



December – Ło'yanx Leaves fallen time
Winter season – Łsa'wanx

ABORIGINAL PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2018

Aboriginal Programs and Services Newsletter

Port Hardy Secondary School Drumming Log

Former PHSS student Walter Brown, and his apprentices from the Gwa'sala- 'Nakwaxda'xw have been working with PHSS on designing and carving a log drum for the students to use.

The picture to the left is the finished result of the PHSS log drum.

Qilakas'la to Walter Brown for his continued support with Community and Culture.

Please join us in welcoming our newest staff member of the Aboriginal Education Team April Hunt.



Port Hardy Secondary School

Students practice hands-on learning in the wood working shop. Currently a group of students are working on completing dance paddles for the PHSS culture club and other students to use during cultural functions and or other community gatherings.



Welcome April Hunt to PHSS.



North Island Secondary School

Our Remembrance Assembly on Nov. 9, 2018 was directed by our students. Naomi Triebwasser was the Master of Ceremonies. Maya Haque read a poem she wrote. Jessica Wadhams Mountain and Nicole Dawson acknowledged the contributions of our First Nations veterans. Stephanie Lacasse read the poem, Flanders Fields, written by Canadian John McCrae. Guest speaker was Mr. Clifford Slack, Royal Canadian Legion North Vancouver Island Zone Commander. A member of our local RCMP detachment also attended. Naomi spoke about the "NISS Kwak'wala Words to Live By". Wesley Hopkins was in charge of the sound system. Thank you to all the students who were respectful during the ceremony.



Eke Me-Xi Learning Centre

Eke Me-Xi School has experienced success with its "land literacy" program with connecting students beyond the current pedagogy of classrooms; bringing learning to life with annual activities such as our clam dig at Cluxewe. Expanding our learning environment from the classroom and onto the land changing how we retain knowledge and transfer knowledge.

Of more recent and exciting opportunities; we were able to access the knowledge of one of our FN Contract Workers, Jim Jones, who shared his passion for mushroom harvesting. Our students traversed the Cougar Road Trail and immersed themselves in the earth seeking high and low for several types of mushrooms which to our surprise were in abundance. Afterwards, back at Eke Me-Xi, Mr. Jones went into detail on the variety of mushrooms we picked by identifying and indicating whether they were poisonous, tasty, or out of season.





AJ Elliott Elementary School

At A.J. Elliott students are continuing to deepen their understanding of First Nations culture. We recently completed a whole school project that the students are very proud of. Inspired by the Kwakwaka'wakw Potlatch Lessons, found on the U'mista Cultural Centre website, students created an interior school pole. First, every student in the school coloured a coastal animal, and practiced the Kwak'wala name for it (these are displayed around our pole). Next, each student illustrated their personal narratives, adding important life symbols, within a Thunderbird template to attach to the totem pole. We invited families and community members to share art to add to the pole, and welcomed any ideas and suggestions.



Sea View Elem. /Jr. Sec. School

A new practice at Sea View School this year is the scheduling of whole-school blocks (45 minutes twice a week) for personalized skill practice. For Primary students, this means engaging in a variety of literacy games to practice specific skills (reading sight words, printing & spelling) through game-like tasks. Intermediate students work more independently on their personalized skills, and have been using this time to practice keyboarding skills, specific math skills, and/or spelling skills with the help of their teacher. Will this intentional practice of foundational literacy skills result in more primary children reading at grade-level by

the end of their Grade Three year? That is our school inquiry question. We are also interested to see if our Intermediate students will benefit from targeted skill practice. Initial observations indicate a high level of student engagement when working on personalized goals.



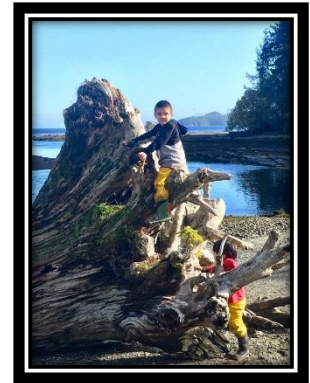
Cheslakees Elementary School

As a school we blend First Nation content, meaning and language into the daily curriculum. This is done through stories, play, art, and discussions with the students. Each classroom has aboriginal content books accessible to students. Orange shirt day was recognized and explained during a week-long theme of activities. It has been a busy few months learning languages. All children are able to greet one-another with Gɪlakas'la, and many can introduce themselves and ask how you are doing? in Kwak'wala. The word kas'a is often heard being used by students and teachers to remind us to walk and students have begun using 'nam, mał, yudaxw, mu and sak'a when practicing their numeracy.



Eagle View Elementary School

Our First Nations support workers make a big difference in the reading program of the Grade 1/2 students at Eagle View Elementary School! Bea Wadhams and Tamara Kiever are committed to supporting early literacy by working closely with students on literacy centres while the classroom teachers work with small guided reading groups. With Bea and Tamara in classrooms to support the students who are working independently, the guided reading format ensures that teachers are able to teach reading in a manner that meets the wide range of needs in an early primary classroom. Gɪlakas'la, Bea and Tamara!



