

Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School

NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2026

Gilakas'la,

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer! It has been a great start to the 2026-2027 school year at Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School.

Our staff returned at the end of August to prepare our classrooms and school for another year of learning. I want to thank our entire team for the work they put into making the first few weeks welcoming and positive for our students. September is always an important time for reconnecting, establishing routines and expectations, and building strong relationships within our classrooms.

Our expectations continue to be grounded in Maya'xala – respect and responsibility. We want our students to feel safe, supported and proud of who they are while also challenging them to grow academically, socially, emotionally and culturally.

September has already been a busy month. We welcomed families back with our annual Welcome Back BBQ, hosted our Welcome Back Dinner, and once again held our Terry Fox Run through the Tsulquate community. It was wonderful to see students, families, staff and community members coming together to start the year. We have also spent time learning about the history and ongoing impacts of residential schools. This learning is not something that happens on just one day at our school. It is an important part of helping our students understand their history, honour Survivors and their families, and recognize the strength and resilience of their community. We will close out September by coming together for our National Day for Truth and Reconciliation assembly and community walk.

Thank you to our families for your continued support and for trusting us with your children each day. We have a great group of students and staff, and I am looking forward to everything this school year will bring.

Stay connected with us throughout the year by following our school Facebook page or visiting our school website for news, updates, events and important information.

Reed Allen
Principal

News from VP Karen

Welcome to the 2026/2027 school year. I am excited to be returning for my 8th year and 31st year in education! We have had an amazing start to the year with a lot of activities, including the Welcome Back Dinner and Terry Fox Run. It was great seeing so many people at our Welcome Back Dinner. I wanted to introduce some of the new staff who have joined our team. Thomas comes to us from Bella Bella; Aleah is from K'omoks; Shelby, Bella and Shravya are all local. We are excited to have them join our team.



Thomas



Aleah



Bella



Shelby



Shravya



September 2026- Division 1

This month, we started the year off with a focus on learning, understanding and practising the 4 core values of our school, which are: *Maya'xala* (treating oneself and others with respect), *Hutlilala* (to listen), *Salt'idas* (to settle or calm down), and *Data xa ik noke* (to carry a good heart).

The students learnt about canoe journeys, and the importance of the ocean-going canoe to our people. We discussed some major aspects of Northwest Coast culture and how we, and our ancestors, have survived and thrived throughout time. In art, we learnt how to draw a face, and created self-portraits for our Orange Shirts. We also visited the big house and replicated figures from the front design.

In Math, we started the year off reviewing numbers and place value and we will be studying the 4 major operations this month, and ways that we can use them to solve problems.





Welcome Back, Students and Families!

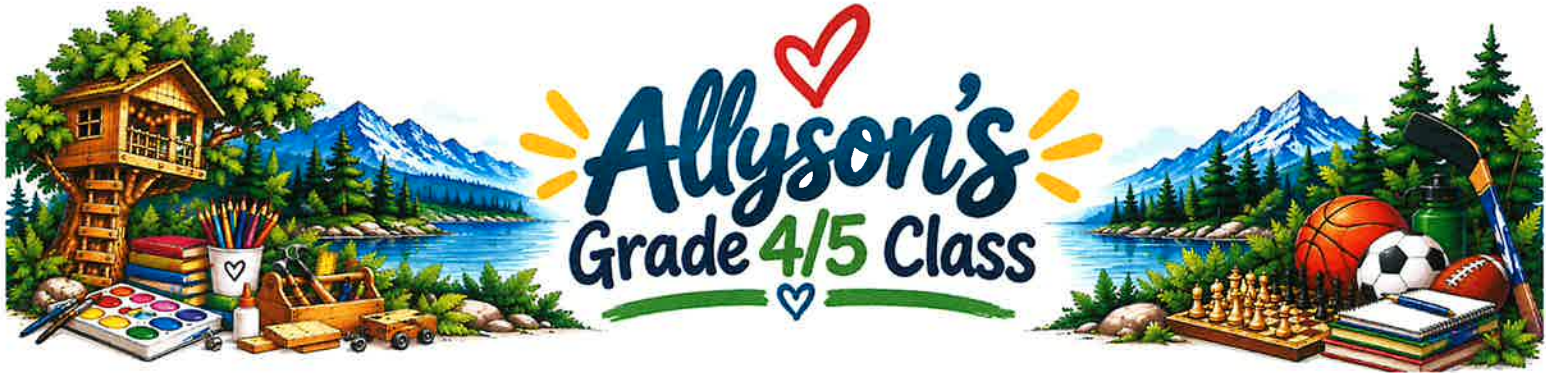
Welcome back to a new school year! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. We have been busy getting to know one another, building friendships, and learning how to work together as a team. For our Social Studies and Science, we started an exciting Orca Research Project, where students will learn more about these amazing marine animals, echolocation, and their importance to our coastal environment. In Outdoor Education, we have been enjoying local walks and parks and exploring the world around us. We had a wonderful opportunity to watch Johnny Henderson put the final touches on the mural at the museum!

