



Upcoming Culture & Language Events

- April 11-13 Kwa'lilas Hotel – First Nations Districts P/VP Meeting
- April 12 Fort Rupert BigHouse – Eagle View Elementary Yayuma
- May 16 Civic Centre – Ala'xwa (Bone Games) Tourney/Mental Health Exhibition
- May 24 Eke Me-Xi Learning Centre – T.K. Henderson feast for Eke Me-Xi
- June 7 Alert Bay Elementary School – Cultural Celebration at 1pm
- June 21 Fort Rupert BigHouse – Fort Rupert Elementary Yayuma
- June 21 Canada – Aboriginal Day

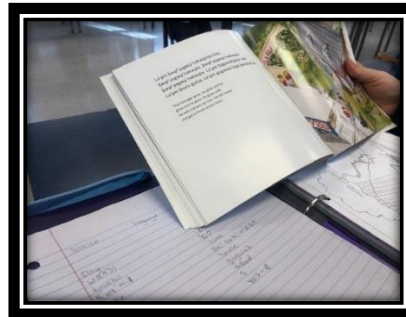
Aboriginal Programs and Services Newsletter



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

March - *k'wíkwá'lanx*
Everything sprouting time

ABORIGINAL PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2019



Port Hardy Secondary School

Top and bottom pictures are our grade 8's shared understandings class in the *A'wilgola'elas* room, learning how the log drum is made and the purpose of the log drum as well as learning a song composed by Chief William Wasden Jr. The students were able to keep the beat and a few of them picked up the tune of the song and started to sing along.



North Island Secondary School

Here is a picture of a student studying Kwakwaka in the Language Lab class that started in the second semester. The NISS culture class performed for Sunset School's grade four class for their final last semester. They showed their commitment to the preservation of our traditions through showcasing a few of their favourite songs and dances. The students lead at the log and as well as on the dance floor. Their responsibility to uphold their cultural beliefs and knowledge is inspiring and they encourage any cultural "role models" to contact Ida Miller Connections worker at NISS.



Eke Me-Xi Learning Centre

Eke Me-Xi Learning Centre of School District #85 is a choice school that offers grade 8-12 courses for school-aged students as well as adult learners. Our school is located in the traditional territory of the Kwakiutl on Tsulquate, the present day home of the Gwa'sala - 'Nakwaxda'xw Nations. Relationships based on the foundations of the Hama'ala (people that follow the potlatch), that are rooted in maya'xala (respect for yourself, your community and your environment), with the local Nations have provided many opportunities that enrich and ground our school specifically to the values, ceremonies and history of the Hama'ala.

Mental Wellness

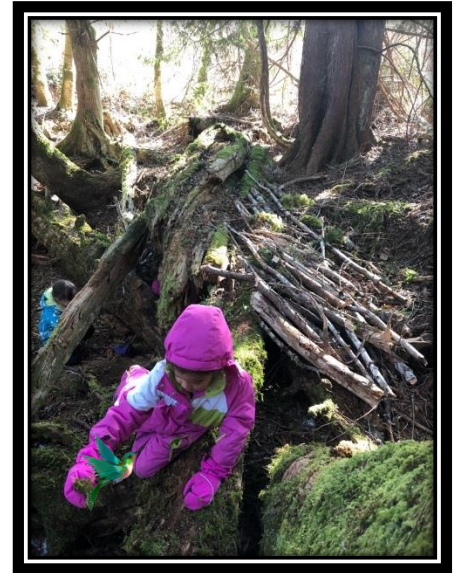
Nurturing spirit is an important component of our emotional, mental and physical health. Connecting students to cultural activities has been an important aspect of this. Spending time with Nancy allows students to self-regulate, decompress, and be reminded about maya'xala. We have noticed the positive effect on the mental wellness of our staff and students with having an Elder in our school!

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During the 2018/19 academic year it is our privilege to share our focus on our resident anis, abamp, gagamp Nancy Wamiss, our school has been grateful for her presence, diversity and flexibility as she initially came to us through the Role-Model program, and Elders-in-Residence program. In recognizing Nancy's many strengths our staff at Eke Me-Xi have convinced her to also begin filling in for our Child and Youth Care Worker, First Nations Support Worker, and Education Assistant positions - basically any position to keep her here in our school.

