



Galtam Canoe, photo provided by Darby Gildersleeve

Aboriginal Programs and Services Newsletter



Kwakwaka'wakw Teachings

- Maya'xala – *Respect self, others, environment*
- Nanwakola – *Come together to make right decisions*
- Hutlilalas – *Listen*
- Salt'idas – *Calm down, calm your spirit*
- Dała xa ik noke' – *Carry a good heart*

Summer - *Hi'anx* Let's go and play outside – *Wixan's amlal'sa*

ABORIGINAL PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER – JULY 2019



Port Hardy Secondary School

Students helped to paint a new dance screen for the school. The screen was designed by William Wasden and incorporates attributes of the PHSS Whalers logo. The screen was immediately put to use in June when students and parents danced in celebration of the Grad Class of 2019.



AJ Elliott Elementary School

A.J. Elliott students have been very busy this spring learning about First Nations Formline designs and shapes.

The K/1's enjoyed the Aboriginal legends of "The Little Hummingbird" and "How the Robin Got Its Red Breast". Each child completed a beautiful cedar planter box, painting a Formline design of a hummingbird on the front panel. Next, they had fun making paper robins and caves.

The grade 2/3/4 class explored the importance of potlatches, regalia, and crests. They each made a mini button blanket. They learned how to sew on buttons, and were all eager to help one another when needed.

Grade 5/6 students learned a little about how canoes were made, and why they were an important mode of transportation. They each chose an animal, local to our coast, created their design, and painted Kwakiutl style cedar paddles.

Grade 7 students each constructed their own amazing drum. They painted them with personal designs, which reflect their own stories.

In June, the whole school went whale watching on the Naiad Explorer. They were accompanied by K'odi Nelson who shared his knowledge about the area, the wildlife, and language with the students.



North Island Secondary School

The Language Lab class at NISS was fortunate to have Chief Arthur Dick Sr. drop by to have a multicultural meal that we shared. He shared his own customs and a blessing.



Eke Me-Xi Learning Centre

Our students were fortunate to learn traditional Kwakwaka'wakw teaching of the potlatch through planning and organizing a feast with Elder Tommy Henderson.





Alert Bay Elementary School

There have been many great learning opportunities at Alert Bay School this term. A lot of careful planning and preparation goes into our annual Cultural Celebration which was held on June 7, 2019. Some of the preparations for our Celebration included making or repairing regalia, learning songs and dances, writing and practicing speeches, and going door to door with invitations for our Elders and Chiefs.

Early in the spring, a garden was started by the After School Program, potatoes, vegetables, and a wild flower bee garden was started. The students learned about the cultural significance of the bees and learned the legend of the Hamdzalatsi, and the origin of the Bee Dance which was featured at our June Cultural Celebration. Nine original bee masks at the school were made of plaster and created by Ernest Alfred and Renee Hanuse. The late Chief Beau Dick visited the school and shared the legend of the bees with the students then took the nine masks and painted them. This year, a young local artist named Aubrey Johnstone Jr. helped duplicate three more masks for our school. We now have 12 bee masks.



Eagle View Elementary School

This year, Eagle View Elementary hosted a cultural event at the Kwagu'ł Gukwdzi in Tsaxis. This event saw record numbers of chiefs, students, families and community members in attendance. The Bighouse was filled and additional seating was brought in to accommodate guests. Our event was a culmination of work by Eagle View students and staff under the tutelage of our culture and language teacher Sisaxolas—Harold Nelson, and First Nations support staff Bea Wadhams, Tamara Keiver and Ken Bedard. The potlatch is a Kwakwaka'wakw tradition that the Eagle View learning community has the privilege of experiencing as learners and hosts. The strict potlatch protocols and serious nature of the tradition are conveyed to all who participate and witness. Each class division created gifts for our giveaways, staff and role models made 750 bagged lunches, and our school community celebrated their learning. For Eagle View staff and students the event was a way to demonstrate all learners' acquisition of Kwakwaka'wakw traditional practices including songs, dances, and language in addition to the cultural values of generosity and ways of knowing and being.