Jenni Walkus is our classroom Educational Assistant. And we're excited to work together to support students throughout the year.

Here's to a school year filled with laughter, learning, teamwork, and new adventures!

Deb Edzerza
Grade 5/6 Teacher





"Nam, ma, yudux, and action!"

September is always a busy time as we get to know one another, establish classroom routines, and begin building a community where everyone feels safe, included, and ready to learn. We have been busy dancing, singing, playing, and learning how to work together. Students have been exploring the geographical regions of Canada and learning about the their different landscapes, climates, plants, animals, and natural resources. They are beginning to see how geography connects to the way people live and work. They even made their own compasses! Wait 'til you ask them which direction the compasses pointed! A big focus this month has been learning how to be a good partner and teammate. Thank you for being part of our classroom community.

Here's to a fantastic year of learning together!



We have been talking about what makes a group work well.



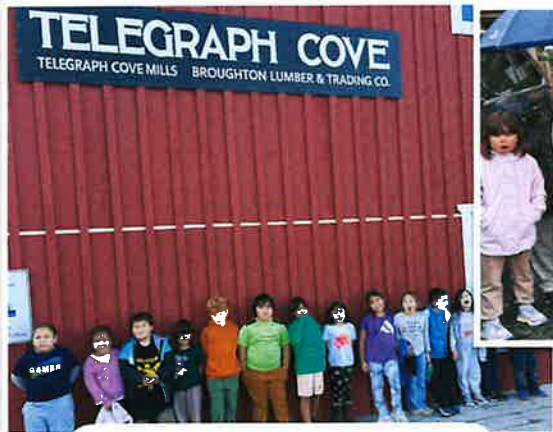


Jen's

Grade 2/3 Class



Orange Shirt Day



Whale Interpretive Centre



Terry Fox Run



Building our Stamina in Reading



Connaty Farms

Our September was so full of school-wide activities, field trips, and learning about each other. We learned that

we are...

Friendly

Kind

Spirited

Funny

Joyful

Creative

Helpful

Curious

Energetic

Caring

Generous

Courageous

Confident and Capable



My World Museum



Jackie's

Grade 2/3 Class



Our class has had a wonderful month filled with outdoor adventures, hands-on learning, and opportunities to celebrate different cultures!

During Outdoor Education, students explored nature by learning to draw and label leaves, comparing their sizes, and practising personal boundaries. We enjoyed a beautiful hike along the Blinkhorn Trail, encouraging one another along the way, and were lucky to be the first class to tour the new Whale Interpretive Centre!



A special thank you to Myra and Bryce for welcoming us to their farm! Students picked and tasted fresh apples, sampled honey straight from the honeycomb, and learned about sunflowers and where our food comes from. 🍏🐝



We also enjoyed a special cultural learning experience when Shravya shared a taste of her Indian culture by making mango lassi, a sweet, refreshing drink traditionally served to welcome guests. Thank you, Shravya, for sharing this lovely family tradition with us!

We read *Shi-Shi-Etko* by Nicola I. Campbell, exploring the importance of family, culture, land, and memories. Students reflected on what they would treasure in a memory bag and created their own special bags inspired by the story.



Throughout the month, we continued to practise friendship, kindness, teamwork, and belonging. We are so proud of the way our students are learning, supporting one another, and embracing new experiences!

Thank you for being part of our learning journey!





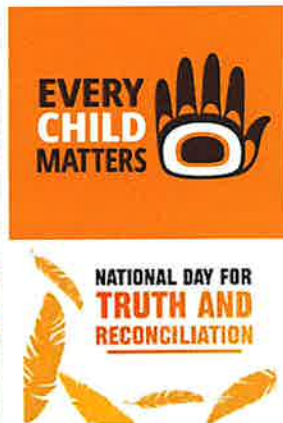
Melanie's Grade 1 Class



We have had an amazing month getting to know each other, practicing routines, learning, and having fun. Already we went on a trip to Teacher Myra's farm, explored the atli, and participated in the Terry Fox Run and the Truth and Reconciliation March. Most importantly we have been spending our time building our classroom community and setting our classroom values. In our class we respect ourselves, others, our learning, our safety, our school, and our environment. We look forward to watching the students learn and grow throughout the year.