Throughout this academic year, Eke Me-Xi has continued offering annual and seasonal opportunities for staff and students to learn from Hama'ala traditions such as cultivation of foods from clams to seaweed and the gathering of cedar. Every year we improve by learning local history from place names, uses of the resources, bak'wamkala words/phrases, songs/chants, give away and barter. We have incorporated informally and formally the traditional learning that goes with harvesting, processing and preservation. In the coming years, Eke Me-Xi has been preparing for their own k'wamyasa'pa; however, through our connections it is our honor to share that Chief T.K. Henderson has shared his interest in standing our school and students up so we will be having a feast from his house. These ceremonies will help entrench our students with Indigenous sensitivity and awareness. Eke Me-Xi will continue to balance and bridge the values and beliefs of the Hama'ala Nations.



Eagle View kindergarten students building a u'ligan (wolf) den in the forest.



Eagle View Elementary School

At Eagle View Elementary School, Ms. Sedola's Kindergarten class spends an hour and a half outdoors every day. Rain or shine. Our students actively explore their natural surroundings throughout the seasons in a number of local spaces; learners have access to forests, rivers, oceans and fields near our school. This child-centered and play based curriculum has many benefits for young learners including environmental education, increased confidence, enhanced physical abilities, and the development of strong visual recognition. As students work with a buddy and in small groups, they have an opportunity to improve their social skills and further develop their creative thinking as they work together to accomplish tasks requiring communication and planning. Learning outdoors also provides a seamless incorporation of traditional ways of knowing and being in addition to introducing the Kwakwala numbers (counting 1-10), colours and body parts in the classroom and outdoors, we have been learning the forest animals and plants in the local forest (i.e. deer- giwas, wolf-u'ligan, bear- gala, squirrel- taminas, eagle- Kwik... alder- t'lawx'mas, salal-nax'wal). We also identify the plants and discuss traditional usage. Cultural teacher, William Wasden (Wa) came out to our forest classroom and told us the legend of how the animals got fire. We also introduced and taught us a song about what the animals say or sound like.

AJ Elliott Elementary School

With the arrival of warmer weather and longer days, A.J. Elliott students have been looking for signs of spring in their natural world. The early primary students have been doing nature studies, including learning some survival skills. The grade 2/3/4 students have continued their year long discussion of seasonal rounds. The students studied the importance of the seasons to First Nations people and looked at many examples of seasonal rounds. They created a class seasonal round and individual rounds. The seasonal rounds will be added to throughout the year. Recently, the intermediate class tried a math lesson that looked at the circumference of First Nation's fishing nets and related that finding to the circumference of circles.



Cheslakees Elementary School

This winter at Cheslakees School we are caring for and watching the development of our dza'wan, and students are excited to report that they are now fry. We have begun feeding them and we will release them later in the spring.

Also, students started learning about what was traditionally done in the winter, when it was too cold to play outside. One important tradition was working on regalia. With keen interest, students have started making their own button blanket to adorn a doll. Children are learning the significance of a button blanket and the crest. The different crests were explained to the children and they each picked the one they wanted on their doll blanket. Presently students are working on sewing the borders on. Once borders and crests are sewn on, children will begin adding sequins and buttons. Each one will be unique, designed by the individual. Gilakas'la





Alert Bay Elementary School

Alert Bay School has a proud history of offering one of the first Culture and language programs. Today we continue to build on our strong foundation as we grow and learn as a school. All students in our school learn the Kwakwaka language, oral history, songs, dances, art, and culture. The Cultural program provides our students with a sense of ownership, instilling leadership qualities, self-esteem, and skills. We do our best to involve our chiefs and elders, artists and community members as much as possible. We end our year with a Celebration of our learning at the Alert Bay Bighouse on Friday June 7, 2019 at 1:00pm. All are welcome to join us for our celebration.

Sunset Elementary School

Gilakas'la! First Nations perspectives and ways of knowing are present almost everywhere you look at Sunset school. Our grade 1-2 students, having finished a unit on regalia, created miniature button blankets and completed directed drawings based on the artist Danny Coon. Older students have learned to make paint using traditional pigments, and have made some beautiful paintings.

Our early primary students are learning dances and protocols to host a "play feast" later in the year. They are learning the Paddle Dance, and will be performing it wearing our own regalia when they host later this spring.

It's not all art and feasting, as well we are using the Six Cedars to explore core competencies with students. Each animal in the story represents a core competency, and as well as learning about the competency, students are learning animal names in Kwakwaka, as well as related words. Mr. Mollinga's class used Kwakwaka art to introduce symmetry to his students and have just completed a unit on Potlatch history. Finally, one of our classes has recently read, "As Long As the River Flows", by Cree author, Larry Loyie, and have written letters to his wife. The class is anxiously waiting for her reply.