Alert Bay Elementary School

Alert Bay School students have received lessons about Kwakwaka'wakw history, territories, traditions, and the Kwak'wala language. The children have a better understanding and knowledge about the First Nations People of Northern Vancouver Island. Our students learned and practiced Kwakwala terms such as Maya'xala (respect), 'ninał (calm), ikiłala (happy), kałutła (learning), kasala (focus), and Gwalil kes kałutle (ready to learn). Meanings and teachings that are represented in these terms have been integrated into every class and supported by our Cultural Teacher Ernest Alfred, and school staff. This school year already we have successfully welcomed Australian guests and visitors in the Bighouse for a cultural celebration, smoked fish, and hosted a Salmon Feast at our school serving our guests Yusa (fish soup).





Fort Rupert Elementary School

Fort Rupert Elementary has been working on creating a First Nations and Counselling Support Room on the main floor of our school.

We hope that by moving the room into a more central location it will help us to promote our language and culture program.

At Fort Rupert we strive to integrate Kwak'wala more into our existing program and see this as a suitable first step.

Sunset Elementary School

Sunset students have already crossed the water twice this year. Our grade 6/7 and grade 7 classes witnessed the cultural celebration in Yalis in September. These same classes made the trip in November for the Salmon Festival. Gilakas'la to Alert Bay Elementary for the invite.

We celebrated Orange Shirt Day this year by reminding each other of our positive qualities. We then created a tree on which every student's qualities are showcased on a heart shaped "leaf". Shayla Fraser and Janice Ellis created the activity and the tree, which is a common "stop" for parents and students alike.

I have written about our regalia project in the past and this year we have entered a new phase in the project. Elder Sharon Whonnock has already sewn our tunics and is now supervising our students adding designs to them. We have a Thunderbird, Copper, Tree of Life, Orca and Sun design. These were created by the artist Trevor Isaac. The final phase of the project will be the addition of buttons.

We also have a paddle project beginning soon... but that is a story for next time!



Pictures provided by Sunset Elementary School



On behalf of Aboriginal Programs and Services and School District 85, we would like to wish you all a Meli Kismis!



Gilakas'la

For more information about our Aboriginal Programs with SD85, please visit our website:
http://www.sd85.bc.ca/?page_id=144.

We can also be contacted by phoning
 250-949-6618 ext. 2233 for

Irene Isaac, District Principal of Aboriginal Programs or ext. 2231 for

Miranda Berry, Secretary of Aboriginal Programs, Student Services, and SBO.



Kwak'wala Corner

Sikàganu – candy cane

ḲàḲi – come and hug me

wixan's ʔmłta – let's play

Ḳatł'ʔn – I can fly

Ḳadayu – anything to write with, pencil or pen

ḲanmʔłḲwʔlen – to remember

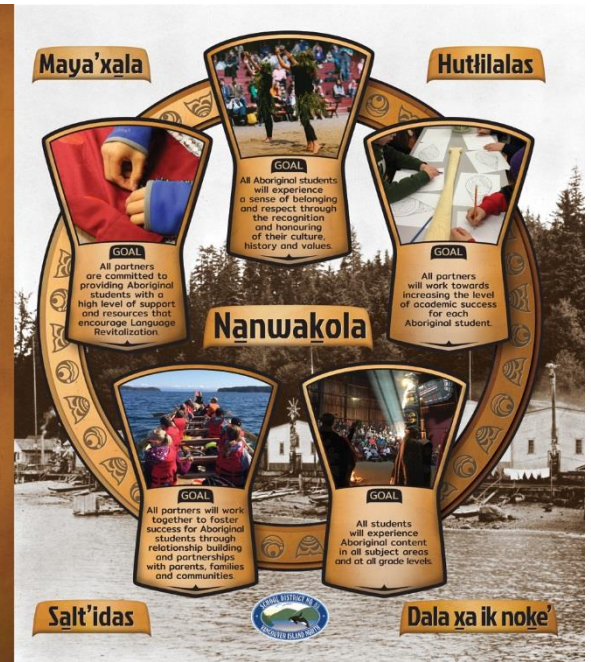
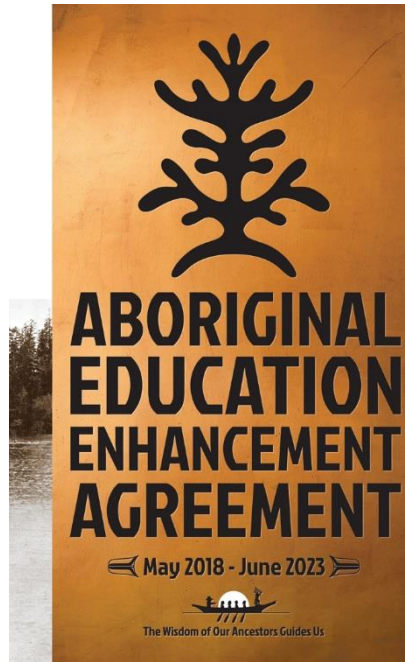
MʔłḲwʔlʔlʔʔan – to remember

PusḲa'mas? – are you hungry?

Ḳʔy'ʔkinuxw – soccer player, a good

Ikʔ noḲe' – my heart feels good

Ḳwʔlʔ'yu – you are my reason for living



North Island Secondary students teaching Jingle Bells in Kwak'wala to kindergarteners at Cheslakees Elementary