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 went on a community walk. Fall is now upon us and we are looking forward to the excitement that October will bring.



Gilakas'la Myra and Bryce for the awesome farm tour!



Happy September Birthday to Myles!



Gilakas'la K'wīkwāla'yū Cyprus, Gunner, Kassius, Lily, Malakai, Mallik, Myles, Owen, Parker, Sylvia



September brought in this beautiful and keen new group of little learners, each with their own unique personalities. The children have enjoyed playing, moving their bodies, doing art, and using their imaginations. There was a lot of excitement for our mini Terry Fox Run and our first trip to the pool. We speak and sing in Bakwamk'ala every day, with the loving support of granny speakers: Mary George (Henderson), Kathy Walkus, Mary Rufus and Mary Johnson. We close out the month by honouring elders and families affected by residential schools, by uplifting them and sending out love. Every child is precious and truly matters.





Gilakas'da'xw'la

This year, we have a brand-new Culture Team made up of Latisha, Robin, and Lyam, and we have had an amazing start to the school year! We are excited to work together and bring more language, culture, singing, dancing, and hands-on learning into our school.



gulali



nakwat



tsagał



gwadam

Gulali

We started the year learning about berries, including their Bakwamkala names and teachings connected to berry picking. Students have enjoyed learning new words, sharing what they already know, and making connections to the land and their families.

We also spent some time looking at traditional berry baskets and talking about how berries were gathered and carried.



tsutsahtsam



lagu



salam



kisina



naxwaskin



kixkalis

Bakwamkala with our Gangananam



Our Pre-K and Kindergarten students have been having fun learning Bakwamkala through listening, repeating, songs, games, and movement. It is wonderful to see our youngest students excited to learn and use the language.

Here is a photo of the Kindergarden students learning about the parts of their body.

Singing & Dancing

To begin each week, we have started our classes with singing and dancing. The kids have really enjoyed moving, singing, and having fun together. It has been a great way to start the week with positive energy while also bringing culture and language into our classrooms.

Orange Shirt Day

For Orange Shirt Day, we were honoured to have residential school survivors join us in the library to share with our students. Students had the opportunity to sit together, listen to their stories and experiences, and learn from people in our own community. Orange Shirt Day gives us an opportunity to remember and honour those who attended residential schools, while also recognizing the strength of our people and the language, culture, teachings, and traditions that continue today.



Gilakas'la to the survivors who spent time with our students and shared their stories and knowledge with us.



'Me

Next month, we will begin learning about fish and the Bakwamkala words connected to fishing and preparing fish. We will also be having a fish camp at school, where students will have the opportunity to take part in the traditional process of preparing and processing fish. We are looking forward to another hands-on learning experience that brings together language, culture, community, and the land.



We are excited for everything still to come this school year and look forward to continuing to learn, sing, dance, and share together!