Another activity the students participated in this term was cedar bark weaving. With the help of our community Role Model Marley Cranmer, students learned how to make cedar bark skirts, which would later be used during the Hamdzalatsi at the Cultural Celebration. We have had an incredible year at Alert Bay School.

Cheslakees Elementary School

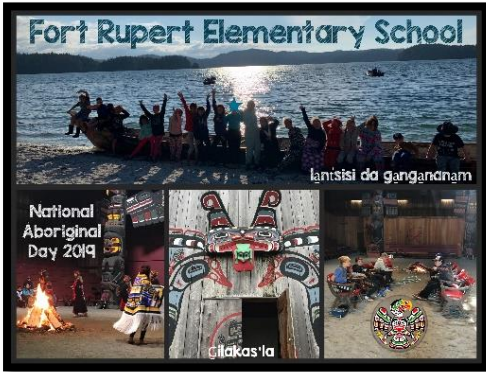
The Spring was a busy time for students preparing for going to the U'mista Cultural Centre and the Alert Bay Cultural Celebration. Some students from NISS visited and taught us the paddle dance which we practiced. We also closely examined a Crooked Beak mask. Furthermore, each student in the school has hand sewn a doll sized button blanket with a crest of their choice. Students will take their dolls home at the end of the year.

The following is a reflection from our grade 7 student Yvette who moved from Burnaby two years ago: "When I moved to Port Hardy, I was excited to learn about Aboriginal culture. I loved playing Aboriginal baseball, dancing in the Big House in Fort Rupert and playing Ala'xwa. Culture class is one of the best things we do at Eagle View."



School Board Trustees Carol Prescott and Eric Hunter at the Alert Bay Cultural Celebration.





Fort Rupert Elementary School

This year Fort Rupert Elementary, in partnership with Kwakiutl Health Centre, hosted a National Aboriginal Day Event. We began the day in the Tsaxis gukwdzi. Fort Rupert Elementary's senior girls performed a t'alkwa'la (ladies dance), blessing the day. Then we encouraged all who attended to join in an am'lala (fun dance).

Once people were done, they went to enjoy the planned activities. There were food vendors selling Indian Tacos, bannock, hot dogs, cinnamon buns, and all sorts of treats. The Health Centre donated space, volunteers, staff, time, snacks and water, and contributed to activities. There was face painting, rock painting, cedar rose making, archery, rock bowling, log hold, bouncy house, alaxwa (bone games), Galtam traditional canoe rides, and Scavenger Hunt.

Lan'tsisi da gangan'nam (the children went down to the beach) to participate in the Scavenger Hunt. People were given clues in Kwak'wala: łakastan (seaweed), k'ixa'ł (driftwood), t'salt'salka (feather), t'isam (stone), ku'mis (crab), and a gawiłan'am (clam).

Fort Rupert Elementary is very grateful for the relationship it has with the Kwakiutl Band. We are very honored to celebrate this day together. We look forward to next year's k'wamyasa'pa (Yayuma) and many more National Aboriginal Day celebrations for years to come.



Aboriginal Day Activities

Sunset Elementary School

This photo is from our National Aboriginal Day school-wide luncheon. We took the opportunity to unveil our own set of tunics sewn with the help of Sharon Whonnock.



Here is a grade 2 student creating her own design on her paddle.



Grade 1 students making jam to give away at their Mini-Feast. They made plum, raspberry and dandelion jelly this year!



Several grade 1 girls at their Mini-Feast. They are in regalia, getting ready to do the paddle dance for their parents and buddy class. This was the celebration at the end of a Potlatch unit.



Sunset Elementary School continued...

This is a Dzunakwa mask made by a grade 7 Sunset student. She used half of an iced tea jug and paper mache to create the giant woman of the woods.



