birthday Sophia Pictin</div>	6
7	8 <div>Div. 1/2 Outdoor Learning PM</div> <div>Preschool & Kindergarten *No classes</div> <div>Happy Birthday Shauna</div>	9 <div>Swimming Preschool/ Kindergarten</div>	10 <div>Div. 6/7 Skating 1:45</div> <div>Happy Birthday Ezra George</div>	11	12 <div>Swimming AM- Div 1/2/3/4 PM - Div 5/6/7</div> <div>Happy Birthday Brendan King</div>	13
14 <div>Christmas Craft Afternoon - Primary wing</div>	15 <div>Div. 1/2 Outdoor Learning PM</div> <div>Happy Birthday Scooter</div>	16 <div>Family Breakfast</div> <div>Swimming Preschool/ Kindergarten</div> <div>Happy Birthday Linden Jack</div>	17 <div>Div. 6/7 - Going to PHSS for Ginger Bread making PM</div>	18 <div>Christmas Concert 1:00 @gym</div>	19 <div>Swimming AM- Div 1/2/3/4</div> <div>Last day of school Student Dismissed at Noon</div>	20
21 <div> Happy Birthday Tobias Wiks-Charlie Zoey Johnny-Orsi</div>	22	23	24	25	26	27
WINTER BREAK - ENJOY THIS TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY						
		<div>Happy Birthday Martina and Heather</div>		<div>MERRY CHRISTMAS</div> <div>Happy Birthday Grayson Paul</div>		<div>Happy Birthday Emelia Dawson</div>
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
WINTER BREAK - ENJOY THIS TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY						
		<div>Happy Birthday Kian Nelson, Easton Nastrom and Carol</div>		<div>School begins on the Tuesday, Jan 6, 2026</div>		