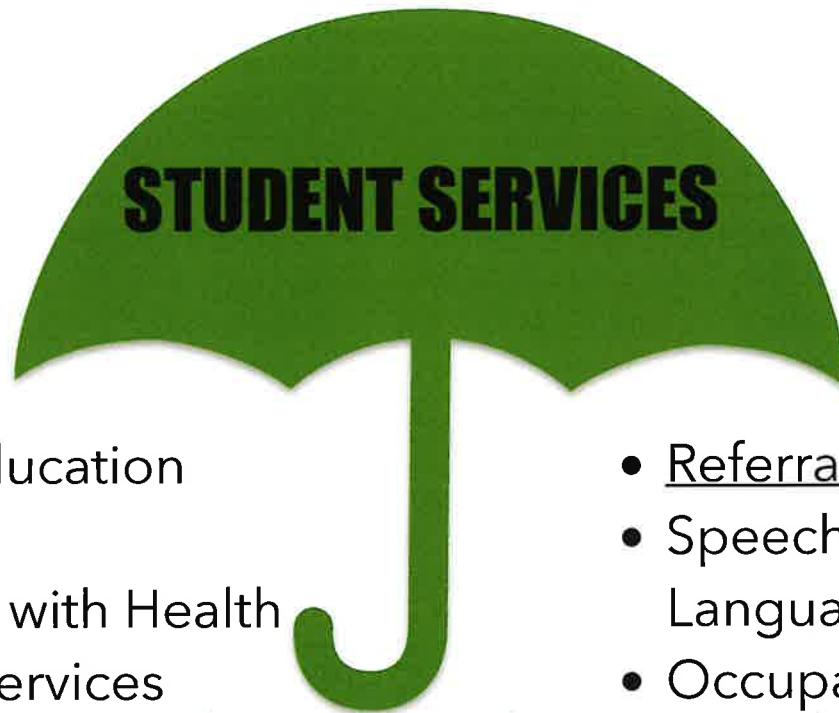
Hello, 2026/2027 School Year! For those who don't know me, my name is Sara, and I have the honour and privilege of working with every student in the school through Physical Education! My goal as a teacher is to foster a space where students can grow into confident and capable people who feel empowered to take on new challenges and believe they can accomplish anything they put their minds to. The time we spend together in PE is about so much more than physical activity. We are building leadership and intrapersonal skills, developing fundamental movement skills, and promoting health and well-being in a variety of ways. Our students have already started the year off strong! Before our Terry Fox Run, students worked together to complete a school-wide goal of more than 630 laps of the gym. What an incredible way to kick off the year! I'm looking forward to all the learning, movement, challenges, and fun we'll share throughout the year!





WELCOME BACK FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR!!

Under the umbrella of Student Services, I can help you with:



- Individual Education Planning
- Connections with Health and Family Services
- Behaviour Support
- Small group learning support
- Referrals for:
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Psychoeducational Assessments
- Counselling

Please contact me at the school if you have any questions that you think I can help with :)

(250) 949-7743



Welcome back for another school year! We hope you and your family enjoyed a wonderful summer with lots of fun and special memories.

Throughout the school year we will be serving a variety of meals and familiar favourites, along with opportunities for students to try something new.

As always we encourage all students to use kind words and respectful manners. Also, to take care of their cafeteria and keep the tables tidy.

Here's to a wonderful year!! We look forward to a year filled with healthy meals, happy faces, new experiences, and lots of kindness around the table.

Thank you for your continued support of our school cafeteria program.

Sharon



News from Myria



September is a wonderful time to harvest from the garden for Sharon to work her magic in the kitchen! Skylar, Gary, Bentley and James have been helping dig potatoes and pick tomatoes.



Clay loves exploring the natural world!



For the love of reading! Lots of free books were up for grabs at the annual welcome back dinner.

School Activities



What a great month to start the 26/27 school year! A great mix of family and school events.

Birthdays

Happy September Birthdays to: Cami-Lynn, Faith, Layne, Myles, Ryker, Oakley, Nellie, Kamaya, San'yas, and Kaedan!





Gwa'sala'-Nakwaxda'xw School

THANKSGIVING DAY

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

NO SCHOOL



PRO D DAYS

**THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 22**

Pro D @ 12:00
Students
dismissed

**FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 23**

**Professional
Development Day**
No School for
Students



Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
Div 1 Thomas Div 2 Deb Div 3 Allyson Div 4 Jen Div 5 Jackie Div 6 Melanie Div 7 Sheri-An Div 8 Michelle	28	29	30	1	2	3
		Orange Shirt Assembly @ 1:00	No School National Truth and Reconciliation Observance		 Swimming for all classes	Happy Birthday Mable
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	SCHOOL PICTURES @ 1:00	 Swimming for Pre K & K Happy Birthday Oaklynn	Div 6/7 Storey's Beach @ 1:00	Happy Birthday Ophelia	 Swimming for all classes	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Happy Birthday Philip	 Happy Thanksgiving - No School	 Swimming for Pre K & K Happy Birthday Lola	Div 4/5 Estuary @ 1:00	BC Shakeout Drill - 10:20	 Swimming for all classes	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Scholastic Book Fair - Oct 19 - 21- Library					
	Div 1 - Foundry PM	Fish Processing			Professional Development Day No School for Students	Happy Birthday Eve
		Swimming for Pre K & K Happy Birthday Debbie P	Div 6/7 Storey's Beach @ 1:00	Pro D @ 12:00 students dismissed		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Division 1 - Hada Trip					 Halloween Happy Birthday Devaya
		 Swimming for Pre K & K Cross Country Run	Div 4/5 Cougar Trail @ 1:00 Happy Birthday Lazarus		Happy Birthday Phoenix C and Cyprus	