Sea View Elementary School

On April 12th, staff and students were fortunate enough to be able to attend Eagle View Elementary's Yayuma (Play Potlatch.) For many students, this was their first opportunity to witness a cultural event and be in a Bighouse. Students were able to join with students from other schools and experience firsthand the traditions of local Kwakwaka'wakw People. The event was well received by students and staff alike. This special day prompted many meaningful questions and was a significant step towards cultural acceptance and awareness. This term, our intermediate students completed a study of the history of residential schools in Canada with a focus on the government's involvement. Students created posters, paintings, floor plans of residential schools as well as essays to demonstrate an understanding of the history as we move together towards reconciliation.

Sea View students view from the Bighouse in Fort Rupert.



Aboriginal Education Team at U'mista Kwak'wala Camp



Kwak'wala Corner

Nugwa'am "I am"
Gilakas'la, nugwa'am __.
 Greetings, I am __.
Gayutlan laxa __.
 I am from the ...
Hedan umpi __.
 My father is ...
Hedan abampi __.
 My mother is ...
He'man giga'ol' nukwi __ dhu' __.
 My parents are __ and __.
Hedan ga'agampi __ dhu' __.
 My grandfathers are __ and __.
Hedan Ga'agasi __ dhu' __.
 My grandmothers are __ and __.
'Wittasle?
 Where are you going?
Latlan laxa __.
 I am going to the __.

VI Circle



This year Aboriginal Programs and Services was fortunate enough to host First Nations District principals, super intendants and administrators from throughout Vancouver Island at our Gawalapa (working together) gathering held in Fort Rupert. The main theme along with working together was: "For Kwakwaka'wakw, by Kwakwaka'wakw, with Kwakwaka'wakw". A special Gilkas'la to Fort Rupert for allowing us to offer this event in their traditional territories and for using their beautiful gukwdzi and school to host our events.

A message from District Principal, Aboriginal Programs Irene Isaac with guidance and teaching from Chief Arthur Dick, Matriarchs Irene Cook and Vera Newman.

Ikijn noke' legin's kaka'utla xan's gwayilelas. My heart feels good that we are learning our traditional ways.

Lokwimadzinakwala legin's nanagige' xan's gwayilelas. We're strengthened when we follow our traditional ways.

Omegin's 'wila galgapola ki'ses kiyoxwi'din's gwayilelasex. We are all working together so our traditional ways don't get lost.

Oman hayulis gilakas'xa xan's ninoxsola kwalsgwalyagw'wo'le'. We are forever grateful to our noble old people (past).

Omegin's hayulis mayaxilapa, laxwala'pa, wixustotaxin's bagwad 'wila. We all continue to respect, love, and uplift each other.

Gilakas'la to all of the kwak'wala speakers who supported our students and team this year.

If you are interested in joining our team please watch out for posting on our website <http://www.sd85.bc.ca/> or consider being a role model or elder in residence by contacting Miranda Berry 250-949-6618 Loc. 2231 or mberry@sd85.bc.ca.

Congratulations to all of our 2019 graduates, we are all extremely proud of our kwa'layu. I am so honored to be a part of an amazing team. As you see by looking over our newsletter, Aboriginal Programs has had an amazing end to the school year. I wish all of our students and their families a restful and relaxing summer together! Gilakas'la!

Irene Isaac, Wetila'ogwa
 District Principal, Aboriginal Programs
 Phone: 250 949 6618 Loc.2233



Eke Me-Xi Learning Centre community meeting with Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw.

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.

Congratulations Graduating Class of 2019!



PHSS Grad class pictured at Storeys Beach in cap and gown.



FNEC members Eric Hunter and John Powell presented awards to the winners of the Aboriginal Achievement Scholarship and Aboriginal Citizenship Bursary at NISS.



Eke Me-Xi Learning Centre Grad class pictured in cap and gown.

Aboriginal Achievement Scholarship Winners:

- Madison Van Will
- Kristen Clair
- Thomas Henderson

Aboriginal Citizenship Bursary Winners:

- Stephen Alfred
- Georgia Walkus
- Thomas Henderson

TimberWest Scholarship Winner: William Johnson

School District No. 85	
1348	Students
615	Aboriginal students
45	Aboriginal Graduates of 2019