Gilakas'la from Sunset!



Pictures provided by Sunset Elementary School

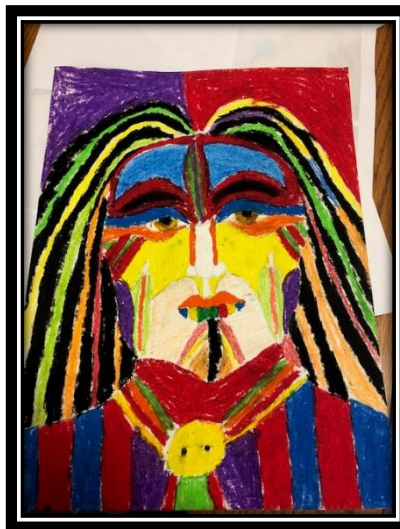


Kwakwaka Language Camp at U'mista Cultural Centre



Fort Rupert Elementary School

Grade 4/5/6 class creating buttons blankets.



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.



District Staff learning how to go clam digging at Cluxewe Salt Marsh (above) and exploring the Tsuquash Mine area (below) for future class field trip studies.

Kwakwala Corner

angwaxtlas – What is your name?

babagwam – small boy (2-5yrs old)

ałusto – young girl

ada – grandmother



abamp - mother

giga'ol'nukw – parent(s)

'namyut – family

hawałwasola – siblings

tławo – how beautiful

k'wa'ak'wam'ta – hummingbird



t'it'ap'mut – footprints

kidadzū – grass, lawn

palawas – flower(s)

gagalx – wild rose

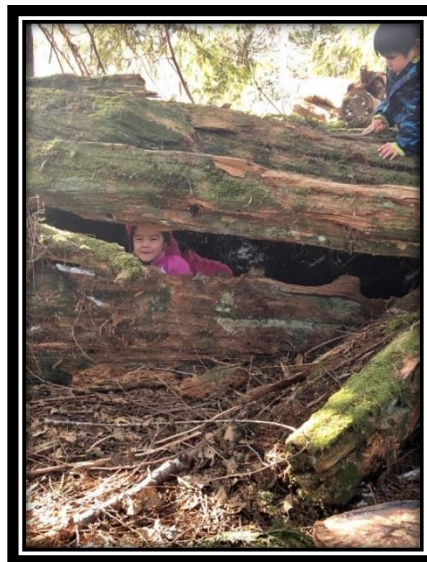
ixkasalala xis ma'yudłamxdamus –

Happy Birthday.

amlatłan – I am going to play.

anwa'yuxda – That's a cloud.

sqlh – bee



Eagle View students building a u'ligan (wolf) den in the forest. They have camouflaged it so well it cannot be seen from the trail.



Role Model/Elder in Residence



Nancy Wamiss (Paul) is from Kemano, Kitimat, and Greenville, BC. She was born in Bella Bella and comes from deep ancestral roots traceable through to Hereditary Chiefs and also from Matriarchal family from her Grandmother of the Nisga'a Nations. She is a residential school survivor of St. Michael's School, of which she shares her experiences and time being groomed by the Elders of Alert Bay that taught her sewing to do button blankets and aprons. She also continues the same techniques passed on from her grandmother from Kemano.

Today she is transferring her knowledge as she shares, it is a privilege to teach sewing skills to the students and staff of Eke Me-Xi; from button-blankets, aprons, shawls, and drum bags. The value of this activity "helps the children to talk about everything and nothing". Communication is very important for our children because some are afraid to speak or use their own voices for themselves.

"I enjoy working in our school because you get to know each student as a person. You get to know what bothers them, what kind of foods they like to eat and why they can't come to school all the time. I enjoy working with our staff as well. They are always aware of where our students are in their school work and they are always there to help when needed. This is the reason I like it here at Eke Me-Xi School". – Nancy Wamiss



erase
**EXPECT RESPECT &
 A SAFE EDUCATION**



SOGI 123

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/erase>

<https://www.sogieducation.org/>

With the increased inclusion of First Peoples' content in the changing BC curriculum, there is a need to incorporate unappropriated First Peoples' perspectives across the curriculum. SD85 incorporates Aboriginal content across the curriculum, and with support of FNEESC resources we also offer: English First Peoples, First Nations Studies, Culture Class, and Language Lab. To learn more about these courses and how your child can be enrolled please contact SD85 Aboriginal Programs and Services. Please visit the following FNEESC website <http://www.fnesc.ca/learningfirstpeoples/> to take a closer look at curriculum content.

